

World and Nation

Census Bureau gives report

Rural growth decreases

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's urban areas are growing faster than the countryside in this decade, reversing the rural renaissance trend of population growth in the 1970s, the Census Bureau reported Wednesday.

While metropolitan areas continued to grow at the 1 percent annual rate that prevailed in the 1970s, the non-metropolitan growth rate fell from 1.3 percent annually in the last decade to about 0.8 percent a year since 1980.

The biggest change in recent decades is the increasing strength of the South and West — the Sun Belt — in comparison to the Northeast and Midwest, the report said.

"In the 1960s, the North grew at about three-quarters the rate of the nation as a whole. Since 1970, its growth rate has only been one-fifth

that of the nation, and the South and West together have grown nine times as fast as the North," the report said.

The nation's metropolitan population grew by 4.5 percent to 180 million people between 1980 and 1984, while the number of non-metropolitan residents increased by 3.4 percent to 56.4 million, an agency study found.

The new report, "Patterns of Metropolitan Area and County Population Growth," said, "This apparently restores a pattern of predominantly metropolitan population growth which had extended for more than a century until the dramatic turnaround of the 1970s."

That 1970s pattern has been widely discussed as a rural renaissance, with Americans moving to the countryside in search of a new lifestyle.

Donald Starsinic, a Census Bureau

statistician, said, "What this (new report) suggests is not a total halt, but it has definitely slowed down."

"We can't be sure if this is a real trend or just a temporary aberration caused by the recession, the decline in (rural) job opportunities and the energy crunch. It's too soon to tell."

While the relationship between city and rural growth has been reversed on a national basis in this decade, the change does not constitute a return to the general growth patterns that existed before 1970, the report stressed.

Only the Northeast continues the pattern of faster rural than urban growth, although the difference has eased, the report showed.

Since 1980, Northeastern urban areas have grown at 0.3 percent annually, slightly less than the 0.4 percent non-metropolitan increases. But in the 1970s, Northeastern rural areas grew 0.9 percent per year.

Economic rate up 4.3 percent

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. economic growth spurted upward at a rapid 4.3 percent annual rate from July through September, the fastest pace in more than a year, the government reported Wednesday.

While the Reagan administration hailed the increase as a significant acceleration in economic activity, private economists were not as impressed, contending that the added growth during the summer may well subtract from activity in coming months.

The Commerce Department said the gross national product grew at the fastest rate since a 7.1 percent increase in the second quarter of 1984.

This new estimate was a full percentage point above a government

projection made last month. While the gain was far above what most analysts had expected, they stressed use of caution in interpreting the figure.

"No one should be fooled," said Allen Sinai, chief economist for Shearson Lehman Brothers. "There is little meaningful growth going on in the economy at the present time and little room for optimism that we have a lasting rebound under way."

Sinai said most of the strength during the third quarter came from strong consumer spending, particularly on new car purchases. However, car sales plummeted in October and early November and many analysts believe that this is a signal that consumer spending, which accounts for almost two-thirds of total GNP, is about to weaken sharply because of consumer debt burdens and low savings rates.

Indeed, the GNP report showed that the personal savings rate dropped to a 35-year low of 2.7 percent in the third quarter.

Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of the president's Council of Economic Advisors, was much more upbeat, contending that the 4.3 percent growth rate vindicated the administration's view that the economy is in the midst of a substantial rebound following a weak first half of 1985.

"We certainly are not on the verge of a sumphole in economic activity as some observers seem to think," Sprinkel told reporters. "We are enjoying a significant acceleration which we expect to continue well into the new year."

Morning heart attacks most likely, study says

Associated Press

BOSTON — People are three times more likely to suffer heart attacks at 9 a.m. than at 11 p.m., probably because the stress of waking up somehow triggers changes in the body that cause the attacks, researchers report.

The findings could improve understanding of what makes lethal blood clots lodge in the heart's arteries and, thus, provide clues for preventing them, Dr. James E. Muller said.

"This represents a big new area to research," he said.

The study found that heart attacks are more common between 6 a.m. and noon than at any other time of day. The incidence peaks at 9 a.m. and declines to 11 p.m.

The researchers theorize that the important factor is when people wake up, not the time of day, so that those who work night shifts might have the highest risk of heart attacks in the evening.

The study, conducted by researchers at Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School, was based on an analysis of 2,999 heart attack victims. It was published in the last Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

Usually a heart attack — what doctors call a myocardial infarction — occurs when a blood clot blocks an artery that feeds the heart. The heart muscle is starved of oxygen, and some of it dies.

The researchers are not certain

why heart attacks are more common in the morning, but they have several theories.

"Since we know that infarct is associated with a clot, the leading possibility would have to be that there is some variation in the tendency of the blood to clot during that time of day," said Muller, the principal author of the study.

Other research suggests that levels of a natural blood thinner called heparin are lower in the morning, while blood platelets are more likely to clump together then.

Muller noted that the sympathetic nervous system, which prompts such things as increases in heartbeat during stress, is also less active during sleep.

"It begins to be activated in a very harsh manner, as we all know, when the alarm clock rings," he said. "It could be related to some aspect of that stress in the morning."

The researchers noted that 14 earlier studies also found heart attacks more likely to occur in the morning. However, some experts were skeptical of those findings, theorizing that some victims could have had their heart attacks while they slept but didn't notice the pain until they woke up.

Unlike the earlier studies, the new research looked for changes in the chemical composition of the blood that begin to appear four hours after a heart attack. This confirmed that the attacks really were occurring in the morning and not the previous night.

Rig driver damages memorial

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The driver of an 18-wheel tractor trailer was arrested Wednesday after crashing his rig into the Washington Monument.

Garrow Ernest Brigham, 36, of Savage, Md., drove across 500 feet of park grounds and through two small fences and rows of benches before hitting the monument, said U.S. Park Police Maj. Richard Cusick.

"We have not determined a motive, but there were no articles in the truck to indicate that he meant to harm the monument," said George Berkclacy, a spokesman for the U.S. Park Service.

Brigham's rig scraped against the obelisk, denting the truck's cab and leaving a streak of green paint about four feet long across the northwest side of the structure.

No one was injured in the incident which occurred at 9 a.m., before the monument opened to the public.

Damage was estimated at \$3,500 by the National Park Service.

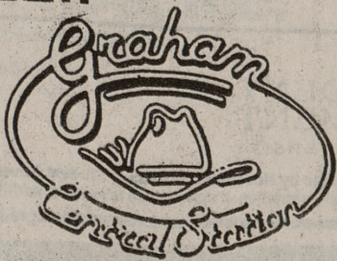
The park was to open to tourists at noon.

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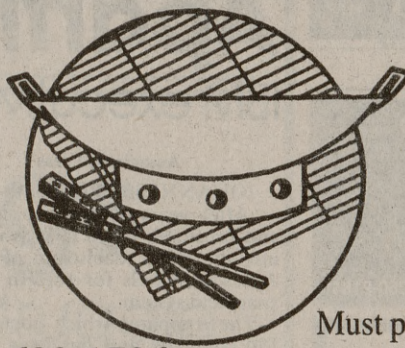
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For Women: French terry shirt of 100% cotton 'scalloped' knit has a nubby, strong finish. European cut (slightly over-size) with a flattering rounded yoke.

Colors, cobalt blue, kingfisher, pale turquoise, pale lavender, fuschia, white.

Adjustable (both sides & waist) pants of 8oz cotton canvas. Patch pockets in back & slant front pockets - trim & comfortable, khaki, purple, grey. Both garments washable, 3-5% shrinkage.

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