Jobs That No Longer Exist

By Kara Ladd

Milkman

Every morning in the 1950s, like clockwork, the milkman would deliver bottles and jugs filled to the brim with milk. If you were lucky, sometimes he would deliver other kitchen essentials like eggs and butter. With the rise of home refrigeration, the milk stayed, but the profession expired. Maybe if they delivered cookies too, milkmen would’ve had a better chance.

Elevator Operators

Elevators didn’t always move with the simple push of a button. Back in the day, elevator operators were in charge of controlling everything from the doors and direction to the speed and capacity of the elevator – a lot of layers, or should we say levels, to the position. In the ‘50s, automatic elevators became more common and individuals had to push their own button (gasp!).

Linotype Operators

Life without backspace?! We can’t even imagine, but former linotype operators definitely can. These highly skilled workers used the linotype, a hot metal typesetting system, to produce the daily newspaper in the late 1880s. Phototypesetting was created in the early 1960s and rapidly replaced all operator positions.

Gandy Dancer

A Gandy Dancer actually has nothing to do with movin’ your hips. The title is slang for a railroad worker who maintained the tracks years before the work was done by machines. However, you can still find some of these workers alive and well at major railroads.