

# FLUORIDATION--SAFE, SOUND, INEXPENSIVE

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Fluoridation, which is the adding of controlled amounts of sodium fluoride to communal water supplies for the specific purpose of preventing tooth decay in children, has aroused a great deal of public interest and considerable controversy.

In many areas throughout the country, nature herself adds fluorine to the water, and it is well known that residents of such areas have remarkably little tooth decay even in adulthood.

However, in many localities the water is deficient in this important chemical element and, as one distinguished health official said, it may then be added by mechanical means and the water brought up to nature's own standard.

**Decay Affects 98% of Children**  
Tooth decay will affect 98

per cent of the school children in any community where the water does not contain fluorine, according to the published results of many surveys.

By the time these children have nearly all of their permanent teeth, which is around 14 years of age, 40 per cent will have had at least one extraction, while at the age of 16 the average boy or girl will have 7 teeth

either missing, decayed, or filled.

Preventive measures hitherto emphasized, including dietary control, oral hygiene, and treatment have had very limited success in reducing tooth decay any appreciable amount.

Although it is true that a diet from which most refined sugars and starches are eliminated will minimize decay, and that brushing will also help retard its development, human nature pretty much precludes the likelihood that such preventive measures could ever be of widespread value.

This is especially true of brushing, which must be done promptly after any intake of food if it is to be effective. For most people this is an impossibility when away from home, and many individuals would consider it an impossible nuisance whether at home or away from it.

**Fluoridation Inexpensive**  
Treatment and inspection of the teeth are tremendously important but are also expensive, and not all parents can afford the cost. Fluoridated water, which can be provided at an annual cost of about 5 to 15 cents per person, gives dental protection to children at all economic levels.

There is irrefutable proof that fluoridation reduces tooth decay in children from 35 to 65 per cent or more. The younger the child when it is started, the greater are the benefits received. The reduction of tooth decay in one of the first test cities ranged from 76 per cent in 6-year-olds to 29 per cent in the 16-year old group.

In the United States at present, nearly 1200 communities are fluoridating their water supplies, serving a total of between 25 and 30 million people. Several of these communities have been fluoridating their water supplies since 1945 and no ill effects have been observed.

As a matter of fact, individuals who have drunk water high in fluorides all their life just as long as do individuals who reside in areas where the fluoride content of the water is low or nil.

Neither are there any significant differences in the kinds of diseases, except dental decay, that afflict them.

**Opponents Oppose Everything**  
The active opponents of this health measure come from many walks of life, but essentially they are made up of the same type of people that have opposed every other worthwhile health measure in the past including pasteurization of milk, chlorination of water, diphtheria toxoid, and smallpox vaccine.

And chances are that, for one reason or another, they will continue to oppose it no matter what scientific evidence is presented in its favor. Although a minority, the misinformation disseminated by this group is

far-reaching and contributes to the hesitancy of many communities in permitting fluoridation of local water supplies.

The adding of fluorine to the water supply is a strictly preventive measure. It does not treat or cure dental disease, but helps nature build stronger teeth which results in less tooth decay throughout the entire life of the individual.

The process can perhaps be compared to that of adding iodine to salt to prevent goiter, or chlorine to water in order to prevent water-borne diseases, such as typhoid fever or dysentery.

**Endorsements**  
Fluoridation is endorsed by every great medical and dental society in North America. In addition, Departments of Preventive Medicine in 75 universities in the United States and Canada have favored the measure. They all recognize dental disease as a major public health problem and fluoridation as the first realistic approach to its prevention.

Nearly half a century has passed since the great physician, Sir William Osler said, "There is not one single thing in preventive medicine that equals in importance mouth hygiene and the preservation of the teeth."

Doctors and dentist know that

## READERS ANSWER TRAFFIC QUESTIONS

A few weeks ago the Torrance Press published a traffic questionnaire containing 18 questions submitted by one of our readers, Adolph De Ha.

Here is how readers who answered the questions felt regarding the proposals:

1. Installation of governors on cars driven by individuals convicted of a crime, felony, reckless or drunken driving—no.
  2. Governors on all cars—no.
  3. Automatic directional signals, right and left, about 12 inches long, instead of using arm signals—yes.
  4. Lighted speed indicators on top of all cars—no.
  5. Equipping police cars with cameras and flash bulbs—split evenly.
  6. Stiffer penalties for drunk and reckless driving—yes.
  7. Higher age limit for issuing new drivers licenses—split evenly.
  8. Certain restrictions for smokers—no.
  9. Instead of hidden stop signs blinking overhead stop signs—yes.
  10. Uniform street markings, state or country-wide—yes.
  11. Stricter enforcement about stepping out of cars on the curb side instead of the traffic side—yes.
  12. Placing steering wheel on curb side—no.
  13. Having passengers riding in front sitting in the opposite corner—no.
  14. Penalizing drivers leaving keys in car when parked—yes.
  15. Require a physical check-up every two years—no.
  16. Compulsory yearly inspection of all cars—yes.
  17. Police-regulated governors on cars of certain age groups—no.
- Serving on traffic committee—various answers about evenly divided.

