Group Picked to Advise 'Baby Tooth Survey'

A scientific advisory committee has been formed to supervise the "baby-tooth survey" of the Greater St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information, it was announced yesterday.

By analyzing the amount of Strontium 90 in baby teeth, year chemistry at Washington Univerafter year, the committee will sity dental school. determine if the amount of that potentially dangerous substance stored in bones and teeth is being steadily increased.

Dr. John T. Bird Jr., associate professor of dental medicine and assistant dean of the Washington University School of Dentistry, is the scientific advisory committee chairman.

Other members include: Dr. Stephen Forrest, dean of the St. Louis University School of Dentistry; Dr. Leroy R. Boling, dean of the Washington University dental school; Dr. Philip Vierheller, president of the St. Louis Dental Society and president of the Missouri State Board of Dental Examiners

Dr. E. S. Khalifah, editor of the Journal of the Missouri State Dental Association; Dr. Donald Flieder, associate professor of dental pathology at the St. Louis University dental school; Dr. John Gilster, associate professor of dental pediatrics at Washington University and editor of the Bulletin of the St. Louis Dental Society, and Dr. Harold Rosenthal, assistant professor of bio-



Also on the advisory group are four members of the Nuclear Committee's baby-tooth survey subcommittee, They are Dr. Barry Commoner, professor of plant physiology at Washington University; Dr. Eric Reiss, assistant professor of medicine and preventive medicine at Washington University; Dr. Alfred S. Schwartz, assistant professor of clinical pediatrics at Washington University, and Dr. Louise Reiss, internist and wife of Dr. Eric Reiss, who is director of the baby-tooth survey.

More than 1000 baby teeth have already been received from this area - not counting baby teeth mailed in from as far away as Alaska, Dr. Louise Reiss said.

In addition, Dr. Ozias Pacquin, chief of city dental clinics, has promised the approximately 14,-000 baby teeth a year extracted In those clinics.

The committee's goal is 50,000 teeth a year, for 10 years.

To be of value, a baby tooth must be accompanied by specific information. Forms which a parent can fill out, supplying that information, may be obtained upon request from the Baby Tooth Survey, with offices in the International Institute, 4484 West Pine bl., JE. 3-0323, from 9 s. m. till noon.

Baby Teeth From Around World Received for Radiation Study

More than 3000 baby teethsome from such far-away places as India Spain. Mexico. Hawaii and Alaska, have been received thus far for use in a study on the effects of strontium-90, the Greater St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information reported to-day.

From Calcutta, India, the committee has received one of the teeth of 10-year-old Jolly Srimal. Her father, Moti Sing Tank, sent the tooth, saying a newspaper there had carried a

story on the study

A school teacher in Florida not only sent the teeth of some of his pupils, but included a tew of his own Commented Dr. John Gilster, one of the researchers. Unfortunately, I'm afraid we can use only busy teeth."

Some children, Dr. Gilster said, are enthusiastic about the survey and have made it a classroom. Cub Scout or Brownie project. The more spirited donors, he reported.

More than 3000 baby teeth apparently are hurrying the some from such far-away process in some cases, with a bit of indiscriminate tugging.

An estimated \$250,000 will be needed to finance the five-year project. A federal grant will be sought from the National Institute of Dental Research in Washington, the committee announced. Researchers will measure the amount of radioactivity being absorbed by children in the St. Louis area.

Present plans call for establishment of a grant-supported laboratory at the Washington University School of Dentistry At least 50,000 baby teets a year will be required for the study which is the only large-scale program of its type presently under was in the world.

A cangements have been made with public and parochial schools and public libraries in the city and county for distribution of information about the survey. As they come in the baby teeth will be given to research groups at Washington and St. Louis Universities for classification.

INTERIM RESEARCH GRANT FOR BABY TOOTH SURVEY

An Interim research grant for the baby tooth survey program of the St. Louis Committee for Nuclear Information was announced yesterday by Lon Hocker, president of the Leukemia Guilds of Missouri and Illinois.

The money, the amount of which was not disclosed, will support the study of deciduous teeth to determine the absorption of strontium-90 and its relation to leukemia incidence. A regular grant for the study for a three-year period will be announced soon, Hocker said.

