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Stand up and be counted! From page 6

ent times questions varied.

Over a hundred years ago, the census taker asked what your job was and, if you were a land owner, your net monetary worth; they also asked whether you had slaves or hired hands living on your property. They wanted to know about children, relatives or anyone living or residing with you so they could be listed. They wanted to know the state or country of your birth, as well as that of your parents. Much of this old information has been a help to those who do genealogy or "family trees." Genealogists in the future won't be so lucky without this detailed info!

Can just anyone get information from the Census Bureau? The answer is "No." By law (Title 13 of U.S. code) the information is confidential and cannot be shared with any person or any agency. The FBI tried to get information and was refused. The IRS cannot get any information that has been collected; social services and other government agencies have no access to the information. The information is released only in the form of statistics, not as individual responses. In fact, the census form requires less information than your fishing license or driver's license. You don't even put a social security number on the census questionnaire! Must be about the only thing now that doesn't require it!

If this information is private, how do historians and researchers gather data from old census records? In accordance with the privacy act, the

information is made available to the public 72 years after it is taken. And it's a good thing, too, for if it weren't for these old census records, most "family trees" would never get compiled.

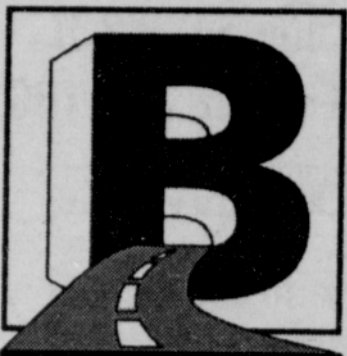
In 1900, the population of the U.S. was 76 million people, quite an increase over the prior century. As we go into the 21st century, our population of about 274,700,000 indicates an increase of almost 8 people per minute! I'm not sure of the death rate per minute.

If you live on a military base somewhere in the world or on a ship, or are homeless, did you get counted? The census takers had one day when they went to institutions, prisons, campgrounds, rv parks, marinas, soup kitchens, farms, hospitals, nursing homes, etc.,...to get the count. So, possibly, this census may include everyone who resides somewhere in the United States.

Not getting a proper count, what is called "undercounting" the population, can mean millions of dollars not reaching areas that need—and are entitled to—federal funds. So be sure you are counted; it's money in our pocket! If you did not get a census form, it's not too late. Call 503-626-6786 and tell them you were missed, or e-mail <census2000form@hotmail.com>.

It's your future, don't leave it blank! Besides, it's also a little bit of history! If you are on line and want to learn more about the census, go to <www.census.gov/>.

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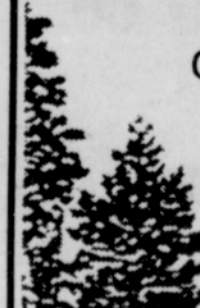
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