

\$15,000 Salem Estimated Cost To Start Water Fluoridation; Issue Dormant in City Council

(Editor's note: This is the final installment of a four-part article on present trends in fluoridation of public water supplies.

By JAMES B. MILLER
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Consideration of adding fluoride to Salem's water supply was aired as early as March, 1951, by the Salem City Council and the matter was tabled for further consideration. So far the subject has not been revived.

At that time question arose as to how much such a service would cost a city the size of Salem. Cost of the equipment necessary for fluoridation was estimated in the Journal of the American Dental Association, March, 1952, to "range from several hundred dollars for a small town to about \$15,000 for a city of 2,500,000."

The cost of the equipment necessary for fluoridation in Salem was computed in 1951 at \$7,500. Operating expense was estimated at \$2,500 for the first year and the chemical itself was estimated to cost \$5,226.

Estimated annual cost of fluoridation after the first year is \$8,470.

It was estimated that installation and upkeep of this fluoridation would be under the super-

at Oregon State College, to be "about 20 cents per person per year."

Proponents of a need for fluoride in the public diet have even strived to find some other means adequate, and still as cheap, for realizing this need. Personal fluoride treatments by a dentist may be had at a very steep expense. Some proponents have suggested that fluoride could be provided in pill form. "But," they caution, "ease with which the average person forgets application timeliness might easily thwart attempts toward a constant, balanced amount of fluoride in the diet."

Others have proposed that salts containing fluoride might be provided, but this same laxity of human beings for timed application could be found in this method. "As well," researchers state, "we might remember that such personal application would not be under the careful supervision of trained technicians to always maintain the correct amounts. No other method of application is so simple, economical, unavoidable and universally applicable as water."

Dentists speak of being able to look into the future and see an entire populace with straight white teeth and with decay cut to a minimum. With this hope they suggest that consideration of such an investment now should certainly seem worth while.

vision of the Oregon State Board of Health, which would enforce daily checks of the water supply to determine scientifically and accurately the content of fluoride in the water. A technician would be required daily to determine this amount.

"A decision in favor of fluoridation must stem from the populace," Salem City Manager J. L. Franzen stated in a recent interview.

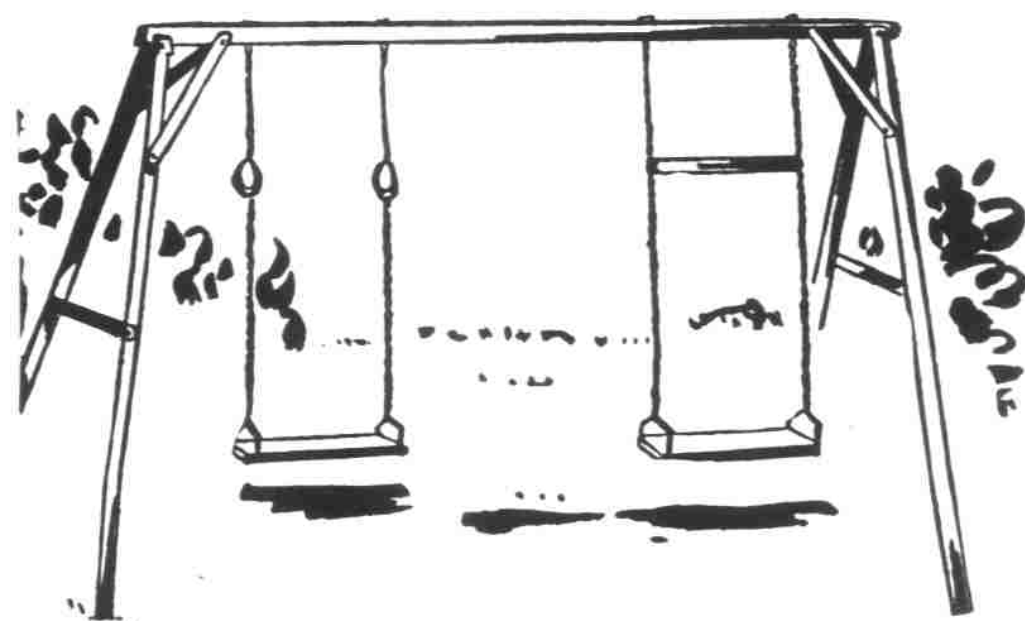
Based on the initial cost of equipment and estimated upkeep, cost per person was said by Dr. Demetrios M. Hadjimarkos, associate professor of dental research

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yd. **50c**

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The Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Wednesday, July 18, 1952—9

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NOTIONS—MEZZANINE

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