

10,000 BABY TEETH BEING SOUGHT IN 10-WEEK CAMPAIGN

A drive to collect 10,000 baby teeth in a 10-week "fall tooth roundup" was announced yesterday by the Baby Tooth Survey here. Teeth collected in the survey are examined for strontium 90 content.

Martin Schweig Jr., president of the Committee for Nuclear Information, which started the program eight years ago, said posters and tooth forms had been distributed to 600 elementary schools in Missouri and Illinois.

The recent \$187,870 Public Health Service grant to the Washington University School of Dentistry, which permits continuation of the baby tooth survey, has demonstrated the Government's confidence in the value of the study, Schweig said.



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Wed, Feb 16, 2022

6A Mon., Dec. 19, 1966 ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH



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9500 Baby Teeth Obtained For Radioactivity Survey

More than 9500 teeth have been collected this fall for the Baby Tooth Survey, a project to determine the amount of strontium 90 in teeth and bones. Strontium 90, a radioactive material resulting from nuclear fallout, collects in calcium formations in the human body.

The survey is a joint project of the Committee for Nuclear Information and the Washington University School of Dentistry.

Most of the teeth collected come from St. Louis, although some are from North Dakota, which contains relatively high levels of radioactivity in some areas. The teeth are analyzed at Washington University, with financial aid coming from the United States Public Health Service.

Information on the teeth of

children born in 1963 and 1964 will be available in 1970. The highest concentration of nuclear testing took place in those two years.

Children are urged to send their baby teeth to the survey. Forms for this purpose are available in schools, libraries and dentists' offices in the St. Louis area. Each child receives a button reading, "I gave my tooth to science."

NOT-SO-WARM GREETING

LONDON, Dec. 19 (UPI)—Advertisement in the personal column of today's Times: "Group Captain and Mrs. Whitworth cannot think of anything cheerful for their Christmas cards, but wish their friends well anyway."



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DRIVE IS BEGUN TO COLLECT 10,000 MORE BABY TEETH

The Baby Tooth Survey is looking to all St. Louis area children from kindergarten through the sixth grade, in public and parochial schools, in the city and county, for its goal of 10,000 baby teeth in the spring drive through June 11.

The tooth collection, begun in December 1958, will reach the quarter-million mark in the drive. It has provided a source of material for research on radioactive strontium 90 deposits in the teeth and bones of children.

"The Baby Tooth Survey is the only record anywhere of strontium 90 deposition in teeth which was immediately begun and continued without interruption in a scientific manner, and it is important that the collection be maintained," said Dr. Herman F. Blumenthal, chairman of the scientific advisory group for the survey.

Questionnaire forms can be obtained at all schools, libraries and many dentists' offices. It is necessary that parents complete the information on the form before mailing the teeth to Operation Tooth. Further information may be had by calling F.Orest 7-0500.



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Science Reaching the People

St. Louis Group Pioneers in Providing Information on Complex Public Affairs

Bryce Nelson in *Science*
(American Association for the
Advancement of Science)

ST. LOUIS
"By what means can scientists, who have no command over either the public news media or the machinery of government, overcome the governmental self-justification and journalistic inertia which so often impedes public knowledge about complex, confused public affairs?" Barry Commoner asks in his recent book "Science and Survival."

He told *Science* in an interview that he had long been interested "in the concept of the scientist exercising responsibility as a public informer."

For him, the St. Louis, Missouri, scientific information group, now called the Committee for Environmental Information (CEI), is "a test in life that this idea would work."

**The Mirror
of
Public Opinion**

For other scientists the fate of the St. Louis group is also a test of whether such an organization can continue to play a useful community role.

Founded in 1958 at a time of great concern over fallout from nuclear testing, the group (then called the Committee for Nuclear Information, CNI) has survived the decline in community interest which followed the 1963 test-ban treaty. Earlier this year, the group changed its name to the Committee for Environmental Information to reflect its broadened scientific interests.

The CEI has more than 500 members, 200 of whom are in St. Louis; about a third of its members are scientists. The group operates on an annual budget of about \$70,000, most of which comes from private gifts and foundation grants.

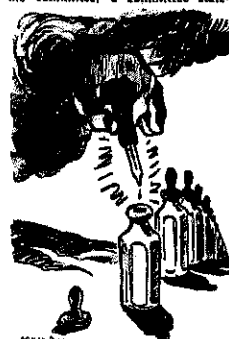
The main ornament and principal focus of CEI's activities is *Scientist and Citizen*, an attractive magazine which is published ten times a year. Most of its articles are written by CEI scientists; all are subjected to critical appraisal by the members of CEI's Scientific Advisory Board, most of whom are Washington University scientists. Board members serve on committees representing the major areas of CEI's interest: air pollution, water pollution, pesticides, nuclear war and civil defense, reactors, and fallout.

