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The report goes on to say that our U.S. population growth has slowed to 0.7% per year since 2010 – a rate lower than any since the 1940's -- and studies forecast that rate to fall to the 0.4% range over the period 2040-2060. They see implications for the GDP growth slowing commensurately. The aging of the U.S. workforce is yet another concern. Among its effects are reduced geographic mobility, productivity growth, and wage growth. My guess (not mentioned in the paper) is that the aged portion of our labor force might also be relatively averse to undertaking manual labor on public works projects.

The study points out that our population has put such a focus on educational attainment – obtaining bachelors and advanced degrees – which is admirable, but observes that this “can also mean a dearth of low- and mid-skill workers, the ranks of whom have been shrinking in the United States.”

So when I ask “who will do the work?” I’m not sure that will be easy to answer. A sizable (but I don’t believe it to be a majority) share of the American voting public expresses unease with growing our labor force through immigration, yet the study from which I’ve been citing clearly makes the case that continuing immigration is very useful.

“Immigration is unlikely to reverse the ongoing trends discussed in previous sections, but it can mitigate the adverse effects of many of them.”

Importantly, the study also points out that a common anti-immigration argument is questionable.

“There is little evidence that immigration negatively affects the wages or employment rates of medium- and high-skilled U.S. natives.”

So perhaps the answer to my question, at least partly, will be **immigrants**.

Aaron's Answers continued from page 1

turned into the famous figure of Santa Claus when the poem “A Visit from Saint Nicholas,” also known as “’Twas the Night Before Christmas” was published. He began being known as Sant Claus, a jolly man dressed all in red who’d give you gifts for Christmas if you were in bed. Now, he has been commercialized and his image is completely different from his origins in Christian culture, but he is still loved and adored by many.

KID STUFF

(From Games Magazine, Dec 2021)

SCRAMBLED EGGS DAVID LAROCHELLE

This giant nest contains the scrambled names of a dozen birds. How many can you identify? To help you out, we've given you the first letter of each bird. Crack them all and you're no birdbrain!

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C _____
D _____
E _____
F _____
G _____
H _____
O _____
P _____
R _____
S _____
T _____
W _____

