

# Capital Journal

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## THE STORY OF FLUORINE

"At a few rare moments in the history of a scientific problem, understanding takes a long leap forward and so it is at this moment in that most basic of all sciences, the evolution of man."

These are the opening words of a recently published book entitled "Man, Time and Fossils, The Story of Evolution," profusely illustrated, published by Knopf, New York.

The author is Ruth Moore, a well-known newspaper writer of science features stories which have brought her in close touch with scientists in many fields. The book traces the theory of evolution from its beginning down to date and the development of a working hypothesis and the age of the human race. She is a brilliant writer and has produced a readable nontechnical story of the lives and discoveries they brought.

It is a book worth reading and invaluable to those interested in the subjects it covers. The author has a chapter on fluorine as a bone and teeth preservative that should interest a community debating its use in city water. The following is gleaned from statements in this book:

"An Italian chemist named Morichini detected fluorine in the tooth of a fossil elephant found near Rome, and deemed it a clue to a possible change in the bone. Other scientists held that the 'fluoric acid' had probably been absorbed by the animal during its life time. Tests with new ivory and tooth enamel showed there was no fluorine in them 'which indicated that the fluorine acid exists in the earth and that during the long continuance of those ivories in the earth, they combine with fluorine acid.'"

Later tests showed that fluorine is absorbed by teeth during life, but that bone buried in earth is likely to absorb still more fluorine if exposed to fluorine bearing water. An English chemist, James Middleton, in 1844 found that fossil bones contain fluorine content in proportion to their antiquity.

Half a century later A. Carnot, French mineralogist, analyzed a number of fossil bones. Other scientists held that the 'fluoric acid' had probably been absorbed by the animal during its life time. Tests with new ivory and tooth enamel showed there was no fluorine in them 'which indicated that the fluorine acid exists in the earth and that during the long continuance of those ivories in the earth, they combine with fluorine acid.'"

Carnot himself understood this and used fluorine dating to establish the relative, not the absolute age of human bones.

This was overlooked until during World War II. Britain's geological survey made a survey of the phosphorous resources of the country and also a study of the effect of fluoridated water in reducing tooth decay in children.

Dr. Kenneth Page Oakley, a young geologist and anthropologist, was assigned to the survey from the British museum and first used it for sorting bones of different ages that might have been mixed together in the same deposit.

If the bones showed the same fluorine content, it might be assumed that they had been in the ground for approximately the same time, or if their fluorine content differed, they had not come there simultaneously, and he thus arrived at new and more definite age estimates for the human remains.

Thus it was possible to determine the relative age of human skull fragments and teeth, of fluorine tested with animal bone and teeth from the same site, providing natural conditions did not produce extremely rapid and variable mineralization.

Fluorine tests were used to prove that the famous Galley Hill skeleton skull was comparatively recent in comparison with the bones of the prehistoric animals in the same deposit. Galley Hill man bones contained an average of 0.4 percent, while the bones of animals from the Middle Pleistocene period averaged from 1.7 to 2.8 percent of fluorine. Upper Pleistocene fossils ranged from 0.9 to 1.4 percent and those of Holocene (recent) from 0.1 to 0.3 percent.

So the fluorine test has given science a long sought measure as a time tool for at least partially dating the past. The use of fluorides to determine the relative time and age of bony remains has a solid base in chemistry, has settled many archaeological questions and man is now pictured not as an ancient of a million years ago but a late comer of the last 50,000 years.

Commenting upon the preservative effect of fluorine the author says:

"Fluorine in the form of fluorides occurs in most ground waters that pass through sedimentary formations. When the fluorine ions come in contact with the crystalline mineral matter in teeth or bones, they are locked in. One by one, the microscopic units of hydroxyapatite that make up the teeth are converted into fluorapatite, a relatively stable mineral, much less soluble and more resistant to weathering than the original material of teeth and bones. It probably is for the same reason that it is effective in protecting living teeth against decay."—G. P.

## EISENHOWER AND McCARTHY

President Eisenhower said what needed to be said on the McCarthy-Peress-Zwickler-Stevens affair Wednesday. He said it with his usual restraint but forcefully enough to satisfy all but those who demanded a quart of blood with their morning coffee.

The president admitted that the Army was at fault in its handling of the case of the New York dentist who was called into active service despite his refusal to answer the question about Communist membership and was then given an honorable discharge. No question of national security was involved in the immediate case, but official carelessness was revealed.

McCarthy was guilty of gross impropriety in calling an officer who had been decorated for gallantry in action unfit to wear his uniform because he refused to draw conclusions about his superiors when questioned by McCarthy. Further, it was typical of the way McCarthy handles witnesses. Eisenhower's remark about "disregard for fair play" hit the nail right on the head.