Although the material in the magazine is subject to rigorous scientific scrutiny, it is written for the intelligent nonscientist subscriber.

Beginning with the January issue, *Scientist and Citizen* became an official publication of the Scientists' Institute for Public Information (SIPI), a national group based in New York. This step by SIPI makes CEI a

central source for the scientific information movement in the country.

Why did the movement bloom so much more profusely in St. Louis than in most other cities? An early explanation can be found in the fact that, in the late 1950s, the strontium-90 levels in St. Louis milk led all other cities then being studied by the Public Health Service. Some estimates indicate that milk sales may have fallen by as much as 25 percent in that period. The St. Louis Dairy Council requested help from the committee; a committee state-



—Post-Dispatch, May 8, 1958

A Drop a Day

ment did much to relieve parental anxiety on the subject.

In the same period, the committee began its "Baby-Tooth Survey" in which thousands of children's teeth have been collected to ascertain strontium-90 accumulation. This survey, which is still in progress, has done much to increase the community's awareness of the committee and, as one St. Louis newspaper man commented, "served as a natural public relations device."

Some scientists at Washington University give partial credit for CEI's development to the atmosphere of intellectual freedom which exists at their university. "We don't have to take vows of political chastity here," one commented. Others say that St. Louis is basically such a conservative area that groups like CEI are especially attractive to the outnumbered liberals. According to committee members, CEI has received favorable coverage from the Post-Dispatch, St. Louis' liberal newspaper.

One apparent advantage which scientists feel that they gain from the collective CEI enterprise is an opportunity to deal more effectively with scientific questions of public policy than would be possible by their own individual effort.

The publication of *Scientist and Citizen* now assumes a more substantial

portion of the activity of CEI scientists than it did in the early days of the organization. The most widely noticed issue was published in 1959; it was entitled "Nuclear War in St. Louis" and was a fictional account, based on congressional hearings, about what would happen in the city after a nuclear attack. The committee received 45,000 orders for copies; the article was reprinted in the *Saturday Review* and in several major newspapers.

Other issues of *Scientist and Citizen* which CEI members think had special influence include the 11-issue series on nuclear war and civil defense, those citing the dangers of iodine-131 in fallout from nuclear testing, those describing contamination from nuclear reactors, the issue describing a power company's plan to put a nuclear reactor near an earthquake fault on Bodega Head in northern California, and an issue with an evaluation of the Atomic Energy Commission's "Project Chariot" which would have involved nuclear explosions in northern Alaska.

One Alaska scientist, William O. Pruitt Jr., said that he recalled "meeting an Eskimo driving a dog team on the trail one time, and, by golly, he had a copy of the CEI bulletin tucked inside his parka."

The principal message of the many issues of their magazine, as CEI itself once said, is that "extreme caution ought to be the rule in approving use of novel contaminants in the environment . . ."

To this day, the CEI continues to assert that it takes no position on the problems it discusses. One of the CEI directors pointed out that this policy of refraining from advocacy has at least two benefits: first, it helps insure that contributions to the organization will be tax-deductible; second, it secures wider press publicity for CEI statements. In the committee, there is a widespread feeling that CEI would be less noticed if it allowed itself to be viewed as yet another "pressure group."

Although CEI may try hard to remain cool and objective, it usually discusses issues about which scientists find it difficult to be dispassionate. As Walter Bauer said, "Every problem we take up is controversial. There is no need for information on a noncontroversial problem."

Commoner said that his group is not interested in influencing the legislative process but rather wishes to reach the public directly. "There is a big difference between us and the power-structure boys," Commoner said.

In his opinion, "the Boston crowd" tends to ignore the public but in St. Louis, "we get into the PTA's, the Negro slums, the high schools; we get a feeling of how you can reach people on what concerns them."



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od News Thurs., Oct. 12, 1967

Baby Tooth Survey Begins in Area

The Baby Tooth Survey opens its ten-week fall drive for 1000 teeth a week. In its nine-year study of Strontium-90 absorption in this area, the Survey has collected over a quarter of a million teeth from St. Louis city and county residents who have sent their children's teeth to "Operation Tooth" with forms obtained at the elementary schools. The semi-annual drive coincides with distribution of the forms to all public and parochial schools in the city and county.

