



Swinging into the 1950s!

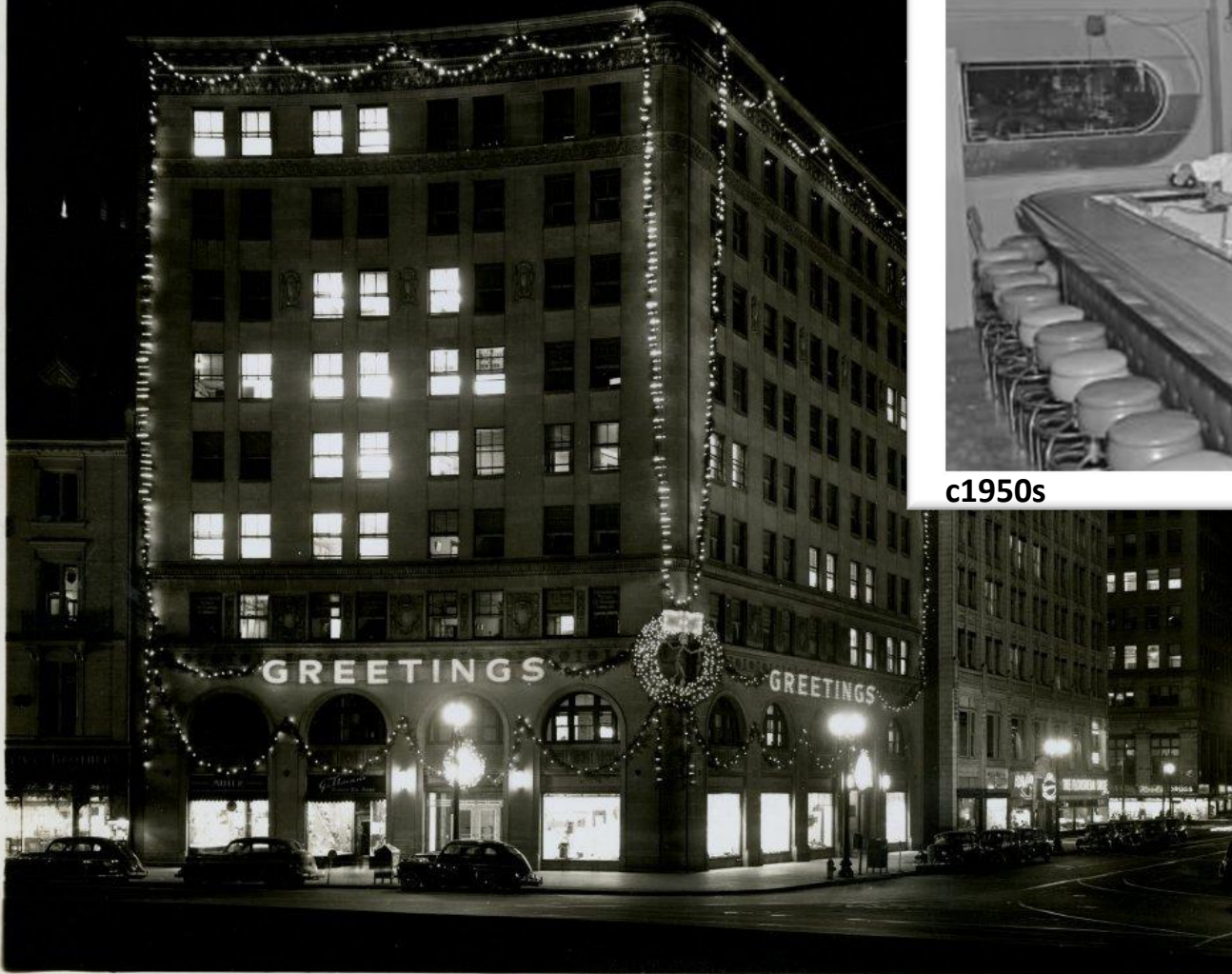
NARA RELEASES THE 1950 CENSUS

Jamie Dunn and Katie Springer
Indiana State Library

1950s America

- An era of prosperity after nearly 15 years of economic depression and wartime rationing
- Increased home and car ownership, along with consumer goods like televisions
- Post-war availability and affordability of modern technology to improve standard of living

INDIANAPOLIS
POWER &
LIGHT CO.



c1950



c1950s



c1949

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR

9 Workers To Open First Business Census In 10 Years Tomorrow



Carl Eggert, Chief Interviewer
Indianapolis office of the Census Bureau
1949 Census of Business, Indianapolis



Family Farms in the 1950s

Kuhlenschmidt family collection
Genealogy Division, Indiana State Library

THE INDIANAPOLIS STAR
DAILY

Census Bureau Ready For 'Dress Rehearsal'

By ARTHUR EDSON

Washington, April 12 (AP)—The Census Bureau has had two practice runs, and now is ready for its dress rehearsal for the 1950 census.

