

1920s Job Profile: Lumber Worker

What is the lumber industry? The lumber industry turns trees into usable wood for buildings, furniture, paper, and many more things.

How do they do it? Trees were cut down with big saws or axes. There were large cranes for moving wood, but most of this was done by people and animals. Once the trees were cut down, they were taken to places called mills. Mills had big saws pulled by engines that cut the trees into smaller parts.

Lumber workers cut the trees down and moved them to the mill. They also operated the machines that cut the wood. They had to be very careful because everything they did was dangerous. Many accidents happened. Safety and pay depended on the company. Generally, lumber workers were not paid very much.

The lumber industry had been the most important business in Orange for 50 years. That was changing. Most of the big forests in the area had already been cut down. Lumber workers didn't know how long their jobs would last. They could usually make more in another business, and many of them left during the 1920s.

Salary and Hours: You make \$1.80 per day and work around 12 hours sometimes more. Laws restricting the work day to 8 hours did exist but rarely enforced in the lumber industry.

