

# Census Bulletin

Vol. V, No. 11  
June 3, 1955

## Bureau Conducts Survey Of Public Eating Places

At the request of the Department of the Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau is conducting a nation-wide sample survey of public eating places.

The survey is part of a national survey of consumer habits and is concerned particularly with the purchase and consumption of fish and shellfish.

The "Izaak Walton" survey is under the sponsorship of Business Division with Field Division playing its usual role of collecting agent.

The enumeration of the public eating places began on May 25 and all of the interviewing is expected to be completed this week. Approximately 300 enumerators participated in the survey which included nearly 5,000 eating establishments throughout the country. The survey will yield data which will help the fisheries industries overcome a current problem of large surpluses and low prices in certain fishery products.

In personal interviews each of the respondents was asked twenty-three questions to obtain information about the sale of fish and shellfish.

The purpose of the survey is not primarily to estimate the exact amounts of fishery products purchased and consumed, but more particularly to discover the purchase patterns (including marketing channels) and their relationship to the consumer and use habits. The opinions of the respondents were

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1000 HOURS SICK LEAVE CLUB-- Population and Housing, Geography, and Business Divisions have contributed the five latest additions to the Bureau's list of employees who have a credit of 1000 hours of sick leave. Congratulations to Howard G. Brunsman (P&H), Bertha M. Stark (P&H), Berkeley J. Carroll (Geo), Casper Cook (Geo), and Ida V. Eichelberg (Bus), who have recently joined the elite club.

## Bureau To Convert Some Jobs To Wage Board System

Legislation enacted last September by the 83d Congress (Public Law 763), contained provisions of importance to a number of employees who occupy certain types of positions in the Bureau.

One of the provisions of the legislation was the abolishment of the CPC (Crafts, Protective, and Custodial) Schedule. Congress directed that the CPC Schedule be abolished by September 1955.

Public Law 763 also provided that CPC and GS (General Schedule) positions which are in recognized trades, crafts, and certain laboring occupations be transferred to the wage-board system. Employees who are assigned to these skilled trades and labor positions will be paid at wage rates commensurate with prevailing rates paid similar positions in industrial establishments in their local geographic area.

The legislation also provided that all CPC positions which are not in trades, crafts or laboring occupations be placed in the General Schedule. In accordance with this latter provision, the Bureau last January converted to the General Schedule all CPC positions which are to remain under the Classification Act.

The Bureau will soon convert all of the remaining CPC positions and closely associated General Schedule positions in the trades, crafts, and laboring occupations to the wage-board system. The Department has fixed the pay period beginning July 3

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## New "Grapevine" Board To Get Tryout

Census employees will soon be given an opportunity to get the real low-down on any rumors that happen to be making the rounds of the Bureau. A bulletin board, to be labelled "The Census Grapevine," will be set up next week in the cafeteria lobby. Any Census employee who has a rumor or question he wants answered will be invited to drop his question, unsigned if he prefers, into a box provided for the purpose. Answers will then be posted on the board as promptly as possible for all to see.

The new plan, which is to be tried on an experimental basis, is not intended to relieve supervisors of their responsibility for keeping employees informed, nor is the plan expected to overlap into the suggestion program. It is hoped that the "Grapevine" will serve to answer questions of broad and general interest.

However, an employee who submits a question which is not of Bureau-wide interest may receive an individual answer if he signs his name to his inquiry.

Field employees may send their questions directly to the Editor of the BULLETIN, and answers to their queries will be printed in the "Question Box" column.

## International Statistical Conferences Underway

An important series of international statistical meetings will be held in Quitandinha, Petropolis, Brazil beginning on June 3, 1955.

The United States Delegation to the Conferences will include four Census Bureau representatives: Director Burgess; Morris H. Hansen, Assistant Director for Statistical Standards; Conrad Taeuber, Assistant Director for Demographic Fields; and Calvert L. Dedrick, Coordinator, International Statistics.

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### ITS JUNE!