Maybe you never thought about a census-taker practicing census-taking. But he does.

Lowell T. Galt, who heads the Census Bureau's field operations, told me today that practice drills have been held at Cape Girardeau, Mo., and in rural counties of Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky. Another final, or dress rehearsal will begin soon in Anderson, S.C.

"Certainly we need them," Galt said. "I guess we made every mistake that could be made at Cape Girardeau. We've ironed out most of the bugs, though, and I'm hoping all will go well at Anderson."

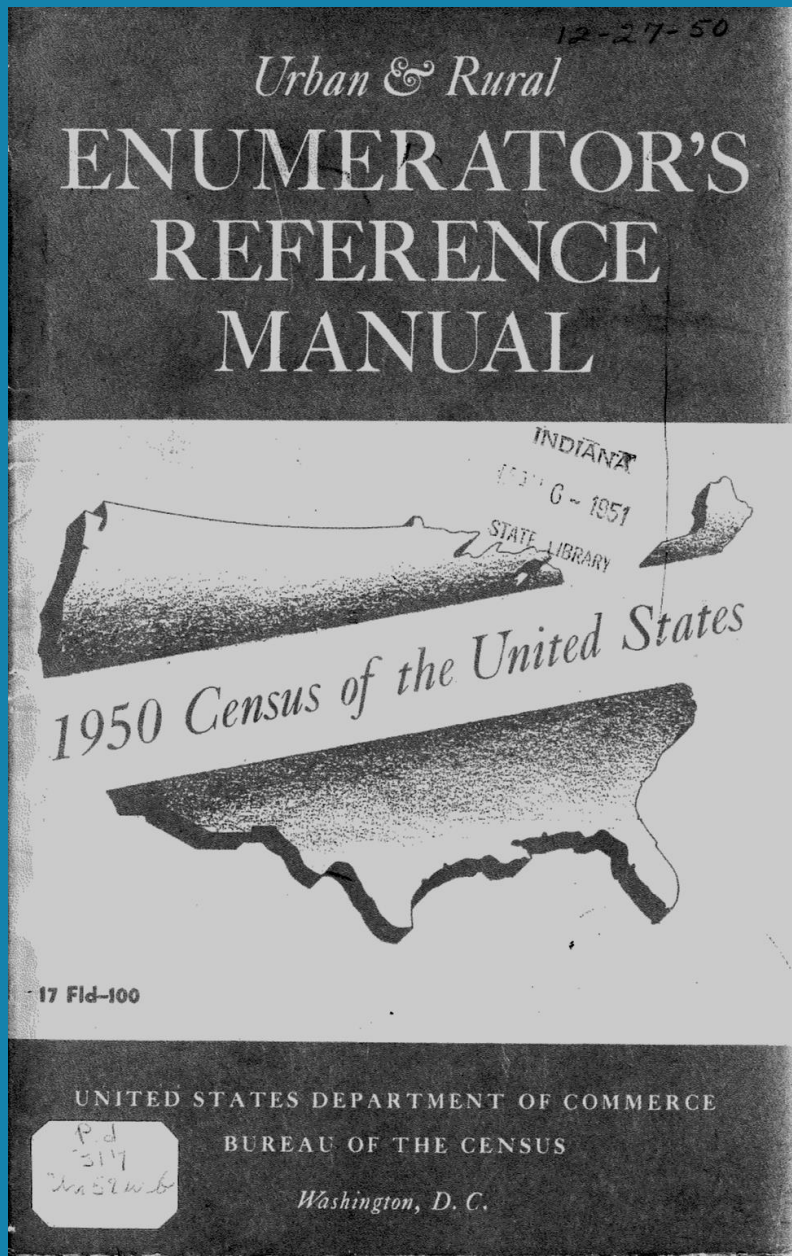
In the 1950 census—to be taken the first week of next April—blanks will be dropped in each of the nation's 5,000,000 R.F.D. boxes. Every R.F.D. patron is supposed to fill out the blanks then the census-taker will pick up the filled-out sheet. Considerable time is expected to be saved.

