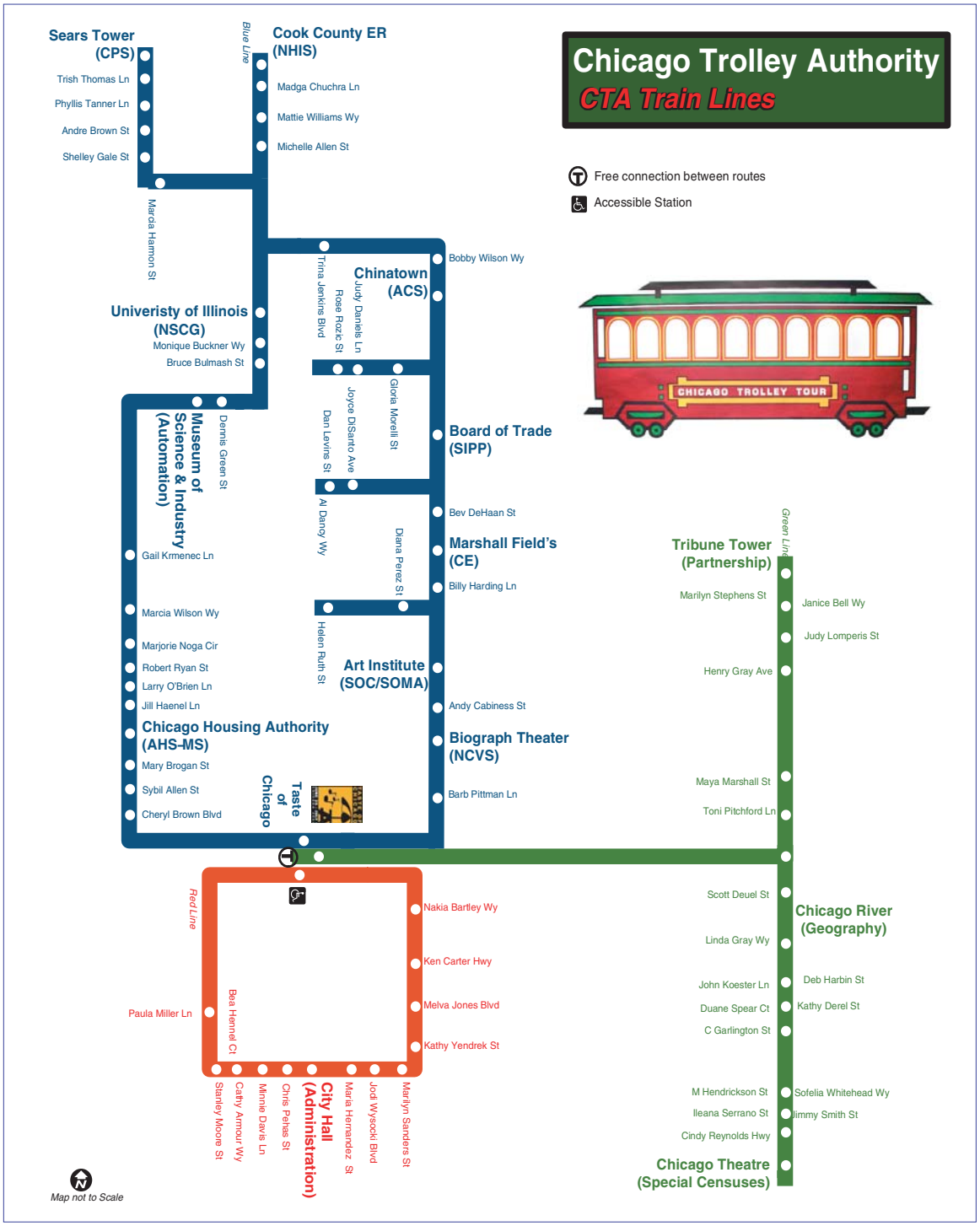
CENSUS CounterParts

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Kincannon Gets a Taste of Chicago



Marilyn Stephens (Chicago RO)



When Census Bureau Director Louis Kincannon went to Chicago to plug the American Community Survey in March, he had no idea what the regional office had in store for him.