According to Dr. Harold L. Rosenthal, project director of the study at the Washington University School of Dentistry, present needs can best be met by teeth from five, six, and seven-year-olds, which register Strontium-90 in 1960, 1961 and 1962, the years of their birth. Teeth from children born in 1964 will probably show the peak amount of atomic fallout. To get these teeth the study will continue through at least 1970.

The Baby Tooth Survey is sponsored by the Committee for Environmental Information under a grant to Washington University from the United States Public Health Service.



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BABY TEETH SOUGHT IN STUDY ON RADIATION

More baby teeth, especially incisors, are needed in the Baby Tooth Survey for studies of radiation effects.

Dr. Harold L. Rosenthal, project director, said that it was important to compare amounts of strontium-90 found in teeth of children born in peak fallout years, with amounts found in fetal bones for those years.

Maximum amounts were found in fetal bones in late 1963 and 1964. Studies recently published by the Washington University School of Dentistry show that the diet of pregnant mothers contains eight times more strontium-90 than is deposited in the bones and tooth buds of her fetus.

Parents are being urged to donate the teeth of their children for the studies. Forms that must accompany the teeth may be obtained at elementary schools and public libraries in the St. Louis area.



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FIRE DAMAGES OFFICE BUILDING ON DELMAR

Fire virtually destroyed a two-story office building at 5144 Delmar boulevard last night.

The fire started about 8:45 o'clock. Because a number of residential buildings were nearby, five alarms were sounded. Firemen were handicapped by the extreme low temperatures — about 2 degrees above zero. One hose burst and Delmar was coated with ice.

Cause of the blaze was not determined but the first fire-fighters on the scene reported it apparently began in the roof. The structure housed the Leagues of Women Voters of St. Louis and St. Louis county, the Committee for Nuclear Information, law offices, a real estate firm and the Baby Tooth Survey.



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Sun, Feb 13, 2022

choked Mississippi river headlin

100,000 Teeth Used in Study Lost in Fire

Drive to Begin for Restoration of Collection

More than 100,000 baby teeth used to study radiation deposited in the human body from nuclear explosions were lost Saturday in a fire that destroyed an office building at 3144 Delmar boulevard.

Dr. Harold L. Rosenthal, project director for the Baby Tooth Survey and a member of the Washington University dental school faculty, estimated the loss at about \$100,000 in terms of the cost of gathering the teeth.

"Without consideration of the scientific aspect, the cost would run about \$1 a tooth in terms of secretarial time and classification," Dr. Rosenthal told the Post-Dispatch today. The teeth themselves have no value.

Volunteers Seek Teeth

Several volunteers, including a string bass player with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and a Washington University scientist, sifted through the ice at the side of the building today in attempts to find some of the teeth.

Mrs. Yvonne Logan, executive director of the Baby Tooth Survey, said the teeth were in envelopes clipped to cards containing data. These envelopes were stored in cardboard boxes. Firemen trying to contain the blaze threw the boxes out the window. Water used to extinguish the flames froze around many of the containers like a glacier.

"These are true contemporary fossils—all frozen and intact," said Taghi Farvar, a biologist at Washington University. "We're here to save as many teeth as we can."

Mrs. Logan said that as long as the teeth were still in the envelopes they could be salvaged.

Russell Brodine, the string

TURN TO PAGE 2, COLUMN 2



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Teeth Lost in Delmar Fire

FROM PAGE ONE

bass player, was shivering under a fur hat and wearing a World War II vintage Army jacket.

His wife is editor of the Committee for Environmental Information's magazine, *Scientist and Citizen*.

Martin Schweig Jr., president of the Committee for Environmental Information, which collects the teeth for the survey, announced that an emergency two week \$25,000 fund drive would be launched today. Schweig said the money would be used to help restore the tooth collection, to resume office operations and to continue publishing *Scientist and Citizen*, the group's magazine.

Firemen fought the blaze in the building Saturday in sub-freezing temperatures. Delmar was covered with ice when one hose burst. Five alarms were sounded because of residential buildings in the vicinity of the fire.

The building also housed the Leagues of Women Voters of St. Louis and St. Louis County. Mrs. Max Deutch, president of the City League, said that temporary headquarters had been established at her home in Ladue at 29 Willow Hill road. The regular league telephone numbers, FO 7-7166 and FO 7-7168, are in operation and queries on political issues will continue to be answered by the league despite the fire.

Dr. Rosenthal said that about one-third of the teeth collected for the Baby Tooth Survey were at Washington University and were not affected by the fire.