The president stated that administrative matters are not within the province of a senator, even a McCarthy, and that these will continue to be handled by the proper officials who are and will remain responsible to the president, not to members of congress. He further expressed the wish that congressional committees, all under Republican chairmen and with Republican majorities, will treat all witnesses with fairness in the future. This they have not done in the past under either party's control.

British papers howl that Eisenhower's statement was "weak." They act as if they think he should have armed himself with a six shooter and gone after the senator in the western movie thriller manner, which is probably a good many Englishmen's concept of life in America. But this is not Eisenhower's way and we do not think he suffers in the public eye here by reason of his moderation.

McCarthy retorted in his usual manner. He is by no means cowed, will resume his attacks at the first opportunity. He remains a major G.O.P. headache and will probably turn out to be a first rate vote maker for the Democrats next November, for more people are becoming fed up with his tactics all the time.



### THE WORLD TODAY

## Joe's Confidence Increases Again

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP)—Like Antaeus, the mythological giant who renewed his strength every time he touched the earth, Sen. McCarthy seems to gain added confidence after each encounter with the Eisenhower administration.

So far, the comparison ends there. For, while Hercules at last held Antaeus in the air and crushed him, President Eisenhower has shown no eagerness to rush into a decisive, party-splitting struggle with the Wisconsin Republican.

Even his statement yesterday on the way he wants McCarthy to treat generals—billed in advance by his aides as something to watch for—was far milder than McCarthy's fast reply on what he'd do with generals when he sees fit.

Ash Wednesday may be remembered as the day when Eisenhower and McCarthy issued a kind of manifesto to each other. But it was merely a day of talk. What they do in the future remains to be seen.

If McCarthy follows his usual pattern, he will do nothing for a while which might prod Eisenhower into a full-scale attack. Then, after an interview, he'll run head-on into the administration again down some new avenue.

He has had a number of such collisions in the past year. Each was followed by a brief period of comparative quiet. Then, and always from a fresh direction, McCarthy crashed against the administration again, but harder.

It's difficult to believe this can continue indefinitely without (1) an explosion or (2) a crushing humiliation for Eisenhower or the senator. It's possible that in a contest with Eisenhower McCarthy may overreach himself.

He's a hard-fighter but, nevertheless, yesterday he showed he can be pushed into going further than he seemed to intend, that he can be pushed off balance. This was a side of him not seen quite this way before. It could happen again.

Within one hour after the President had issued an 800-word statement aimed right at McCarthy, the senator issued a statement of his own, containing this sentence: "Apparently the President and I now agree on the necessity of getting rid of Communists."

Since McCarthy had made a career of Communist hunting, this could only mean McCarthy thought Eisenhower wasn't against Communists before and only now was reaching that position.

McCarthy apparently realized that with such an implication he had gone too far. He sent word later that kind of interpretation was being put on his language and he wanted to delete the word "now."

He had never been under quite the same kind of high-pressure before because Eisenhower's statement, the result of a series of events set in motion by McCarthy himself, was being awaited on two continents.

The events started with McCarthy's questioning of Brig. Gen. Ralph Zwicker about an honorable discharge given Maj. Irving Peress a dentist, McCarthy called Peress a "Fifth Amendment Communist," a charge Peress termed "sheer nonsense."

Secretary of the Army Robert T. Stevens accused McCarthy of abusing Zwicker. McCarthy disputed that. Their disagreement attracted wide attention. There was editorial demand for Eisenhower to take a stand.

Eisenhower, who hadn't intervened when McCarthy quizzed other employees of the government, decided to say something. Although his long statement clearly was pointed at McCarthy, he never mentioned his name. He

### WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

## Italian Visitor Tells What Politics Can Do to an Army

By DREW PEARSON

WASHINGTON—A former officer of the Italian army was sitting with a group of senators when the question of Secretary Stevens' capitulation to Senator McCarthy came up. McCarthy had been quoted as saying: "If you want a commission in the army I can fix it up for you."

"I doubt if you Americans realize what politics can do to an army," the Italian said. "I was a young captain in the Italian army when the Fascists took it over, and I know what politics did."

"It creeps in very subtly before anyone realizes it. An inferior officer who's a lieutenant is promoted to be a captain, simply because he's a friend of the Fascist regime. Or again, I remember I once ordered a lieutenant to take over a work detail and he refused. He said he was busy making out reports on the army for the Fascist party."

