

## Dean Of University Dental School Discusses Fluoridation of Water

(ED. NOTE—The Herald this week begins a series of articles by Dr. John C. Brauer, dean of the school of dentistry at UNC and chairman of the N. C. Dental Society's committee on fluoridation, discussing the subject of municipal water system fluoridation.)

By Dr. J. C. Brauer  
Fluorine is a will-o'-the-wisp of the chemical world. In its pure form, it is an elusive, greenish gas. It is the most active chemical element known, and will combine readily with most other elements.

This same element in solution of one part to 1,000,000 parts water is helping prevent tooth decay among the nation's children.

The discovery that addition of fluoride (fluorine in compound form) to community water supplies will help reduce tooth decay has aroused widespread public interest.

Communities which have fluoridated water supplies acclaim its benefits. Dental societies, public health officials and other groups have endorsed the process, and a demand for its adoption is being made in many communities by parents' organizations and civic leaders.

To date, more than 100 cities and villages throughout the United States are adding fluoride to their water supplies. Hundreds of others are considering fluoridation and many of them already have taken steps to begin the process.

Why are these communities being stirred to action? Because scientific research has shown that fluoridation has reduced dental decay among children markedly. In one community, the rate of decay among 7-year-olds dropped 58 percent in three years after fluoridation was started.

Just what causes the addition of fluoride to drinking water to act as a dental decay preventive is not known. It is generally believed, however, that fluorides make the tooth enamel more resistant to the acid commonly associated with tooth decay.

One thing is certain: Fluoridation does reduce the rate of decay among children. This is one of the few findings in dental decay research that has not become a subject of controversy.

Most dental scientists agree that the process which causes tooth decay is the action of bacteria in the mouth on carbohydrates — sugars and starches — to form acids which eat into the tooth structure.

History  
Fluorine is used in the steel industry to help remove impurities. It is used in making high octane gasoline and for other purposes in the chemical industry. The ceramic industry also uses it extensively.

Fluorine first became a concern of the dental profession early in this century at Colorado Springs, Colo. The few dentists in that town formed a dental society in 1908, and, under the leadership of Dr. Frederick S. McKay, set about to find out what caused the town's children to have mottled (stained and notched) teeth.

At his own expense, Dr. McKay started riding around the country to try to find the answer. He found one town where the children did not have mottled teeth. Nearby were a dozen communities where the children had severe cases of stained teeth. The only apparent difference between the town whose children were free of mottling and the other communities was that it had a different source of water.

Dr. McKay consulted Dr. Greene Vardiman Black, the great Chicago dental scientist. They made studies in Colorado, South Dakota, Arizona, and Arkansas. They found several towns where children's teeth were mottled after sources of water supplies were changed.

Two towns changed back to their original water sources and the mottling ended. Later examinations of children's teeth showed, however, that those which had erupted since the second change was made were more subject to decay than the mottled teeth

part fluoride to 1,000,000 parts



## Soprano To Present Concert At Winthrop

ROCK HILL—Patrice Munsel, leading coloratura soprano of the Metropolitan Opera, will sing at Winthrop college Monday, March 3, at 8 p. m. in the fifth concert of the college's 1951-52 artists series.

Now on her ninth American concert tour, Miss Munsel will be making her second appearance at Winthrop. Since her first visit here, she has gained almost phenomenal fame and success as a prima donna of the Metropolitan Opera.

Miss Munsel's career reads like a Cinderella story. At 18, after water was agreed upon as the formula which would not cause unsightly mottling but yet would help prevent decay.

winning the Metropolitan Auditions of the Air, she was awarded a contract and made her debut in "Mignon" in 1934, the youngest star in 60 years of Metropolitan Opera history. A seven-minute ovation greeted her opening performance.

In 1946, Miss Munsel was chosen the "best female vocalist" on the air by radio editors of the United States and Canada. Her greatest triumph came last year when she sang the role of Adele in Strauss' opera, "Fledermaus". More than one reviewer reported that she "stole the show".

Miss Munsel is singing her 12th starring role in the Met's current production of Mozart's "Così Fan Tutte". The 26-year-old star is described as "slim, pretty, having her voice and stage presence have attracted numerous adjectives of praise.

## Sanitation Grades Are Given For Area

Sanitation grades for the Kings Mountain area, No. 4 Township tourist homes, restaurants and food handling establishments were released this week by Thomas Strickland, senior sanitarian.