Luman F. Mathews, former supervisor of St. Louis county, has been appointed general chairman of the "Lick Leukemia" Committee of Greater St. Louis which will conduct the 1959 campaign for funds.

The Case for 50,000 Baby Teeth

St. Louis Committee Conducts Major Campaign in Study of Nuclear Fallout

William K. Wyant Jr. of the Post-Disputch Staff in The Notion

Ordinarily, a group that called itself the Greater St. Louis Citizens Committee for Nuclear Information would not be expected to last for any great period of time. Mortality among earnest and well-meaning organizations has been as great here as elsewhere, and the waters of the Mississippi have rolled over many such.

Yet the committee is striding vigorously into its second year. It has turned out to be an unusually happy

The Mirror

of Public Opinion union of scientific knowledge a n d Civic leadership.

At the outset, C. N. I. — as the committee is called locally—decided it would not be an "action" group —

lat is to say, it would take no position for or against testing of nuclear weapons, even though the sentiment of the organizing spirits was clearly and outspokenly against. The view prevailed that what really was needed was information.

It was felt that too many people the politicians, the military and the oracles speaking ex cathedra from the Atomic Energy Commission—were taking decisive attitudes on the basis of indecisive information, or none.

But while persisting in its "nonaction" policy, the committee during its first year waged such a valiant fight on the information front that strontium-60 is now a household word in St. Louis.

On the average of every other day, a member of the speakers' stable makes a talk on the subject. The C.N.I.'s monthly bulletin's circulation has jumped from 500 to 2500. And the committee's drive to collect \$0.000 baby teeth, to be analyzed for strontium-90, got headlines throughout the world press.

Specifically, what has the committee done in its first year? There is a good deal besides the fact that it now has an office on the second floor of an old, converted red-brick house on West Pine boulevard.

1. A speakers' bureau, consisting



-Park Disperse. May L 17 L

B: A Drop a Day

of 17 men and three women, has been organized to offer scientists as speakers to organizations in the St. Louis area. The speakers are all either M.D.s or Ph.D.s, capable of dealing with technical aspects of the fallout controversy.

2. Nuclear Information, C.N.I.'s monthly publication, was started last fall to report new scientific facts in lay language. The March issue was entitled "Strontium-80 and Common Foods." It served to point out that the public had heard much about radioactivity in milk, but little about radioactivity in other foods.

 C.N.I. has sponsored two series of five seminars each on radiation for the scientific and medical community, and three public metings at which qualified people discussed the consequences of radiation and fallout.

4. At the request of the St. Louis Dairy Council. CNI scientists last January issued a statement discussing the potential hazard from strontium-80 in milk (the local milk supply has been showing the highest strontium-80 concentration of 10 cities surveyed monthly by the U.S. Public Health Service—and nobody knows why).

The statement said, in effect, that the harm that might result to children from milk containing radioactive substances could not yet be assayed with certainty. It emphasized that milk, as an essential food, must not be eliminated from the diet, and called for research on ways to lower its strontium-90 content.

5. The Baby Tooth Survey was started last December as a 10-year scientific project. Directed by Dr. Louise Reiss an internist, the campaign has the co-operation of the School of Dentistry at both Washington and St. Louis Universities. It has also served as an excellent device for calling attention to the more dreadful implications of nuclear fallout.

The announcement was deliberately designed to soft-pedal the "human interest" angle of the story and to stress accentific objectives. It said in part

"Deciduous teeth now being shed were formed from the minerals present in feod eaten by mothers and infarts during the period 1948 to 1953 — the first few years of the fallout era—and therefore represent invaluable baseline information with which analysis of later teeth and boxes can be compared. Unless a collection of deciduous teeth is started immediately, scientists will lose the chance to learn how much strontium-90 human beings absorbed during the first years of the atomic age.

"Strontium-90 present in food accumulates in bones and teeth, milk is the main food source of strontium-90. In sufficient amounts the radiation from strontium-90 may cause harmful effects, including bone tumors and other forms of cancer..."

At present, baby teeth are reaching the little office on West Pine boulevard at the rate of about 50 a day. The stockpile is still short of 10.060, although the estimated annual "fallout" of baby teeth in the St. Louis area is half a million. When enough have been accumulated, they will be classified, ground up and analyzed at the Washington University School of Dentistry. Mothers who request an individual report on their children's teeth are doomed to disappointment.