ACROSS
 1—Let it stand (Print.)
 5—Crust on a wound
 9—White with age
 10—A maiden of Moham-medan paradise
 12—Protective covering
 13—Beneath
 14—Skips a stone on water
 15—Ebb and flow of ocean
 16—King of fish
 20—Distant

Indianapolis Star
April 13, 1949



1950 Census Dress Rehearsal
Usage of USPS Rural Free Delivery (RFD) boxes



Guides for Enumerators
"Pointers"
And
Questions for women about total children born in lifetime



April
1950

17 934-1
Rev. 9-7-49

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

PORTFOLIO CONTROL LABEL
SEVENTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1950

State _____ E. D. No. _____
County _____
Incorporated place _____
Unincorporated place _____
Division of county (M. C. D.) _____
(Township, precinct, or other division of county)

ENUMERATOR: NAME _____ ADDRESS _____ TELEPHONE NO. _____

SECTION I—FOR FIELD OFFICE USE ONLY

OPERATION	ITEM NO.	CLERK	DATE COMPLETED
Pay-roll count	1		
Verification of pay-roll count	2		
Final count	3		
Verification of final count	4		
	5		
	6		
	7		
Portfolio prepared for shipment	8		

PORTFOLIO NUMBER _____

FINAL FIELD COUNTS

Persons on population schedules

Persons on ICR's

Total persons

Dwelling units on population schedules

FOR WASHINGTON OFFICE USE ONLY

★ 1950 Census of

May
1950

Census Count
Begins to Lag

**CENSUS TAKER
SAILING ALONG**

Says That Reports of
Public Resentment Are
Largely Exaggerated.

June
1950

Enumeration
99% finished

BABY BOOM!

Started in 1946

GI population

- Came home from war
- Got married
- Started families

Lead to increased population for multiple generations nationwide



Kuhlenschmidt family collection
Genealogy Division, Indiana State Library

Top Occupations for People of Color, 14+

Men of Color

Metal Industries

Cleaners and Porters

Construction

Truck Drivers and
Deliverymen

Women of Color

Private household workers
(not live-in) and public
service jobs

Manufacturing

Clerical workers

Teachers

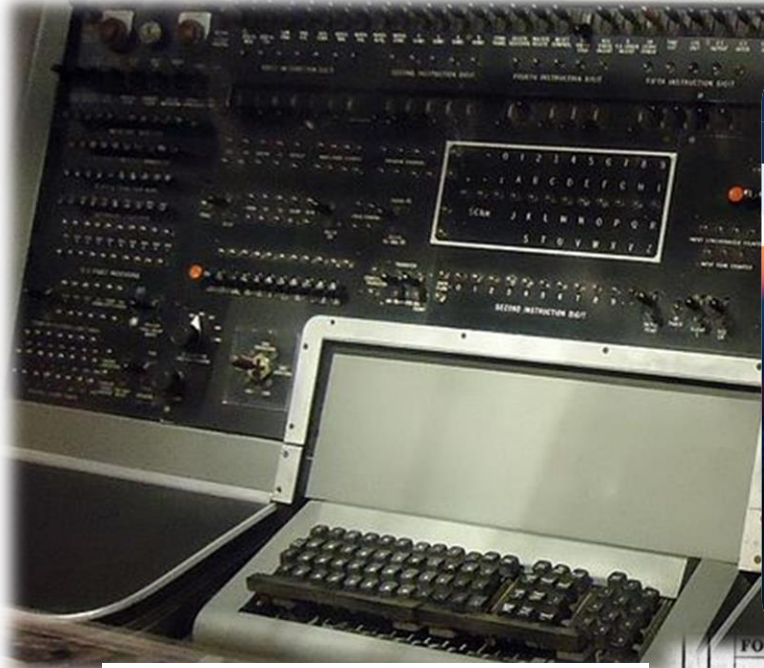


What were
women doing
during the
census?



Kuhlenschmidt family collection
Genealogy Division, Indiana State Library

UNIVAC One



United States Census Bureau

Search

BROWSE BY TOPIC EXPLORE DATA LIBRARY SURVEYS/ PROGRAMS INFORMATION

2020 Post-Enumeration Survey (PES) Results for the 50 states and District of Columbia to be released May 1

Data.Census.gov

Explore Census Data

The Census Bureau is the leading source of quality data about the nation's people and economy.

Find Tables, Maps, and more ...



