

Special Topic: Economic Timeline (I)

History of success.

Argosy Cruises serves up a history lesson along with delicious food on dinner jaunts around Puget Sound. The following economic timeline is based on a one-page "Timeline of Seattle History" handed out to Argosy passengers. It also draws information from HistoryLink.org:

1792 Captain George Vancouver explores Puget Sound, naming the water and lands around it.

1849 California Gold Rush spurs demand for Kitsap Peninsula lumber.

1851 The Denny Party lands at Alki Point near the future site of Seattle.

1852 Doc Maynard arrives in a canoe paddled by Chief Sealth, becoming Seattle's first merchant.

1852 Henry Yesler erects a steam-powered sawmill, making Seattle the economic center of the region.

1861 University of Washington is established on Denny Knoll.

1878 Seattle Brewing and Malting Company, the predecessor to Rainier Brewing Company, is founded.

1883 Northern Pacific Railroad builds a transcontinental rail line to Tacoma, opening up markets to the east.

1889 On June 6 a pot of glue ignites Seattle's Great Fire, leaving sixty-four acres of the city in ruins.

1889 Washington becomes the nation's forty-second state.

1891 Puget Sound Naval Shipyard is established in Bremerton.

1896 The *Miike Maru* sails into Seattle, opening up trade with Japan.

1897 A ton of gold arriving on the *Portland* sets off the Yukon Gold Rush.

1900 Frederick Weyerhaeuser buys 900,000 acres of Washington timberland and forms Weyerhaeuser Timber Company.

1901 Wallin and Nordstrom shoe store, the forerunner of Nordstrom's, opens in downtown Seattle.

1908 Seattle Car Manufacturing (later PACCAR) establishes a railcar plant in Renton.

1907 United Parcel Service (originally called American Messenger) is founded.

1909 The Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition promotes Seattle as the gateway to Alaska and Asia.

1916 Lumberman William Boeing builds his first airplane and starts the Boeing Airplane Company.

1921 The *Edmore* is the first cargo ship to call at the Port of Tacoma.

1921 Camp Lewis opens for military training.

1923 Kenworth Motor Truck incorporates in Seattle.

1929 Coast-to-coast air service begins at Boeing Field.

1929 On October 29 (Black Tuesday) the stock market crashes, initiating the Great Depression.

1933 Unemployment rises to 25 percent for all workers and 37 percent for nonfarm workers.

1933 A citizen-approved income tax is declared unconstitutional by the Washington State Supreme Court.

1934 Construction begins on Grand Coulee Dam to provide water, electricity, and jobs.

1934 Eddie Bauer opens a store on the Olympic Peninsula.

1937 Dave Beck forms the Western Conference of the Teamsters.

1938 REI (Recreational Equipment Inc.) opens what will become the nation's largest consumer co-op.

1938 Warren Magnuson is elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

1940 The Lake Washington Floating Bridge links Seattle and eastern King County.

1941 The United States declares war on Japan.

1942 Boeing, which eventually employs 50,000 during World War II, test flies the B-29.

1943 Construction begins on the top-secret Hanford plutonium production facility.