

Angles On How To Get Job As Census Taker Explained

Washington, Jan. 17—(U.P.)—Want to be a census-taker? Sturdy legs, tact and a high school education will help you get a job. Being a democrat won't hurt.

You'll have to go to training school. If you pass a test, you may be one of 140,000 who will start nose-counting in the 1950 census on April 1.

Average \$8-\$9 Per Day

The pay will be as little as 7 cents a person for an interview, but the average will be \$8 or \$9 a day during the two to six weeks of employment.

If you ever breathe a word confided in interviews—as for instance the answer to that controversial income question—the penalty could be two years in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

You may be asked to baby-sit, or settle family arguments. You're almost sure to be chased by dogs. Doors will be slammed in your face. But you will have to ring the bell again, and explain patiently that the law requires all census questions be answered.

Still want the job?

File an application with your district census bureau office. It's not on the application form, but the "right" politics, in this case being a democrat, will be an important qualification.

If the district supervisor thinks you a likely candidate, you will be given an intelligence test, dealing with simple arithmetic problems and map-reading among other things.

If you're selected, you'll be in a class room by the last week in March. In city areas, the classes will go on four hours a day, four days. In small areas, 24 hours of instruction will be spread over six days. The pay is \$16 for the training period.

There'll be lectures and movies on how to dress, how to persuade suspicious house-holders to answer questions, and how to ask a woman's age.

A final test will decide whether you're fit to be an official enumerator for the 17th decennial census.

Stubborn Gas Well

Fire Extinguishes Self

Elk City, Okla., Jan. 17—(U.P.)—A stubborn gas well fire, flaming for six days despite the efforts of professional firefighters, went out of its own accord today.

The blaze at Shell Oil company's Reynolds-Hubbard No. 1 well in the rich Elk City oil field, died at 7:13 a.m., only a few hours before a crew of oil well fire fighters was scheduled for the second time to blast it out of existence.

There was no official explanation immediately for the self-extinguishing of the fire.

Philippine President

Undergoes Surgery

Baltimore, Md., Jan. 17—(U.P.)—President Elpidio Quirino of the Philippines was operated on today at Johns Hopkins hospital for removal of a kidney stone.

Results of the operation and the condition of the 59-year-old Quirino were not disclosed immediately.

Quirino entered the hospital last Tuesday.

Shoplifting On Downgrade; Store Arrests Show Boost

Chicago, Jan. 17—(U.P.)—Shoplifting is one type of crime that is on the downgrade, a veteran store detective said today.

Arrests are on the increase but the "take" in stolen items is on the decrease, said Detective Oren Edwards, head of the House Protection bureau of one of the country's largest department stores (Marshall Field & company).

Fear Chief Factor

Fear of arrest is the chief factor in the decrease, he said. "All the large stores now have protection services that work directly with the police department," he said, "and most people know that."

Many potential "amateur" shoplifters as a result probably are discouraged before they get involved, he said. Most of the "professionals" or "repeaters" are so well known they're watched from the moment they enter the store.

Edwards said he "very rarely" runs into a case of "true kleptomania," although many women claim to be kleptomaniacs and say they take things because they can't help it.

Most all shoplifters are women, he estimated. They fall into several classes. "There is no 'shoplifting type' any more than there is a special criminal type," Edwards said. "They look just like you and me."

Few ever take anything they need or even can use, he said.

The juveniles are an exception. They sometimes take articles that they want but their parents have refused to buy for them.

Juveniles often work in groups of two or three, he said. Adults more often work alone.

"The juveniles frequently act as if they think they've done something smart," he said. "They don't seem to know they've done anything wrong, because they say their friends do it. They come from nice homes, too."

No Apparent Motive

Women usually take things they would never use, he said—often with no apparent motive. Edwards said they seem often to be "emotionally disturbed" or "confused."

Others steal because they need or want money. Very few first offenders fall in this category, he said. Mostly it's the "professionals" and sometimes drug addicts who can't get jobs and need the money for more drugs.

Edwards said the bureau officials use their "judgment and experience" in deciding what to do with a first offender. If the individual seems likely to become a repeater, they have him arrested and booked. If he seems honest, and apparently has learned his lesson, he may be freed with a warning.

System Works Well

The system works pretty well. Edwards said not many of those who are warned come back.

Edwards said the number of arrests for shoplifting has gone up, but he said the increase is because more offenders are being apprehended.

He said the drop in the amount of shoplifting being done these days is indicated by a "considerable" decrease in "shrinkage," or the amount of store goods lost through theft in recent years.

Five Persons Perish In Submerged Auto

Port Arthur, Tex., Jan. 17—(U.P.)—Five persons died in their submerged car last night after it plunged through a bridge railing and sank in a bayou stream 20 miles south of here.

Patrolmen theorized the driver lost control of the car just before it smashed through the wooden railing.

Bearing Burned Out In Bonneville Generator

Bonneville, Ore., Jan. 17—(U.P.)—One of Bonneville's huge generators was out of commission today because of a burned out bearing, but repair crews hoped to have it running again by late afternoon.

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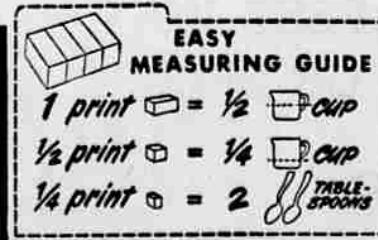
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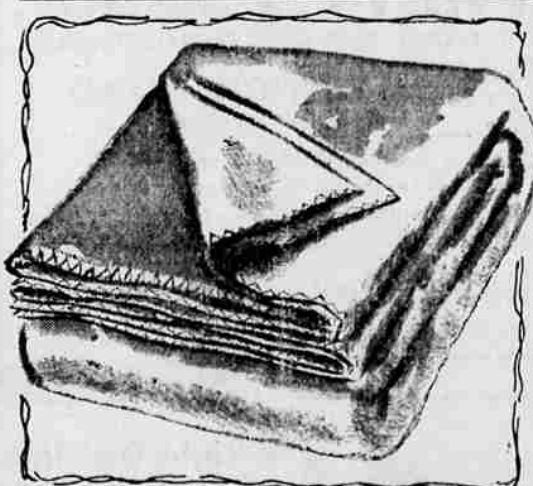


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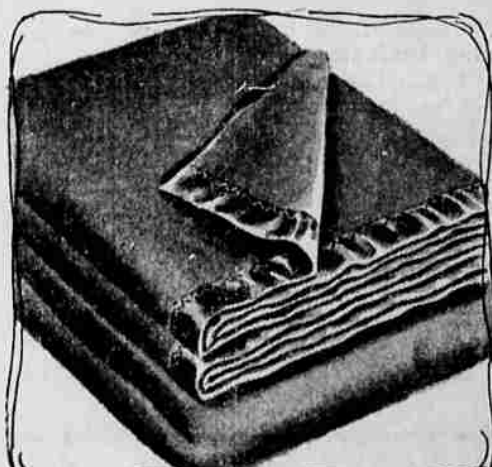
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