

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



The Indiana Album: Ray Hinz Collection



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

Census Bureau Ready For 'Dress Rehearsal'

By ARTHUR EDSON

practice runs, and now is ready for its dress rehearsal for the

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

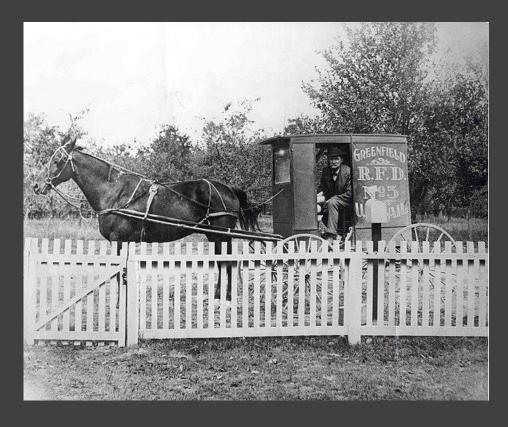
Anderson, S.C.

"Certainly we need them," Washington, April 12 (4) The Galt said. II guess we made Census Bureau has had two every mistake that could be made 10-A maiden at Cape Girardeau. We've ironed out most of the bugs, though, and I'm hoping all will go well at

In the 1950 census-to be taken Lowell T. Galt, who heads the the first week of next April- 13-Beneath Census Bureau's field operations, blanks will be dropped in each 14-Skips a told me today that practice of the nation's 5,000,000 R.F.D. drills have been held at Cape boxes. Every R.F.D. patron is Girardeau, Mo., and in rural supposed to fill out the blanks counties of Illinois, Indiana and then the census-taker will pick Kentucky. Another final, or up the filled-out sheet. Considerdress rehearsal will begin soon in able time is expected to be

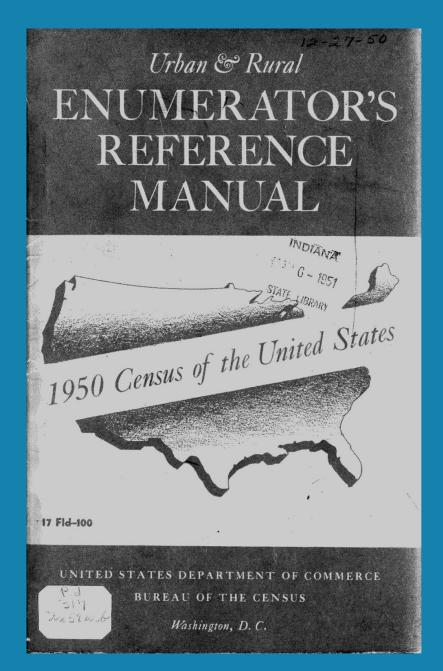
ACROSS

- 1-Let it stand
- 5-Crust on a wound
- 9-White with age
- of Mohammedan paradise
- 12-Protective covering
- 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



Fed Docs Collection, Indiana State Library

April 1950

		NTROL LABEL THE UNITED STATES: 195	0
State		P.D.M.	
County			
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Division of county (M. C. D.)	-	(Township, precinct, or other division of county)
DUDGERATOR: NAME		ADDRESS	TELEPHONE NO.
	NI FOR DELF	O OFFICE USE ONLY	
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		Persons on population sched	nles
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FORTYCLID NUMBER FINAL FIELD CO Persons on population schedul Persons on ICR's Total persons Dwelling units on popula schedules -FOR WASHINGTON OFFICE USE ONLY

Says That Reports of Public Resentment Are Largely Exaggerated.

* 1950 Census of

May 1950

Census Count Begins to Lag

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





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

The Indiana Album
Arnold Family Collection

What were women doing during the census?



Kuhlenschmidt family collection Genealogy Division, Indiana State Library

UNIVAC One Q Search Data.Census.gov 2020 Post-Enumeration Survey (PES) Results for the 50 states and District of Columbia to be released May **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 ... Q Census Bureau to Release 2 Advanced Search □ Feedback Survey Results FOR ALL PERSONS RELATIONSHIP How old now marhe on his last owed, birthday? ced, Enter relationship of White (W) What State (or foreign country) was he born in? person to head of the household, as NATIONAL ARCHIVES Did this American Indian (Ind) What are the names of all other persons who live here? Is this house Head Wife Daughter Grandson Mother-in-law If born cutaice Continental United States, only name of Territory, Japanese (Jap) Chinese (Chi) Filipine (Fil) List in this order; Is this house on a farm on a place of three possession, or foreign country His wife Unmarried sons and daughters (in order of age) Married sons and daughters and their families week, no counting work around the house? Lodger Lodger's wife Maid Hired hand Patient, etc. Distinguish Canada-French (Ifun-der one year of or more acres? Other persons, such as lodgers, roomers, maids o age, enter menth of birth April, May, Dec., etc.) (Last name first) 14 15 **EXPLORE & COLLABORATE 4**

