

# Jobs Plentiful for Those Wanting Them

IN THE early days of the American west there was a type of cowboy called "chuck-line rider" or "grub-line rider." In his book, "Western Words," Ramon F. Adams described him:

"Any worthy cowboy may be forced to ride chuck line at certain seasons, but the professional chuck-line rider is just a plain range bum, despised by all cowboys. He takes advantage of the country's hospitality and stays as long as he dares wherever there is no work for him to do and the meals are free and regular."

These pioneer "panhandlers" have been succeeded by generations of moochers who have systematized and legalized their claims on the labor and earnings of others. They don't want to give up their hand-outs, regardless of balanced budgets, high taxes and inflation. Many of them obviously don't want to go to work, either, and don't intend to do so.

Business houses in block after block along city thoroughfares have large signs in front appealing to passersby to come in and work.

Some of them state wages offered, which look pretty good for starters, but they seem to find few takers. The signs remain in place. One fast food restaurant on N May displays these lines: "Wages available, work required."

Maybe that's the trouble. So many people have become used to having allowances or government checks delivered to them that they don't want to exert themselves.

The recent parade of special interest groups around the state capitol chanting "Feed Our Kids" and other slogans apparently did not go down streets where the jobs are.

While many businesses are unable to hire enough help to serve their patrons, subsidized programs like the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA) are hiring young people to be assigned to public and non-profit agencies at taxpayers' expense.

Subsidized jobs have sometimes been called "pay for play" because they seem to be somewhat less demanding than real jobs.

"Help Wanted" ads for a great variety of jobs appear daily in this

newspaper and The Sunday Oklahoman normally publishes 12 to 15 solid pages of classified ads offering productive jobs at good pay.

Oklahoma is one of the most fully employed states in the nation, with unemployment statistics about half the national average. There is no depression here. Still there seem to be people who prefer to draw tax-free welfare checks to working for their own bread and beer.

They may complain that the kinds of jobs they were trained to do are not available. So what? Let them learn to do the jobs that are offered. Most employers expect to provide some on-the-job training.

This is not to say that people are no longer sympathetic to those who are physically unable to work or who otherwise truly qualify as needy cases. There is no desire to deprive these of help.

What the American people are tired of is the professional "grub-line riders" who take advantage of the country's hospitality and stay as long as they don't have to work and the meals are free.