*And what is so rare as a day in June?  
Then, if ever, come perfect days;  
Then Heaven tries the earth if it be in  
tune,  
And over it softly her warm ear lays.*

Taken from The Vision of Sir Launfal  
--James Russell Lowell

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Vol. V, No. 11 June 3, 1955

Published bi-weekly and issued on paydays by the Personnel Standards and Development Branch, Personnel Division, Bureau of the Census, Washington 25, D. C.

Address news items and suggestions to the Editor, CENSUS BULLETIN, Room 1108, F.O.B. #3, Tel.: LU 4-3000, Ext. 525.

## ANSWER TO LAST EDITION'S STUMPER

The physical education director could have only 10 potatoes in his potato race, and he could have as many as 10 only by an exercise of ingenuity.

Usually in such races the contestant stands beside the basket at the beginning of the race. In such case, he will have to travel two yards in getting the first potato into the basket. So also he will have to travel four yards for the second potato, six yards for the third, etc. To determine how many potatoes could be included in the race with this start, it is necessary only to find out how many "even" numbers can be added without running over 100. This would be nine, for the sum of the first nine even numbers is 90, and the addition of the next even number would make 110 yards.

By the ingenious arrangement of having the race start with the contestant standing beside the farthest potato, however, the physical education director was able to include 10 potatoes and have the contestants run an even 100 yards. For in this case it takes only 10 yards of travel to handle the first potato, and then 90 more to handle the other nine, as above.



THE CAFETERIA WILL BE OPENED SATURDAYS on a trial basis beginning June 4. Hot and cold sandwiches, soup, pie, fruit, jello, salads, and beverages will be served between the hours of 11:30 a. m. and 12:30 p. m. The extent to which the cafeteria is patronized during the trial period will determine whether the Saturday service will be continued.

## SNAPSHOTS



Margaret R. Rommel, Administrative Officer for Census Operations Division, is a member of the group of employees who came to work for the Census Bureau during the 16th Decennial Census, liked what they saw and have remained with the Bureau. Margaret or "Maggie" as she is known to her friends was born in Mount Pleasant, Iowa and graduated from Iowa Wesleyan College. Later she obtained a Master's degree in mathematics from the University of Iowa and taught mathematics and Latin in the high schools of Iowa until she was offered a clerical appointment with the Census Bureau in 1940. Her first assignment was in Business Division where she remained until January of this year when she transferred to the Census Operations Division.

It wasn't long after Miss Rommel arrived in Washington that her superiors recognized her ability and gave her supervisory duties. She had a progression of increasingly difficult responsibilities, achieved professional status, and for several years worked as an Economic Statistician and Economic Analyst.

In 1945 as one of a small group of Federal employees, Margaret, together with William C. George and John F. Borecki was selected to participate in the Civil Service Commission's 1st Administrative Intern Program. The purpose of the program was to assist agencies to discover and train employees possessing outstanding potentialities for administrative and executive responsibilities. She thus helped pioneer the way for the other Census employees who have participated in subsequent intern programs.

After completing her intern training Margaret moved from the professional to the administrative field and became administrative officer for Business Division. Through the years she has been active in numerous Bureau activities. At present

she is a member of the suggestion program's sub-committee for General Administration and is beginning her third consecutive year as Secretary for the Board of Directors of the Census Credit Union. Her major "after hours" interest is her work with the P.E.O. Sisterhood, a philanthropic and educational women's organization, international in scope, and having a membership of about 123,000 women. What P.E.O. means is the members' own secret but it should be conclusive evidence that 123,000 women can keep a secret. One of Margaret's little known talents is her ability to tickle the ivories of a piano. Her friends throughout the Bureau are legion. However, her biggest boosters are those in her own division--she is never too busy to give advice and counsel to those who request it.

## FISH SURVEY - Cont. from p. 1

also obtained regarding new ways to sell more fish and shellfish, reasons for customer preferences for particular fish items, and what improvements they thought could be made in the present methods of marketing and distributing seafoods.

The various types of eating places enumerated included restaurants (including coffee shops and tea-rooms), cafeterias, restaurants or cafeterias in hotels, drinking places serving food, lunch counters or refreshment stands, and drug or proprietary stores.

## INTERNATIONAL - Cont from p. 1

The calendar of scheduled meetings sponsored by the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) and the International Statistical Institute (ISI) will include the following:

June 3-8

IASI--Committee on Improvement of National Statistics.

