

Daily Absences From Schools In North Carolina Total 11,124,000 During 1951-52

Less Absenteeism Noted In Units With Attendance Workers

According to the January issue of State School Facts, the 877,906 children in average daily membership during the school year 1951-52 were absent from schools, 11,124,000 days. The average daily absences for the year totaled 61,900. An average of seven per cent of all boys and girls were absent daily.

Absenteeism was greatest among Negro schools, the percentage being 8.8 or a total of 23,000 daily. For whites the percentage of absenteeism was 6.3 or an average of 38,800 daily.

This 1951-52 record was better than a number of preceding years during the past twenty, but not as good as it was in 1950-51, which was the best considering both races. The percentage for the white race, however, was best in 1941-42 when it stood at 5.3.

City vs. Rural
Absenteeism among city children is less than it is among children attending county or rural schools. Total daily absences, white and Negro, among county units was 47,226. This represented 7.5 per cent of the average daily membership.

Among the 72 city units, on the other hand, the percentage of daily absenteeism was 5.8, representing a total average daily absence of 14,574 boys and girls.

Considered in terms of days absent the entire school year of 180 days, there were 8,500,680 absences by children enrolled in county schools and 2,623,320 absences by those enrolled in city schools. Or another way, the 250,689 children in average daily membership in city schools, constituting 28.6 per cent of the total State average daily membership, were responsible for 23.6 per cent of the total State absences.

Some units had a lower percentage of absences than others. Among county units the range among white children was from 3.8 per cent in Dare County to 10.8 in Robeson (which includes Indians), or to Graham with 10.6 per cent. An average of 29,142 white children from county units were absent each day.

Among Negro schools absenteeism ranged from 1.0 per cent in Jackson (only 105 pupils in average daily membership) to 20.0 per cent in Nash. A 10 per cent average is noted for Negro schools in the county units. An average of 18,084 Negro pupils were absent each day.

Absenteeism among city school children, as stated, was not as great as among those from county units. Percentage of absences ranged among the 72 units from 3.7 in Burlington to 9.4 in Murphy in the case of white children. Average in these units for white children was 5.6 per cent, or an average of 9,658 daily.

Absenteeism for Negro children attending school in city units ranged from 1.7 per cent in Thomasville to 18.5 per cent in Laurinburg. And the average for all 71 units in which there are Negro schools was 6.2 per cent, an average of 4,916 absences per day. Twenty-eight county and 34 city

units had the services of attendance workers during the year for which this discussion is concerned. The attainment of regular school attendance is one of the duties of such workers.

In the 62 units having attendance workers the per cent of absences was 6.2; in the 110 units not having attendance workers the per cent of absences was 7.7. Thus there were 1.5 per cent fewer absences in units employing attendance workers than in those not employing such workers. In terms of totals this means that there would have been 7,227 fewer daily absences, yearly total of 1,200,860, if units not having attendance workers had the same percentage of absences as those units which employed attendance workers. Among the units the percentages were as follows:
28 county units employing attendance workers 6.6%
72 county units not employing attendance workers 8.1%
34 city units employing attendance workers 5.7%
38 city units not employing attendance workers 6.0%

CATHOLIC SERVICES

Every Sunday (except first Sunday of every month, when first Mass is in Palace Theatre, Windsor, at 8 A. M.), the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is celebrated at 8 and 11 A. M., each including sermon, Holy Communion, followed by Rosary in honor of Mary, Help of Christians, and for the Conversion of all non-Catholics, Sunday School, with Confessions for half hour before Services in St. Ann's Catholic Church, Edenton, stated Father Francis J. McCourt, pastor, who invites everybody to all services and to the Information Forum held in the rectory library every Wednesday 7:30 P. M., to 8:30, followed by choir practice to 9:15 in church. Week-days including every first Friday and first Saturday of the month at 7 A. M., Mass, Communion, Rosary.

STORY OF THE MAN WHO SAW LINCOLN SHOT

Only one person is alive who saw Abraham Lincoln struck down by an assassin's bullet. He gives an eye-witness account of the fateful drama in an exclusive interview in the February 7th issue of

THE AMERICAN WEEKLY

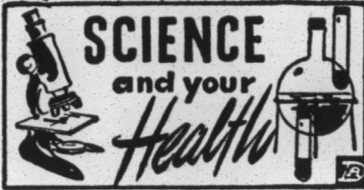
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COLD MYSTERY by Science Features

The common cold may be a simple illness to many people, but it is a complex problem for medical research. Scientists have made tremendous progress in developing drugs that cure and prevent serious maladies, but they are still trying to solve the mystery of the common cold.

The cold, as well as other respiratory diseases such as influenza, "strep throat" and pneumonia, is caused by some of the countless viruses that float in the air. The smallest living creatures known, they are drawn into the nose, throat and lungs by the air we breathe, and multiply in the cell linings.

Many of the viruses have been isolated and classified in the laboratories, but the common cold germ, thought to be the smallest of all, cannot be kept alive for study.

Statistics show that the average person has two colds a year that cause half of the absences from work, and are responsible for a 120 million dollar annual loss in wages.

It is paradoxical that there is no cure for this time-wasting annoying illness while serious respiratory diseases like pneumonia can be arrested with such new drugs as terramycin.

It's reassuring to know, however, that extensive research continues—by the National Institute of Health, universities and pharmaceutical laboratories—so soon the common cold may go the way of other conquered diseases.



GARDEN TIME ROBERT SCHMIDT N.C. STATE COLLEGE

It is now time to begin thinking about our garden plant supply for next season. It usually takes from five to ten weeks to grow plants from seed ready to set out in the garden, depending on the kind of seed and on the temperatures obtainable in hotbeds or coldframes.