Grades as announced by the department are:

Grade A: Fisher's Tourist Home, 95; Maple Tourist Home, 90; Morrow Tourist Home, 97; Peeler Tourist Home, 97; B & B Soda Shop, 90; Craftsman Lunch Bar, 96; Silver Dollar Grill, 92; Silver Villa, 91.5.

Grade B: Buffalo Fish Camp, route 2, 86; Corner Cafe, 87; Ed-

ward's Cafe, 86.5; Griffin Drug Company, 84; Joe's Grill, 85; Horseshoe Grill, 81; Piedmont Lunch, 81.5; Troun Club, 84.5; West Point Cafe, 81.

Grade C: Daisey's Grill, 76.5; Hilltop Grill, 75.5; J & C Grill, 78.5; John's Grill, 72.5; Loom Tex Lunch, 78; Quality Sandwich

Company, 76.

The government of the Philippines has provided for 34,000 additional primary classes since the liberation, and the prewar primary school enrollment of 1,850,213 rose to 3,829,381 in 1949—an increase of 107%.

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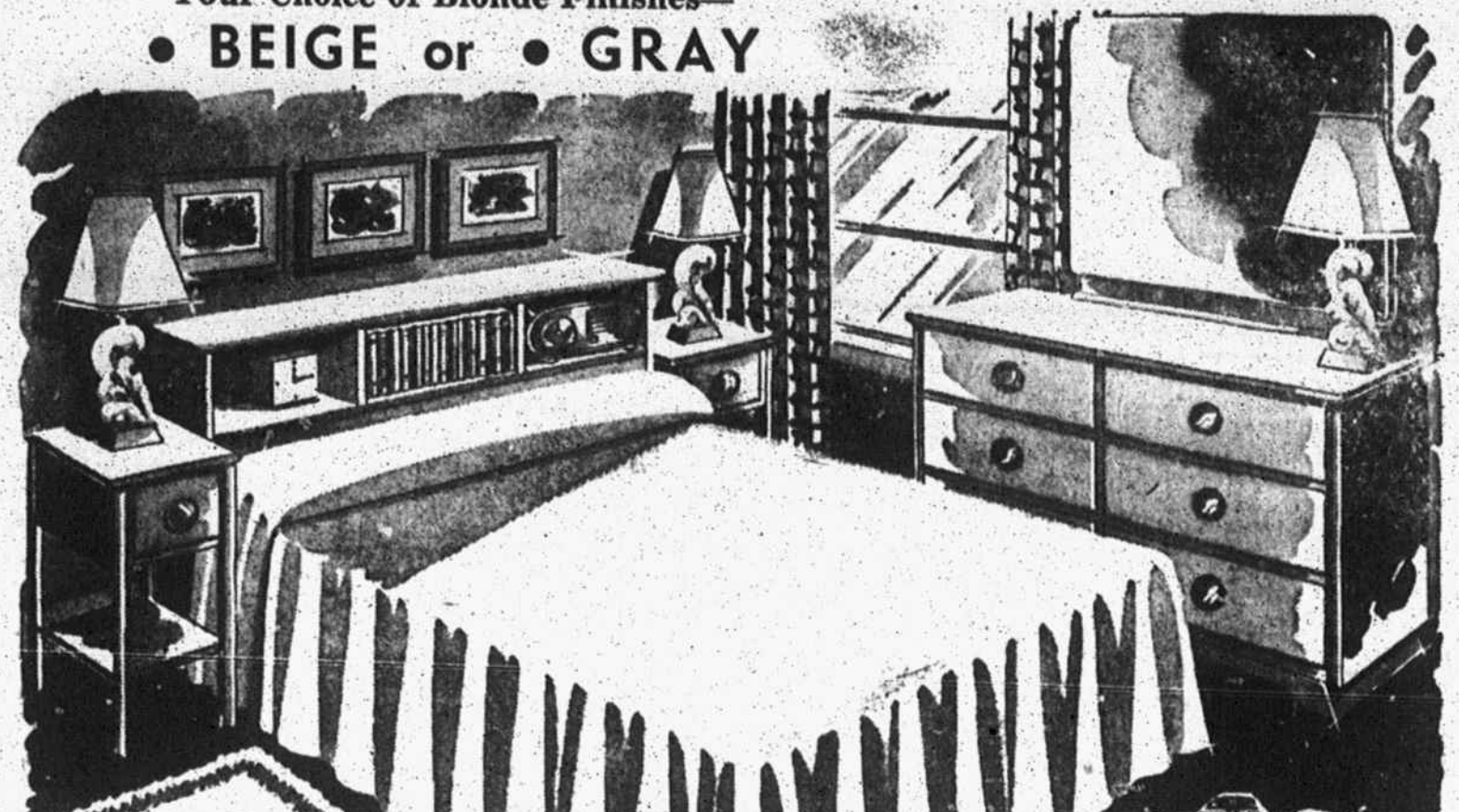
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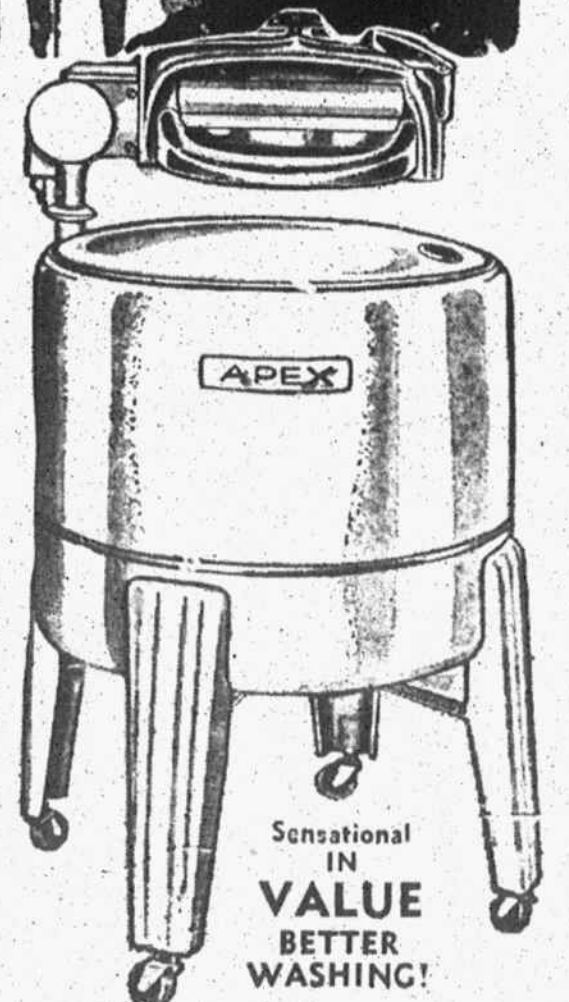
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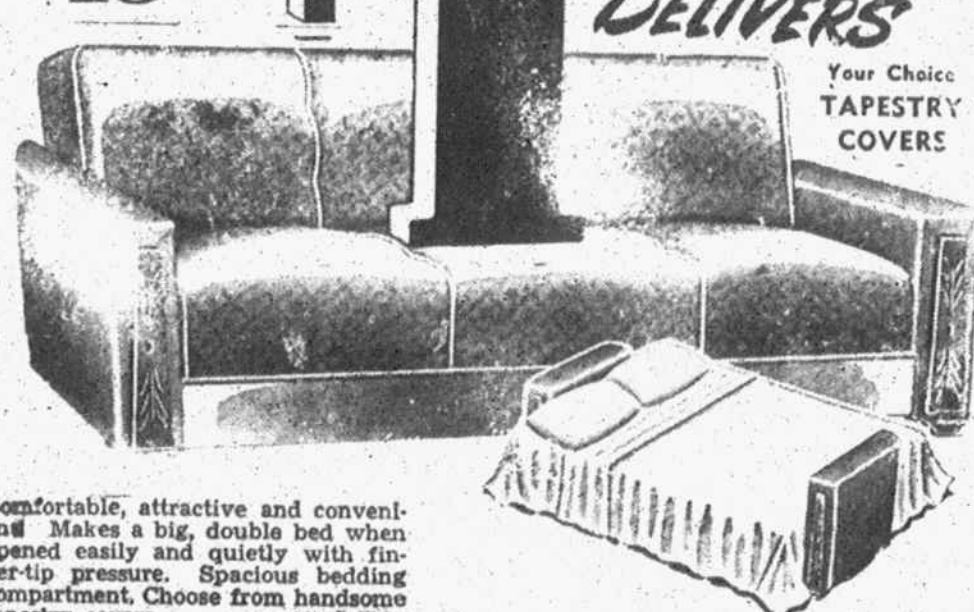
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