

Ferdie J. Deering

APR 3 1979

Industrious Workers Hard to Find

YOU "can't hire anybody who wants to work," complained the nursery owner as he lugged a bale of peat moss to a lady's car. He and his crew were working hard but they were far outnumbered by customers.

A variety store on May Avenue posted a hand-written notice on the door announcing they needed people to fill seven jobs.

Even with "do-it-yourself service" and high gasoline prices, filling stations keep up their signs: "Full or part time help wanted."

Restaurants are using outside signs as sales talk to lure help, instead of to attract customers, their original purpose.

A neighbor's housecleaner has quit to take a daytime job at General Motors. She had been working nights at Western Electric and saving daytime money for her children's education.

These are samples of the situation that makes Oklahomans wonder about reports of rising unemployment in the state. Snow and cold

weather shut down outdoor jobs, but whether these layoffs ought to be regarded as "joblessness" is something else.

With warm weather, things are buzzing, and with average wages around \$250 a week, Oklahoma is booming. At the minimum pay of \$2.90 an hour, a beginner can pick up \$23.20 a day.

That's without any particular skills. If he learns how to do something reasonably well, he can double that. If he is willing to learn and work hard, he can triple his earnings.

Employers do not seem to object to paying higher wages as much as they complain about the lack of industry on the part of those they hire. Some do not want to be bothered with instructions on how to do their jobs. Others are often late, or take off without notice.

Many youngsters apparently have not been taught what is expected of them in the working world. Indifference and irresponsibility can reduce the output of even well-trained employees.

An interview with a time-management expert reported by a national magazine recently says: "Studies show almost everyone wastes two hours or more every day. We spend 80 percent of our time on unimportant things that produce only 20 percent of the results." The expert said people waste time everywhere.

To use time effectively, it was observed, a person should decide what needs to be done, tackle important things first, and stay with a job until it is completed. Employers may waste time, too!

Disinterest in jobs may or may not be a result of generous welfare programs, but many employers are convinced that it is. Food stamp usage has gone up 100 percent recently as a result of widespread government promotion to increase patronage.

Perhaps the answer to our employment situation was turned up in a 10-year, \$60 million federal study in Seattle and Denver.

Researchers concluded that when people have a guaranteed annual income, they are less likely to work.