"It (the fire) won't affect our research work," said Dr. Rosenthal. "We will continue. The incident interferes but it doesn't stop the work."

Mrs. Brodine told the Post-Dispatch that temporary headquarters for the Committee for

Environmental Information and the Baby Tooth Survey, had been set up in her home at 4383A Westminster place.

Persons who wish to get in touch with the committee or donate to the emergency fund drive may send mail to Post Office Box 222, Clayton, or call the regular telephone number, FO 7-0500.

The committee was formed to convey scientific information to the public on such things as air and water pollution and radioactive fallout or anything that might affect the environment.

"With good luck, we may be able to save half of the teeth," said Mrs. Logan.

Dr. Rosenthal said the majority of the teeth were from children born in 1955, 1956 and 1957. He said they were considered research reserves.

Three firemen were treated at Barnes Hospital for injuries suffered when fighting the fire. The cause was undetermined. An over-all damage estimate for the building, which also housed lawyers' offices, and a real estate firm was not made.

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Tooth Collection May Be Saved

Most of the baby tooth collection damaged in a Jan. 6 fire that destroyed the building housing the Committee for Environmental Information probably will be saved, an officer said today.

Mrs. Joseph P. Logan, executive director of the Survey, which is sponsored by the committee, said that no accurate count had been made but that most of the teeth used to study radiation absorbed in the bones of children would be salvaged. The teeth, stored in cardboard boxes, were thrown out of the committee's office by firemen. The fire was at 5166 Delmar boulevard.

Mrs. Logan said also that a drive to collect \$25,000 for restoration of the teeth and to continue publication of Scientist and Citizen, the committee's magazine, is progressing. Donations to the fund drive can be mailed to the Committee for Environmental Information, Box 222, Clayton, 63105.



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Wed, Feb 16, 2022

he exploded on the windswept northwest shore of Alaska near a point called Cape Thompson.

The men who named such things in 1961 called it Project Charnov. It was not to be an act of war but a peaceful experiment to determine the economic feasibility of using nuclear power to blow holes in the earth 1500 feet deep and 2000 feet wide. Cheap ways to build harbors and canals were being sought by the dreamers who did not dream nightmares of radioactive fallout.

Project Charnov later was abandoned by the Atomic Energy Commission. Perhaps a move toward that decision began when the Committee on Environmental Information (CEI) at St. Louis brought the situation to the public in its magazine.

The committee, then known as the Committee for Nuclear Information, devoted an issue of "Nuclear Information" to the Alaska project. The group of scientists and laymen did not take a stand. But the facts about radiation were published beside the statements on the positive uses of nuclear excavation.

An Alaskan traveler wrote CEI that he had seen at least one Eskimo walking across the tundra with a copy of the magazine in his parka.

The scope of the committee's work has expanded today to include air pollution, pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers and chemical and biological warfare.

Perhaps its most famous work has been the Baby Tooth Survey. Children contribute their baby teeth to Washington University researchers who study the amount of radioactive strontium 90 absorbed by the bones of the body.

"Sometimes I think we invented the term strontium 90," said Mrs. George Gellhorn, one of the laymen in the original group of scientists and citizens.

THE COMMITTEE is 10 years old this year. It held a birthday celebration last Friday.

Now the group is beginning to concern itself with rat control and lead poisoning of children who eat peeling, weathered paint in the slums of cities and farmlands.

But the Committee's credo remains the same — that the average citizen has the right and the responsibility to decide if scientific advances that may help civilization or hinder its existence should be implemented.

"Today we're living in an age when the expert is a tyrant," said Dr. Mahoning Peterson, chairman of CEI's scientific division and of the department of gastroenterology in the Washington University School of Medicine. "He drives a chariot to the man on the street by his expertness. The citizen should require that the expert make this choice."

"This is what we're in business for. We translate the expert's information into data that the citizen can understand so that he can demand the choice."

"What we're saying," said Dr. Robert

Data Group 10 Years Old

Karsh, a physician and a clinical instructor at Washington University," is here are the facts. And we're saying remember — not everything new is bad; much of it is old."

The Committee for Environmental Information was conceived when the United States dropped atomic bombs on Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

Scientists began examining what their ethical and social response to their creations should be. Barry Commoner, chairman of the botany department at Washington University and director of the Center of the Biology of Natural Systems, said the atom explosions shook scientists out of their ivory tower of objectivity and put them on the street with the average person.

Commoner was appointed to a committee of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the primary scientific body in the United States, to help define the new moral and ethical role of the scientist.

