

# How Times Have Changed

Robert Berroa

I was born in the Dominican Republic and came to the United States at a young age. The only technology I was brought up with was a wall phone, a phonograph that had to be cranked, and a black and white television that had three channels. Oh, how times have changed! Now I have a smart phone, a CD player, and a flat screen TV that offers over 75 channels. Technology has made my life more pleasant.

## Technology Tracks Inventory

One of the earliest jobs I had was working in a grocery store. At that time we had to write all orders by hand. This was difficult and time-consuming for me due to my limited knowledge of English. Now, you merely scan a product's bar code, and you will immediately know if it needs to be re-ordered. This technology has made it easier for stores to keep track of their inventory.

## Computers Speed Manufacturing

Another job that I had was being in charge of a machine that twisted thread. This machine used an antiquated and time-consuming process. While

I was at this job, it was sold to another company.

This new company brought in new machinists along with new technology. I was fortunate to witness this change in production, and I was trained

to work on a computer program that operated different machines. The time it took to finish this product went from four hours to half an hour, resulting in a better and more durable product.

I have witnessed first hand how manufacturing has changed, and I know I must continue to adapt to this change.

## Education Helps Me Keep Pace with Changes

At this stage in my life, I am working towards my GED. I am also enrolled in a pre-manufacturing course at a local community college. This course has given me an opportunity to read blueprints, take accurate measurements, learn computer applications in manufacturing, safety in the workplace, math skills, and new concepts in the field of manufacturing.

By training workers in the science of new manufacturing technology, the United States will be better able to compete with European and Asian countries which at the present are ahead of the United States. It is about time for our country to make more goods that are stamped MADE IN AMERICA.



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## More about Work

**Read on!** The articles on pp. 37-39 focus on similar themes: technology and work.

**Looking for a good job?** Check out the "Good Jobs..." issue (#36) of *The Change Agent* on our website.