IASI--Committee on Statistical Education.

June 9-12

IASI--The third Inter-American Statistical Conference.

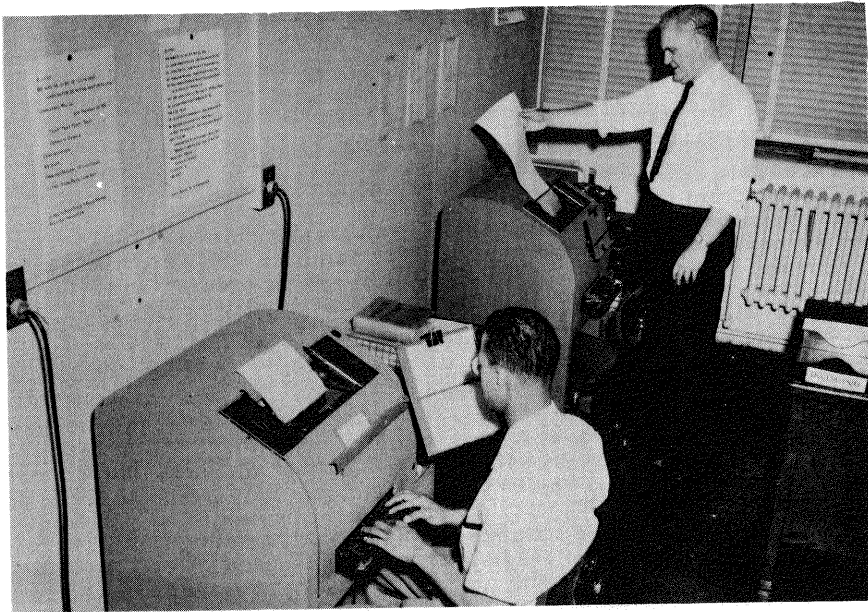
IASI--The third General Assembly.

June 23-July 2

ISI--The twenty-ninth Session of the International Statistical Institute.

A long list of agenda items will be discussed at the various meetings, including censuses, industrial and business statistics, statistical education, statistical problems in underdeveloped areas, demographic and vital statistics, statistical organization and administration, and many others.

## Teletype Unit Plays Key Role In "Passing The Word"



*This is the hub of all our telegraphic communications. In the background Supervisor Robert Shaughnessy is shown as he checks an incoming message while in the foreground James D. Johnson is busily engaged in dispatching one of the many telegrams which the Bureau sends to numerous cities throughout the country every working day.*

We are all aware that the Census Bureau's success depends upon coordinated group effort directed toward accomplishing the Bureau's mission of providing accurate and timely statistical data. The Bureau could be compared to a machine with each gear performing a specific function. Each gear helps keep the machine operating at peak efficiency.

One of the important gears of the Census machine is the Bureau's Teletype Unit which is responsible for the dispatch and receipt of thousands of telegrams which flow in and out of the Bureau each month.

Organizationally the Teletype Unit is under the jurisdiction of the Communications and Records Section of Administrative Service Division and operates under the direction of James L. Hitchens.

The Teletype Unit is under the immediate supervision of Robert Shaughnessy who has been in charge of the Bureau's telegraphic operations since 1943 when Western Union teletype machines were first installed in the Bureau. In 1948 when Western Union discontinued their discount rates, Public Buildings Service (PBS) set up government operated teletype facilities. Since then the Bureau has been using the PBS facilities in conjunction with Western Union. The Bureau has two PBS teletype machines and one Western Union machine with most of our business being transmitted

on the PBS machines. Mr. Hitchens estimates that the availability of PBS facilities has enabled the Bureau to cut telegraphic expenses by about 40%.

### PBS SYSTEM STREAMLINED

Since August 1954 Public Buildings Service has considerably streamlined and improved the operating procedures for sending and receiving messages over its teletype system. Prior to last August, all of the Bureau's telegrams sent over the PBS system had to be filed with the system's downtown Washington office which in turn re-transmitted the telegrams.

