

# DICTIONARY LISTS 24,000 OCCUPATIONS

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Suppose someone said to you, "With summer coming on, I'm headed out to take a job as a zangero."

Or, perhaps, a friend at a Rotary luncheon mentioned spending some time among the flappers in the Northwest.

Chances are, you wouldn't know a zangero from, say, a wrinkle chaser or a joy loader, and you would credit your Rotary friend for a romantic streak he might not have—unless you are one of the inveterate book browsers who have found chuckles in the United States Department of Labor's authoritative, quite serious Dictionary of Occupational Titles.

The dictionary is a two-volume compendium of 24,000 different jobs in business and industry—jobs that provide a livelihood for 8 out of 10 American jobholders today. In all, its updated pages now include

some 60,000 occupational titles and identifications, from archsupport assembler (just what the title implies) to zangero, a supervisor of irrigation ditches.

The "flappers" your Rotary friend mentioned could be identified through the dictionary as male copper workers, not lively lassies in the short-skirted styles of 1961.

A wrinkle chaser? He works in a boot and shoe factory to make sure your shoe body is smooth, completely wrinkle free. The joy loader has a coal-mine job.

To the men involved, they are just jobs leading to weekly pay checks. But there is little prosaic about such job names as bushing and bung-boring-machine operator, a tittle with a lilt, or stiff-leg derrick operator, or pulpit man in a steel mill.

The keep-off girl searches insurance reports for suspicious losses; she may be a friendly lass with a come-hither look despite her job.

A gandy dancer may be all muscles and no grace; he lays and repairs railroad tracks. A boarder shapes and removes wrinkles from nylon stockings. A tipper dresses poultry.

A chamberman is not a male chambermaid; he makes sulfuric acid. And a pretzel peeler doesn't do what the title suggests, but places raw pretzels on a conveyor belt.

Never confuse a donkey doctor with a veterinarian; he repairs donkey engines for the logging industry. A banking inspector would be lost in the bookkeeping departments of a financial house; his job involves the inspection of parts of watches. And a leg inspector only eyes empty hose in a stocking factory.

The dictionary recognizes many workers whose jobs might never be thought of otherwise: the cracker stackers, doll-eye setters, baseball-glove stuffers, back-pocket attachers, bologna lacers, fan-mail clerks, and ribbon tiers who make the little red bows on Valentines.

Other classifications catch the eyes — and imaginations: knee-pants operators, bag

holders, bottom men, ploddermen, moochers, leachers, bumpers, knockers, neck cutters, on-and-off men, dieing-out machine operators, first fallers, and former men. But, there are also listings for backer-up, and build-up men.

Some new jobs are showing up. One is sage engineer, not necessarily a wise man as the title would suggest but certainly one with a background of technical training. He is a product of the alphabet age: sage is an abbreviation of semiautomatic ground equipment, and the sage engineer is a specialist who might be found working as an experimental rocket-sled mechanic or an electric-eye sorting machine technician.

There are other listings that are in keeping with changed times. One is the automobile self-service station attendant, another the laundrette attendant.

The newly listed security officer's job is a result of international and industrial cold wars.

The Labor Department updates the dictionary periodically, and it is widely used in industrial relations by employers and union representatives who deal with them. One value is to give some uniformity to job descrip-

tions and titles, so that fair comparisons may be made.

But, complete as it is, the dictionary doesn't list all jobs.

A writer for a labor newspaper recently pointed out that the latest dictionary missed such off-beat jobs as the lost-kid finder, a carnival employee whose job involves watching the children wandering around fairgrounds and carnival sites and rounding up the strays; the hat agers in Hollywood who make old hats out of new ones by an adroit rumbling—and why not old ones in the first place? — and “listen-to” specialists

who help those with problems by letting them talk them out, at \$3 an hour.

Those may never make the dictionary; its purpose, after all, is serious and its direction is toward industrial-relations specialists. However, other jobs are nudging their way into the listings year by year.

It's likely that the stick man will make the grade in the next updating. If you don't know him, he is the attendant who is charged with keeping others away from a welder working on a subway third rail.

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## BIRTH

*The little girl in the zoological park tossed bits of a bun to the stork, which gobbled them greedily, and bobbed its head toward her for more.*

*“What kind of a bird is it, mamma?” the child asked.*

*The mother read the placard, and answered that it was a stork.*

*“O-o-o-h!” the little girl cried, as her eyes rounded. “Of course, it recognized me!”*