

Government Recruiting Temporary Census Takers

The U.S. Census Bureau will soon be hiring temporary workers to help with the 1990 census of population and housing.

Workers will deliver census questionnaires door-to-door this coming March, a news release indicated. Then, from April through June, they will make follow-up visits as needed because some households will not mail back their questionnaires on or before the required April 1 deadline, Census Day.

The nation's first census was conducted in 1790 and required 650 people to count 3.9 million residents. The Census Bureau estimates the 1990 count will stand at 250 million people and about 106 million housing units.

But the big challenge will be finding temporary workers. Homemakers wanting to earn extra family income were once the primary source of census takers, but with the growing number of two wage-earner and single-parent households, the pool of applicants has been greatly depleted at the same time the number of housing units is increasing rapidly.

The number of units is increasing at a much faster rate than the overall population. Between 1970 and 1980, the population grew 11 percent while the number of housing grew 28 percent. By 1990, the number of units will have increased another estimated 22 percent, with the population increasing just over 10 percent.

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New legislation now allows military and civilian federal retirees to take temporary census jobs without it affecting their retirement benefits. Also, the Census Bureau is working with state employment service offices for referrals, as well as grassroots organizations and local governments.

Applicants will need to pass a short written test and must be U.S. citizens. They should be at least 18 years old, although younger persons with a high school diploma may be considered. The test takes about 30 minutes and is designed to check simple math skills, basic map reading and ability to follow instructions.

Jobs in this area pay \$6 an hour and workers will be reimbursed 24 cents per mile for automobile expenses.

The data collected by the Census Bureau affects apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, state legislatures and many local governing bodies. The numbers also figure in distribution of state and federal government funds for programs ranging from education to housing and economic development.

Census employment tests will be given locally at three locations

through December, at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.:

Mondays, Atlantic Telephone Membership Corp., Shallotte; Tuesdays, Public Assembly Building, Government Center, Bolivia; and Fridays, Lockwood Folly Community Building, Stanbury Road.

For more information about temporary census employment contact the N.C. Employment Security Commission office at Bolivia, or call the Census Bureau, 1-790-2000.

Winnabow VFD To Serve BBQ

Winnabow Volunteer Fire Department will serve barbecue dinners Saturday, Dec. 2, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the fire station on Governor's Road, said spokesman Ralph Frazier.

Each plate will feature chopped pork barbecue, potato salad, cole slaw and hushpuppies for \$3.

Governor's Road is located off U.S. 17 at Winnabow.

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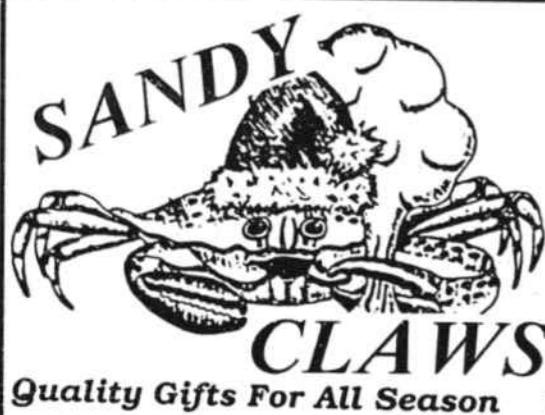
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