

Women Labor Force Increases 241.7 Percent

RALEIGH - Women in the North Carolina labor force have come a long way in the past four decades, increasing 241.7 percent from 350,000 in 1940 to around 1,196,000 in 1979, according to state Employment Security Commission officials.

And officials predict that by the mid-eighties, the number of women workers will equal or possibly exceed the number of working males in the state.

Dave Garrison, assistant director of the commission's Bureau of Employment Security Research, says there was "no contest" between men and women during the past four decades in percentage gains in employment.

Whereas in 1940 only one out of four labor force participants was a woman, by 1979 the ratio was better than three out of every seven workers, he said.

While male employment advanced around 60 percent during the period, the female employment expansion amounted to a

whopping 260 percent," said Garrison.

Garrison said that almost as dramatic as the sheer magnitude of female growth have been the significant changes occurring in the kinds of jobs women hold.

In 1940, only 25 percent of the employed women worked in "white collar" occupations, Garrison said. However, by 1978, over half of all working women held "white collar" jobs.

Based on data compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics from its Current Population Surveys of households, Garrison said in the "blue collar" occupations the female proportion has dropped slightly from 34.5 percent in 1940 to 30.6 percent in 1978. He said that was due mainly to a proportional decline in machine operators and related jobs.

Garrison said the proportions of employed women also have increased in professional and technical jobs, in managerial and administrative occupations, and in the skilled trades. He said the distribution of female employ-

ment shows sharp declines in service and farm occupation due in great part to declines in the number of women in private household domestic jobs and to the overall decline in agricultural employment brought about by increased mechanization and the out-migration of farm families.

Looking at the female workers characteristics in terms of color and age, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that of the 1,122,000 Tar Heel women employed in 1979, around 84,000 were teen-agers, age 16 through 19. Of all female workers, 884,000, or almost 79 percent, were white, and 238,000 were non-white (Black and other races).

Garrison said the unemployment rate for women was considerably higher than the rate for men in 1979. The annual average unemployment was 6.2 percent, representing 74,000 jobless females, compared with a 3.7 percent rate, or 55,000 unemployed men. For white women the jobless rate stood at 5.2 percent, while for non-white women the rate was substantially higher at 9.5 percent.



"My daddy told me this was a dog-eat-year-old Charles Hunter on his little dog world." If you think you have gas scooter. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. problems just take a look at three Daniel Hunter (photo by Teresa Burns)



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Nurse Shortage Frets Memorial

Demand for nurses nationwide has outstripped the supply severely enough that some hospitals are actively recruiting them.

Charlotte Memorial Hospital, currently short 50 to 60 registered nurses, hopes to reduce shortages by half after nursing school graduations, according to John Lottich, director of public information.

"We are in competition against all medical centers in the southeast," Lottich said.

Hospitality Weekends, the next being May 9-10 are among Memorial's recruiting tools. Senior nursing students and RNs are invited from as far as Canada.

Charlotte Memorial pays for hotel accommodations for out-of-town guests.

Lottich said most shortages are in the general medical surgical unit.

"Specialty areas such as intensive care attracts nurses."

Since hospital nursing is more difficult and the hours irregular, Lottich said, many RNs elect not to work in hospitals. They may change to em-

substitute work in a doctor's office or for an insurance company. Others choose to become homemakers or involved in home health care.

To compensate for the RN shortage, LPN's licensed practical nurses are assuming some of their duties.

"An RN has more training and authority by law to do more things," such as giving medicine to patients Lottich said. They utilize part-time RNs, an RN pool and nursing supervisors to

Hospital nursing covers every experience you could come up with in nursing," Lottich emphasized.

If interested in participating in the Hospitality Weekend, contact Teresa Nesbit at 373-2101 or 373-2464 between 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

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Before Making Decision Nursing Homes Should

Be Investigated Thoroughly

RALEIGH - Persons considering a nursing home for themselves or for a member of the family should make a thorough investigation of the home before making a decision, according to Nathan H. Yelton, assistant secretary of Aging, Department of Human Resources.

"It will be time well spent in terms of appropriate care and services," he said.

In North Carolina, all nursing homes must be licensed by the state in order to operate, said Yelton. He urged prospective residents to find out what level of nursing care is provided, if a Registered Nurse or a Licensed Practical Nurse is in charge, and the number of persons on the night shift.

The patient's physician should tell him what level of care is necessary, but "the more care provided, the more you can expect to pay for services," Yelton said.

Other questions that should be answered include:

Does a staff physician spend some time at the nursing home? Can the patient have his own physician?

What are the rules about visiting patients? Does the home have facilities for rehabilitation and physical therapy?

Is there an arrangement for transfer of patients to a nearby hospital? Is emer-

gency transportation readily available?

Does the home have planned menus and are there arrangements for special diets? Ask to see the planned menus.

Does the home have an organized program of diversional activities? What does it include? Are there arrangements for the religious life of the patient?

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Dr. Ethelyn H. Harper
Associate professor

IRA To Hear

Dr. Harper

The International Reading Association, IRA, will hold a banquet in Monroe, May 1. The speaker will be Dr. Ethelyn H. Harper, Associate Professor of education at the coordinator of Interdisciplinary Seminar in Education at St. Augustine's College.

A graduate of Winston-Salem State University and Teachers College at Columbia University, Dr. Harper received her Ph.D. from Laurence University in California. She has pursued studies at the University of Maryland and Appalachian State University.

Fellowship awards from Bennett College, Davidson College, and St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico are also a part of Dr. Harper's distinguished educational background.

Her educational travel experiences are noteworthy. During the period from 1969 to 1973, she traveled in fourteen countries in Western Europe, Canada, the Bahamas, Hawaii, Mexico and South America.

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