

Every American Plays 'The Numbers Game' From Cradle To Grave

The Numbers Game
EDITOR'S NOTE: Every American is involved in the numbers game, whether he knows it or not, because the U.S. is the most numerized nation on earth. The following dispatch, first of three, examines how our numbers mount from the cradle to the grave.

By BARNEY SEIBERT
United Press International
Flip open your billfold and let's play the numbers game.

First, there probably is a Social Security card—with a num-

Digits Provide Various Facts

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The first three digits of your Social Security number indicate the area and state in which the holder lived at the time of issuance. The second group of two numbers in the Social Security number are always even beginning with 10. If first of these two digits is a zero, however, the second figure may be odd. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare hasn't got around to using odd numbers yet beyond 09 in this grouping.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Selective Service numbers are divided into four groupings of digits. The first two-digit groupings tell the state in which the holder registered for the draft. The second two or three-digit groups tell the local draft board with which he is registered. The third two-digit group indicates the year of the registrant's birth. The final two of three-digit group tells the order in which he was registered with the local board.

A survey by a national food company shows that 57.3 million Americans eat out at least once each week. This is a jump of 9.1 million over the 1960 survey figure.

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ber. There are 143 million of these outstanding among Americans. Then there's a driver's license. About 89 million persons in the U.S. have them. They all have numbers. And, of course, there's the credit card numbers, the hospital and medical insurance numbers, and organization membership numbers.

If you are an average, moderate joiner who tries to keep his credit accounts at a minimum, you probably can find about 15 numbers during a quick check of your billfold.

If you are an inveterate joiner you may come up with 30 or 40 membership numbers. If you are

a real tycoon, you may crack the 100 mark in the numbers game.

Only The Beginning
There are: country club greens card numbers, voter registration numbers, military serial numbers, car registration numbers, auto license numbers, checking account numbers, savings account numbers, auto insurance policy numbers. And this is only a starter.

Lots of people may have your number — the draft board, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the drug store on the corner, or the library.

Authorities throw up their hands when asked to estimate how many numbers the average man has against his name. No

one, apparently, keeps statistics on the number of organizations the average American joins. How many credit cards he holds, or how many insurance policies he purchases.

But it is safe to say that Americans, who like to think of themselves as unregulated, are the most numbered people on earth. No other people buys as many varieties of insurance, refines installment purchase to such a high art, or creates such a variety of societies and associations.

Starts At Birth
Your numbers begin at the cradle—or before—and end at the grave.

When a baby is born his birth is certified—by a number. In a

sense it may be said the infant has a number before birth because pharmacists are required to keep numerical records of prescriptions for expectant mothers. Conditioning the child for acceptance of his numbered existence begins almost immediately. There are serial numbers on his baby food, on his toys, on the breakfast cereal boxes from which many children learn to read.

When the child starts school, conditioning moves into high gear. Not only does he begin studying numbers, he begins acquiring more individual numbers—on his library card, his school registration card.

By adolescence he has become so benumbed by numbers from his Boy Scout membership to his bank at summer camp—that he is ready to accept blindly a lifelong succession of seven-digit telephone numbers, postal zip codes and bank account numbers which will end with a cemetery lot number and a death certificate number.

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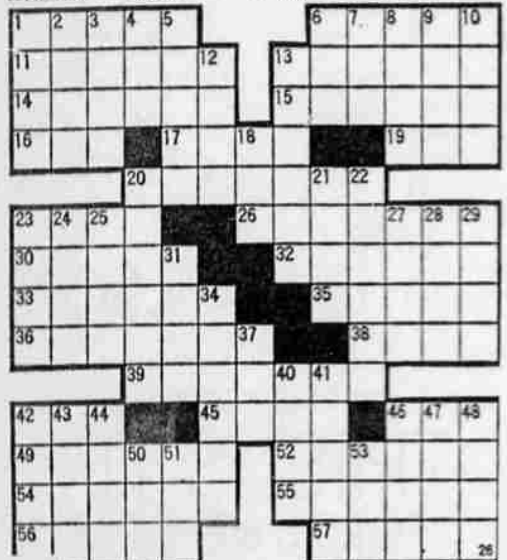
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Opera

ACROSS
1 Gounod opera
6 Puccini opera
11 Exalt
13 Madhouse
14 Hebrew acetic
15 Glacial era
(3 words)
16 Meadow
17 Cause
19 Female avian
20 Sagacious
(3 words)
23 With corolla
30 Roundup
32 Recruit
33 Iodine compound
35 Put ahead
36 In fee simple
38 Indo-Chinese district (var.)
39 Strides
43 Feminine

DOWN
1 Combustible material
2 Church section
3 Constellation
4 Bishopric
5 So much (music)
6 Detective (slang)
7 Pium
8 Bulb
9 Enclosure
10 So be it!
12 Actual
13 Astranga
18 Tear

Answer to Previous Puzzle
ACROSS
1 Gounod opera
6 Puccini opera
11 Exalt
13 Madhouse
14 Hebrew acetic
15 Glacial era
(3 words)
16 Meadow
17 Cause
19 Female avian
20 Sagacious
(3 words)
23 With corolla
30 Roundup
32 Recruit
33 Iodine compound
35 Put ahead
36 In fee simple
38 Indo-Chinese district (var.)
39 Strides
43 Feminine



Radiation Dangers Noted

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Nuclear scientists testifying before Congress have turned a spotlight on a newly recognized danger of radioactive fallout to which several thousand children apparently have already been exposed.

The exposures, according to the scientists, occurred at intervals over the past 12 years when radioactive iodine was deposited on pasture land in "hot spots" after Nevada nuclear tests. It was consumed by the children in fresh milk.

The scientists' calculations, submitted to the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy this week, indicated the exposures

were at a level which would produce thyroid cancer in an average of one out of every 286 cases. The net result might be a dozen or at most a few dozen additional cases of thyroid cancer in the next 10 years. But the Kennedy administration has made clear that this is not to be regarded as merely a statistic, and would be a heavy penalty for conducting the tests.

President Kennedy has promised further study of the matter. The problem will be taken up by state and federal health and nuclear officials, and consulting scientists, at a meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah, Sept. 17.

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