The Chicagoans, led by Gail Krmenec and Cheryl Brown hit the ground running, pulling troops from each department and survey in the regional office. From a private tour of the home of Frank Lloyd Wright arranged by Bruce Bulmash to a special edition of the Chicago RO Tribune to a virtual trolley tour, the regional office rolled out the red carpet.

The trolley tour route was marked in color-coded tape on the carpet and ran through the office with street names changed to RO staffers names. Each department or survey was represented by a famous Chicago landmark.

Staff served as tour guides at each stop. One stop noted how the Chicago region achieves the highest response rates and the lowest operational costs in the nation for the Current Population Survey. Another displayed innovative best practices created by the Partnership and Data Services program. At each stop the director received a post card as a reminder of his visit.

After the office tour, the RO staged a mini-version of the city's world famous annual outdoor food festival, "Taste of Chicago." Complete with meal tickets, tents were set up with samples of Chicago delicacies such as Chicago-style hot dogs, Eli's cheesecake, Garrett's caramel and cheese popcorn and deep-dish pizza.

The media event the next day was equally successful, with reporters from across the Chicago metropolitan area in attendance.

And what did the director think of his visit? "The Trolley Tour was not only interesting and enlightening," said Kincannon, "it was a wonderful way to witness, firsthand, the degree of dedication and commitment of the Chicago Regional Office. And I know their dedication is emblematic of the hard work that goes on throughout the country and in all of the regional offices."





Clockwise, Magdalena Chuchra, Wilma Adams (hidden), Mattie Williams, Michelle Allen, Bruce Bulmash, Gail Krmenec, Marilyn A. Sanders (hidden), Marcia Harmon and Census Bureau Director Louis Kincannon.

How Are You Doing?

It's a question we ask often passing in the hallways, greeting friends. But most times we are not ready for a real response.

When Gwen Williams asks How are you doing? — she really wants to know.

Williams is the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) coordinator, the one employees can turn to with a problem or when they just need someone to listen.

Williams said employees are often surprised when they meet with her, expecting a lecture instead of a friendly conversation. "Sometimes," said Williams, "all they need is someone to talk to." Besides a willing ear, Williams makes referrals for those who need financial or legal advice.

Williams was born and raised in Alabama and said that "after working at a Hardee's restaurant in high school, I knew that I wanted to go to college!"

At Howard University in Washington, D.C., she joined a service organization and volunteered to provide social activities for a group project at a nursing home. "Everyone was just standing around, waiting to be told what to do," she said. "I came in and started calling to all the residents, 'Come on, let's have some fun.' It was a natural thing to do; I knew then, that I liked helping people."

After receiving a master's degree in social work, Williams, a licensed, clinical social worker, worked with mentally-challenged adults and as an advocate for the elderly, with whom she has a soft spot. "I like to hear their histories," she said. "Their lives are so interesting!"

Williams came to the Bureau in 1998 when the opportunity for a flexible work schedule coincided with her family demands. She and her husband have two sons, ages 9 years and 9 months.

In addition to individual counseling, Williams offers stress relaxation classes, fresh start classes, parenting workshops, alcohol and drug seminars, grief groups and crisis debriefings.

Williams has noticed an increase in stress among employees who are balancing the demands of family and career, parenting and taking care of elderly parents.

"One of the most effective things we can do is help alleviate some of that stress," she said.

Williams' office may seem devoid of personal touches, but that's the way she wants it.

"When an employee comes to see me, it's all about them," she said.



PHOTO BY MICHELLE FRANKFURTER

Gwen Williams, EAP coordinator

The one exception is a plastic yellow flower. "I put the flower on the door when I'm talking with someone, so we won't be disturbed," she said. "And, of course, all conversations are confidential."

In her free time, Williams loves to read and watch movies, especially comedies. For vacations, the family heads home to Alabama. And her favorite indulgence? A massage.



PHOTO BY LAUREN BRENNER

Oh, BABY!

Looking for a "home away from home" for your child during the day?

The Suitland Federal Child Development Center is hosting an open house on Wednesday, May 12 from 10 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

The center accepts infants from six weeks of age through preschool. Priority for enrollment is given to dependents of federal employees of the Census Bureau, the Office of Naval Intelligence and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

All employees are invited to walk through the facility (located across from Federal Building 2), meet the staff and enjoy light refreshments.



David Kennedy (Stanford University) and Census Bureau Director Louis Kincannon discuss interpretations of census data.