THERE WAS confusion about the role of scientists to society. Before they had said "Here is my creation. Use it as you will." But that could no longer be so because science had come of age and could kill or help depending on the use of its creations.

"His (the scientist's) responsibility is to get the facts before the public and the public must make the decision," Commoner said.

While Commoner and the other scientists were discussing their responsibility to the safety of future generations from radioactive dangers, the 1950 campaign for President began and Adlai Stevenson began talking about radioactive dangers, too.

Mrs. Gellhorn sat in her apartment while the typewriter of her secretary clattered in another room and remembered those days.

"Eighteen women working in Stevenson's campaign wrote a letter to the Agricultural Department asking them to test for strontium 90," she said in her cultured, crisp voice.

"I don't know what ever happened, if anything."

The generation was almost over. Birth of the Committee for Nuclear Information came two years later in 1958. At first some greeted the committee's efforts with hostility.

A group of scientists and laymen were meeting in Mrs. Gellhorn's apartment at 401 East 12th avenue discussing the dangers of strontium 90 — which had not been on the earth before the first nuclear explosions. A man from the East was there — a very successful man who he heard in experts making decisions.

"He was perfectly shocked that we would dare to question, to seek information," recalled Mrs. Gellhorn.



On April 21 that year, 1958, Mrs. Gellhorn, Commoner, the Rev. Ralph Abernethy, Dr. Walter Bauer and John Foster, two citizens and three scientists, created the committee.

"The decisions regarding the use of nuclear energy affect vitally the future of our country and of all mankind and . . . these decisions are not now based as they should be in a democracy on an informed public opinion," the founding charter read. In 1963, the same words were applied to all of the physical environment of man.

"It's your world, don't leave it to the experts" became the Committee's slogan. The Baby Tooth Survey began shortly after and similar tooth collections began later in Tokyo and Alaska.

The movement blossomed in controversy almost immediately.

There was a ready-made problem for the committee. Strontium 90 levels in milk in St. Louis were found by the U.S. Public Health Service in the late 1950s to be the highest of any city in the United States. Milk sales here dropped by about 20 per cent. The St. Louis Dairy Council appealed to the committee, whose scientists worked on the problem and then published their findings. That work quieted the fears and St. Louisans now more began to drink milk.

SIX MONTHS after the committee was formed a mimeographed edition of what is now a slick magazine, Scientist and Citizen, was released by the committee. This became the group's principal means of getting information to the public.

"We use other methods of course," said Mrs. Virginia Brodine, editor of Scientist and Citizen. "There are the news media and the Speakers Bureau."

CEI scientists testified before St. Louis aldermanic committees on the use of 2 per cent sulfur coal to reduce air pollution. An ordinance requiring the use of low sulfur coal was enacted.

The committee published an edition of Scientist and Citizen in 1967 that dealt with the problems of chemical and biological warfare. It was hard to find a positive side.

When 1500 sheep were reported dead at Skutumpah, Utah, last month, CEI called a scientist in Montana to make autopsy. Payson, Payson, Payson, the Atomic chemical and biological warfare testing center, was 30 miles from where the sheep were dying. Nerve gas was released the day before the deaths began in the snow drifts of western Utah.

The committee's purpose is based on its belief in an informed electorate. Com-



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moner said this idea of Jeffersonian democracy might be considered "corny" by some and conservative by the current definition of conservative.

"We might be credited with aiding the success of the 1963 air test ban treaty," said Commoner. "What we did was to educate people on what nuclear war is about. A housewife could write her congressman. She could spell strontium 90."

Peterson described the group, which has more than 500 members and many times that number subscribing to its magazine, as "a lobby for objective

facts." Mrs. Walter Baumgarten Jr., a citizen member who is on the CEI board, summed it up:

"You have to have confidence and trust an informed citizenry. They have to decide."

SCIENTISTS and citizens across the nation responded when a fire destroyed the offices of the Committee at 5144 Delmar Boulevard Jan. 6. Baby teeth collected for the survey were part of glaciers of ice formed from water spewing from firemen's hoses.

The group appealed for \$25,000 to re-

store the committee's operations. Contributions began to flow in from across the country. Enough money — about \$35,000 — was donated to purchase a house for new offices near Washington University.

College students, a Symphony musician and a secretary helped the committee salvage the Baby Tooth collection. The organization is operating once again.

And there is plenty of work to do. Pesticides are killing fish and threatening the bald eagle with extinction. There is danger that the widespread use of herbicides to defoliate forests in Vietnam may disturb the ecology there. Laplanders in northern Finland have been ordered by their government not to eat reindeer meat because of high radioactive levels.

