

Newcomers Flocking To Western States at About 1,000 Per Day

San Francisco — (UP)—Harold Cunningham of Gary, Ind., brought his wife and three children to California on a vacation in 1952. They're still here. The Cunninghams never went back to Gary—that is, they went back only long enough to pack up. They moved to Fontana, Calif., where Cunningham, who had worked almost 17 years at the U.S. Steel plant at Gary,

now has a job as a shear man on the tin-plate line at the Kaiser Steel mill. "I saw how really nice it was out here and how the cost of living was cheaper," Cunningham says. The Cunninghams are among a horde of mid-century migrants following the setting sun to California, Arizona and Nevada. They come at the rate of almost

a thousand a day. Every year the migration is equal, in numbers, to the population of a city the size of Atlanta, Ga., or Rochester, N.Y. Charles Nechanicky left Chicago in 1950 and went to work for Lockheed Aircraft Co. in Burbank, Calif. "I thought it was a more healthful climate," he said. "And I love it here." Milder Climate

Elizabeth Monts, home economics instructor at Fresno State College, satisfied a five-year ambition this year when she came west from Illinois. "The climate is milder and I have found people very friendly out here," said Miss Monts. Edward J. Conroy transferred to San Francisco from Connecticut when his company gave him his choice between here and

Chicago. His wife was all for it. "Back East," she said, "everyone thinks of California as being very romantic and glamorous and we were glad to come." People like the Conroys have helped swell the westward movement to more than 330,000 migrants a year since 1950. Population figures tell the story. In 1950 California's population was 10,586,000. Today it is

13,335,000, an increase of 23.1 per cent. Even more spectacular are the rates of increase in Nevada and Arizona. In the five years since 1950 Nevada climbed from 160,000 to 210,000, or a 31 per cent increase, and Arizona increased from 750,000 to 928,000 or 23.8 per cent.

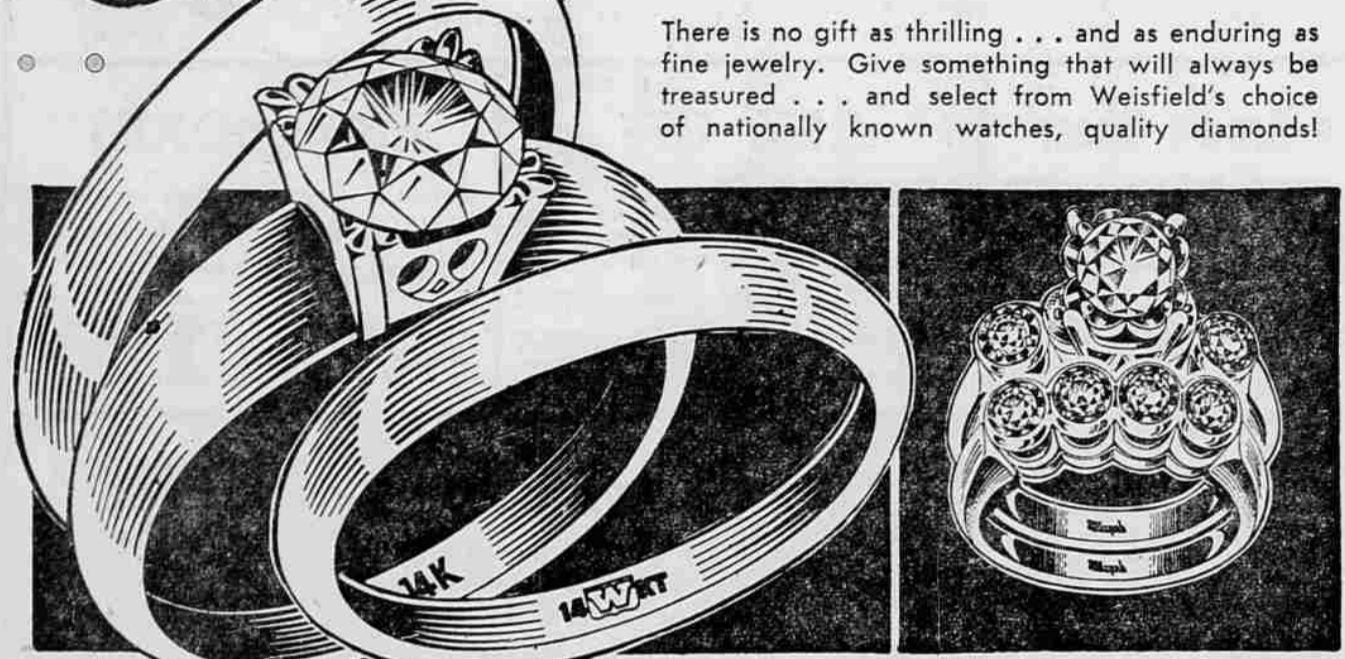
Well over half of these increases are due to arrival of newcomers from other states. The remainder is the normal gain resulting from the birth rate exceeding the death rate. United Press asked half a dozen sociologists and population experts why so many people are following Horace Greeley's famous advice to young men. Boiled down, they said, it's a matter of job opportunity combined with good living conditions such as mild climate and lots of breathing space. Dr. William A. Spurr of Stanford University pointed out that

the big migration doesn't mean there have been more jobs available in the west. The newcomers indirectly bring their jobs with them. Their arrival expands the market. This increase production and results in new jobs, he said. Spurr predicted that by 1956 California's population would surpass that of New York and be greatest in the nation. Already, however, city, county and state officials are being harassed by the problems of a ballooning population.



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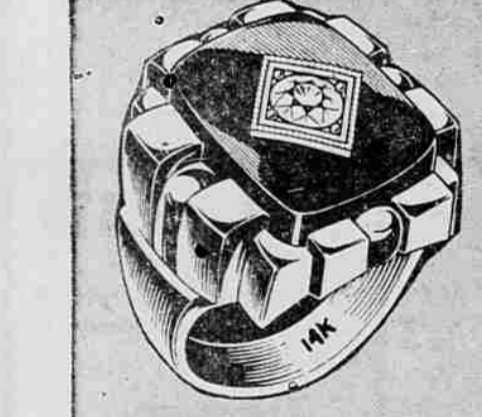
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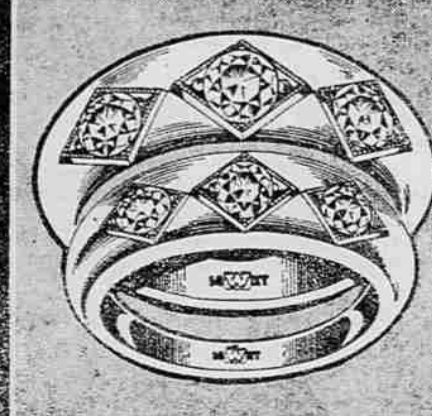
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