

Survey Indicates Toothbrushing Habits of Americans Rarely Good

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

In 1958, a survey was made by the Du Pont Corp. in cooperation with the American Dental Assn. to determine the toothbrushing habits of the American people. In all, some 1000 families were asked to mail in toothbrushes being used, while new brushes were substituted for the old. The response was excellent, and it was discovered that chances were two to one that the average person's toothbrush was

both insanitary (generally caked with dentifrice) and next to useless as a cleaning device.

The largest group of unusable brushes was found in the age group between 45 and 50; the next group that did not pass inspection was the one parents allotted to children between the ages of 1 and 5.

According to the report, the highest score for usable brushes was made by youngsters of 10 to 15, followed by persons between 25 and 30.

But, even here, half the brushes landed in the "unfit for use" class. In fact, usable brushes donated in every five-year age group except the 10 to 15 year period when, it was stated, 63 per cent were usable.

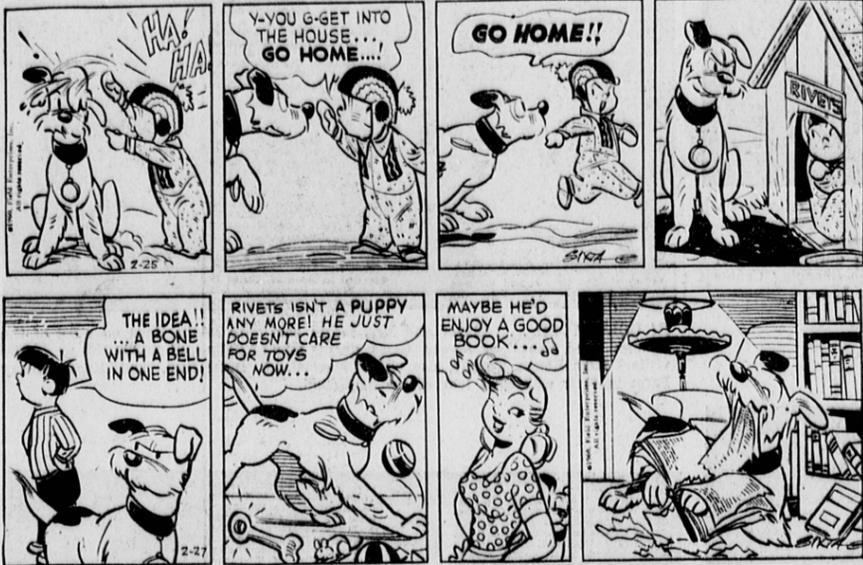
Surprisingly enough — perhaps the owner had made little use of it — one competent brush was five years in service, and another was three years old, while 89 per cent of all the brushes judged passable had been used for a year or less. Still, nearly 80 per cent

of the unusable brushes were not over a year old either, and dental officials concluded that the method and frequency of brushing are important in determining the effective life of a toothbrush.

THE AVERAGE life of a toothbrush was slightly over eight months, and unusable ones averaged a year. One person used the same toothbrush for thirteen years. Regrettably, the report did not comment on the state of the owner's teeth.

By George Sixta

RIVETS



RED RYDER

By Fred Harman



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By Lew Kleis



SUPERMAN