The streets of St. Louis often smell. Sewage fills the rivers. The noise level of modern machinery and civilization often reaches schizophrenic proportions. Nitrogen from the uncontrolled use of fertilizers to make the soil richer is upsetting the balance of nature.

"The people have to decide. They can't depend on experts who have their own thing going for them," commented a CEI member.

More Openings in Colleges

TRENDS AND TIP-OFFS: If there's a high school senior in the family, chances of getting into college this fall look better than in years. Among the reasons: Many colleges have been expanding and there has been a marked increase in the number of junior colleges. The junior colleges have been opening at a rate of something better than one a week. The expansion of facilities has been going on while the college age population for several years has been on a plateau — though a larger crop of potential applicants is expected next

year and thereafter. Favorable as the outlook for admission is this year, it doesn't mean any lessening of the stiff competition to get into Ivy League and other big-name institutions. Costs? Unhappily for the family purse, highest ever.

GETTING THE HOUSE YOU WANT:

You now find it possible in more and more developments to get a house individualized — customized the way you want it. It's still true that builders would pre-

fer the efficiency of constructing duplicates of standard models, varying only such nonstructural features as trim, siding, colors. But they bow to the demand of more and more purchasers for much greater changes. You get an idea of the lengths to which they sometimes will go to meet demands in the current housing market from an example in a single development. There, one three-bedroom house was lengthened to provide space for a fourth bedroom and screened porch.

By Laurence Galtton



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Baby Tooth Survey To Open Tomorrow

The annual Baby Tooth Survey will start tomorrow with a collection goal of 7000 teeth by Dec. 13.

Baby teeth, which children have lost and donated to the survey, a division of the Committee for Environmental Information, 438 North Skinker boulevard, are used for research at the Washington University School of Dentistry. The teeth are analyzed to determine the amount of radioactive strontium 90 that may have been deposited in the teeth from nuclear reactions.

The teeth have been collected in St. Louis every fall since 1958. Forms for the baby tooth donation may be obtained at all libraries and schools. The teeth then can be mailed with the completed forms to Operation Tooth, Box 222, Clayton 63105.



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St. Louis Area News in Brief

WALTER L. HAYES, 4930 Highland avenue, has been named one of 60 college students in the United States to receive Eleanor Roosevelt scholarships awarded by the Scholarship, Education and Defense Fund for Racial Equality of New York City. Grants from the fund range as high as \$1500 a year. Recipients are students of ability who do not qualify for conventional scholarship assistance.

A PICTURE by Stuart Shieber, a fourth grade student at Central Elementary School, 9137 Old Bonhomme road, Olivette, has earned first prize in the Baby Tooth Survey art contest sponsored by the Committee for Environmental Information. He is the son of Dr. and Mrs.

William Shieber, 12 Beverly drive, Olivette.

A GRANT of \$12,160 has been awarded to the Washington University Medical School to continue work at the Cystic Fibrosis Care, Teaching and Researching Center at St. Louis Children's Hospital. The grant was presented by the National Cystic Fibrosis Research Foundation.

ROBERT COOVER, novelist and poet, is the fourth in a series of six authors to become writer in residence at Washington University. Coover, who was reared in Herrin, Ill., will teach and speak at the university through Feb. 28, when he will give a reading of some of his works.



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Levels of Strontium 90 Are Said to Be Static Now

By JEROME P. CURRY
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Radioactive strontium 90 levels have become almost static after a sharp decrease between mid-1964 and 1967, the Post-Dispatch was told yesterday.

The Atomic Test Ban Treaty, which barred atmospheric nuclear explosions, became effective in 1963. The strontium 90 content of the atmosphere peaked in early 1964.

"Everything now is contaminated. The only decrease would be due to half-life decay and that is 28 years for strontium 90," said Harold L. Rosenthal.

"Any small venting or contamination from underground or cratering atomic tests would tend to wipe out the loss from the half life."

Rosenthal, professor of physiological chemistry at the Washington University School of Dentistry, is the scientist who examines the teeth collected in the annual Baby Tooth Survey for their strontium 90 content.

Result of Tests

Tests in milk have shown the level to be around eight or nine picacuries for each gram of calcium since 1967, Rosenthal said. A picacurie is .00000000001 of a gram.

He has found similar correla-

tions in his studies with the baby teeth.

