

## The Inquiring Mind

This series of articles, on many different subjects, results from work by senior students at the school of journalism at the University of Oregon. Each is a condensed version of a full-length thesis written as partial requirement for graduation at the school.

### AMERICA'S BABY BOOM—BLESSING OR BURDEN?

By Barbara Stepper

A baby is born in the United States every eight seconds; someone dies every 21 seconds . . . every hour 450 babies are born and 170 persons die . . . in one day 10,800 join the ranks of the living and 4,100 leave them . . . each month the figures stand at 325,000 newborn and 123,000 deceased . . . every year 4 million babies are born in America and 1.5 million persons die.

The baby boom following World War II lit the fuse of the population "explosion" that is rocking the United States today. Coupled with the declining death rate, the increased birth rate is causing the American population to increase more than 2.5 million annually. Each year the net increase is equivalent to the addition of another Maryland or the combined populations of Rhode Island, Delaware, Idaho, Nevada and Montana.

Latest Census Bureau estimates show America's total population pushing the 175 million mark. By 1975 we'll be 228 million strong.

**Explosion Worldwide**  
Not only is there an abundance of babies in America—the world's best crop seems to be babies. There has been a worldwide population explosion in the last 15 years which in the long run may shake the world more than the atom or hydrogen bomb blasts.

About 2.8 billion people now inhabit the earth. The rate of increase over the last seven years has been 17 per cent as compared to 10 per cent from 1930 to 1950.

Many countries are experiencing this demographic inflation, among them Japan, China, India, Ceylon, Puerto Rico and Italy.

America is one of the leaders in the increase, with only India and China growing faster. The United States growth is speedier than that of Soviet Russia. While America added 35 million, the Soviet Union gained fewer than 10 million in the last 15 years.

**Blessing or Burden?**  
Is America's population increase to our advantage or disadvantage? Is the baby boom a blessing or a burden? Will the nearly four million babies born each year mean even greater prosperity or an eventually lowered living standard?

In deciding whether the United States population growth may be viewed optimistically or pessimistically, the attitude of other countries concerning population increase or decrease must also be considered. Countries such as India and Japan with large populations and low standards of living tend to regard population increase as disadvantageous and actively discourage a high birth rate. On the other hand, countries such as Great Britain and Sweden, with higher standards of living and more stable or even slightly declining populations, tend to view growth as beneficial.

The Soviet Union does not fit into either category. According to Robert C. Cook, population expert, "Since the disappearance of Hitler and Mussolini, no country on earth except the Soviet Union is actively promoting a larger population. Russians have a conviction that overpopulation is impossible."

### Effects Listed

There are many effects of the rapid population growth in the United States which may be viewed optimistically or pessimistically, depending on the interpretation. For example, the four million new babies born yearly must be fed, clothed, sheltered, educated and entertained. The increased necessary production and construction may be viewed as a healthy acceleration to the economy. On the other hand, the need for such stepped-up production may place a strain on our resources that would lead to a depression.

Another effect of the high birth rate and low death rate is that the proportion of the young and the aged is growing larger in comparison to the number of workers, 18 to 65. Five workers today support eight others besides themselves. As the ranks of the retired grow, special provisions must be made for them also.

Population growth means that land, mineral, water and other natural resources are being used up rapidly by Americans and by the American industrial machine. For example, the average American now uses 137 gallons of

water a day. The industries gulp billions of gallons of water daily.

Other ramifications of the population growth are the move to the suburbs from overcrowded cities, the traffic congestion and parking difficulties, and the slum areas creeping in.

**History Traced**  
The history of the population growth in the United States falls into four main periods.

The first, from 1610 to 1789, was a period of rapid growth. Beginning with an estimated 210, the newly settled territory increased tenfold to 2,500 by 1620. After 1680 a 35 per cent increase per decade was uniform up to 1790.

From the first Census in 1790 to 1860, the population increased at a steady rate. Americans multiplied from almost four million to 30 million.

In the third period, 1860 to 1940, the rate of population growth declined but absolute numbers continued to rise. From 1890 to 1918 the rate slowed to 15 per cent a decade. During the first few years after World War I the rate shot up. After 1923 another marked decline occurred until in 1931, when the nation was suffering from the Great Depression, only 872,000 persons were added to the population.

During and after World War II the birth rate soared. When the war ended, the accelerated pace continued until today almost four million babies are born yearly.

**Three Views Offered**  
Is our population explosion good or bad? This question must be answered before a "population policy" can be established by the United States. Other countries have policies established one way or the other. America's general attitude, stemming from the "booster and boom" psychology of frontier conditions, has always been that population growth is a good thing, even though no official measures have ever been taken to encourage it.

Three views are apparent—an optimistic, a pessimistic and a compromise. These three will be discussed in a second article.

### Use of Atomic Waste Predicted

San Diego, Calif.—(UPI)—Atomic wastes, usually regarded as a disposal problem, may be a blessing rather than always a potential hazard, according to an expert in the field of experimental reactors.

