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DAILY ENTERPRISE
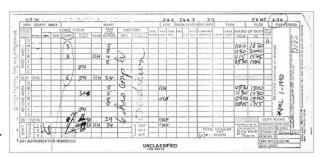

(U) HISTORY TODAY - June 13, 2016
FROM: CCH
Run Date(s): 06/13/2016

(U) **Historic graphic**:

(U) Until the late 1990s, work time was recorded on punch cards. These were the classic "Hollerith" or "IBM" cards that could be run on data processing machines.

(U) The cards came preprinted at the top with Social Security number, name, location, office designator, and pay period. There were holes punched below each preprinted character so a card reader could "feel" the holes for each character and "read" the data.

(U) The card was 3.25" x 7.375." The employee filled in the card in black ink by hand. The boxes for time arrived and time departed were each 11/32" x 1/8". This is less than one-fifth the area of the box on our current E-timesheets!

(U) If a mistake was made, it had to be crossed out and rewritten nearby (as you can see, at the bottom left). If a person needed to write data in a place where a hole was punched, she or he had to write around the hole.

(U) Many veteran employees remember it as even more fun than today's process.

(U) To discuss historical topics with interesting folks, visit the Center for Cryptologic History's blog, History Rocks (go history rocks).

(U) Have a question or comment on *History Today*? Contact us at DL cch or ▢

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