"If there was no venting and no strontium 90 was injected into the atmosphere, it would take 28 years for the level to drop from 9 to 4.5 picacuries," said Rosenthal. "The little decay that would result probably would not show in one year's time."

Strontium 90 is an element produced only in nuclear reactions.

Radiation, including X ray, at high doses can result in tumors, leukemia, burns and bone disease. At low levels, radiation effects are not as apparent. But scientists believe that natural radiation—cosmic rays from the sun for an example—contribute to man's basic mutation or evolutionary rate.

"When we throw in extra radiation, we probably accelerate this," said Rosenthal. "So we have what we call genetic damage. At low levels, we can assume that genetic damage does occur. At high levels both disease and genetic damage occur as a result of the radiation."

Effect on Babies

In Rosenthal's most recent paper on strontium 90 and baby teeth, he determined that:

There is a relationship between the amount of strontium 90 in the milk that a mother drinks and the amount absorbed by the fetus.

After birth there are two strontium 90 influences—that absorbed from the mother and that from the milk the child drinks.

Strontium 90 in the permanent teeth of children from 1½ to 12 years of age is dependent strictly on their diets and not on the mothers.

Rosenthal emphasized that the strontium 90 levels seemed to be decreasing but at a "very low rate," due to half life.

"This decrease can be stagnated by radioactive venting from nuclear tests depending on the amount of venting," he warned.

Home Owners Criticize Rehabilitation Program

By LAWRENCE TAYLOR
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

Much dissatisfaction is expressed by some home owners who have participated in the city's code enforcement rehabilitation program financed by federal grants and loans.

Residents complain that exorbitant prices have been charged by contractors. Others say that when they tried to find a builder to do the work at lower prices they ran into a maze of red tape and regulations that made selection nearly impossible.

Still other residents are unhappy about the quality of work.

All Three Situations

One case involving all three situations is that of Mrs. Dorothy Richee who owns and lives in a large brick home at 5071 Vernon Avenue. She has three tenants.

Mrs. Richee, a widow, paid \$4571 for extensive plumbing work. Now water drips onto the basement floor near the furnace from a large hot air duct. She does not know how or where the water is leaking into the duct.

There are two other occasional leaks in the new plumbing which was installed by a subcontractor hired by the Kallcak Construction Co., Inc., the general contractor, Mrs. Richee said.

The Kallcak company, with offices at 3016 North Lindbergh Boulevard, St. Ann, has been given most of the rehabilitation contracts by Building Commissioner Kenneth O. Brown's office since the company became active in the program last November. In some instances bids by other contractors have been discarded in favor of higher bids by Kallcak.

Mrs. Richee said another plumber, hired to do \$300 worth of work when delays were encountered in the code enforce-

Partly Cloudy

Official forecast for St. Louis and vicinity: Partly cloudy today with slight chance of thundershowers by evening; high today 85 to 90, low tonight around 60; partly cloudy and cooler to-

WILL THIEU'S
DAY COME



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Wed, Feb 16, 2022

Tooth Survey May Be Cut

The baby tooth survey may be among the casualties of financial belt-tightening at the St. Louis Committee for Environmental Information.

The program, which collected and catalogued more than 300,000 teeth since it was instituted over a decade ago, will be dropped unless sufficient funds can be found, a spokesman said. The survey costs about \$12,000 a year.

Analysis of baby teeth mailed to the committee has established a link between nuclear fallout and the amount of radioactive strontium 90 found in the bodies of children, the group said. "We can now predict with a good deal of confidence what the exposure level will be for any part of the country," the spokesman said.

At least two more years of tooth collection are needed to refine the statistical findings.



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Wed, Feb 16, 2022

Baby Teeth Roundup Starts Here Monday

The annual baby teeth roundup in the St. Louis area starts Monday and will last through June 4.

Each year, baby teeth are collected for a research project directed by Dr. Harold L. Rosenthal of the Washington University School of Dentistry. The project measures the accumula-

tion of strontium 90, a radioactive substance, in the teeth of children.

Strontium 90 is an isotope produced by atomic test explosions. Scientists have determined that the peak periods of radioactive fallout were 1963 and 1964. Children born in those years are beginning to lose their baby teeth. The doctors

want to know how much of the fallout was absorbed.

Each grade school in the area has received baby tooth survey forms to prepare for the roundup. Each pupil is asked to take a form home when he has a loose tooth. Parents can fill out the form and send the teeth to Operation Tooth, Box 222, Clayton, Mo., 63105.



