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## ADA News Letter - 05/15/1962

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# NEWS letter



## H. T. Dean, Fluoride Pioneer, Dies

Dr. H. Trendley Dean, often called the "father of fluoridation" died May 13 at the age of 68. Dr. Dean retired as secretary of the ADA Council on Dental Research in 1959. Prior to joining the Association he served more than 30 years in the Public Health Service. A military funeral and burial was scheduled for May 16 in St. Louis.

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## ADA HEALTH COUNCIL URGES DENTISTS TO STEP-UP FLUORIDATION EFFORTS

The ADA Council on Dental Health has called on individual dentists and dental societies to combat the "small, strangely motivated groups" which have blocked acceptance of fluoridation of community water supplies. In a strongly worded statement the Council said "these groups employ every device of propaganda, including distortion, untruth and personal attack, to weaken the confidence of the public in this health-giving measure."

Fluoridation is a safe, economical and effective measure to prevent dental caries. However, 18,000 communities have yet to institute the procedure and 40 million children are being denied its benefits. The statement continues as follows: "Traditionally, the individual dentist and the dental society have made their scientific knowledge and resources available to the community. They have sought the acceptance of fluoridation by providing leadership in keeping with their professional competence. The tactics of those who oppose fluoridation, however, are of such nature as to warrant, and command, professional leadership beyond the usual point. The anti-social program of the anti-fluoridationists must be countered, and the individual dentist and the dental society must exercise aggressive leadership in all phases of activity which lead to the acceptance of fluoridation. The individual dentist and the dental society now have not only the obligation to support but also to initiate, when necessary, programs for the acceptance of the fluoridation of the community water supply. This leadership should be amplified whenever possible by the enlistment of aid from other professions and individuals and agencies interested in the public health."

## Science Fair Winners Honored

Four teenagers were honored by the ADA for outstanding scientific projects at the National Science Fair held early this month in Seattle. The certificates of Superior Achievement were presented to James Lee Ash, Jr., 17, Dallas, Texas, for "The Effects of X-Rays on Living Cells," and to Stephen George Waxman, 16, West Orange, N. J., for "Skin Homografts in Rats." Both winners will be guests of the Association at its annual session in Miami Beach, Fla., Oct. 29-Nov. 1, where they will exhibit their projects.

Certificates of meritorious achievement and \$50 for scientific equipment was awarded to James E. Makins, Jr., 16, Lubbock, Texas, for "The Artificial Production of Calculus on Teeth," and to John H. Thornton, 18, Huntsville, Ala., for "Experimenting with Penicillin."

## Magazine to Carry Tooth Decay Article

An excellent article entitled "Tooth Decay" will be carried in the June issue of Consumers Reports. The magazine, published by Consumers Union, will be on news stands in late May.



Dr. Arthur Flemming, left, former HEW Secretary and now president of the University of Oregon, being interviewed by Ulmer Turner, of Chicago Television Station WBKB at the 13th National Dental Health Conference held April 30-May 2 in the Ambassador West Hotel. Dr. Flemming delivered the keynote address at the conference which was attended by more than 200 persons from all parts of the nation.

### ADA Films Receive Awards

"What Do We Know About Teeth" and "Project Teeth," two sound color films produced by the ADA, won awards at the American Film Festival in New York City. A third award went to the vocational guidance film "Challenge of Dentistry," a joint project of the American Association of Dental Schools and the ADA. Daryl Miller, director of the ADA Bureau of Audio-visual Services, accepted the awards at the festival, which was sponsored by Educational Film Library Association.

### Dr. Leussing Joins ADA Staff

Dr. Daniel Leussing, Jr., has joined the ADA Staff as a research associate at the National Bureau of Standards. Dr. Leussing, a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, holds B.A., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemistry. Formerly he served as assistant professor in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin and as chemistry instructor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

### State Secretaries Will Meet June 4

The State Secretaries' Management Conference will be held June 4-6 at the ADA Central Office. Panel discussions on fluoridation and The Manual for Component Dental Societies will highlight the meetings. Members of the panel discussing the Manual will be John G. Carr, secretary of the New Jersey State Dental Society; H. Leon Snow, executive secretary of the Michigan State Dental Association; Max Kohn, executive secretary of the Philadelphia County Dental Society; Joseph P. Thiriot, executive secretary of the Louisiana Dental Association, and James J. Vaughn, Jr., secretary of the Tennessee State Dental Association.

