

# VITAL STATISTICS INCLUDE SOME SAD, SOME INTERESTING, SOME AMUSING INFORMATION

by Jack Rider

The North Carolina Department of Health compiles mountains of figures each year, and these include some sad, some interesting and some amusing information.

Last year there were 92,600 new Tar Heels born, and 42,261 left this veil of tears for a net natural increase in the state population of 50,339.

As in most years boy arrivals outnumbered girl arrivals, with 47,541 boy births compared to 45,059 girl births, but against last year as every year since the record books began the girls

proved they were tougher than the boys by outlasting them.

In the exit department male deaths totalled 24,519 while only 17,742 of the supposedly weaker sex were crossing the great divide, leaving a net increase in the female population at the end of the year of 4285.

This was the lowest birth-rate since records have been kept. The Pill has practically made it possible for obstetricians to work banking hours after many long years of sweating over a hot delivery table about 20 hours a day, seven days to the week.

The state's birthrate last year fell to 18.8 births per thousand. In the previous year the rate was 19.1 and in 1947 the rate soared to 30.4 when all the boys got back with all the girls after the end of World War Two. However, 1921 still remains the peak production year for North Carolina when the birthrate hit 33.4 per thousand.

The white birthrate was even lower than the average, falling last year to 17.3, compared to the 1947 rate of 29.9.

Last year the colored birth-rate for the state was 23.4, compared to the colored peak rate

of 34.4 in 1954.

## Puzzling Picture

Glancing at the county breakdown of these figures one runs into some puzzling facts. The highest birthrate for white people — 25.6 — in the state is in Cumberland County and the lowest — 6.7 — is in Gates County, both of which might be explained with the young military population around Fort Bragg, and the aging farm oriented population of Gates County; but explain why the highest and the lowest colored birthrates are high in the mountainous west.

Alleghany County has the highest colored birthrate with a soaring 44.1 per thousand as its 209 colored population had a total of nine babies during last year.

But in neighboring Avery County the colored birthrate was only 8.5, as its 118 colored citizens were only able to produce one baby during the past year.

## Unhappy Reflections

On the sad side of the ledger: Last year 11,162 of the 92,600 children born in the state were born out of wedlock, which figures to be just a tiny fraction more than 12 per cent of the total.

White babies born out of wedlock amounted to 2371 out of 64,177, for 3.0 per cent, but 30.9 per cent of colored babies born last year were born out of wed-

lock: 8791 out of 28,423. Edgecombe County had the worst recorded births being out of wedlock, or 41.5 per cent.

Births last year included 10 sets of live born triplets and 837 sets of live born twins.

Sadly there were 5787 infant deaths, including 1633 fetal deaths, 1685 deaths under 28 days of age and 2469 more who died before their first birthday anniversary.

The 10 leading causes of death in the state last year were diseases of the heart 14,989, all forms of cancer 5,474, strokes of all kinds 5,260, motor vehicle accidents 1,630, influenza and pneumonia 1,555, accidents other than motor vehicle 1,505, diabetes 678, arteriosclerosis 676, congenital malformation 518 and homicide 487.

Parents might keep in mind that the leading cause of death in children from one to four years old is accidents not involving motor vehicles, and the leading cause of deaths in children from five through 14 years is auto accidents, followed closely by other kinds of accidents and the leading cause of death in the age group from 15 through 24 is also auto accident, followed not so closely by other kinds of accidents, which sadly enough is followed by homicide.

Incidentally, suicide is the 11th largest cause of death with 482 in that category last year.

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## Cancer of Respiratory System Claims Two Per Cent of North Carolinians in '67 but Got 98 Per Cent of Publicity

A morbid subject, perhaps best left to statisticians and public health officials is the death rate, but in view of the constant warped publicity that is aimed against the tobacco industry there may be some small virtue in taking a look at even these morbid figures.

Last year 42,261 North Carolinians died. Of that total 5,933 died from all forms of cancer, but lung cancer got the morbid share of the publicity despite the fact that all types of respiratory cancer were credited with only 1,038 of the total cancer toll, or just slightly more than two per cent of the total death toll for last year.

