

"Progress and Unemployment" Excerpt from *The Goldfinch*, 1996

Inventions and other technological advances often put people out of one line of work, and into another. With the introduction and growing popularity of the automobile, blacksmiths and carriage makers soon had to find other ways to earn their keep. Often, they converted their shops into garages and learned how to fix cars and motorized farm equipment.

Everett Ludley, who grew up in northeastern Iowa, remembers how the automobile changed the businesses district in Manchester, Iowa.

"Hennesey's Livery Stable was converted to a car agency," he wrote in 1989. "Billie Burk's Blacksmith Shop became a machine shop. In both, the smell of horse manure was replaced by the smell of oil and grease."

New technologies also created new jobs. Frederick Maytag made washing machines in Newton beginning in 1909. As Maytag perfected the machines, the demand for the product increased, and more and more people found jobs in the Maytag factory.

Industries have continued to grow throughout the state's history. From coal mining and meat packing to insurance and publishing, Iowans have worked in a variety of manufacturing and service positions and have marketed Iowa products throughout the world.

In 1994, 1,508,000 Iowans were employed in the state. That's enough people to fill the seats in Des Moines' Sec Taylor Stadium ten times! Of that number, 94,000 were young people between the ages of 16 and 19.

Young people under age 16, who are not included in official labor statistics, also work hard. Like kids in the early part of Iowa's history, they do chores at home, hold part-time jobs such as delivering newspapers and baby-sitting, and participate in other wage-earning activities.