In addition to members of the ADA staff, the fluoridation panel participants will be Drs. Norman F. Gerrie and S. Stephen Kegeles of the U.S. Public Health Service, and Sidney L. Miller, regional dental officer for the Georgia Department of Public Health.

Other speakers to be heard during the conference include James Robinson, executive secretary of the Southern California State Dental Association; Mrs. Nola B. Christopher, executive secretary of the Tennessee State Dental Association; William D. McGrath, chairman of the marketing committee of the American Dental Trade Association, and Dr. John J. Frankel of the USPHS.

### St. Louis Reveals Fluoridation Results

A 50 per cent reduction in tooth decay was found in school children aged 6 and 7 who had lived in St. Louis since fluoridation began more than six years ago. The decay reduction for children 6 through 12 was 30 per cent, according to Dr. Ozias Paquin, Jr., chief of the dental hygiene section of the Health Division.

### Fluoridation Ordered in Venezuela

Officials of the Venezuelan state of Julia have ordered fluoridation of the Maracaibo water supply and eventually all state aqueducts.

## **DR. TIMMONS TO RECEIVE HEALTH-U.S.A. AWARD JUNE 5**

Dr. Gerald D. Timmons, ADA president-elect, will receive a "Health-U.S.A. Award" at a special testimonial luncheon in Washington, D. C., June 5. Dr. Timmons, who is dean of Temple University School of Dentistry, will be honored along with Peter D. Comanduras, M.D., co-founder of MEDICO, and Howard A. Rusk, M.D., director of the Institute of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at New York University. The award has been given annually for the past four years by the Medical Society of the District of Columbia and the Metropolitan Washington Board of Trade. Dr. Timmons is the first dentist ever to be so honored.

## **Salute to Fluoridation May 23**

The 15th anniversary of fluoridation in Evanston, Ill., will be observed with a special program May 23. Major purpose of the event --in addition to honoring the pioneering fluoridation program-- will be to establish Evanston as a national symbol and to encourage other communities to adopt this public health measure.

National, state and local civic leaders and public health officials will participate. Principal speaker will be Fredrick J. Stare, M.D., Ph.D., internationally known nutritionist and outspoken supporter of fluoridation. Dr. J. R. Blayney, Evanston, has been director of the study since its start in 1947. The first city to start fluoridating was Grand Rapids, Mich. Other pioneers were Newburgh, N.Y., and Brantford, Ontario. The total number of communities fluoridating their water supplies at the end of 1961 was 2,181 with a population of 41,701,000, according to the Public Health Service.

## **Blue Cross Plan for Aged**

The nation's 78 Blue Cross Plans are aiming at July 1 as a target date for making available to persons 65 and over a national program offering uniform benefits at uniform rates. A Blue Cross spokesman said indications are that 70 days of hospital care, plus nursing home care and ancillary services would cost an individual subscriber slightly more than \$11 a month. The program must now be approved by the boards of directors of Blue Cross, the American Hospital Association and the individual state plans.

## **Royal Lee Gets Suspended Sentence**

Royal Lee, president of Vitamin Products Co., Milwaukee, has been sentenced to a one-year suspended prison term with three years probation by Federal Judge Robert Tehan. The Food and Drug Administration said he was found guilty of distributing over 115 special dietary products advanced by false claims for treating more than 500 different diseases and conditions. Lee also has attacked such well-recognized public health measures as water fluoridation, milk pasteurization and vaccinations through his Foundation for Nutritional Research.

