

Sacramento Report



By CHARLES CHAPEL

Assemblyman, 46th District
California Legislature

Arson Investigation
From Monday morning, June 21, to Friday afternoon, June 25, I shall be attending a seminar on arson investigation at the University of California at Berkeley. On Thursday, June 24, from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., I shall lecture there on "The Identification of Criminals." This seminar is sponsored by several groups. One is the California State Department of Education, another is the University of California, and still another is the National Board of Fire Underwriters, but these are only a few of the many State and Federal departments and organizations which are working together to prevent fires in the first place, and still another is to identify and convict those who deliberately set fires.

At this seminar, I am not appearing as a Member of the Assembly, California State Legislature, but in my private capacity. Thereby hangs a tale which may enable you to know why I think as I do.

Justice Triumphant
Many, many years ago, way back in 1929 and 1930, I was a Lieutenant of the United States Marine Corps, commanding the port and starboard broadside batteries on the USS California. One of my marines was locked up in the brig on the charge of stealing shoes! I investigated and found that the shoes were bluejackets' shoes, that is, the shoes of the sailors which those days were high, black and with bulging "bulldog toes." A marine would not be caught dead wearing such shoes, hence I smelled a mouse.

I asked the Captain of the ship to give orders that the next time a theft of shoes was reported, he was to have me notified, regardless of the time of day or night. That same night I was called down to a locker which had been broken open by someone who stole shoes out of it. I had the locker picked up by about four men and carried to

a storeroom where we locked the door to keep people from tampering with it.

The next day, I persuaded my friends of the Los Angeles Police Department who were fingerprint experts to come aboard the USS California, which was then riding at anchor in Los Angeles Harbor, and examine the locker. They sprinkled powder all over it, flashed lights on it, took photographs, and came back the next day with photographs of fingerprints. We took these to the medical officers of the ship, compared the fingerprints from the locker with those in the health records of the entire crew. About a week later, we caught our man. He was not a marine, but a poor, unfortunate sailor whose mind was unhinged on the subject of shoes. My marine was turned loose, the sailor went to the sick bay and justice triumphed.

Why I Wrote the Fingerprint Book
Months followed. I finished my cruise at sea and became the Provost Marshal, East Coast Expeditionary Force, under the very famous Major General Smedley D. Butler, U.S. Marine Corps, at Quantico, Virginia. There I lectured to my military police battalion on police science and among other things taught them the few things I had learned about fingerprint identification. Two Staff Sergeants of the Fourth and Fifth Regiments made notes on my lectures, typed them, and then we reviewed the lecture notes. Out of that came my book titled: FINGERPRINTING, A MANUAL OF IDENTIFICATION.

Firearm Identification
Meanwhile, a Sergeant of the Marine Corps was charged with murdering another Sergeant in San Diego. I went to the morgue, got the bullet dug out by the autopsy surgeon, and compared it under microscopes with a bullet fired in the Sergeant's own semi-automatic pistol. It was apparent that the bullet in the dead man was not fired from that pistol. At the court martial which followed, this evidence saved the sergeant and switched the blame to the gully man.

This was the beginning of my book on FORENSIC BALLISTICS—A Manual of Firearm Identification, now out of print.

We Cannot Escape Our Past
Engrossed in the fascinating but entirely unremunerative job of representing the people of the 46th Assembly District in the California State Legislature in Sacramento, I have neglected my livelihood lately but recently received a contract from an outstanding publisher to write a book on ARSON INVESTIGATION. Quite by coincidence, but just as welcome was the invitation to attend the course at the

Official Speaks On Fluoridation

By ROY O. GILBERT, M.D., L. A. County Health Officer

In the nation-wide campaign against tooth decay during the last few years, fluoridation of community water supplies has come in for a lot of publicity—most of it good, some of it bad. According to officials who support the measure, opposition to it is not based on the results of existing scientific investigation.

The chief argument against the use of fluorine in drinking water is the claim that it is injurious to health and may even, in the course of time, be the cause of certain chronic diseases including cancer. As a matter of fact, assertions have been made that fluoridation has harmful effects on the kidneys, the arteries and all internal organs; makes bones brittle; aggravates acne; and causes a variety of bodily disorders. The old patent medicine remedy in reverse as it were.

Charges Refuted
Each one of these possibilities has been carefully investigated by competent scientists and each charge refuted. Indeed, the American Cancer Society made the statement that fluoridation of drinking water for the purpose of preventing tooth decay is absolutely without danger so far as cancer causation is concerned.

The fact that fluorine is already present in the water of hundreds of areas in the United States and has been ingested for a great many years without causing any ill effects whatsoever, does not still the criticism. It is argued that when present in the water in its natural state fluorine is harmless but when added to it by artificial means the chemical has a

University of California at Berkeley and to lecture on the Identification of Criminals. Thus we see that what I did in my young manhood has come back when I am 50 years old, bald and fast becoming white-headed where I have any hair at all.

Keep On Writing
During the campaign recently concluded, I fell behind on answering letters but am catching up now. During the week at Berkeley, I shall not be able to handle mail, but if you are very very patient, I shall carry out my promise if you will keep writing to me at Post Office Box 777, Inglewood 1, California.

deleterious effect on the human body. Yet the fluorine ion is exactly the same in both instances.

Is Dissolved
Fluorine is not "naturally" in the water in any event, it is dissolved in the water as it makes its way through the earth as are other minerals such as magnesium, iron, lead, copper and other substances that are found in the earth or on the surface of the ground. Recommended standards set up by the United States Public Health Service state that drinking water may not contain more than certain amounts of these chemicals. And this is also true in the case of fluorine.

Recommended Ratio
Any one of these chemicals, when present in larger amounts than trace quantities, may produce undesirable physiological effects, particularly when taken over an extended period of time. That is why it is recommended that the fluoride content of domestic water should not exceed more than 1.5 p.p.m. (parts per million). If the fluorine content of water is considerably higher, for example 8 p.p.m., mottling of the teeth may occur or excess fluorine may be deposited in the skeletal structure causing a bone density that, although harmless, is undesirable.

The Commission on Chronic Illness recently reported the findings of a survey done in Bartlett, Texas where the water contained fluorine in the amount of 8 p.p.m. Thorough medical examination of the inhabitants revealed no indication that they were less healthy than the residents of nearby Cameron where the water contained only 0.3 p.p.m. And, in accord with findings elsewhere, there was no increase in the number of individuals suffering from chronic diseases.

Endorsed by AMA
Fluoridation has been endorsed by the American Medical Association, the American Dental Association, the United States Public Health Service, the American Public Health Association, the American Water Works Association and numerous other public and private organizations—an endorsement that is based on the results of scientific research covering several decades.

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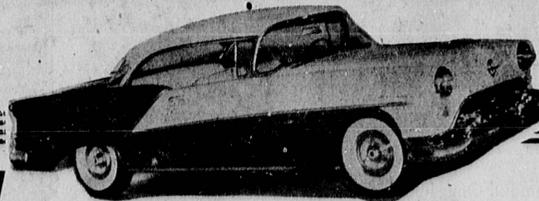
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