Leatha Lamison-White (CAO) explains the Fast Facts for Congress Internet site.



Tom Mann (Brookings Institution) makes his point on the Apportionment and Fair Representation panel.

PHOTOS BY HUGH DOBSON



Tamar Jacoby (Manhattan Institute) listens to a speaker from the Changing Demographics panel.



Marketing Services Office's historical display.



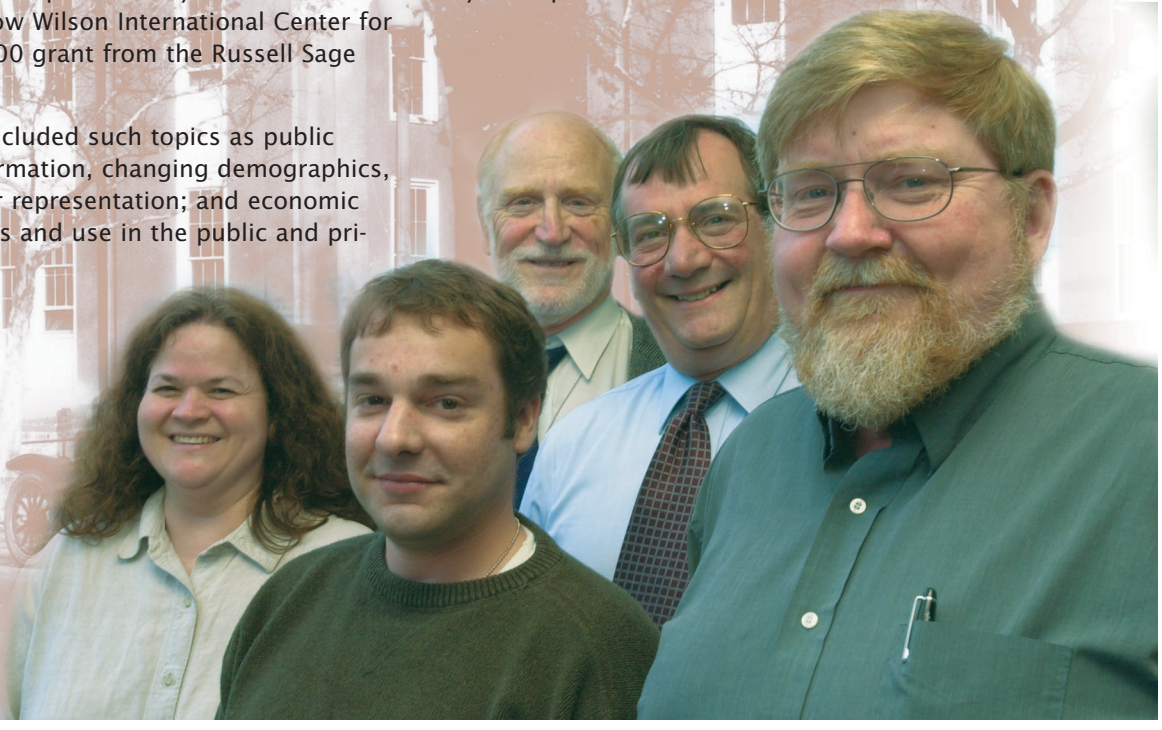
Foreground, l. to r: Cam Gibson (POP), Joel Perlmann (Bard College), Paul Zeisset (EPCD) and Bill Maury (POL) enjoy food and conversation at the reception.

America's Scorecard: The Historic Role of the Census in an Ever-Changing Nation

On March 4-5, more than 50 participants and 225 attendees discussed who we are as a nation and how we've changed at a symposium sponsored by the Census Bureau and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, with a $45,000 grant from the Russell Sage Foundation.

The two-day session included such topics as public needs and private information, changing demographics, apportionment and fair representation; and economic data collection, analysis and use in the public and private sectors.

The Census Bureau hosted a reception and dinner, with Stanford University professor David M. Kennedy as the keynote speaker.



The symposium was organized by the Policy Office's History staff, pictured front, l. to r: Carolyn Broomfield and Jason Gauthier. Back, l. to r: Bill Maury, chief; Dave Pemberton and Mike Hovland.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE FRANKFURTER

Detroit Regional Office Reaches Out

Malay Lo-Thao (Detroit RO)

'What do you do when you get a survey in the mail? As an employee of the Census Bureau you know enough by now, that if it comes from the Census Bureau, you fill it out and send it back, right? But a lot of suspicious people call their congressional representative.