Summing up the first year, the C.N.L. adopting a "conservative" approach, has set a pattern being followed by other communities. What official bodies will not do for them, citizens are seeking to do for themselves.

More Strontium-90 Data

A new study of strontium-90 in milk by Consumers Union differs in detail from measurements by the Public Health Service, but the main point of both is the same—that the strontium-90 content of milk is going up each year. According to the Consumers Union survey, the content in mid-1958 was more than two strontium units higher than in mid-1957.

St. Louis showed a slightly lower rating in the Consumers Union survey, taken over four weeks last July and August, than in Public Health Service statistics for roughly the same period—11.1 units by CU, and 13.4 by PHS. But now come PHS figures for the last quarter of 1958 which show that in November St. Louis milk samples measured 20.1 units, the highest yet recorded anywhere. The St. Louis average for the year was 13.2 units.

These figures are no occasion for public alarm. The strontium-90 levels are still below permissible amounts. The Greater St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information and Consumers Union agree that milk remains an essential food for children and must not be eliminated from the diet. As Consumers Union says, that would be like refusing an X-ray examination for a broken leg.

What the figures do show is the need for much more detailed information from a wider sample of cities. The St. Louis Citizens' Committee, headed by Dean-Emeritus Alexander S. Langsdorf of Washington University School of Engineering, is making a valuable contribution in this respect. It is not only reporting in sober and responsible fashion the presently available facts, but sponsors the extraordinary Baby Tooth Survey to widen the range of known facts. The Committee hopes to collect 50,000 discarded baby teeth a vear, to provide malerial for analysis of strontium-90 absorption from food. Its labors deserve the broadest support. They are potentraily of national as well as local significance.

By GARY W. FERGUSON of the PICTURES Stoff

Lindergariners to sedate grandmothers, are involved in a gigantic and unique research task that has gained world-wide attention. In many ways, the project—involving the collection and study of thousands of baby teeth—resembles a husking bee of frontier days. The husking-bee kind of co-operation is essential to help open the frontiers created by one of mankind's new crops. The crop is the radioactive fallout from nuclear bomb tests.

One of the most hazardous components of fallout is strontium-90, which loses its strength very slowly and is handled like calcium by the human body. Since the presence of radioactive materials in the body can cause cancer, it is important that scientists find the answers to a number of the questions about strontium-90.

Among the prime questions are: 1. How much of it is taken up by the body and deposited in the bones, as a potential source of bone cancer or leukemia? 2. How much strontium 90 can the body tolerate without harm? (Even if there are no more tests, fallout from previous explosions is expected to cause strontium 90 activity in food to rise until 1964 or 1965.)

It is to the first of these two questions that the St. Louis project, with the disarming name "Baby Tooth Survey," is primarily addressed.

Photos by JACK GOULD and PAUL BERG of the PICTURES Staff



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Many May 1, 1940

S10,000 Grant Given Nuclear Committee Her

The Greater St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information has been awarded a grant of \$10,000 by the J. M. Kaplan Fund of New York.

The award was announced at the second annual meeting of the committee Sunday at Heman Park Community Center, Vernon and Pennsylvania ave-

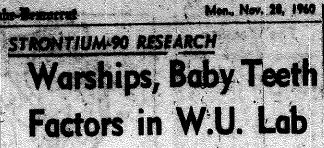
nues, University City.

At the meeting, Dr. Louise Reiss, director of the Baby Tooth Survey, a committee project, reported that 21,000 children's teeth had been collected by the survey for strontium 90 analysis. The Center added that through the co-operation of the Retail Druggists Association, tooth forms (which must accompany all teeth submitted) soon will be available in most drug stores.

Dr. Margaret Mead, nationally known anthropologist, speaking at the meeting, said the committee was a pioneer project in the relationship between citizens and scientists.

Mrs. Waiter Baumgarten Jr. was elected president and Alexander S. Langsdorf elected honorary president of the committee at the meeting. Other officers elected: Mrs. S. M. Aronson, Dr. Barry Commoner, Francis V. Lloyd Jr., Frank E. Nutt, Martin Quigley and Dr. Reiss, vice presidents; Mrs. Virginia Brodine, secretary; Eric P. Newman, treasurer and Mrs. Bernard Becker, assistant treasurer.





