

# Safeness of Fluoride In Water Discussed

Editor's Note: This is the second in a series of articles on fluoridation being published in cooperation with the American Dental Association and the Jackson County Dental Association. Residents of Medford will vote next Tuesday on fluoridation of city water.)

How safe is fluoridated water? Doctors, dentists and other health authorities agree that when fluorine is added to water

in the recommended amounts, it is harmless.

Is fluorine a poison? Fluorides in high concentration are toxic. The natural trace of iodine in drinking water or diet that keeps one from developing a goiter is also toxic. So is the "artificial" chlorine in the water supply that protects against typhoid fever and so is vitamin D, and the salt used every day—if too much is taken.

One would have to drink over 300 gallons of water containing one part per million fluorine (and drink it at one sitting) to receive a poisonous dose.

**Studies Required**  
In spite of the fact that it makes the enamel of the teeth resistant to decay, fluorine is eliminated practically 100 per cent by the kidneys when it is added to the water at one part per million.

Years of study and research are required before a health measure, such as fluoridation, can be recommended with safe-

ty. The dental benefits of fluoridation have been thoroughly explored. In addition, studies have been conducted among people who have lived continuously in areas where the drinking water naturally contains high concentrations of fluorides. The research work has been painstaking. Yet no scientist has been able to find any harmful effects from fluorides in the amount recommended for protection against tooth decay.

### Comparisons Made

The town of Bartlett, Tex., was selected as a study area because the town's water supply naturally contained eight parts per million of fluoride, eight times the amount recommended for Medford. The U.S. Public Health Service conducted a well controlled 10-year study there, Tex., where the water supply contains only 0.4 parts per million fluorine. No significant difference between the medical history findings of the two towns were observed.

A well-known study is going on in Grand Rapids, Mich., which has been fluoridating its water since January, 1945. Their public health department has kept records of the infant death rate and the death rates due to heart disease, nephritis, brain tumors, and strokes. The public health director, Dr. W. B. Prothro, had this to say: "We have not observed any significant change in the vital statistics in Grand Rapids since the inception of our fluoridation program."

### Deaths Compared

Deaths from cancer in Portland, where water is not fluoridated, were compared with Grand Rapids by the Oregon state board of health from 1944-1949 and no apparent difference as found.

The American Dental Association has found, after intensive

study, that there is no evidence that fluoridation has any effect on internal organs, kidneys, arteries, bones, thyroid, hearing or acne.

No harmful effects of any kind have been reported in Astoria, since fluorine was added to that city's water at the rate of one part per million in January, 1953.

## \$11,250 Suit Filed In Circuit Court

Ralph Furrer, Portland, has filed a \$11,250 suit in circuit court against Mr. and Mrs. M. V. Younger, Medford, according to records in the county clerk's office.

Furrer charges that the Youngers failed to pay principal on a \$10,000 promissory note issued on July 12, 1955. The note, he claims, was due on July 12, 1956. He also charges the defendants have paid 6 per cent per annum interest only from the date of issuance to July 12, 1956. The plaintiff seeks \$10,000 principal, 6 per cent per annum interest from July 12, 1956 to the present time and \$1,250 attorney's fees. Representing Furrer is King, Miller, Anderson, Nash and Yerke, Portland law firm.

**Dr. Vorheis Enrolled In Postgraduate Course**  
Dr. M. L. Vorheis, 906 East Main st., Medford, is among several northwest physicians registered at a postgraduate course in arthritis, rheumatism and related diseases at the University of Oregon medical school from Oct. 29-31.

The session is sponsored jointly by the Oregon medical school and the Oregon chapter, arthritis and rheumatism foundation.



**GETS PROMOTION**—Herbert G. Wing, who recently was appointed second lieutenant in the Army reserve, takes his oath of office from Lt. Col. Jack M. Hartley, commanding officer of the 382nd quartermaster battalion. Lt. Wing, a graduate of Medford high school and Southern Oregon college, is a classroom teacher and coach at Lincoln Elementary school.

### ESTES HAS TROUBLES

Decatur, Ill.—(U.P.)—Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. Estes Kefauver thought he had enough trouble Tuesday when he mispronounced names in a speech. But when he joined a motorcade he found stickers on the car spelled his running mate's name "Adali."

when you drive the '57 PLYMOUTH suddenly it's 1960

### 15 Cases of Diseases Reported Last Week

Fifteen cases of communicable diseases were reported to the Jackson county department of health for the week ending Oct. 26, according to Dr. A. Erin Merkel, public health physician.

### FAMILY FARES MAKE TRAVEL A FAMILY AFFAIR...

And the bigger the family the more you save! On a round trip, husband enjoys regular round trip savings; wife and children 12 to 22 each go for just 1-way fare; from 5 to 12 one half the 1-way fare and those under 5 ride free! Leave Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday—return any day.

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### Poll Pouches Being Filled by Clerks

Election department officials are in the process of filling poll pouches for each precinct in preparation for the general election next Tuesday.

The pouches contain official ballots, sample ballots, precinct maps, election laws, sealed absentee ballots which have been voted, poll books and other miscellaneous items to be used in connection with the election. Equipment for counting boards, including tally sheets and instructions, are also included in the poll pouches.

Polling places will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the county's 94 precincts.

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