"We get calls all the time when people get their census forms," said Susan Rowe, casework manager for U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur's (D-Ohio) 9th District office in Toledo.



Detroit RO staff rose to the occasion when a congressional office needed census data. L. to r: Elizabeth Damberg, Vincent Kountz, Joe Kogelmann, Julie White, Gordon Rector, Theresa Anthony and Janet Butler. Not pictured, Malay Lo-Thao.

Most of the callers want to know if census surveys are legitimate, and congressional offices are instrumental in assuring them that they are. That's one reason regional directors make it their business to meet regularly with members of Congress and their staffs about current surveys and other work being done in their districts.

"It's important to build partnerships with congressional members in our region," said Detroit Regional Director Dwight Dean. "They can be very supportive in census matters — from the decennial census to current programs. We know their constituents turn to them when they have questions or concerns, and we want to make sure that the district offices have what they need to provide the answers."

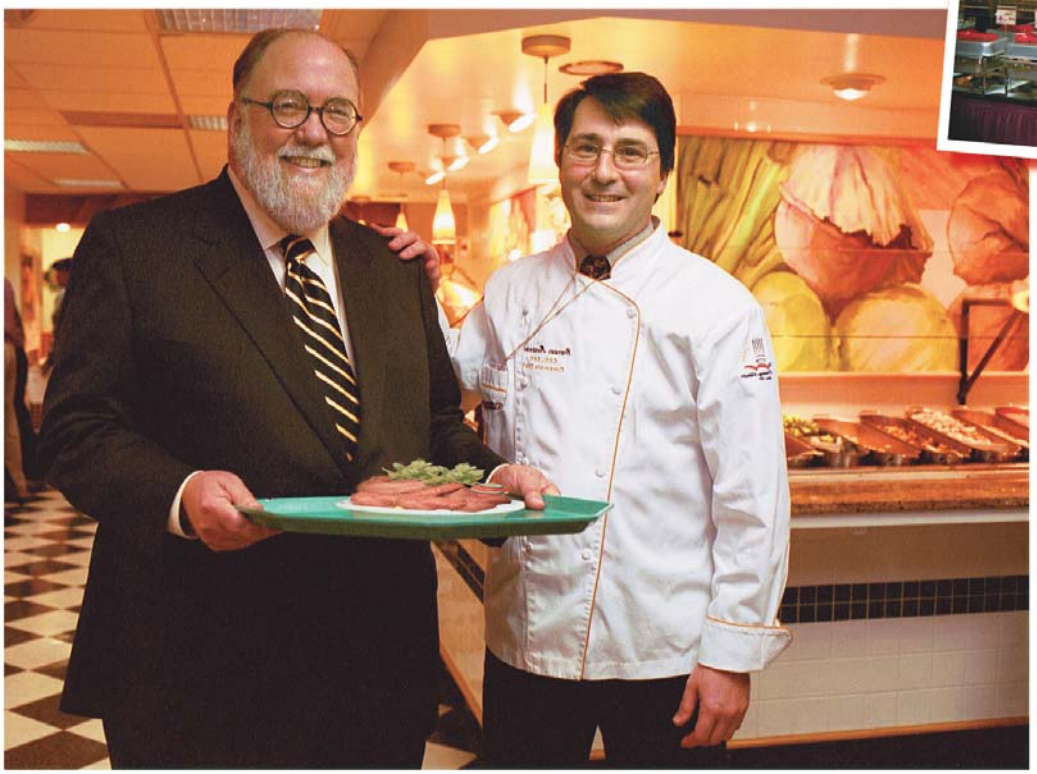
On a recent visit, Dean and Vincent Kountz of the Partnership and Data Services (PDS) staff provided Kaptur's district office with a statistical profile of the district and information on current programs and survey sample sizes in the area. Kaptur's staff then requested census tract data on population, race, income, housing and education that could be compared across the 1980, 1990 and 2000 censuses.

While the Detroit region was happy to help, the data needed to be customized to meet the needs of the district office. Differences in data collection, tabulation and reporting for the three censuses made it a challenge to provide the information they wanted quickly. Staff from PDS and geography worked hard to produce the data tables and maps showing census tracts for all four counties in the 9th District.