Battleships and baby's teeth don't ordinarily go hand in hand, but they're both key factors in a laboratory being equipped by the Washington University School of Dentistry for a \$197,454 research project.

The project is designed to analyze the amount of strontium-80 in St. Louis children's teeth. One of the major pieces of equipment involved is a specially designed Geiger counter whose container is made of 250-pound steel plates from a decommissioned battleship. Old steel is not contaminated from radioactive fallout as newly fabricated steel is.

HEALTH SERVICE FUNDS Director of the project is Dr.

Harold L. Rosenthal, assistant professor of physiological chemistry at the dental school. Funds for the study were granted by



Items Sold As Advertised reserve the right to limit thru Wed, nite, Nov. 30, 1960 the United States Public Health Service.

Between 25 and 90 baby teeth will comprise a single sample to be tested at one time in the counter, especially designed for extremely low counts of radioactivity to detect even the slightest amount of strontium-90 in the tooth samples.

Each sample will be made up of teeth similar as to age of the children, their early milk source and place of residence. Teeth are chemically prepared before testing, a process requiring about three weeks.

ACTS LIKE CALCIUM

Strontium-90 is one of the most hazardous of the radioactive materials produced by nuclear explosions. It is absorbed from fallout by soil and plants. Chemi-cally similar to calcium, it is deposited in human bones and teeth from milk and vegetables as calcium is.

Baby teeth are used in the study because they are plentiful and easily available on a large scale, and because they acquire strontium-90 over a short period of time, both before and after birth.



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50,000TH TOOTH GIVEN FOR CHECK ON STRONTIUM 90

The 50,000th tooth collected by the Baby Tooth Survey since January 1959 was received last week in the current Spring Tooth Roundup, it was announced yesterday. The survey is a 10-year project to monitor the amount of strontium-90 absorbed by children of the St. Louis area.

Contributor of the tooth was Alexis Christine Paspalas, 7-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Paspalas, 8896 Red Oak drive, Crestwood. Alexis received an award at survey headquarters and was entertained by survey volunteers with a visit to a children's television program and dinner at a restaurant.

Mrs. Joseph P. Logan, associate director of the survey, thanked the thousands of children who have been sending in their baby teeth. She said the survey afforded the entire community a chance to participate in an important piece of scientific research.

The teeth collected by the survey will be analyzed for radioactive strontium content at a new laboratory established at the School of Dentistry of Washington University under a grant from the United States Public Health Service.



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odiejoe Sun, Feb 13, 2022

7000 BABY TEETH SOUGHT IN CHECK ON STRONTIUM.90

More than 7000 deciduous or baby teeth will be sought in the annual fall Tooth Roundup starting tomorrow and ending Dec. 31, officials of the Greater St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information announced yesterday,

The Baby Tooth Survey, begun here in 1958, is a 10-year undertaking to monitor the amount of strontium-90 absorbed by children from nuclear fallout. Area school children are asked to donate their baby teeth to the survey.

First, second, third and fourth grade schoolchildren may obtain official Baby Tooth Survey forms from special envelopes posted in classrooms of public and parochial schools in the city and St. Louis county. The forms are to be completed by parents and mailed with the teeth to Operation Tooth, Box 222, St. Louis 5, Mo.

"More than 65,000 teeth have been received by the Survey since 1958, but the tooth receipts must be stepped up to at least 1000 a week to get the best statistical results," Mrs. Walter Baumgarten Jr., president of the committee, said.



Tooth Survey Shows Area Not Fallout Hot Spot

By MARGUERITE SHEPARD Globe-Democrat Staff Writer

The first report of the Baby Tooth Survey of the Greater St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information c o n t a i n s good news for Thanksgiving:

St. Louis is not, and never has been, a particularly hot spot, radioactively speaking.

Dr. Louise Zhold Reiss, director of the CNI's Baby Tooth Survey, makes the survey's first report in the Nov. 24 issue of Science, a national publication.

"Our findings suggest that St. Louis has never been a particularly hot spot," Dr. Reiss told The Globe-Democrat. "We are delighted to see this."