Census Records, An Overview

- Why use census records in genealogy?
- Where does the information come from, how do we get it now?
- Questions and formats changed over the years

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Name of street, avenue, or road	House (and apartment) sumber	Serial number of dwelling unit	Is this house on a farm (or ranch)?	If No in item to this house of the place of more acres?	Agriculture Questionnaire Number	NAME What is the name of the head of thousehold? What are the ames of all other person who live here? What are the ames of all other person who live here? The head Unmarried soon and doughters in order of age Unmarried doughters and their families Other relatives And bands who lives in, and their relatives hand bands who lives in, and their relatives (Last mane first)	this sons	RELATIONSHIP Rater relationship o person to head the of the household, as Head Wits Daughter Orandoson-day Lodger's wife Mail Hived hand Patient, etc.	R Who I Wen In (In Japes (J. Chin (C) Fifty (F) Other race-spell	RACE site (W) pro(Neg) prican adian nd) anese ap) nese phi) phio anese	Male (M)	How old was he on his last birth-day? (Ifunder one year of age, enter menth of birth as April, May, Dec., etc.)	Is he now mar- ried, wid- owed, sepa- rated, or never mar- ried? (Mar. Wd. D, Sep. Nev)	What State (or footness) was he borr country) was he borr three country was he borr three country was the country to the count	n in?	If for- eign bern- Is he natu- ral- ized? (Yes, Nu, or AP for bern abroad of American par- ents)	What was this person doing most of last week-work-ing, or something else? (Wk.H. Ot. or U for unable to work)	If If or Ot inition is—Did this person do any work at all last week, not counting work around the house? (Include work for pay, in own protession, or farm, or un paid family work) (Yes or No)	Was this per- son look- ing for work? (See Special Cases below)	If No initem I7— Even though he didn't work last work does he have a job or business?	If Wk in Item 15 or Yes in Item 16 - How many hours did ho work last week? (Include unpaid work on family farm or business)	PERSONS 1. If temployed 2. If looking to 4. For all other What kind doing? For example: Naits backs on Chemistry pro Parner. Farm helper. Armed forces Never worked.
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Access restricted for 72 years to the day

Indexing a Census



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



For 1950, a new approach – Al indexing

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House (and apartment) number	Serial number of dwell- ing unit	Is this house on a farm (or ranch)?	If No in item 4 Is this house on a place of three or more acres?	ure Questionnaire Number	What is the name of the head of thousehold? What are the names of all other person 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 hired bands who live in, and their relatives	person to head of the household, as Head Wife Daughter Grandson Mother-in-law Lodger Lodger's wife Maid	Negro(Neg)	Male (M)	How old was he on his last birthday? (Ifunder one year of ago, enter month of birth as	Is he now mar- ried, wid- owed, divor- ced, sepa- rated, or never mar- ried?	What State (or foreign country) was he born in the country of the	born—	k- k- k- k k k k k k k k k k k	If No initem 17— Even though he didn't work last week, does he a job or business?	or Yes in item 16— How many hours did ho work	2. Hooking for work 4. For all other perso What kind of doing? For example: Nails heels on shoes. Chemistry professor. Parmer.	(Yesinitom 17), dons, leave blank work was he	What kind of industry was i For example: Shoefactory
		(Yes or No)	(Yes or No)	Agricult	(Last name first)	Į.	AVE		April, May, Dec., etc.)	(Mar, Wd.D, Sep, Nev)	LEA		or)	(Yes or No)	(Number of hours)	(Occupa	- 1	(Indus

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



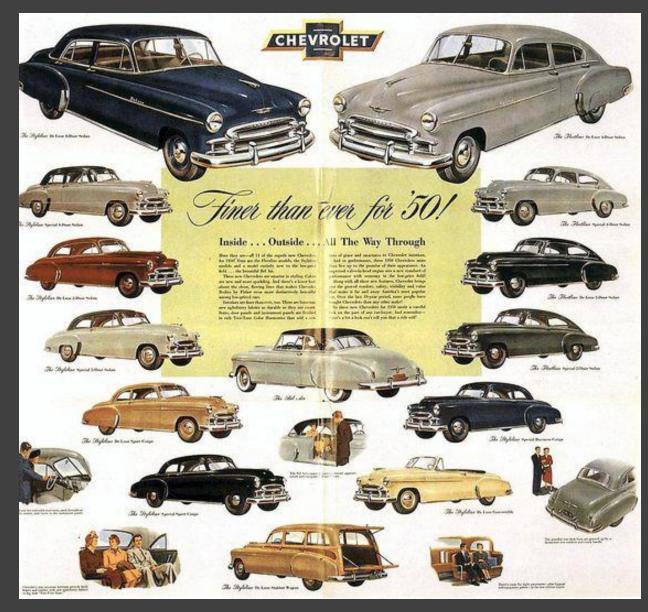
1950s Ayres employee newsletter Indiana Digital Collection

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



Questions?

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