The new system completely eliminates this double work. Now if we want to send an individual telegram (one going to a single addressee), the Bureau teletype operator has only to press a button on his machine which signals the PBS switching center in Washington. Our operator informs the Washington switching center to which of the PBS system's key cities we wish to send the telegram. The switching center opens a direct line to the key city we request and our operator then sends the message. Key cities are located throughout the country, and each is able to contact directly every other key city. At present there are 56 key cities in the PBS system and the number is constantly being increased.

The key city receiving our telegram transmits it to the addressee by one of three methods; telephone, teleprinter or if neither of these methods is considered feasible, the message is refiled with Western Union which then transmits the message through its facilities.

### BOOK TELEGRAM PROCEDURES

In the case of a book telegram (a message sent to more than one addressee) a slightly different procedure is provided. If our book telegram is being sent to fifteen or less addressees, the Washington switching center opens a line to all of the cities we wish to contact. Each key city on the line thus receives the message at the same time.

In cases where book telegrams are being sent to sixteen or more addressees, the switching center provides a special wire and we can send telegrams to an unlimited number of key cities.

Book telegrams are especially important to an agency like Census as we frequently must send the same message to a number of our field offices or to large numbers of business establishments in connection with various Bureau surveys.

In order to handle its many surveys expeditiously, the Bureau at present sends out about 5,000 telegrams a month which amounts to about 100,000-125,000 words. There have been times when we have sent up to 3,700 telegrams in one day.

Mr. Shaughnessy is responsible for rating all messages for which the Bureau will be charged and for notifying the appropriate division and Accounts Section of Administrative Service Division. The exact rates for some telegrams can be determined while an estimate must be made for others. Due to his extensive experience Mr. Shaughnessy has become highly skilled in estimating the cost of telegrams and his estimates are always accepted without question.

Mr. Shaughnessy is a veteran telegrapher having worked with Western Union prior to his enlistment in the Army in World War I. He was a telegrapher for approximately the first ten years of his service with the Bureau. He then worked in the old Manufactures (now Industry) Division for an additional ten years prior to returning to telegraphy work. Several years ago he was presented with his 30 year length-of-service award. Barring unforeseen illness, he will become a member of the 1,000 hour sick leave club later this month.

Mr. Shaughnessy is assisted in his duties by James D. Johnson who has been with the Bureau since July of last year. Together they receive, transmit, and rate all of the Bureau's

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## Personnel Notes

● William E. Bradford (CIS), has arrived in Lima, Peru on a two-year assignment as a statistical advisor to the Government of Peru under the Foreign Operations Administration's technical assistance program. Mr. Bradford returned to the Bureau earlier this year from a similar assignment in Asuncion, Paraguay.

● Edgar H. Elam, Jr. (CIS), who is on an FOA assignment as a statistical advisor to the Government of Honduras has returned to the United States for a short period of home leave. He will go back to Honduras later in the month.

## Honors

● Dr. Henry S. Shryock, Jr., (P&H), Assistant Chief in charge of Population Statistics, was elected president of the Population Association of America, for the forthcoming year (1955-56), at the annual meetings held in Princeton, New Jersey, on May 21 and 22.

## Retirements

● Clara E. Russell (Gov), statistical clerk, retired on May 31 after more than 33 years of Federal Service which included 28 years with the Bureau. Mrs. Russell's first Census service was in 1925-26. She returned to the Bureau in 1928 and served continuously since that date. From 1933 until her retirement, Mrs. Russell worked in Governments Division where her duties included recording and tabulating detailed statistics relating to the financial operations of the 48 states and the Nation's largest cities. For several years she was an active and popular member of the Census Ladies Bowling League.

● Margaret Nelson (FT-New York Office), statistical clerk, retired because of disability on April 18. At the time of her retirement Mrs. Nelson had more than 36 years of Federal Service to her credit, 34 years of which were spent with Commerce Department. On September 1, 1920, Mrs. Nelson was appointed as a clerk in the Bureau of Custom Statistics, which is now the New York Office of the Foreign Trade Division. All of her Census service has been in New York City except for brief periods in 1938-39 when she was detailed to Washington. Mrs. Nelson was a veteran of World War I having served as a Yeoman 1st Class in the U. S. Naval Reserve.