Her report in Science shows that the amount of Strontium-90 which is being deposited in children's bones can be accurately determined by a study of the Strontium-90 present in baby teeth.

Strontium - 50 is a radioactive product of nuclear fallout, a by-product of H-bomb testing. In sizable amounts it can cause leukemia and bone cancer.

Prior to the atomic age, there was no Strontium-90 in nature.

It is being incorporated into children's teeth and bones, the survey showed, but in very small amounts.

The peak amount of Strontium-90 which has come to earth so far was in the 1959-60 period.



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VERY TINY AMOUNT Dr. Reiss found that bones of still-born infants born in that period averaged only 1.2 micro-microcuries per gram of calcium. cium. "This is in agreement with the average concentration in fetal bone in areas of Western culture," she said. By way of comparison the radiation protection guide issued by the Federal Radiation Council is 150 micromicrocuries of cil is 150 micromicrocuries of cil is 130 microincrecures of cal-cium. The Council advises all efforts to keep the dosage as far below that as possible. Although the Strontium-90 count here now is very low (8 micro-microcuries per quart of milk), it is expected to jump sharply next spring. By then the Stron-tium-90 released from Russia's H-bomb tests this fall will have drifted down to earth. St. Louis had been supposed to be a hot spot because for several years Public Health Service tests of St. Louis milk showed it to have more Strontium-90 than milk in other big cities. Then PHS discovered its method of sampling St. Louis milk had been in error. A sample which was not truly representative had been taken. Newer methods, begun last year, show St. Louis milk no "hotter" than other cities' milk.

"Proof of the pudding is what actually gets into the bones and it develops we're dead center on the North American average," Dr. Eric Reiss told The Globe-Democrat.

Democrat.

He is assistant professor of medicine and preventive medicine at Washington University School of Medicine, and editor of CNI's Nuclear Information Bulletin. Dr. Louise Reiss, an internist, is hits wife.

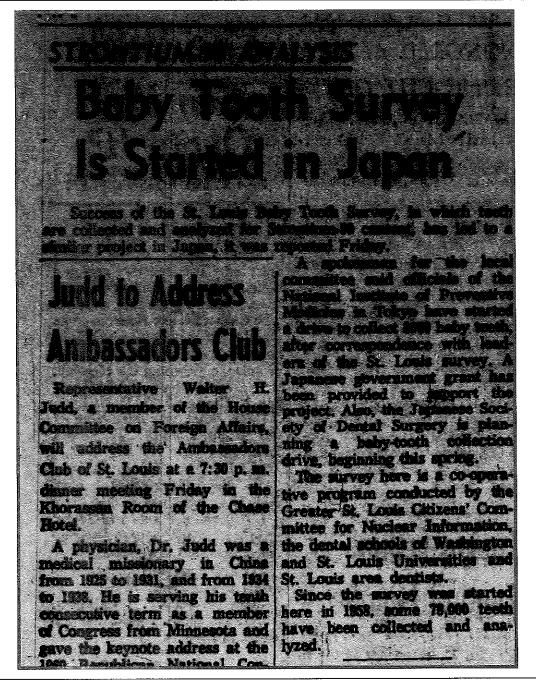
"Whether it's high or low, we must know what is happening," said Dr. Louise Reiss. "If this is going to be meaningful, it will have to be on a sustained basis.

basis.

"It would be a shame if, now that we have got good news, the program should fall on its face and people atop sending in teeth," she declared.

"This is just a proliminary Continued on Page 12A







Printed on Feb 16, 2022

TO ASSIST IN TOOTH SURVEY

Mrs. Sophia Goodman, 7270 Cornell avenue, University City, has been appointed executive secretary of the Baby Tooth Survey Division of the St. Louis Committee for Nuclear Information.



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News 1

Baby Tooth Fall Roundup Opens Here

A roundup of 10,000 baby teeth, for use in determining the amount of strontium 90 absorbed by children from nuclear fallout, got under way Friday.

School children in the city and county are being asked to donate the teeth in the Fall Tooth Roundup of the Baby Tooth Survey. At least 1000 teeth are needed each week for use in the study, said Dr. John Fowler, president of the St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information.

"Resumption of nuclear testing and the resulting fallout have made it even more urgent that we continue this 10-year study, which was started in St. Louis in 1958," he said.

