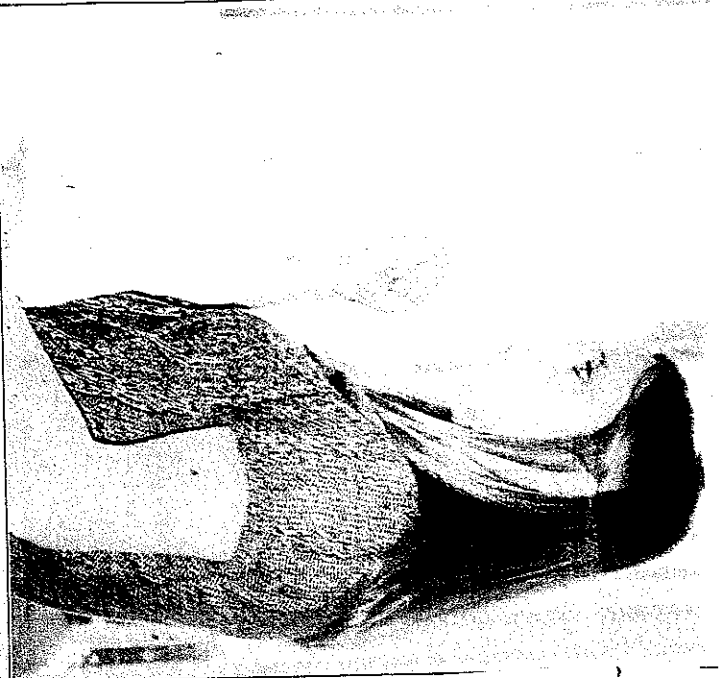


Welsh Citizen

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WELSH CITIZEN / Bengt Lindell

NO FLUORIDE: Ashley Augustine and other parents in Welsh would like to see a stop of fluoride in the Welsh tap water. Town officials are currently taking the request under advisement.

Concerned parents discuss fluoride with town officials

BY BENGT LINDELL
CITIZEN EDITOR

Last week a group of parents approached the Welsh mayor and aldermen regarding fluoride in the town's drinking water. The parents are concerned about their children's health and want to see a stop of adding the chemical in the Welsh water lines.

The group's spokesperson, Ashley Augustine, said that many cities, including Lake Charles and Baton Rouge already took the measure not to add fluoride to the tap water.

Fluoride is a toxic substance which hardens the teeth and make them less vulnerable to cavities and other

damage. However, fluoride is not healthy to consume. Side effects include pre-mature aging, discoloring of teeth, and damage of the immune system.

Augustine further stated that dental experts say toothpaste with fluoride well protects teeth enough, so no additional fluoride is needed. Ms. Augustine said that many European countries, including Holland and Sweden abandoned fluoride in drinking water decades ago. Statistics show that children in those countries have less cavities compared to children in the United States.

She also stated that if Welsh stopped adding fluoride to the water, the town could scratch out the expense of purchasing the additive.

The Welsh aldermen will take the Welsh parents' request under advisement. Alderman Charles Drake mentioned that if the town would consider a stop to fluoride, this would be done after the water plant ran out of the substance.