

# Appreciable Growth In South Forecast For Next 15 Years

By BARBARA S. MOFFET  
National Geographic News Service

When New York architect Donna Goodman thinks of 21st-century America, she sees cities afloat on the oceans.

Designed like oil rigs, extending from the sea floor to several stories above the surface, the cities she envisions house 20,000 to 30,000 people. "There would be whole complexes with industries, universities, even resorts, all connected by bridges and equipped with ports," says Goodman, whose study of philosophy guides her designs for the future.

But her vision of floating cities is based more on practicality than philosophy. By the first half of the next century, some futurists predict, the sea's raw materials will be in heavy demand, and economics will require on-the-spot facilities for extracting minerals, manufacturing drugs, refining energy, and cultivating fish.

## Onward To Space

Houston architect Larry Bell foresees steady movement of Americans to deserts, the Arctic and Antarctic regions, and outer space. "As Earth's accessible resources are depleted, there will be more interest in hostile environments," Bell says.

Most experts agree that American settlements in space are only a question of time. The goal of the L-5 Society of Tucson, Ariz., for example, is to hold a meeting up there someday.

Other projections are more earthbound. One of them envisions housing for thousands, perched on gigantic, bridgelike structures spanning waterways or overcrowded cities and accessible by super-elevators.

The majority of Americans, however, will continue to dwell on the ground level of mainland U.S.A. But several trends are pushing populations in new directions and scrambling traditional settlement patterns.

During the 1970s, for the first time in more than a century, the rural areas of the United States grew faster than metropolitan areas. Today, for the first time in history, more than half of the U. S. population lives in the South and West.

Divorces are at an all-time high, household sizes hovering at an all-time low. And the age distribution is odd—a bulge of people born during the post-World-War-II baby boom sandwiched between smaller numbers of older and younger people. Aged baby-boomers will help raise the median age to 41 in the year 2030, compared with 28 in 1970.

But just when demographers thought they had established the country's new direction for the future—away from cities and toward rural areas—an old trend reappeared. Census Bureau figures for the early 1980s show metropolitan areas gaining faster than rural areas.

## Country Or City?

"I suspect the move-to-the-country phenomenon was short-lived," says Richard A. Engels, assistant chief of the population division of the Census Bureau.

But other demographers say rural areas will continue to draw people at the expense of cities, for a variety of reasons.

"If you ask in surveys where people would prefer to live, they express a much greater preference for rural lifestyles than for big cities," says Dr. Larry Long of the Census Bureau's Center for Demographic Studies. Rising affluence, he says, will free some future Americans from the congestion, pollution, and crime that lower the quality of life in many big cities.

The U. S. economy, in metamorphosis from an industry-based system to a service-oriented one, is altering workers' living patterns. Densely packed Northern cities are less appropriate for today's society, in which more than half the jobs require no regular supply of raw materials.

"Today's workers don't have to gather around resources like coal, iron, railroads, or shipping lanes," Long says. "You can manufacture silicon chips almost anywhere."

Sophisticated communications systems are helping spread people even more widely apart, just as transportation developments, chiefly superhighways, helped create urban sprawl after World War II.

"The information revolution is continuing what the car and electricity did to spread the population out," says Dr. William Alonso of Harvard University's Center for Population Studies. "For example, call a company's 800 phone number, and the operator may be anywhere."

Honeywell Inc. is typical of the fragmentation. Fewer than one-fifth of its 94,000 employees live and work in Minneapolis, the company's headquarters city. Its products—computers, automated control systems, and weapons—are made at plants scattered around the globe, and employees communicate by phone, electronic mail, and teleconference.

