

# Girls, Don't Give Census Agent Lip When They Start Counting

By JERRY BENNETT  
NEA Staff Correspondent  
WASHINGTON (NEA)—Gals, a New Year's resolution you had better make up your mind to keep is to not hide your age from the census taker. Refusing to reveal this statistic or answer any other official question can cost you a \$100 fine and a 60-day jail sentence.

The reminder of this little known federal regulation comes from officials of the U.S. Census Bureau who are getting ready for the biggest nose counting operation in American history.

On April 1, census takers will start compiling vital statistics on an estimated 180 million Americans. This is an increase of 29 million persons since the last population census was taken in 1950.

Veteran census officials foresee no relief in the trouble that's always caused by the question about age. It's especially unpopular among women.

So far, no one who has balked at answering it has been convicted. Bureau policy prohibits a census taker from arguing with anyone, especially a woman, who refuses to answer a question. Instead, he is supposed to tip his hat, say "Thank you ma'am," and turn her name over to his supervisor.

The supervisors, who are usually pretty adept at public relations, either phone or visit disgruntled women to explain the error of their ways. Census officials say that most gals then usually utter the secret statistic.

Occasionally, though, some will make a last stubborn stand. One tactic is to insist on mailing the supervisor their age instead of telling it to him in person. This procedure is considered acceptable.

The usual argument employed to gain cooperation is that answers to all questions are kept in the strictest confidence. Census takers must swear a special secrecy oath. Any who break it can be fined as much as \$1,000 and sentenced to two years in jail.

Despite their best cajoling, census takers and their supervisors can never be certain that the age answers they finally get are accurate. One census taker was startled when a woman he had just interviewed raced after him as he walked away from her house.

"I lied to you about my age," she confessed. "It was because my husband was in the room. He thinks that I'm six years younger than I really am."

Census officials say that women who don't correct their files may end up causing themselves a lot of trouble. This is because a census record is legally recognized as a substitute for a birth certificate.

There are approximately three million Americans whose birth records are missing. Any of these persons who have consistently lied to census takers may have a lot of trouble proving their eligi-

bility to cash in on old age benefits such as social security.

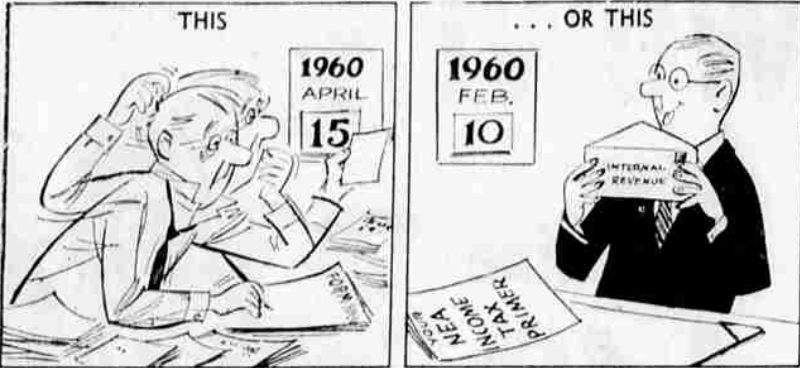
Census officials have developed a new nose counting system for 1960 that may help age-conscious gals overcome their embarrassment. Everybody is going to receive a copy of the questions ahead of time.

The questions will be mailed to homes late in March. Residents are supposed to write the answers and have them ready for census takers when they call during the first two weeks in April.

"Thus for the first time in census history, sensitive women don't have to dread answering that awful question out loud."



A CENSUS TAKER interviews a housewife in a test run for the 1960 Census of Population and Housing.



## Your Income Tax Information Primer

By RICHARD A. MULLENS  
Written for NEA Service  
Many things happen during the year which can affect the way you should fill out your tax return. Congress often changes the tax laws, a ruling by the Internal Revenue Service might be important to you, or the courts might decide an issue which saves you tax.

The average taxpayer cannot keep abreast of new developments as they occur. Instead, he must rely, as he fills out his returns, on written explanations which are revised each year to include any changes made during the year.

This is the nineteenth year that NEA's Income Tax Primer has brought to newspaper readers an up-to-the-minute explanation of how to file a correct tax return at the least cost.

Among the items covered in the Primer is the new income tax form called 1040W. This is an optional short form return which millions of taxpayers will be en-

itled to use. Article 11 of the Primer will tell when to use this form.

The first question you should settle is whether you should file a tax return for 1959. If so, now is the time to know it, so that you can begin to assemble the information needed to file. Furthermore, although you have until April 15 to file a return, it is always advisable to get started well before the deadline. Then if you have a refund coming, you can file early and get your money back sooner. Or, if you owe more tax, you will have time to arrange for payment before the April 15 deadline.

The rule about who must file a tax return is fairly simple and yet, like so many tax rules, it has exceptions and complications which tend to be confusing.

The general rule is that everyone, regardless of age or citizenship, residing in the United States who had gross income in 1959 of \$600 or more must file a tax return.

There are two exceptions to this

rule: first, if you were 65 or older on Dec. 31, 1959, you do not have to file unless your gross income was \$1,200 or more; and second, despite what is said above about the \$600 and \$1,200 tests, if you were a self-employed person subject to social security tax in 1959, you must file if you had net earnings from self-employment of \$400 or more.

In determining what your gross income is, you cannot first subtract non-business deductions such as charitable contributions, taxes, or interest.

For example, a student who earned \$650 would have to file a return even though he gave \$60 of this amount to a charity.

Many students and others who work only part-time during the year do not earn \$600. If such persons had any income tax withheld from their salary, they should file a return even though they are not required to do so. Such persons owe no tax and are entitled to a refund of any that was withheld, but it will not be repaid unless a return is filed.

## Designers 'Go Native' For Spring

By DOROTHY ROE  
NEW YORK (AP)—You could hear the beat of the bongo drums as the third day of New York's current week of spring fashion showings turned into a jungle jamboree.

Nettie Rosenstein, famous as the mother of the indispensable "little black dress," suddenly went wild with cheetah prints, shown in both silk and cotton versions, in dresses, coats and ensembles.

Then came Donald Brooks, designer for Townley, who brought down the house with his python printed chiffon evening gowns, shown in both green and yellow, equally sensational. Earlier in the day Larry Aldrich had injected a primitive note to the goings-on with his tiger-printed chiffon dance dress.

Response of the 235 visiting fashion editors attending the 34th National Press Week showings indicated that it pays a designer to go native now and then.

In addition to the jungle theme of the day's fashions, Eva Rosenkrans, designer for Mrs. Rosenstein, introduced the "spoon skirt," the "shelf skirt" and a sensational white chiffon evening gown with solidly beaded bodice in a vivid field-flower motif. This latter costs about as much as a new car.

The Grenelle-Roberts collection features a group of bold black-and-white prints in abstract designs, vaguely suggesting modern art.

Other highlights of the Townley collection are screaming colors, such as a combination of neon pink and poison green in a group of dresses and costumes so brilliant that some editors reached for their sun glasses. These, say young Donald Brooks, the designer, are selling like hot cakes all over the country. He thinks maybe it's a revolt against the little black dresses.

Today's collections, like others of the week, achieve width at the top through many sleeve treatments, and show a greater variety of fabrics than has been seen in many years.



"Here comes my knight in shining armor. Albert polished his hot rod!"

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### RAPID LEARNERS

MILWAUKEE (UPI)—A new boys' club here is preserving the sanctity of its grounds with the sign "No Girls Allowed."

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True Value 4.95 **3.77** Hot!

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