

Skilled Workers Now Leading Labor Force

Since 1910 Unskilled Laborers Has Fallen By Nearly 2,000,000

Industrialization and technology have brought a pronounced change in the skill and makeup of the American working population, with far-reaching social and economic consequences, according to data compiled by the U. S. Department of Labor.

Perhaps the most dramatic of these developments has been the diminishing role of the unskilled laborer, once such a familiar and important part of the American scene. Back in 1910, for example, common laborers represented close to a fifth of the entire male non-farm labor force and outnumbered the craftsmen, or skilled workers, by more than a million.

Since then the number of unskilled workers has fallen by nearly two million while the skilled groups have shown a big increase. As a result, unskilled laborers made up only one-twelfth of the male non-farm labor force in 1950, and they were outnumbered by the craftsmen by a margin of more than two to one.

Big Factor In Progress

The number of skilled workers nearly doubled in the 1910-50 period, but the biggest gain has occurred in the semi-skilled group in which the typical machine operator is classified. There were some five million more semi-skilled male workers in 1950 than in 1910, and the group as a whole now makes up about 20 per cent of the male non-farm working population as against 11 per cent in the early part of this century.

This growth in the skill of the work force has contributed much to the progress of the economy and to the well-being of millions of American workers and their families. Earnings of skilled and semi-skilled workers are naturally greater than those of common laborers, and this has been reflected in their standard of living and the great increase in their ownership of life insurance and other savings. Such workers are more productive as well, and this fact, combined with the vast investment in new plant and machinery over the years, has helped to make our production record possible.

The overall change in the composition of the labor force over the last four decades has been accompanied by some striking shifts within the groups themselves, notably among the skilled workers.

New Job Opportunities

These changes have created new job



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older trades also have benefited from modern living and the demand for the comforts and conveniences so characteristic of our society. Among these are electricians, plumbers and upholsterers.

By contrast, some trades with a long history seem to be gradually disappearing. There are now fewer than a fifth as many blacksmiths as

there were in 1910 and less than half as many tailors. Both of these were in the top ten a generation ago.

The biggest single group of skilled workers is the carpenter. Whatever the effect of the "do-it-yourself" movement, carpenters still outnumber any of the other craftsmen, and have as far back as records go.

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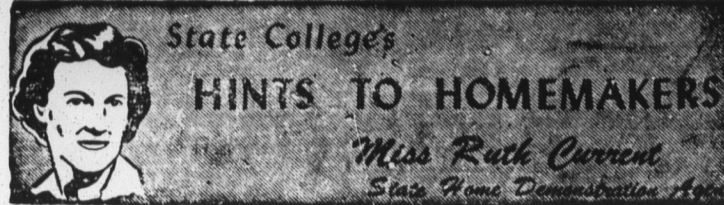


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State College's
HINTS TO HOMEMAKERS

Miss Ruth Current
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Scissors and Shears—Good scissors or shears are rather expensive, but one should look on them as good tools for good work and a lifetime investment.

Dressmaker shears have a certain weight and are made with a bow handle consisting of a large oval and a smaller oval. Two or three fingers of the cutting hand can be inserted in the large oval, thus making possible greater force and long, clean cutting strokes, even on heavy material. The most efficient type of dressmaker shears is called a bent trimmer.

When cutting a garment from a pattern use good sharp shears. Place material on a flat surface and use long, clean strokes.

For an easy, quick seam finish use pinking shears. Pinking shears have blades with jagged edges and produce a satisfactory finish for closely woven fabrics. They are not planned for cutting out a pattern from a fabric and if so used will produce a very poor result.

Scissors are light and have ring handles, slightly oval and of equal size. Only one finger is used in each

handle, since no special effort is required. They have slim blades and sharp points—for clipping threads and ripping seams, etc.

Use your dressmaker shears and sewing scissors for fabric only—never cut paper except tissue paper patterns. An occasional drop of machine oil at the screw is essential—be sure to wipe it off carefully.

EGG PRODUCTION DROPS

North Carolina egg production during July, 1954, is placed at 106 million eggs—3 per cent below the July, 1953, production and 8 per cent below the 115 million eggs produced during the preceding month. The above decline from July, 1953, is based upon a reduction of approximately 300,000 in the number of layers on North Carolina farms. The North Carolina Crop Reporting Service states further that the decline from the previous month reflects a normal seasonal decline in numbers of layers and average rate of lay.

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NOTICE OF MEETING OF CHOWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

At the request of a member of the Board of Commissioners, a meeting of the Chowan County Commissioners is called for 10 o'clock A. M., Thursday, September 2, 1954, at the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

There will be no meeting on Monday, September 6, due to the observance of Labor Day.

This August 26, 1954.

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