The purpose of the survey is to determine whether the level of strontium 90 absorption is rising. More than 95,000 teeth have been collected since the survey started.



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FLORISSANT BOY GIVES 100,000TH TOOTH IN SURVEY

Six-year-old Gerald Bax has given the St. Louis Committee for Nuclear Information the 100,000th tooth in its baby tooth survey.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter J. Bax, 1050 St. Denis street, Florissant.

In return for the tooth, he was given a helicopter ride over the St. Louis area.

The committee collects baby teeth for research into the amount of radioactive material children are assimilating in food.



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Strontium 90 in Baby Teeth Up Sharply Here in 1954 and '55

Amounts of radioactive strontium 90 found in teeth of St. Louis area children increased sharply in 1954 and 1955 and continued to increase, although more slowly, through 1957, a report published today said.

Three members of the Washington University School of Dentistry reported in the magazine Science on findings based on studies of teeth donated by 50,000 children.

The accumulation of radioactive material remained below levels suspected of being harmful, the report said,

Radioactive content of baby teeth rose from .18 strontium units in 1949, when the study started, to 2.56 units in 1957, the report said. Somewhat less strontium 90 was found in the teeth of children who were breast fed

Amounts of radioactive stron- than in those who were bottle

"Most of what is known about radiation damage to bone has come from much higher doses than 2.56 strontium units," the report said. "Very little is known about the effect of the gradual accumulation of small amounts of radioactivity in bone, and the baby tooth survey is helping to fill one of the gaps in our knowledge by providing information on the changing levels of strontium 90."

The radioactive materials accumulates in teeth at the same rate as in bones, the report said.

The rapid strontium 90 increase in 1954 and 1955 came during a period of intensive nuclear bomb testing, the report noted.

The report was by Prof. Harold L. Rosenthal, Dr. John E. Gilster and Dr. John T. Bird.



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News "

W. U. Tooth Survey Grants Continued

The National Institutes of Health has renewed two grants totaling \$52,496 to Washington University to continue a study by the School of Dentistry to determine the amount of strontium-90 children's teeth absorb from nuclear test fallout.

Popularly known as the Baby Tooth Survey, the project is conducted by the university in cooperation with the Commmittee for Nuclear Information.

Drs. John T. Bird, Harold L. Rosenthal and John E. Gilster are directing the study. They reported in the April 12 issue of "Science Magazine" a marked increase of strontium-90 in teeth developed between 1954 and 1955. This period coincides with a period of extensive nuclear testing begun in 1953, they said.



BABY TOOTH DRIVE TO SEEK 1000 SPECIMENS

The goal of the tenth semiannual Baby Tooth Roundup beginning Monday is to collect 1000 teeth in 10 weeks.

The roundup is conducted by the St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information to determine the amount of strontium 90 being absorbed by children in the area.

A total of 123,000 teeth have been collected since the project began in 1958.



ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH 24 A Wed. Dec. 18, 1963

C 1963. New York Times News Service WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 - The Department of Labor issued final rules yesterday designed to end racial, discrimination in apprenticeship training programs

The standards will be published In textav's Federal Register and well on in offer lan 17

St. Louis Area News in

FREE BIRDSEED to supplement scanty food available to birds because of the snow-coverod ground is being distributed at Humane Society of Missouri headquarters, 1210 Macklind avenue. The Animal Protective Association, 1705 South Hanley road, Brentwood, has exhausted its supply of seed but will resume free distribution when it is replenished in a few days.

roundup" just ended, 7600 teeth were sent to the Baby Tooth Survey. This increases to more than 130,000 the number of teeth contributed in the five years of the Baby Tooth Survey's existence. The teeth are being analyzed at the Washington University School of Dentistry to determine strontium 90 levels in St. Louis children.

THREE ST. LOUISANS have been elected members of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. They are Robert B. Erger of Arthur Young & Co.: William W. Gray, employed by McDonnell Aircraft IN THE 10-WEEK "fall tooch Corp., and Joseph V. Maian of



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k dilvers.

TOOTH STUDY UNIT SENDS BOY AND FAMILY TO OPERA

Young David Schmiderer and his family were guests of the Baby Tooth Survey at the Municipal Opera last night after he contributed the 150,000th tooth to the survey.