Dr. Richard Stone, of General Dynamics' new John Jay Hopkins Laboratory of Pure and Applied Science, which was dedicated formally today, thinks all atomic waste will be used some day.

"Those so-called waste products will become useful to mankind," he told a news conference Wednesday. "I always explain it by pointing out that gasoline was once a waste product in the production of kerosene.

"I think that some day we will take all the atomic wastes for man's use and be crying for more."

### Highway Engineer Receives Award

Salem—(UPI)—W. O. Widdows, State Highway Department Assistant Engineer, is co-winner of the Hewes Award for engineering achievement for 1959.

Widdows' share of the award, consisting of a bronze plaque and \$250, was made at the Western Association of State Highway officials now in convention at Billings, Mont., as announced here today.

W. C. Williams, State Highway Engineer and president of the association, said an Arizona highway engineer shared the honors.

Recognition came to Widdows for more efficient equipment to paint stripes down highways.

The new system permits heating the paint before it is applied, allowing 30 per cent faster application.

**REDS WELCOME YANKS**  
Moscow—(UPI)—A Russian official Wednesday night said his government would welcome as many as 150,000 American tourists in the Soviet Union this year. Yuri Zhukov, chairman of the State Committee on Cultural Relations, also said he hoped President Eisenhower and other officials of the U.S. government would make the trip.

# PENNEY'S

ALWAYS FIRST QUALITY!

—hurry! shop! save!

## SUMMER

# BARGAINS



**BOYS' SPORT SHIRTS**

Penney's tailors these fine Dan River cottons with every smart, good-looking feature . . . 2 matching pockets, cool short sleeves! Then prices them 'way low for exceptional savings! Great shirts for summer. Assorted patterns and colors. 4 to 18.

**\$1**

PENNEY'S STREET FLOOR



**2-PC. PLAY SET**

Very special purchase on these smartly styled cool, cotton play sets. Printed sleeveless blouse toppers with matching shorts. Machine washable. Complete set at a price you would expect to pay for the short or blouse alone.

**\$1.00**

Age 3 to 6X

**\$1.59**

PENNEY'S SECOND FLOOR

Age 7 to 14

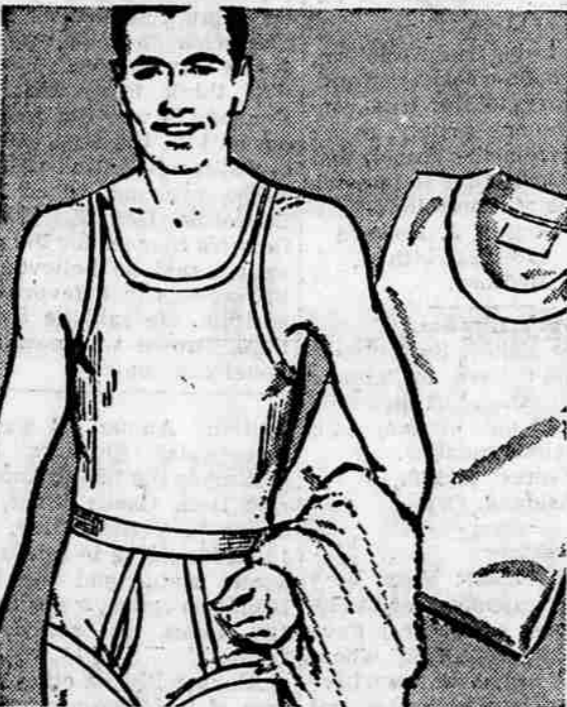


**WO'S COTTON SKIRTS**

It's a skirt-n-bouse season and these cool cottons come in summer's gayest blend of colors. Floral prints or solid tones. Many styles to please your fancy. And so reasonably priced you'll want more than one. Sizes 10 to 18.

**\$3.88**

PENNEY'S MEZZANINE FLOOR



**SAVE! Men's Underwear**

Get sturdy, 2-ply Durene® athletic shirts and briefs! Get quality combed cotton T-shirts! Extra long tuck-in shirts. Stock up, now!

**2 for \$1**

PENNEY'S STREET FLOOR



**MATCHED SET VALUE**

Working or playing . . . our sturdy twill breeze thru summer. Pants have brass zipper, cuffs and the shirts boast a dress collar, long sleeves! Sanforized! Khaki, grey.

**2.50**

8-oz. pants

men's sizes, 29 to 42

**2.00**

8-oz. shirts

men's sizes, medium large

PENNEY'S STREET FLOOR



**COOL, TROPICAL SUITS**

While 40 suits last. You can get Penney's fine summer weight dacron and wool suits or the famous wash 'n' wear suits. Keep cool—and keep comfortable all through the summer. All perfectly tailored and fitted to Penney's high quality standard. Save now!