"They were very accommodating," said Rowe. "The information was difficult to put together, but they were willing to do it for us and were very timely. It helped determine a legislative agenda and what issues to pursue, by reaffirming Kaptur's concerns. We are not seeing the growth that some other areas in Ohio are seeing. The data show that things are either stagnant or not as good in terms of real wages, housing stock and educational attainment. This helps us a lot."

Kountz, who has been with the Census Bureau for nearly 20 years, was pleased with the results. "We receive hundreds of calls for data every month, and I'm glad we were able to provide the information they needed. They know we are a resource for them, and our relationship is mutually beneficial."

Main Street Café Adds a Little Spice





PHOTOS BY MICHELLE FRANKFURTER

Census Bureau Director Louis Kincannon and Damian Martineau, Guest Services, Inc.(GSI) corporate executive chef and district manager for the Main Street Café joined officials from the General Services Administration and GSI at a ribbon-cutting ceremony March 24 to introduce the addition of Wild Wild Wings to the Main Street Café.

The event marks the completion of a $100,000 renovation that began in the fall of 2003. Food stations were added, new equipment installed and cash registers relocated.

We're Number One!

Although Census Bureau employees have always contributed generously to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), last year they opened their wallets especially wide.

At the annual award ceremony March 24, CFC Chairperson Ted Johnson announced that the Bureau collected $612,481 — the largest amount ever collected by the agency — exceeding its goal by a whopping 40 percent.



Lydia Santos, CFC coordinator for ACSO and Jay Waite, associate director for decennial census. The office of the associate director exceeded its goal by 1,155 percent.

PHOTO BY MICHELLE FRANKFURTER

Directors of the Census Bureau and Portals to Leadership

Theodore G. Clemence

(Theodore Clemence joined the Census Bureau in 1959 as a junior statistician in the Population Division. He served as chief, Office of Program and Policy Development, and as senior advisor to the deputy director. He passed away in 1988. An amateur historian, he wrote biographies of the 10 Census Bureau directors who ran the agency from 1899 to 1961. This is the ninth in a 10-part series.)

Roy Victor Peel, 1950-1953

Roy Peel was born in Des Moines, Iowa in 1896. He attended Augustana College and then obtained his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago in 1927. Peel spent the next 12 years teaching at three different colleges, the University of Chicago, the University of Rochester and New York University.

In the early 1930s, he was active in New York politics, though he never ran for public office. He preferred the role of consultant and political advisor. During World War II, Peel served with the Army Office of Strategic Services, Office of War Information and finally, the U.S. Information Service where he was a station chief in Denmark.

In 1939, Peel had moved to Bloomington, Ind., where he joined the political science faculty at Indiana University as a full professor. He held that position, except for his service during the war, until he was appointed director of the census in 1950. Peel served as director until Eisenhower became President in 1953. His most visible interest was his passion for travel. He enjoyed the prestige of being census director and was invariably a friendly advertisement for the importance of the Bureau's activities.

After Peel left the Census Bureau in 1953, he joined the political science department at the University of Utah and later became a Professor of Political Science at California State University at Northridge. Peel continued to live in California until he died at age 82.

The 1950 appointment of Roy Peel had been in the traditional pattern of political recruitment. It was not unlike the appointments of Harris and Rogers under President Wilson, except for Peel's considerable academic background. The Peel appointment was the last of its kind in which politics played such a direct role.

All of the succeeding census directors would be selected more in terms of their background and experience relative to the job itself, and politics would be essentially a matter of party affiliation and general political philosophy. This change in the selection process was not by design, but more of an outgrowth of the changes in the nature of government itself.

By the end of the Truman administration, the federal government had



expanded steadily for two decades. There were more people to appoint, and there were more career civil servants already turning the wheels of government. The backgrounds of appointees were checked more carefully, recruiting became more systematic and the influences on the selection process became more diffuse even though congressmen continued to exert the major influence on many appointments.

In both the Truman and Eisenhower years, modest numbers of senior career officials were appointed to policy-making positions. Much of the work of government now required technical competence and continuity to keep things moving.

DILBERT®

by Scott Adams



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Dig This !

The much anticipated construction of the new building is finally here. Pictorial updates on the project, which began with the construction of the parking garage in March, will be a regular feature in *CounterParts*.















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