## MVD SENDS TRUCK FEE STATEMENTS

The Department of Motor Vehicles has mailed over 1,100,000 commercial truck and trailer fee statements alerting owners to renew their registrations between now and midnight of February 4, 1957.

Reminder notices to private passenger car and motorcycle owners will not be mailed until December 26, Motor Vehicles Director Paul Mason, reported. General renewal dates for these vehicles extend from January 2 through February 4, 1957.

Commercial vehicles will retain their 1956 plates. Renewal will be indicated by a reflectorized red sticker to be attached to the rear plate only.

## PEDESTRIAN KILLED HERE

Joe A. Cassidy, 76, of 1304 Portola avenue, was killed Saturday evening, December 8, after being struck by a pickup truck while crossing the street at Torrance boulevard and Portola avenue.

Cassidy was taken to Harbor General hospital and was pronounced dead on arrival after being dragged 59 feet from the point of impact and suffering compound fracture of a leg and arm and internal injuries.

Driver of the pickup truck is listed as Clovis R. Justice, 30, 1504 Fern avenue. He was not held.

### DO YOU NEED DRAPERIES?

If so, then you can't afford to miss

BAER'S ad on page 32

**Cherie's KNIT STUDIO** FR. 5-0910  
4152 Pacific Cot. Hwy., Waltham (at Smith Bros. Fish Shanty)  
A Speed-O-Knit Automatic knitter makes a wonderful CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR MOTHER to knit your socks, sweaters and her dresses, blouses, etc.  
**FREE \$20** Complete Instruction Course **\$10** Yarn of your Choice

# A PERFECT GIFT!

2 for 1 Sale! the Newest Thing in Dolls!

**BIG AS LIFE!**  
**28" TALL!**  
**2 MOTHER and DAUGHTER DOLLS** with ROOTED SARAN HAIR



Rubber Body  
Unbreakable  
Vinyl Head!

**BOTH MOTHER AND DAUGHTER**  
**995**  
COMPLETE WITH 2 PURSES

50¢ DOWN 50¢ WEEK

LOOK ALIKE! DRESS ALIKE! SOUND ALIKE!

Not just one but TWO beautiful dolls at ONE LOW price. Mother is BIG as LIFE. Both have ROOTED SARAN HAIR, ALL-RUBBER BODIES and UNBREAKABLE VINYL HEADS! They're both smartly dressed. An unbelievable price for this PAIR of DOLLS!

**FREE 2 PURSES**

Attractive matching purses, one for mother, one for daughter give a real live look FREE with dolls.

BOTH DOLLS SMARTLY OUTFITTED IN MATCHING CLOTHES!

USE YOUR CREDIT TO SAVE NOW!

**McMahan's FURNITURE STORE**

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Corner of Sartori and EL PRADO Downtown Torrance FA. 8-1252

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**4%** current rate  
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ALL ACCOUNTS INSURED TO \$10,000

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Other offices in Whittier, East Whittier—Friendly Hills, Temple City, La Puente, Montrose

MEMBER FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANK

**New Issue \$2,750,000 Torrance Unified School District**  
Los Angeles County, California

**4% Bonds, Election 1955, Series B**

Dated Jan. 1, 1957 Due Jan. 1, 1958-1977, Incl.

Amount	Due	Price to Yield
\$140,000	1958	2.70%
140,000	1959	2.85
140,000	1960	3.00
140,000	1961	3.15
140,000	1962	3.30
140,000	1963	3.40
140,000	1964	3.50
140,000	1965	3.60
140,000	1966	3.65
140,000	1967	3.70
135,000	1968	3.75
135,000	1969	3.78
135,000	1970	3.80
135,000	1971	3.80
135,000	1972	3.85
135,000	1973	3.85
135,000	1974	3.90
135,000	1975	3.90
135,000	1976	3.95
135,000	1977	3.95

The above bonds are offered when, and if issued and received by us and subject to approval of legality by Messrs. O'Melveny and Myers, Attorneys, Los Angeles, California.

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December 8, 1956