## **Fluoridation Progress in Tennessee**

Two more communities in Tennessee have passed ordinances calling for the fluoridation of water supplies. With the addition of Jackson and Franklin, the number of towns which have adopted fluoridation is now 60. After the two towns install the equipment, the total number of Tennessee residents drinking fluoridated water will be more than 1,125,000, according to Dr. A. H. Trithart, director of the Division of Dental Health, Tennessee Department of Public Health.

## **AMA, Ribicoff Clash Over Booklet**

The AMA has charged that a booklet published with government funds, lobbies for the Kennedy Administration medical care program. It asked the Justice Department to investigate whether Secretary Abraham Ribicoff of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare had committed a "criminal act." Ribicoff claimed that he had the right to "recommend changes in the social security laws."

## FDA Seizes Vibra-Dent Toothbrushes

The Food and Drug Administration has seized 229 boxes of Vibra-Dent electric toothbrushes at a store in New Orleans. The FDA charged the product is misbranded because of its claim that it covers all tooth surfaces, that the motor unit is sealed and that it is "the best in complete home dental care." The FDA also charged the manufacturer, Chase Mfg. Co., New York, subsidiary of Ross Products, with failure to disclose potential shock danger from immersion in water. FDA action came after a report of the Consumers Union that in the process of testing electric toothbrushes it "has come across a new brand (Vibra-Dent) which presents a serious electrical shock hazard." An official of the testing organization emphasized the fact, however, that "the danger inherent in the Vibra-Dent should not be taken as evidence that such a hazard attends the use of other brands of electric toothbrushes.

## FTC Hits Vademecum Ads

A California toothpaste distributor has been ordered by the Federal Trade Commission to cease advertising that "Vademecum" toothpaste whitens teeth or removes stain or film from them, and contains no abrasive. An FTC examiner said that all human teeth are not white but vary in color from white to a shade of brown or yellow with each person. He added that neither Vademecum nor other toothpastes will remove stains or film from the teeth.

## Revised 'Comments' Available

Revised copies of "Comments on the Opponents of Fluoridation" are now available from the ADA Bureau of Public Information. Since quantity requests cannot be filled, reproduction in full or part of the "Comments" is permitted.

## GI Bill Trains 31,000 Dentists

More than 31,500 persons were trained in dentistry under the "GI Bills," according to a recent Veterans Administration report. Of this total, 23,600 were World War II veterans and 7,900 Korean veterans.

## U.S. Gives Dental Unit to Poland

U.S. Ambassador John Moors Cabot presented the Polish Government with a mobile dental unit provided by contributions of 2,700 Americans. This was the third such unit made available to Poland by CARE.

## 12% of Aging Grants Go to Dentistry

Five grants in the dental field were among 41 grants totalling \$755,875 awarded for research in aging from November, 1961 to March, 1962, according to Dr. Luther L. Terry, surgeon general of the U.S. Public Health Service. The dental awards are as follows: Emory University, Atlanta, Ga., John Haldi, Ph.D., \$9,972, chemical composition of teeth in relation to age; University of Illinois, Chicago, Harold R. Englander, DDS, \$27,073, periodontal survey of fluoride and non-fluoride areas; University of Michigan, School of Dentistry, Ann Arbor, Mich., James K. Avery, DDS, \$77,585, program project grant for electron microscope studies of the collagen in teeth; Seton Hall College of Medicine and Dentistry, Jersey City, N.J., Robin L. Curtis, Ph.D., \$15,000, electromyographic studies of pathological mouse muscle; and Seton Hall College of Medicine and Dentistry, Aaron Smith, Ph.D., \$4,025, psychological impairment in brain tumor patients.

## German Dentists Get New Contract

West German dentists and the "health insurance societies" (Ersatzkassen) have agreed on a new fee schedule for dental treatments. This ends the conflict between the dentists which started last fall when the old contract expired. The "Ersatzkassen" have nine million members in the Federal Republic.

## Oral Surgeons Plan Excursion Trip

A one-week excursion by jet is now available for members of the American Society of Oral Surgeons planning to attend the International Conference on Oral Surgery in London, July 1-4, 1962. The flights will leave New York on June 28 and the return trip is slated for July 6.