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A Science Service Feature

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? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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HOT RAILROAD TRAINS

Especially in warm weather the railroad train is likely to lose passengers to the more popular and cooler automobile. In the first place, the train is quite likely to follow the hottest route, low, flat, unshaded areas being frequently chosen for the track. The automobile has more hope of selecting a shady highway. The railroad car is frequently well designed for heating purposes - a dark colored box, inadequately ventilated. Often the passengers think heat preferable to the rain of cinders entering an open window. Ventilation at stations when the doors are opened is less effective than in winter because there is less wind in summer and because there is less temperature contrast between inside and outside to furnish a strong indraft of cool air. When trains are over crowded, the body heat and moisture of the persons themselves tend to still further raise the temperature and humidity.

In extremely hot, dry regions of the southwest, refrigerated cars are sometimes employed for conveying passengers as well as provisions. A certain Florida express was painted white, in tropical fashion, to reflect the sun's heat, and became known as the "Ghost Train".

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(Tomorrow: Average September Weather)

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