"Some people have criticized the Italian army for caving in during the war," continued the former officer. "Politics was the reason. An army doesn't fight when it's run on political lines."

Senator Fulbright of Arkansas who was listening, remarked: "I just received a telegram from a friend calling attention to the fact that the Egyptian army had kicked out its president, the Syrian army had kicked out its president, and McCarthy had driven a political wedge in the American Army all in the same day."

"It may seem farfetched to you," concluded the Italian ex-captain, "but once a political leader begins to dominate an army the line between free government and a totalitarian government becomes very thin indeed."

### ARMY POLITICS

Judging from current resentment against McCarthy in the army there should be no early danger of his taking over. However, officers recalled last week how Maj. Gen. Cornelius Ryan, commander of the 19th infantry at Fort Dix had phoned Secretary of the Army Stevens to complain that McCarthy's office had been bombarding him to get special privileges for McCarthy's aide, Gerald David Schine.

"General," replied Secretary Stevens, "this is one you've got to handle yourself."

Officers also recalled last week that when Col. Frances Kreidel, commander of the provost marshal school at Camp Gordon, Ga., had protested against Schine's transfer to his school without sufficient qualifications, Kreidel was suddenly transferred to Tokyo.

### Under army regulations 615-

talked about fair play, said he didn't want government employees mistreated by congressional committees. He never said precisely what he'd do if they were.

Nevertheless, this was the closest he had come in an open challenge to McCarthy. McCarthy's quick reply was much less reticent about whom he was talking to and about. He mentioned the President. Eisenhower praised Gen. Zwicker. But McCarthy showed what he thought of this, leaving it up to the President to like it or lamp it, with the toughest reply he's ever given Eisenhower.

"If a stupid, arrogant or witless man in a position of power appears before our committee and is found aiding the Communist party, he will be exposed. The fact that he might be a general places him in no special class as far as I am concerned."

Next move? It's up to McCarthy.

215-1, no one is admitted to the provost marshal school without two years' service, without attaining the rank of corporal or higher, and without being in a class 1 or class 2 physical condition. Schine is in class 3, has been in the army only four months, and is a private.

Despite this, Senator McCarthy arranged for his ex-staff member to ride roughshod over army regulations and transfer from Fort Dix basic training to the provost marshal's school. Regular army channels objected. But the transfer was ordered by Secretary of the Army Stevens himself.

And when the commander of the provost marshal school objected, he was transferred. No wonder McCarthy boasted to friends: "If you want a commission in the army I can fix it up for you."

Remarkable Senator Carl Hayden of Arizona apropos of the way the four Republican senators got Secretary Stevens to surrender: "They've been watching these communists so closely that they have learned how to brain-wash."

Col. Robert R. McCormick of the Chicago Tribune amazed Washington by publishing a front-page editorial at the height of the Stevens-McCarthy controversy telling McCarthy to lay off the army. McCormick and McCarthy are old friends and the Chicago Tribune is one of Joe's staunchest backers, but first and last "the colonel" is an army man. . . . It was because Senator Langer voted with the Democrats to adjourn the senate rather than hold a night session that Majority Leader Knowland proposed that the committee chairman no longer be picked by seniority. He was aiming of course at Langer. . . . Knowland seemed to resent Langer's vote against a night session more than Langer's investigation of Chief Justice Earl Warren. . . . His colleagues say that Senator Dicken of Illinois who did the chief job of sweet-talking Secretary Stevens into surrender, is such a good salesman he could talk a hornet's nest out of a tree.

Senator Lyndon Johnson of Texas has developed one of the smoothest machines in recent Democratic history. Colleagues agree that while it isn't always right it certainly is smooth.

It was this machine that brought defeat to the Republicans when Democrats overrode Senator Knowland's plan to hold night sessions on the Bricker amendment. Every Democrat was in his seat at the right moment and voting, except for two—Symington of Missouri, who was in Europe, and McCarran of Nevada, who was sick.

Johnson had gone around to almost all Democrats and said: "I don't think it's fair to hold night sessions so early in the session. We've cooperated on everything else, but the older senators can't be here at night. Senator George can't get here, and I think we'll just have to ask the Republicans to get their work done in the daytime."

Johnson held no caucus, though a caucus is customary. He hasn't held a single caucus this year, partly because he's afraid some of his Democratic opponents, of which he has plenty, will take him over the hurdles. Instead of caucusing, he goes around to see each senator personally. It's more work, but you can't get around the fact that the gentleman from Texas is efficient.

### POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

## Unknown Woman 1st Woolworth Customer

BY ED CREEGH

For HAL BOYLE

WASHINGTON (AP)—"Dusk was gathering after a gray and chilly afternoon on Feb. 22, 1879. On a side street in Utica, N. Y., a freshly painted sign over a small

shop front proclaimed it to be the 'Great 5c Store.' Behind the store's paper-covered windows, F. W. Woolworth, proprietor, busied himself with last-minute preparations before opening for business.

"A knock came at the door. Woolworth answered it. A lady, now unfortunately unidentified, held a copy of an advertising circular which the merchant had distributed that morning.

"She pointed to the item 'fire shovels' at 5c each. Woolworth invited her in and wrapped up him 5c in the fractional paper currency of the day, and he promptly put it into the till."

As it turned out, Frank Winfield Woolworth, a raggs-to-riches self-made man if ever there was one, put quite a few pieces of folding money into the till before he was through.

And the F. W. Woolworth Co. is cheerily relating the story in an official history of itself and its founder to mark the 75th anniversary of the five-and-dime institution.

One thing bothers Woolworth's: Who was that first customer? Why did she point to the item she wanted instead of asking for it? You have the feeling Woolworth's would like to do something for the old girl—maybe give her a scoop of coal for her "fire shovel," or something even handsomer—if she were around today.

Chances are, though, she passed away without knowing she had touched off a business venture which was destined to turn American buying and selling upside down and to produce, among countless other things, the Woolworth building and Woolworth heiress Barbara Hutton.

Old F. W. himself had his doubts at times that he'd amount to much. The Utica store failed. Poor location. So he borrowed more money, transferred operations to Lancaster, Pa., and on the whole did pretty well for himself in years to come.

Today there are 1,800 Woolworth stores in this country alone, 170 more in Canada, 800—some in the British Isles, 8 in Cuba and—bet you didn't know this—50 in Western Germany. Net sales of bonbons, bobbinets, baby pants and the like: Upward of 700 million dollars a year.

Woolworth did wonders for the store business. He introduced the fixed price system—no bargaining with the man behind the counter. He put goods where you could see and handle them. He outlasted buying on credit, though that ban has since been relaxed. Today a French-Canadian customer can buy a doll on the "p.an budgetaire," or lay-away system.

Some minor accomplishments of the Woolworth empire hold their own fascination. It was this outfit which popularized ice cream in Cuba, to say nothing of hot dogs and turkey dinners.

All told, the Woolworth's of today is a pretty impressive monument to a Watertown, N. Y., lad who started his business career at nothing a week. He hired out as a stockroom boy on a trial basis. The first three months were on the cuff—his cuff. When he proved himself the boss put him on the payroll at \$3.50 a week. This wasn't much, but then it was only an 84-hour work week.

ACORNS FROM THE Oak Room WITH DEL MILNE

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Phil, our chief cook down in the Oak Room, that is.

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If you want to go in and watch him work you're more than welcome.

As part of our progressive policy we've hired a couple of additional helpers for Phil so we're sure he won't ever have to leave your meat.

Found out the helpers speeded up service, too. Oak Room trade was getting too big for the crew we had.

Guess that's what perfectionism does, Phil - so keep up the good work!

Remember - in Salem - it's the

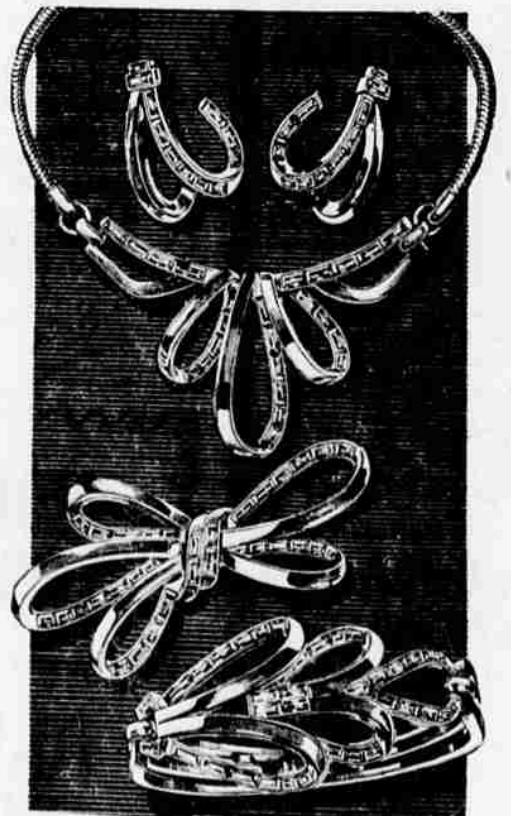
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