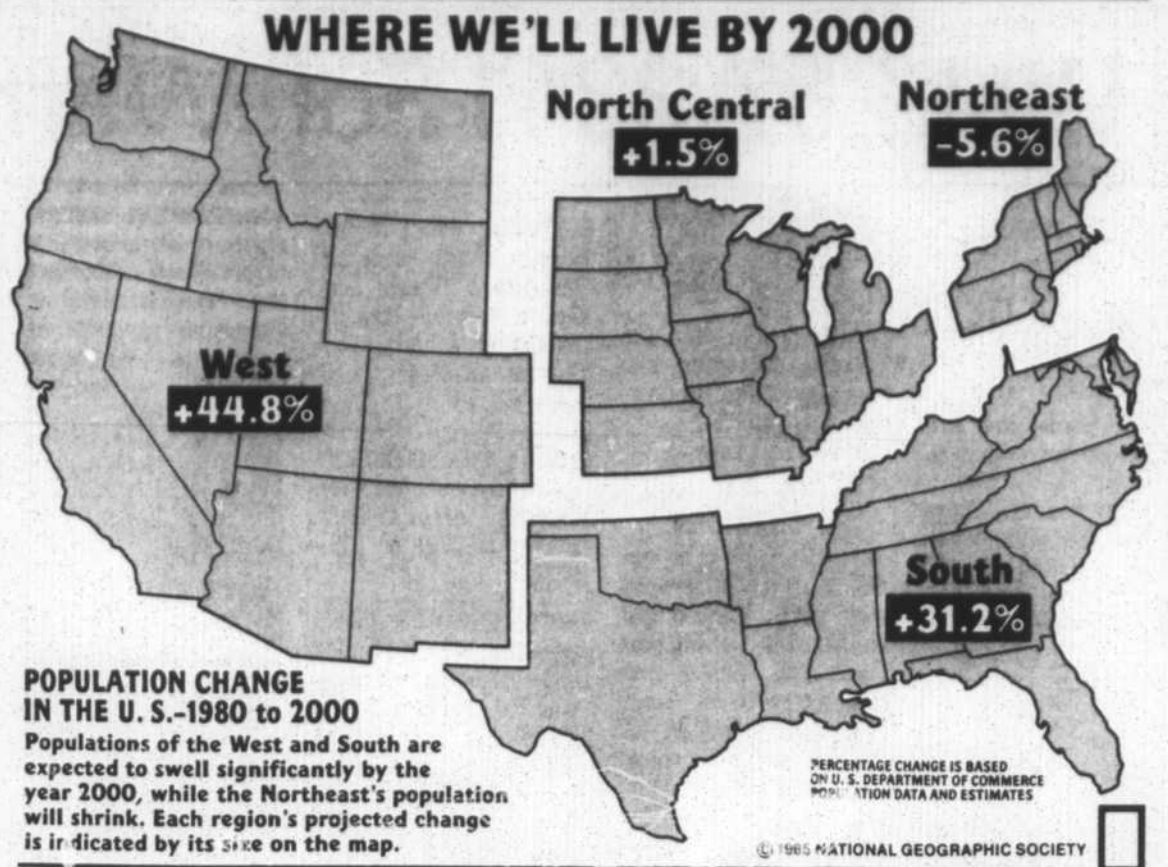
## 'Telecommuter' Living

"Telecommuters," people who work mostly at home, using telephone-linked computers, may take some of the sting out of future rush hours. They may live in "intelligent" houses whose computer "brains" automatically control the interior environment, from thermostats to stove burners.

Today's family room may be tomorrow's "media room," where the family will gather to use telecommunications and electronic-entertainment devices, suggests Washington architect Roy Mason. As the room's walls change color—the computer's response to the residents' changing moods—another part of the house brain might be scanning computerized lists of repairmen to fix a newly detected leak in the roof.

Americans who leave the house for work or entertainment won't have far to go, according to the scenario outlined by Dr. Charles L. Leven, director of Washington University's Institute for Urban and Regional Studies in St. Louis.

Future metropolises, he says, will likely consist of chains of small, compact residential and employ-



ment centers. Some of the chains will be several hundred miles long. Much of the land between centers will be dedicated to rural uses such as farming.

It's not so much that people are returning to rural life, Leven believes, but that the metropolises are displacing the countryside. Nearly all of the next century's farmers will live in these "urban" areas, and by 2020 the concept of suburbs will be obsolete, he predicts.

Some cities in the Southwest, the nation's fastest-growing region, already have the sprawling look of the future. Long of the Census Bureau sees hope for some of today's withering cities, but believes the disparity between declining Northern cities and boom towns of the South and West will continue into the 21st century.

## Burgeoning Sun Belt

The Census Bureau forecasts that the West will still lead in population growth, followed by the South. Expansion of the Northeast and North Central regions is expected to be negligible.

California will still be the most populous state in 2000, the bureau says, but Texas and Florida are expected to push New York from second down to fourth place. Alaska will lose the distinction of having the nation's tiniest population; Vermont is projected to be at the bottom in 2000.

In terms of percentage growth, Nevada will expand fastest between now and 2000, followed by Wyoming, Arizona, and Utah, according to census projections.

