**The Scrivener**

Sometimes referred to as a "scribe," scriveners made a living by writing and copying court and legal documents, and other written material. They were common in places where literacy rates were very low, and were also responsible for duties including dictation, petitions, and reading letters out loud to clients.

Technology, such as photocopying machines and tape recorders, made the scrivener extinct in all but the very poorest parts of the world.

**The Knocker-Upper (알람맨)**

Before the invention of alarm clocks, which we all take for granted these days, people needed to make sure they got up on time for work.

The task fell to someone called a knocker-upper, who would walk around the streets tapping on the windows of people who paid for a wake up call. It was a job done in the dark, the cold, and the rough streets of major cities, and paid very little.

**The Gandy Dancer**

Also known as railroad workers, gandy dancers were responsible for laying the many thousands of miles of tracks that span the United States. It was hard labor to say the least, and the wages were very poor. Working conditions were appalling, and men would often sing chants to keep spirits high and maintain good coordination.

The invention of track-laying machines did away with the need for the gandy dancer, which is just as well. It was a thankless, underpaid task.

**The Leech Collector**

Once upon a time, leeches were used by the medical profession. As such, the demand for leeches was high, and leech collectors would travel out into bogs and marshes to collect the bloodsuckers.

Advances in medical technology, and the ability to collect and harvest leeches in special facilities for modern medical use, led to the profession being wiped out.

**The Switchboard Operator**

From the late 1800s up until the 1960s, switchboard operators were the reason you were able to make a call. The job was hectic and mundane, requiring dexterity and nimble fingers to connect lines via a switchboard that had a dizzying number of jacks, plugs, and cords. If you've ever seen an old movie with someone using a candlestick phone, you'll hear them ask the operator to connect them to a number.

That was the job, day in, day out. In the 1920s, automated exchanges started being developed. Now, technology has completely eliminated the need for switchboard operators.

**Lector**

In New York City and Florida, cigar makers often became bored. They hired lectors to read to them while they worked. Lectors could read just about any material requested, and were paid using pooled wages of the workers. Lectors were placed in a chair on a raised platform so that most of the workers could hear.

**Copy Boy**

Errand runners used to take paper from desk to desk in newspaper offices around the country. When reports came out of teletype machines from the news wire services, copy boys would take the mimeographed information, sort it and then deliver it. Then, when a story was done, the copy boys could collect the article and take it to an editor. Now it’s all done via document sharing and e-mail.

**Lamplighter (램프갈아주는 사람)**

Before electric lights were standard, streets were lit by gas lamps. As you might imagine, someone was needed to manually light these lamps. Lamplighters used long ladders to reach the lamps, and then used matches to light the lamps. With electric street lights illuminating the night, lamplighters are obsolete.

**Pinsetter(볼링장)**

When you go bowling, a machine comes down and clears away the fallen pins, and sets up new pins. Before technology made automation possible, though, boys and girls did this job. While these pinsetters were often teenagers, sometimes they were much younger. Now, there is no need to have someone set up the pins, although the manager may need to go behind if the machine gets stuck.

**Telegraph Operator**

This job is even more obsolete than a switchboard operator. The operator used Morse code or some other code system to send messages. The operator was also required to interpret the messages he or she received. Telegraph operators played large roles in World War I and World War II.

**Ice Cutter**

To keep food properly cold, an icebox used to be required. And for an icebox, you needed ice. However, you couldn’t just find it at any store. Instead, it was cut from frozen lakes and rivers. Before refrigeration, ice was cut by men who worked hard to get it out of the frozen north. Then the ice was delivered around the country.

**Dictaphone Operator**

Company executives and other important people often dictated memos, letters and other documents using a Dictaphone. A Dictaphone operator would listen through headphones and type what he or she heard. Dictaphones are no longer needed, with more convenient digital recorders. There are even some programs that transcribe automatically, without the need for someone to type.

**Typing Pool**

Typing used to be a very female occupation. Large numbers of them often did the typing for a number of organizations. They sat in what were known as typing pools, and created documents of all types. The way to get a promotion was to distinguish oneself in the typing pool, and perhaps be offered the chance to be a secretary.

**Newspaper Typesetter**

Individual pieces of type used to have to be placed in printing presses in order to create newspaper pages and other documents on a mass scale. Now, of course, computers do the work of layout for newspapers, automating the process so that it is done more quickly, and arguably more accurately.

**Mimeograph Operator**

It used to be that the process of creating mimeographs was sometimes given to an operator. This allowed copies to made while the person requesting them accomplished other tasks. Now, though, mimeographs have been replaced by all sorts of digital machines, and the simple push of a button from a computer can get someone all the copies he or she needs.

**Word processors and typists**

**Elevator Operator**

It used to be that elevators needed someone to manually operate them, often using levers to help keep things moving as efficiently as possible, and to properly land the elevator cab on the correct floor. Even after buttons were created to help, an operator was still required, since the buttons didn’t allow for extra stops. Now, of course, push button operation makes this job unnecessary.

**Sawyer**

When building a house, it was necessary to obtain wood. This was true of building furniture, fencing, barrows and wagons. If you need wood, you could go to a sawyer. These men worked over pits, sawing wood as it was needed. However, thanks to electric saws and machines that can pre-cut wood to different lengths, all you need to do is head to the home improvement store—and sawyers are out of jobs.