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Wed, Feb 16, 2022

Baby Tooth Survey Running Out Of Funds

By JEROME P. CURRY
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The Baby Tooth Survey, a research project in which 350,000 teeth from St. Louis area children were used to measure radioactive strontium 90, is threatened by lack of funds.

Mrs. Marian Bueler, executive secretary of the survey, and a secretary will lose their jobs June 30 unless funds are made available under a federal grant that already has been approved.

"This survey is now 13 years old," said Dr. Harold L. Rosenthal, professor of physiological chemistry at the Washington University School of Dentistry. About three more years of data are needed on how much radioactivity from nuclear explosions, reactors and other sources has been absorbed by humans, he said.

Rosenthal is the principal investigator in the project, which analyzes teeth collected from children at schools across the St. Louis area. Contributors are given certificates and buttons that read, "I gave my tooth to science."

The information collected by Rosenthal and his colleagues in their radiation studies has been cited repeatedly in scientific publications on radioactivity.

Strontium 90 was not known before the advent of nuclear explosions. The radioactive sub-

stance acts like calcium when it is absorbed into the body, concentrating in the bones and teeth.

"Our grant, which has been in existence for years, has been approved by Environmental Protection Agency scientists," Rosenthal said, "but it has not been funded."

"Somebody in the Budget Bureau apparently is sitting on the money and they won't release it."

He said he had talked with the staff of Senator Thomas F. Eagleton (Dem.), Missouri, in

an attempt to find out why the money was being withheld.

Rosenthal said that the Environmental Protection Agency had given the survey a two-month extension on last year's grant to tide the group over until the new funds were released.

"But that money runs out as of June 30," he said. "We will be able to continue on (Washington) university funding but at a very low level. We'll have to work with volunteers. We will have no paid staff."

Unless the funds come through soon, the Baby Tooth Survey may be ended, he said.

Rosenthal has been told that the money may become available in July. He said that the survey had asked for \$30,000 for the work this year and that \$20,000 was approved. The money for the \$20,000 grant remains in limbo among Government agencies.

Movie Director Hurt In Cycle Accident

PARIS, June 10 (UPI) — Jean-Luc Godard, French movie director, was injured yesterday in a motorcycle accident.

Godard was a passenger on a motorcycle that collided with a small truck and then a bus.

Doctors said he had suffered several fractured bones. After surgery his condition was described as satisfactory.

His companion, Christine Marsollier, was not hurt as seriously, police said.



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Sun, Feb 13, 2022

Baby Tooth Survey Given An Extension

The Baby Tooth Survey, threatened by a lack of funds, will continue for 14 months under a grant extension from the Environmental Protection Agency.

The survey, directed by Dr. Harold L. Rosenthal of the Washington University School of Dentistry, seeks to determine the accumulation of radioactive strontium 90 in children's teeth. The substance does not occur naturally and is a byproduct of nuclear explosions. Strontium 90 concentrates in the bone structure in much the same manner as calcium.

Dr. Rosenthal said the research project will depend more and more on volunteer work because of the lack of sufficient money.



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Wed, Feb 16, 2022

Tooth Survey For Strontium Begins Here

The St. Louis Baby Tooth Survey, a study designed to measure radioactive strontium 90 content in baby teeth, began its annual 10-week winter tooth roundup Friday.

Dr. Harold L. Rosenthal, director of the research project at the Washington University School of Dentistry, said baby teeth collected now would give information on fallout since the atmospheric nuclear bomb test moratorium in 1965. All countries except China and France agreed to the moratorium on atmospheric testing.

Tooth forms have been distributed to grade schools in St. Louis and St. Louis County. They are available in each class.

Parents are asked to complete the forms and mail them with the baby teeth to Operation Tooth, Box 222, Clayton, Mo. 63105. Each child who sends a baby tooth receives a button saying: "I Gave My Tooth to Science."



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Wed, Feb 16, 2022

Tooth Project Gets Bite

DEAR MARTHA CARR: Can you tell me what happened to Operation Tooth, which used to be sponsored by Washington University's School of Dentistry under a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency? They used to solicit children's teeth for a study of Strontium 90 content. Our latest tooth was returned from their mailing address, marked "Box closed."

CURIOUS MAMA

DR. HAROLD L. ROSENTHAL, under whose direction Operation Tooth was conducted, tells me that the project was closed over a year ago because no more money was forthcoming from the Government to continue the research. The initial project period was completed then, and preliminary results of the research showed that the Strontium 90 level present at that time was down substantially from the peak years of 1963 and 1964.

The data from the survey is being analyzed at the present time, and the final report will be forthcoming in the near future.



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