



# West Virginia women not living happily ever after

Chris Weiss

...ing, the West Virginia Commission released its "Virginia Women: In 1970-1985." Using census data, its figures show that as the study develops of West Virginia aggregate figures. According to the study, there are more of us heading families in poverty than in 1970

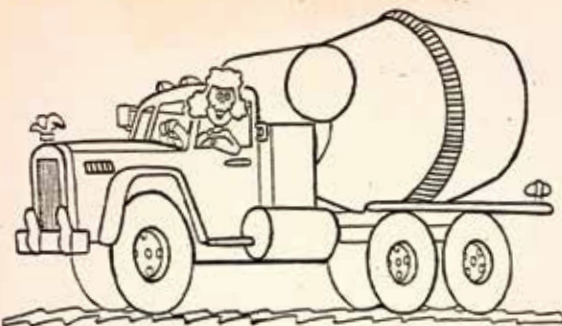
women in this state work for state government and are eligible for federal food stamps because of their low wages. Some of the working poor have to pay child care expenses, also. However, West Virginia counties have no licensed day-care centers "despite the increase in the number of mothers with children under working outside the home," according to the study. The lack of affordable subsidized day care

# CHRISTINE WEISS DAUGHERTY

*"Advocating for the economic rights of women in West Virginia was an opportunity for growth and change for all of us, and it was also a huge challenge."*



## The best man for the job...



may be a woman!

Are you interested in a non-traditional job? Do you have experience working outdoors in physical work? Would you be interested in working on highway construction or maintenance jobs in the Charleston area? If so, you may attend a FREE WORKSHOP to get you started! The workshop is titled:

### HOW TO FIND A JOB IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

- Topics will include:
- 1: The only female member of the Asbestos Union will share her (pro & con) job experiences, and offer advice.
  - 2: Information given on vocational schools and spring work opening up.
  - 3: Opportunity laws and regulations.
  - 4: Report on the upcoming Women and Trades conference.

ALL interested women WELCOME! (For more information, call 345-1298)

TIME: Wednesday, February 27, 7:00-9:00 P.M.

PLACE: The Training Place, third floor, Charleston Town Center.

## Construction hiring biased, group charges

By Mark Ward

STAFF WRITER

Several plaintiffs in a job discrimination suit against the city of Charleston charged in a federal court hearing Thursday that women and blacks were regularly shunted from construction jobs in downtown Charleston.

They also contended that a special mayor's advisory committee established to address the problem had failed in its self-described mission to work minorities into federally funded construction projects such as the Charleston Town Center.

But lawyers representing city officials and developers of the center city mall maintained in cross-examination that the plaintiffs had not proven complaints against the city and were not representative of the class of individuals addressed by the lawsuit.

Chris Weiss, director of Women and Employment and a member of the Mayor's Employment Advisory Committee, charged that city officials on the committee did not follow through on promises to develop a plan to help women and minorities find employment in the Town Center projects.

She said that her organization, funded by federal, private and church grants, had helped to train women in construction skills, but that only 45 to 75 women it placed.

Earlier, John Saunders, president of Concerned Citizens Kanawha Valley, and Jennifer, both plaintiffs, said they were shuffed between offices Forest City-Dillon, contractor the Marriott Hotel, and the hall, and that neither would applications for work.

Saunders, a black former teacher at Woodrow Wilson High, said he was trained in laying and carpentry. Also a member of the mayor's committee, Saunders said he complained his experience to committee members.

Mos Foster, also a former teacher, said she received months of carpentry experience through the CETA program Clendenin, but after leaving not find work in her field.

Defense lawyers challenged plaintiffs on several counts. Lovett, representing developers of the mall, insisted while the complaint, against city complained of discrimination in employment for the Town Center project, that project was even under way when the suit filed.

He asked U.S. District Judge John T. Copenhaver to disallow any testimony as to employment practices as construction of Marriott Hotel, because he was totally separate from the project.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER

# GAZETTE

**HARD HATS and HAMMERS:**  
*A Job Program That Works*

Since then, the group's focus has expanded to include other projects designed to improve the economic status of women. A sewing cooperative is on the drawing board, and the first and only United States branch of a worldwide bank was established in Charleston last year to enable women to launch small businesses. Under the auspices of the International Woman's Year meeting in 1975, Women's World Bank

## Group to boost women financially

Women's World Banking/West Virginia Affiliate is designed to boost the borrowing power of women to start a business or stay in business in the Mountain State.

The WWB affiliate is putting together a lending program, said Chris Weiss of Women and Employment in Charleston, an organizer of the affiliate. WWB will guarantee up to 50 percent of a loan, the affiliate 25 percent and a bank 25 percent un-



Weiss

beek, Netherlands. The West Virginia affiliate has been incorporated under state law as a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation. It's credited with being the first affiliate in the United States. The WWB charter says the purpose of the organization is "to promote economic self-sufficiency among women and to facilitate their integration into the business and financial communities by providing financial guarantees and management assistance."

Organizers of the affiliate say it will help contribute to the economic recovery of the state. Direc-

tors are Florette Angel of the National Council of Jewish Women; Marion Alston, teacher in Kanawha County; Patsy Brown of Kanawha Banking & Trust; Carol Hamrick of Union Carbide; Linda Holup of Women and Employment; Ellen Kay of Merrill Lynch; Sharon Mullens, Legal Aid attorney; Nancy Tolliver of Women's Health Center; Mae Ellen Wildt of Kanawha Banking & Trust; Naydene Williams of Women and Employment; Karen Wilcox; and Weiss, board chairman. Legal advisers are Mary Clare Eros and Lauren Young.