Hotbeds and coldframes are structures used to grow early plants from seeds for transplanting in the garden after danger of frost is over, or in some cases, to give sufficient protection to certain kinds of plants to allow them to mature during the late fall or winter seasons. A coldframe is built like a hotbed but has no source of heat except the heat from the sun's rays. T hotbed is supplied with some artificial source of heat, such as electricity, steam, hot water, hot air or manure. The frames may be covered with glass sash, cellophane, glass cloth, plastic materials or heavy muslin cloth. Glass sash are the most efficient covers, but they are rather expensive. However, if given good care they will last for many years whereas the other materials will have to be replaced every two or three years.

The kind of heat to be used will depend on what is most easily available. On farms very often manure is easily obtainable. Fresh horse manure is the only kind that will give satisfactory results. Where electricity is available, that is the most efficient and dependable source of heat because it can be controlled by means of a thermostat so that the heat control problem will not be as great as in other types of beds. An electric hotbed six by six feet in size will require 60 feet of lead cable as a heating unit and two standard glass sash

for cover. A hotbed of this size should grow sufficient warm season plants of all kinds for the average home garden.

A coldframe without heat but with glass or other type of cover will take care of the production of most cool season crop plants such as cabbage, lettuce, broccoli and cauliflower.

Control temperature, watering and ventilation are the important operations in the care of hotbeds and coldframes. Temperatures should not be allowed to go too high, and watering should not be excessive if you wish good plants. Both of these operations are controlled by ventilation as well as by thermostats. Have a good soil thermometer—don't guess at the temperatures.

Bulletins on construction and management of hotbeds and coldframes may be obtained free by writing Department of Agriculture Information, N. C. State College, Raleigh.

A holy act strengthens the inward holiness. It is a seed of life growing into more life.

—Frederick W. Robertson.

Bertie Fifth Sunday Sing January 31st

At the Ross Baptist Church in Bertie County the 22nd anniversary of the Bertie County Fifth Sunday Sing will be celebrated Sunday afternoon, January 31, starting at 2:30 o'clock.

The Fifth Sunday Sing was held the first time in the Ross Baptist Church in January, 1932, by the Rev. George Bunch, pastor of the church, whose purpose was to improve singing in the churches of his charge. However, interest increased in the idea so that the sings have been continued ever since and attract not only many from Bertie County but from Chowan County as well.

Grace is more beautiful than beauty. —R. W. Emerson.

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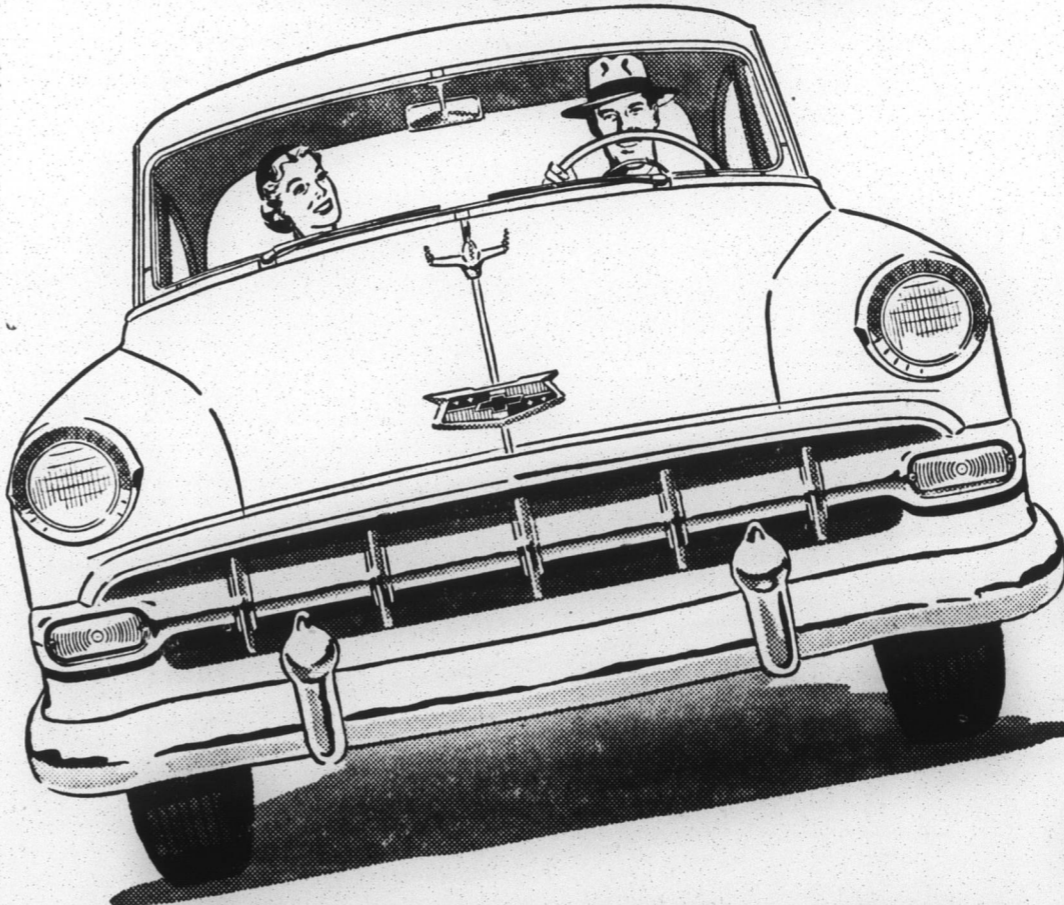
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