Is Nevada ready? "We welcome new industry, but we want to preserve Nevada's unique lifestyle and not end up with huge metropolitan areas and their accompanying traffic and smog," says Karen Galatz, executive aide to Nevada Gov. Richard Bryan.

Population growth is already taxing some city services to the limit. Phoenix, for example, swelled by more than 1,000 percent between 1940 and 1980, from 65,414 to 789,704. Pima County, Ariz., which includes Tucson, is expected to triple in population in the next 50 years.

"No area can grow in the manner of many Southern and Western cities without taking on the disadvantages of the North and East," says Calvin L. Beale, head of the population section of the U. S. Agriculture Department's Economic Research Service.

Beale says the glow of the Sun Belt won't totally obliterate the North. "Indiana and Ohio aren't going straight to hell," he says. "They're already working hard to develop alternate sources of employment and deal with their disadvantages."

Even in Texas, one of the top three states in population growth, some residents are questioning the value of bigness. "People in Houston are saying that if they had wanted to live in L.A., they would have moved there in the first place," says Long of the Census Bureau. And the three-county area encompassing Austin, Texas, a longtime resister of growth, is expected to double in population by 2000, reaching more than 1 million.

## On To New Mexico

New Mexico might be near the top of the next century's growth list, when its wide-open spaces inherit the disenchanted overflow from neighboring Texas and Arizona, Long predicts.

Water shortages are already casting doubt on the future growth of some Sun Belt states, especially Florida. But Long discounts forecasts that depleted water supplies will drive the population out of the region in the next century.

"I don't adopt the gloomy scenario that one day in 2020, people in Arizona will turn on the water faucet, nothing will come out, and everyone will leave," he says. New management techniques will ensure a steady, if expensive, water supply for the next century, he believes.

New Mexico, Georgia and the Carolinas will be destinations for the elderly, a growing segment of migratory Americans, says Dr. Jeanne Biggar, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Virginia who follows the living patterns of the aging. The four states are among those making special efforts to build recreational communities for retired Americans.

Elderly widows and other single people might make homes in "mingles" units, says Bruce Stokes, who made a global study of housing for Worldwatch Institute. These dwellings, built for non-related people who can't afford houses or condominiums of their own, would have two or more master bedrooms and a shared living room and kitchen.

Condominiums still will be popular, but high-rise apartment buildings—the intended answer to a population crunch that never came—will become almost extinct, Stokes says.

He and other housing specialists believe the 20th century's "dream home," with several bedrooms and multi-car garage, will be the 21st century's dinosaur.

High prices of land, building materials, labor, and energy, they say, will make those new homes as undesirable as a gas-guzzler in an energy crisis. And falling birth rates may mean a dearth of buyers for the large homes already in existence.

Some population directions will scarcely budge. The nation's population center is expected to be in eastern Missouri in 2000, only 40 miles west of where it is today.

## Home Is Destroyed

(Continued from page 1)

Fire Department also responded to a chimney fire at 5:05 o'clock on Monday afternoon at the home of Marty Allen on Ridgecrest Drive. The fire was out upon the response of nine firemen with a pumper. No damage resulted.

A fire caused by a malfunctioning oil stove was responsible for a fire at the home of James Jones across the road from the Armory on Tuesday morning at 7:40 a. m. The fire was caused by too much oil, it was reported. No damage resulted.

Nine Rural Warrenton Firemen with a pumper responded to the fire.

At 1:15 p. m. on Thursday of last week a Pargas truck overturned on a road about a mile from 1625 road. Twelve Warrenton Rural firemen responded to a call for aid with a pumper and crash-wagon. There was no fire but the firemen put out foam on the road.

Nine Warrenton Rural Fire Company members responded to a call to an automobile fire 3.5 miles out on the Baltimore Road at 7:15 p. m. Tuesday. Alphonzo Cheek was the owner of the 1978 Chrysler, which

was totally destroyed by fire.

The firemen drove a crash wagon to the scene, and extinguished the flames with water.

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## Know your Carpeting

By Ed Evans

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## Correction

A deed transfer in last week's issue of The Warren Record incorrectly listed the number of acres involved. It should have read as follows: Grover L. Shearin to George Alston and wife, .85 acres, Judkins Township.



We represent many fine insurance companies, but we are independent Agents, who, first of all, are obligated to our policy-holders. Whenever you want a quote or have any questions regarding insurance, call us.

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