Cancer of the larynx was blamed for 37 deaths, cancer of the trachea, bronchus and lung classed as primary, or originating in those areas, claimed the lives of 269. Cancer of the lung and bronchus not specified as primary or secondary claimed 760 lives last year.

What does that mean? It means that at the time of death there was cancer present in the lung or bronchus but there was no specific information available as to whether the cancer had originated in those organs or had actually started in another organ and had moved, or as the doctors say "metastasized" from some other organ.

Since all blood flows through the lungs regularly it is natural that infection of all kinds is likely to wind up in that area. The kidney is also prone to this same problem, since the kidneys filter all the blood just as regularly as the lungs.

What about the other kinds of cancer? How many lives did they claim in North Carolina last year?

Of the mouth 129, the esophagus 115, the stomach 281, the intestines 438, the rectum 156, the liver 79, the pancreas 340, the peritoneum 21, the breast 513, the cervix uteri 212, the uterus 113, the ovaries and fallopian tubes 168, other unspecified female genital organs 17, the prostate 390, the testis and other unspecified male genital organs 23, the kidney 104, the bladder and urinary organs 140, the outer skin 122, the eye 2, the brain 149, the thyroid gland 15, the bone 45, connective tissue 22, leukemia 279, the lymphatic glands 317.

This, admittedly, is a grue-

some list, and it is not intended to shock the reader, but only to impress upon the reader that everyone is not dying of cancer, and that a small per cent of those dying from cancer are victims of lung cancer as a primary cause of death.

Among those unfortunate 269 whose death was judged to be primarily from cancer of the trachea, bronchus or lung there was one between the age of one and four years, one between the age of 25 and 29, one between the ages of 30 and 34, three between the ages of 35 and 39, seven between the ages of 40 and 44, 29 between the ages of 45 and 49, 35 between the ages of 50 and 54, 38 between the ages of 55 and 59, 47 between the ages of 60 and 64, 47 between the ages of 65 and 69, 37 between the ages of 70 and 74, 12 between the ages of 75 and 79, nine between the ages of 80 and 84 and two over the age of 85.

Which breakdown by ages supports the ancient axiom once attributed to golfers, that if they don't die of anything else all golfers will die from syphilis.

In less roguish jargon of the modern medical statistician; All of us will die of cancer if we don't die from something else, because even the most optimistic men of medicine are not promising eternal life on this side of the grave, Dr. Christian Barnhard to the contrary notwithstanding.

## Jones Central Honors List Released For Second Six-Week Grading Period

Jones Central High School Principal Bill Bowen released last week the following principal's list and honor roll for his school during the second six-week grading period.

**Principal's List**  
Tenth grade: Larry McCall Thompson.

Eleventh Grade: Marlene Jones.

Twelfth grade: Jay Bender, and Janice Jones.

**Honor Roll**  
Ninth grade: Wesley Basden, Ellene Jones, Stanley Jones and Donna Potter.

Tenth grade: Bonnie Banks, Kenny Collins, Lydia Creagh, Teresa Cumbo, Barbara Henderson, Betty Jones, Janie Meadows,

## J. E. Morris PTA Meets on 10th

The J. E. Morris School P.T.A. held its third meeting of the season Monday night December 10, 1968, at 7:30 p.m.

President Jessie Moore presided. After Christmas songs, Mrs. M. W. Matlocks of the 5th grade gave a brief reading on the meaning of Christmas and the carol 'Silent Night.'

J. E. Wynn, principal of the school, introduced the guest speaker, J. Rooks, superintendent of public schools for Jones County. He discussed the present situation of the school system and expressed his hope for continued unity.

After the meeting, refreshments were served. There were 35 members present. Room count was won by Mrs. A. B. Ward's 6th grade.

## Suicide in Jail

Sunday afternoon Garland O. Turner of 418 Caswell Street committed suicide in the Kinston City jail. He was arrested at 2:25 p.m. on a warrant signed by his wife, charging him with assault on a female. When officers went at about 6 p.m. to put another prisoner in the same cell block they found Turner hanging by his belt which had been tied to a bar in the cell. Coroner Raymond Jarman ruled the death to be suicide. Turner was alone in the cell at the time he killed himself.

## The Christmas Story

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.

And all went to be taxed, everyone to his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; because he was of the house and lineage of David.

To be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