Advanced Search

Help

Feedback

Census Bureau to Release 2 Survey Results

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

1950

CENSUS

EXPLORE & COLLABORATE

FOR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD						FOR ALL PERSONS									
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
House (and apartment) number	Serial number of dwelling unit	Is this house on a farm (or ranch)?	Is this house on a place of three or more acres?	Agriculture Questionnaire Number	NAME	RELATIONSHIP	RACE	SEX	How old was he on his last birthday?	Is he now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married?	What State (or foreign country) was he born in?	Is he naturalized?	What was this person doing most of last week—working, keeping house, or something else?	III or OI in item 15—Did this person do any work at all last week, not counting work around the house? (Include work for pay, in own business, profession, on farm, or on paid family work) (Yes or No)	
1	1	Yes	Yes		Sutherland, Pascal	Head	W	M	49	Mar	Kentucky	061	Wk		
					E. Mary	Wife	W	F	46	Mar	Kentucky	061	H	No	
					Lawrence P. Howard	grandson	W	M	5	Ne	Indiana				
1/2 mi. west	2	Yes	Yes		Gale, Gilbert	Head	W	M	32	Mar	Indiana		At	Yes	

Indexing a Census



Access restricted for 72 years to the day



Websites that offer access to the census index manually as quickly as possible



For 1950, a new approach – AI indexing

Indiana
 COUNTY
 INCORPORATED PLACE OR TOWNSHIP
 NUMBER
 2-13

e. HOTEL, LARGE ROOMING HOUSE, INSTITUTION, MILITARY INSTALLATION, ETC.

Name _____ Name _____
 Type _____ Type _____
 Line Nos. _____ to _____, inclusive Line Nos. _____ to _____, inclusive

CONFIDENTIAL This inquiry is authorized by Act of Congress. The information furnished is accorded confidential treatment, investigation, or regulation.

FORM P1 U. S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE
1950 CENSUS OF HOUSING

Budget No. _____

18) which requires that a report be made, and report cannot be used for purposes of _____

f. DATE SHEET STARTED
 April 3

g. ENUMERATOR'S SIGNATURE
 Jurgla G W

h. CHECKED BY _____
 (Crew leader)

14-59923-1

FOR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD						FOR ALL PERSONS						
House (and apartment) number	Serial number of dwelling unit	Is this house on a farm (or ranch)? (Yes or No)	If No in item 4-- Is this house on a place of three or more acres? (Yes or No)	Agriculture Questionnaire Number	NAME What is the name of the head of this household? What are the names of all other persons who live here? List in this order: The head His wife Unmarried sons and daughters (in order of age) Married sons and daughters and their families Other relatives Other persons, such as lodgers, roomers, maids or hired hands who live in, and their relatives (Last name first)	RELATIONSHIP Enter relationship of person to head of the household, as: Head Wife Daughter Grandson Mother-in-law Lodger Lodger's wife Maids Hired hand Patient, etc.	RACE White (W) Negro (Neg) American Indian (Ind) Japanese (Jap) Chinese (Chi) Filipino (Fil) Other race—spell out	SEX Male (M) Female (F)	How old was he on his last birthday? (Number one year of age, enter month of birth as April, May, Dec., etc.)	Is he now married, widowed, divorced, separated, or never married? (Mar. Wd., D., Sep., Nov)	What State (or foreign country) was he born in? If born outside Continental United States, enter name of Territory, possession, or foreign country Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-other	If foreign born— Is he naturalized? (Yes, No, or AF for born abroad of American parents)
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER

1. If employed (Wk in item 16, or Yes in item 16 or item 15), or
 2. If looking for work (Yes in item 17), describe last job or business
 4. For all other persons, leave blank

If No in item 17-- Even though he didn't work last week, does he have a job or business?	If Wk in item 15 or Yes in item 16-- How many hours did he work last week? (Include unpaid work on family farm or business)	What kind of work was he doing? For example: Nails heels on shoes..... Chemistry professor..... Farmer..... Farm helper..... Armed forces..... Never worked.....	What kind of industry was he in? For example: Shoe factory..... State university..... Farm..... Farm.....
18	19	20a	20

What's On the 1950 Census?



Dunn family photo

Demographic Information

- House/apartment number
- Farm?
- Agriculture questionnaire number
- Name
- Role in household
- Race
- Sex
- Age
- Marital status
- Place of birth
- Naturalization status

Employment Information

- Did they have a job?
- Hours worked per week
- Type of job
- Industry



1950s Ayres employee newsletter
Indiana Digital Collection

Special Questions

- Asked of people in pre-selected rows on each page
- Asked where they were living in 1949, if not the same place as in 1950
- Asked the country of birth of the person's parents
- Asked about education level
- Asked about income, whether from a job, investments, veteran's benefits, etc.
- Asked about prior military service
- The final person asked the special questions was also asked about income, years married, and if the person was female, how many children

Helpful Tools for Census Research

- www.stevemorse.org - many, many useful tools, including how to identify enumeration districts from a street address and a list of occupation codes
- [city directories](#) – available in print here at ISL, many also digitized by Ancestry and Internet Archive
- 1950census.archives.gov – search the AI index of the 1950 Census for free
- <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/decennial-publications.1950.html> - access the official census publications
- <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/1950/data> - 1950 Census published statistical data
- <https://www.nhgis.org/> - historical census data files