## Deaths

● Michael J. Racioppi, a former Census employee, died suddenly on April 19. Mr. Racioppi retired in 1949 after more than 32 years of service with the Bureau.

● Walter B. (Nick) Carter who served with the Bureau for 33 years, died suddenly on May 9. Mr. Carter retired in 1947.

## WAGE BOARD - Cont. from p. 1

as the date for removing these positions from the Classification Act system and placing them under the prevailing wage rate system.

Certain other Bureau positions which are at present in the General Schedule will require a decision as to whether the experience, knowledge, and major requirements of each of these jobs are such that it meets the standards requirements for wage schedule positions. A final determination on these jobs will be made between July 3 and September 1.

The responsibility for administering the wage schedule program within the Bureau rests with the Personnel Division. In the next few weeks representatives of the Personnel Division will contact supervisors of trades, crafts, and labor positions for current information about these positions so that they may be appropriately evaluated in accordance with the standards requirements for wage schedule positions.

Non-supervisory positions will be evaluated on five factors: experience and training, responsibilities, mental application, physical

demands, and working conditions. Supervisory positions will be evaluated on the factors of: occupations and levels of personnel supervised, and supervisory situation including level, type, and degree of supervision received and kind of supervision exercised.

The conversion law provided that no employee transferred to the wage-board system will have his base pay reduced by the transfer and most will receive increases.

## TELETYPE - Cont. from p. 3

telegraphic messages. They must be familiar with all of the Bureau's surveys in order that all incoming messages may be quickly allocated to the proper division.

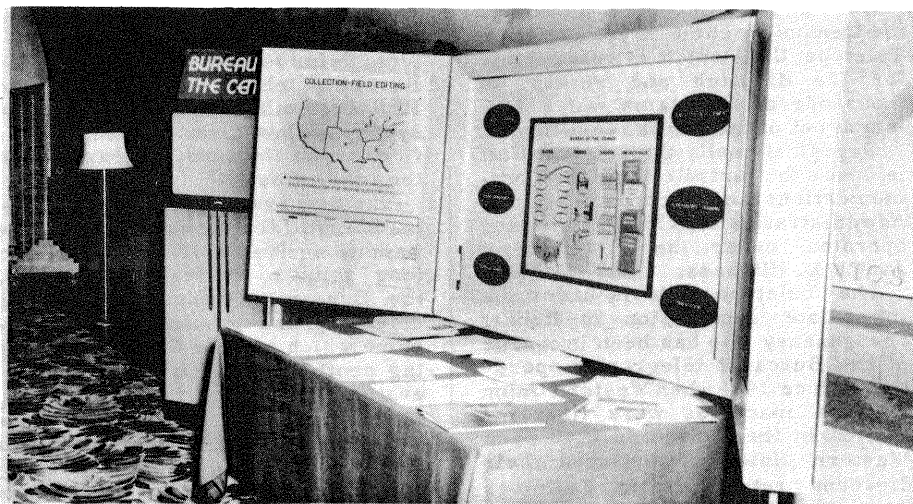
## A WORD TO DIVISIONS

Due to the fact that all telegrams are transmitted on the same day the Division sends them to the Teletype Unit the staff must work rather irregular hours at times and often on Saturdays and Sundays. Divisions could lighten the Teletype Unit's overtime work burden considerably if they would make every effort to see that book telegrams are delivered to the unit by 3:00 p.m. each day.

On days when the cotton reports are issued Mr. Shaughnessy sometimes must be at the Bureau at 4 a.m. to start receiving the figures needed to compile the reports.

In spite of his somewhat irregular working hours, Mr. Shaughnessy says that he enjoys his work and hopes to be part of the Census team for some time to come.

## Exhibit Shown At S.P.A. Meeting



Shown above is the Census Bureau exhibit which was on display at the 1955 Annual Conference of the Society for Personnel Administration held on May 11 and 12 at the Hotel Statler, Washington, D. C. The Bureau exhibit which was one of a number of displays set up by the various agencies participating in the sessions drew many favorable comments. It was also on view in the cafeteria for several days. The exhibit case itself is a product of the Bureau carpenter shop.