**NOW! \$25**

PENNEY'S STREET FLOOR

**Unbleached 38-inch Muslin**  
Perfect quality medi-4 Yds. um weight muslin yardage for curtains, drapes, etc. Buy at savings! **\$1**

PENNEY'S STREET FLOOR

**17-inch Cannon Huck Toweling**  
White and colors . . . for embroidering or just plain towels. **39c** Yard

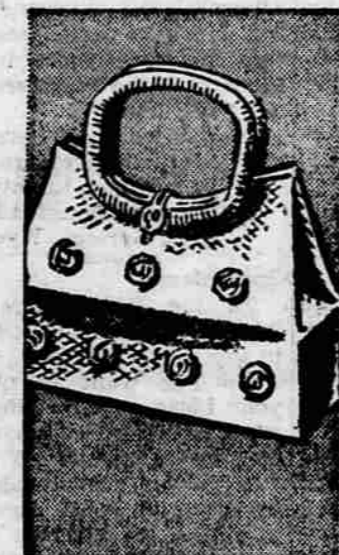
PENNEY'S STREET FLOOR

**58-inch Check Damask Goods**  
For tablecloths and napkins. Large checks in blue, yellow, green with white. **1.49** Yard

PENNEY'S STREET FLOOR

**36-inch White Terry Cloth**  
Cannon quality terry cloth yardage for towels, robes, beach wear. **79c** Yard

PENNEY'S STREET FLOOR



**SPECIAL BUY! SUMMER STRAWS**  
Now! **\$1.77**

Just arrived! A new shipment of hundreds of new summer straws gayly decorated under washable protective clear vinyl. Great the summer days with a new bag in your hand.



**BIG BUY! WO'S RAYON SLIPS**  
Special! **\$1**

Make a big-line to Penney's for this special slip buy! Perfect quality rayon tricot in white and pastels . . . easy-care, never needs ironing. Choice of three styles. In sizes 32 to 40.



**COTTONS IN NEW DESIGNS, COLORS**  
Special! **\$1**  
2 Yards

Scores of prints to choose from. All little or no iron beauties! Perfect for dresses, sportswear, pert home decorations!



**AIRY DRESS SHIRTS EASY ON CARE!**  
Only! **\$2**

Tailored for summer comfort, combed cottons in a cool skip-dent or mesh weave. Short point collar, permanent stays. Machine wash! Little or no iron!



**BLUE CHAMBRAY WORK SHIRT BUY**  
Special! **\$1**

Cool 4.4-ounce chambrays Penney tailored the way you want 'em . . . lined collar, double shoulder yoke, long tails and matching blue buttons. Sanforized!



**WO'S WASHABLE SAILCLOTH SLIP-ONS**  
Only! **\$2**

Pretty new vacation or "at home" footing. Washable sailcloth slip-ons with "stay put" elasticized insteps. Colors trim edges. Sizes 5 to 9.



**SPECIAL BUY! PLISSE SLIPS!**  
Now! **66c**  
Sizes 4 to 14

Extraordinary price! Fine quality cotton plisse slip. The natural no iron fabric! Nylon lace trims. Elasticized waists. Machine washable. Stock up!

## SUMMER BARGAIN DAY SPECIALS

### ● Costume Jewelry

Famous maker's sparkling pieces, including: bracelets, pins, necklaces, earrings and others. Beautiful selection. **4/\$1** plus tax

PENNEY'S STREET FLOOR

### ● Men's Work Socks

100% sturdy cotton with nylon-reinforced heel and toe. Long wearing. Natural only. **4 pr. \$1**

PENNEY'S STREET FLOOR

### ● Large Beach Towels

Compare this buy! Thick thirsty giant 30 inch by 68 inch Terry Towels for beach or showers. Gay multi-colored stripes. Hurry to Penney's. These will sell fast. **\$1.77**

PENNEY'S STREET FLOOR

### ● Everlon Panels

Famous Everlon panels . . . rayon nets that hand wash, require no starching, no ironing ever! Ivory. Very special at this tiny price! Perfect quality. **size 45x81 EACH \$1.00**

### ● MEN'S Tropical Slacks

Keep a trim, well dressed look . . . at our budget prices with machine washable dacron and rayon slacks. Hurry, only 50 pair in this shipment. **\$4.99**

### ● Boys Faded Denims

Smart washable slack styled denims in faded blue or faded grey. Stock up now. Age 12 to 18. **\$1.98**

### ● Wo's Cotton Shorts

Gay choice of prints, plaids or stripes in these perfectly made machine washable cottons. 8 to 18. **\$1.00**

### ● Girls Midcalfs

Dozens of sunny colors in smart styles and fabrics that are easy to care for. Solids, stripes as well as many patterns. Sizes 7 to 14. **\$1.22**

SECOND FLOOR

### ● Kitchen Terry Towels

Soft, absorbent cotton towels in 7 cheerfully attractive patterns. 17x29 inches. Wonderful for shower gifts. **2 for \$1**

### ● Men's Denim Jeans

Repeat of a sell out! Full cut sanforized blue denim jeans. Made for rugged wear. Full 10-oz. weight. Sizes 29 to 42. **\$1.79**

PENNEY'S STREET FLOOR