The Coachmen
Michael Striebich

But what about the coachmen?
The telegraphists too?
Soda jerks and chimney sweeps
What are they to do?

Each time a new invention
Replaces someone’s task
We wonder how they will go on.
What’s next for them? We ask.

Are all of us replaceable?
Do any of us matter?
How can we get a job that’s safe
Atop the corporate ladder?

But we went on and did new things
With cars and phones and wires.
Learning, doing, growing; then
Pink slips become new hires.

Now let’s not fret for future work,
We’ll change as new tech rises.
We need new folks to learn new jobs
And handle new surprises.

So bring on all the robots
A.I. and automation
Each one will need a lot of help
And that’s the new vocation.

But what about the coachmen? Well,
They learned another skill.
We’ll teach and train each other now
To fit the future’s bill.