

County Farming
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though manufacturers provide nearly 48 per cent of earnings, they provide fewer than 41 per cent of Lancaster County's jobs. They have increased their share of total employment slightly since 1959, and they have added a substantial number of jobs. About 20 per cent more persons earn their living in factories than did in 1959, but some other kinds of industries have made an even better record.

Nonmanufacturing industries (exclusive of farming and self-employment) have increased employment 32 per cent and now account for a larger share of all jobs than they used to do. In

1959 they provided 39.8 per cent of all employment; in 1969, about 43.6 per cent. This record was made even though not all of this group of industries contributed to the expansion. Substantial job gains were made in trade, services, and state and local government; but Federal Government employment has declined and only small increases were scored by the transportation and utility industries by construction and by the finance, insurance and real estate group.

Agricultural employment has declined in both share and numbers. Self-employment has stabilized in numbers, but accounts for a smaller share of the total now than in 1959.

All told, there are now about

23,000 more people at work each month, on the average, in the County than were working at the start of the Sixties. Total employment is running about 138,600, as compared with 115,500 in 1959. This is a gain of 20 per cent, and the Penn State report notes that this is ahead of the gains of most but not all Pennsylvania industrial areas. It is well ahead of the State increase of 12 per cent.

Unemployment is averaging about 2,800 persons a month, a reduction of about 35 per cent from the monthly average of 4,300 in 1959. This is a small reduction compared with the reductions achieved elsewhere in Pennsylvania; but the reviewers emphasize that a small reduction is all that could be expected.

"In 1959 there was much less unemployment in Lancaster County, both in numbers and as a proportion of the labor force, than there was in other metropolitan areas of Pennsylvania."

The area's employment requirements have been met by attracting more people into the local labor force, which enlarged 18 per cent from 1959 through 1969. This was a larger gain than most other Pennsylvania industrial areas experienced, and it was more than three times the gain for Pennsylvania as a whole.

Although the employment level in Lancaster County is high, there is some evidence that in many industries it is not very steady over the course of a year. On the whole, employment can be expected to fluctuate by more than 5.5 per cent simply because of the nature of business activities in the County. In Pennsylvania these fluctuations amount to no more than 4 per cent. In addition, wide seasonal fluctuations are characteristic of both the manufacturing and nonmanufacturing sectors of Lancaster County industry. The variation over the course of a year is 2.9 per cent, compared with 1.8 per cent for the State. As a group the manufacturing industries in the County vary nearly 5 per cent, as compared with less than 4.5 per cent in the State.

respect to per capita income seems to be slipping a bit.

"Industries that use a great deal of part-time or temporary help tend to be low-paid, and part-time pay checks are comparatively small no matter how high the hourly rate of pay.

"Part of the problem with per capita income, however, is simply that Lancaster County is in the eastern part of the United States and other parts of the country have been growing faster. Compared with some other areas of Pennsylvania, Lancaster enjoys a fortunate location. The southeastern part of this State is one of the best growth areas in the East, but location has not been the only reason for the County's economic achievements."

The analysts say that the distribution of industries in the County for years has insulated local employment very well from the worst shocks of recession periods, but the area seems to be depending more heavily now than in the past on industries that have a very decided seasonal pattern of operations. This not only introduces instability into employment conditions but it could be one reason why this area's favorable position with

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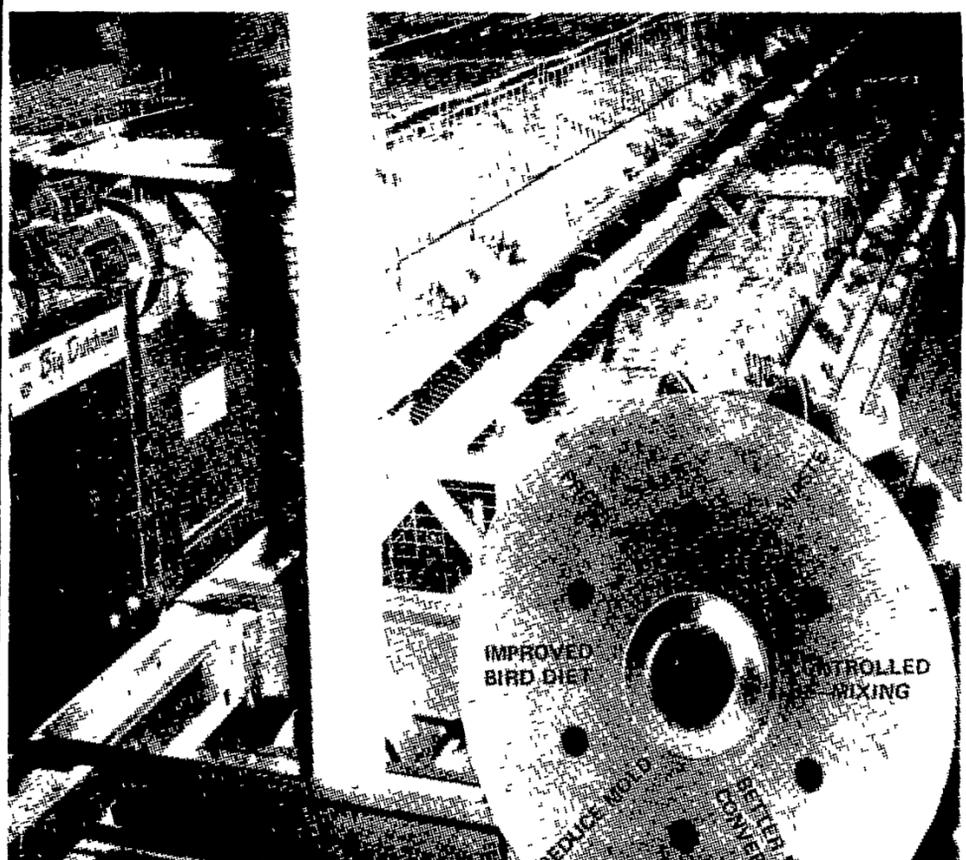
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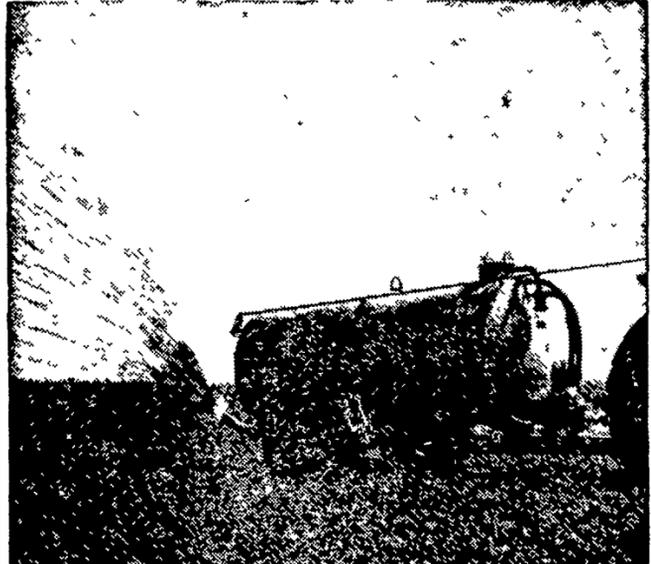


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