



This expanded listicle highlights responses the Bulosan brothers gave to a Census enumerator in April 1940 and were recorded in a census schedule for the 16th Census of the United States. Additional notes include information gleaned from *Remembering Carlos Bulosan: His Heart Affair with America*, written by Bulosan's friend, fellow writer and biographer P.C. Morante; from common knowledge; and from Google Maps. Bulosan's work had not yet gained nationwide prominence at the time of this Census count.

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1

Carlos Bulosan lived in 714-3/4 West Temple Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

This apartment was in a four-unit structure just a few yards from the corner of Temple and Figueroa.

From the 1920s through the 1940s, many Filipinos lived and conducted business around this northwest corner of Little Tokyo. The hustle and bustle around Temple and Figueroa provided Bulosan details and insights about his countrymen that inevitably imbued his work. This “Little Manila” preceded the much larger area about a mile west now called Historic Filipinotown, which developed later. The Los Angeles Main Public Library, which Bulosan frequented, was a 20-minute walk away.

The house and block Bulosan lived in no longer exist. The four blocks between Temple, Figueroa, First, and South Hope have been redeveloped into the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power headquarters. The Bulosan apartment would have been in the landscaped area between the parking lot and Temple Street.

4

Bulosan stated that he completed four years of high school,

disproving popular accounts of his schooling ending in the third grade.

Bulosan completed his third year of high school in the Philippines and he would have been of the first generation of Filipinos educated in English. His older brother Aurelio also offered to support his continued education in the United States which Bulosan may have accepted for he attended school in Los Angeles for a period.

His older brothers Aurelio and Dionisio completed two years of college and two years of high school, respectively.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940
POPULATION SCHEDULE

Incorporated place *Los Angeles* Ward of city *44* Unincorporated place _____
Township or other division of county *Los Angeles* Block No. *5* Institution _____

NAME *Bulosan, Aurelio* RELATION *Brother* PERSONAL DESCRIPTION *Male* EDUCATION *High school* PLACE OF BIRTH *Philippines*

SEX *M* AGE *34* MARRIAGE *Never* OCCUPATION *Teacher*

FOR PERSONS OF ALL AGES: PLACE OF BIRTH OF FATHER AND MOTHER, SEX, MARRIAGE, DEPENDENTS, etc.

FOR PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER: SEXUAL ACTIVITY, SEXUAL INTEREST, SEXUAL PREFERENCE, etc.

FOR ALL WOMEN WHO ARE OR HAVE BEEN MARRIED: DATE OF MARRIAGE, etc.

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5

Bulosan's citizenship was listed as "AL" for alien,

as were most other Filipinos living in the U.S. who were born in the Philippines.

In the previous censuses of 1910, 1920 and 1930, however, Filipinos were considered U.S. territorial nationals and were "native born." Although they were not citizens, Filipinos were not tagged as "aliens" then. The passage of the Tydings-McDuffie Act in 1934 reclassified Filipinos living in the U.S. as "aliens" and established an annual quota of 50 immigrants.

6

Bulosan and his brother Aurelio have been living in Los Angeles for at least five years

at the time of the 1940 Census. His other brother Dionisio was living in Chicago in 1935 before joining them in Los Angeles.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940
POPULATION SCHEDULE

7

He was not employed for pay the week before Census Day 1940.

Nor was he assigned to do public emergency work through the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the National Youth Administration (NYA), or the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) – New Deal programs that put Americans to work following the Great Depression. However, Bulosan reported that he was actively seeking work and was therefore counted as part of the labor force.

8

He had been unemployed for 156 weeks prior to Census Day 1940.

Bulosan's three-year convalescence following a bout with tuberculosis was duly recorded in the Census schedule.

9

Bulosan reported his occupation as “farmer” in a “vegetable farm.”

Bulosan immigrated in July 1930, when the U.S. was in the midst of the Great Depression. He joined his brother in Lompoc and worked briefly as a dishwasher before joining his other brother Aurelio in Los Angeles some months later.

With jobs scarce, Aurelio suggested that Bulosan focus on his writing. He wrote poems that were published in anthologies as early as 1932. In 1934, he even started a bi-monthly literary magazine, *The New Tide*, but it was short-lived because of the lack of funds.

With his health frail, Bulosan would have been an unlikely farmer, much less a farmworker. Bulosan’s reporting of this livelihood could be harking back to his childhood days at his father’s farm in Mangusmana, Pangasinan.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE—BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940
POPULATION SCHEDULE

Incorporated place Los Angeles Unincorporated place _____
Towship or other division of county Los Angeles Block No. 5 Institution _____

NAME	RELATION	PERSONAL DESCRIPTION			EDUCATION	PLACE OF BIRTH	SEX	RESIDENCE, APRIL 1, 1940										PERSONS 14 YEARS OLD AND OVER—EMPLOYMENT STATUS									
		1. Race	2. Sex	3. Marital status				4. Single	5. Married	6. Widowed	7. Divorced	8. Never married	9. Total	10. Male	11. Female	12. Total	13. Male	14. Female	15. Total	16. Male	17. Female	18. Total	19. Male	20. Female			
<u>Bulosan</u>	<u>Farmer</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>High school</u>	<u>Philippines</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Single</u>	<u>Married</u>	<u>Widowed</u>	<u>Divorced</u>	<u>Never married</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>						

10

Bulosan reported no income in 1939, having been unemployed in the previous three years.

Aurelio, just five years older than Bulosan, was “head” and breadwinner of the Bulosan household. Dionisio had been unemployed and worked only part of the previous year.

Aurelio had been incredibly supportive of Bulosan’s dream to become a writer. He had read his brother’s work and recognized his talents early. They both loved to read and would buy books and magazines. Aurelio even helped fund Bulosan’s *The New Tide*.

Sources: 1940 Census Records, National Archives; P.L. Morante, *Remembering Carlos Bulosan: His Heart Affair with America*; and Google Maps