It was one of the last deciduous molars of 13-year-old David, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Schmiderer, 254 Geremma drive, Ballwin.

Mrs. Mortimer Goodman, executive secretary of the survey, said that St. Louis children had contributed about 30,000 teeth a year for five years. The teeth are analyzed at Washington University School of Dentistry in a study of strontium 90 absorption.

Mrs. Goodman urged children to continue to send their baby teeth. Forms that must accompany the teeth will be available during the summer at all public libraries. The survey is sponsored by the St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information, and is financed by the United States Public Health Service.



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7800 TEETH COLLECTED FOR STRONTIUM 90 SURVEY

The St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information has collected 7800 teeth in the last 10 weeks for its baby tooth survey, Mrs. Joseph P. Logan, executive director, announced yesterday.

The teeth are analyzed at Washington University School of Dentistry for evidence of strontium 90. Teeth from babies living within a 150-mile radius of St. Louis are needed for the tests. Forms to accompany the teeth are available at schools and libraries.

Dr. Harold Rosenthal, who directs the tests, said that the number of teeth collected is less important than obtaining enough early incisors from the very youngest children now losing teeth and enough molars from older children. Dr. Rosenthal said the tests would be continued into the early 1970s.



Clarissa Start

The Tooth Fairy Needs Some Help

LITTLE CHILDREN GET all excited over losing a tooth and winning a reward from the good-tooth fairy. Older children couldn't care less about the good-tooth tatry. They're learned more sophisticated ways of getting their study little impers



Clarissa Start

them until junior high age.

on two nits.
Little children also find
great appeal is giving
their bally teeth to science
and receiving a hotion in
return. Gater ones are
terribly blass and look on
a butten as something they
have put away with their
childhood though.

All of this has made literational for Operation Touth, sponsored by the Committee for Nuclear Information. Its Baby Touth Survey, a study of strontium 40 absorption by clindren, is based on the analysis of a large-scale continuing collection of deciduous teeth shed by children living in a particular geographical area.

appeal asking that parents help it collect teeth from older children. While all baby teeth are needed, a particular study being conducted by Dr. H. T. Blumenthal calls for molers, preferably without cavies. Each child has eight of these vuluables, and usually loses them at age 10 or 11. Some do not shed

The importance of the survey is underlined in the fall issue of "Scientist and Citizen."

Data from the study indicates that there has been a progressive rise in the strontium-90 content of measurerowns, hence a comparative rise of strontium in the bones of leveatold infants to over 30 times that present in these structures in 1951, Dr. Blumenthal reports.

in 1951, Dr. Blumenthal reports.

Dr. Blumenthal credits the Buby Tooth Survey with making it possible for him and his to-workers to construct the formula used in their projections and make current and future estimates of the strontium-90 content of deciduous teeth and bones.

In 'The Story of the Baby Tooth Survey,' Yvonne Logan traces the beginnings of this remarkable project, from the initial proposal by Dr. Herman Kalcher relayed by Dr. Alfred S. Schwartz to the St. Louis area. Dr. Louise Z. Reiss, internist, volunteered full time to the project for three years, and schools, the universities, dentists and such organizations as the Leukemia Guild gave their co-operation.



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odiejoe Wed, Feb 16, 2022 So well-known has the project become after six years that letters from children addressed simply, "Tooth Fairy, St. Louis" reach their destination at the Committee for Nuclear Information office. Nearly 160,000 teeth have been collected, but a continuing supply is needed.

The help of libraries has been enlisted, and many of them are inclosing appeals with books, asking older children to save their teeth for the study.

Teeth should be sent to Operation Tooth, 5144 Delmar boulevard, accompanied by a form which can be obtained in the classroom of any elementary school of St. Louis or St. Louis county, or in any public library.

If the "Tooth Fairy" has no appeal to older children, the spirit of research may. The committee urges that children help science find "The Truth From a Tooth."

Joseph G. Molner M.D.



THE BABY TOOTH Survey reported that 10,450 teeth have been received in the seventh annual Fall Tooth Roundup. The teeth are used in a study of strontium 90 absorption in children. In seven years the survey, sponsored by the Committee for Nuclear Information, has collected 198,815 baby teeth.



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