

Eight States Now Are Using Gas Chambers For Executions

DENVER, Colo., Jan. 1 (AP) — The lethal gas chamber method of executing condemned prisoners, used since the early '30s by several

Western states, is creeping southward and eastward.

Mississippi is the latest state—the eighth—to purchase a chamber from Eaton Metal Products Co., which holds a patent on the death machine. Colorado put the first all-steel and glass chamber into use in 1933, although Nevada earlier had used a makeshift chamber of masonry and metal parts furnished by Eaton.

Arizona, California, Oregon, Wyoming and Missouri are other states using the device that snuffs out lives in a few seconds with billows of cyanide gas.

\$10,000 Price Tags

Inquiries indicate Maryland may be the next state to purchase one of the chambers, which cost \$10,000.

Colorado and the other Western states adopted the prison gas method because of unsatisfactory experiences with hanging. One Colorado condemned man was sprung on the hanging trap three times before he was killed.

The chamber is hexagonal in shape, 8 feet across and 14 feet in height. Five windows of inch-thick glass enable witnesses to watch the execution. A gasket of neoprene rubber insures an airtight seal on the door, which is screwed tight against the gasket.

A four-gallon stainless steel container is suspended directly beneath the steel chair in which the condemned criminal sits. Controls outside the chamber release cyanide pellets that tumble into sulfuric acid in the container. The gas rises swiftly and causes death seconds after being inhaled.

Ultraviolet Rays Safeguard Water

For 27 million Americans who depend on drinking water from wells, springs, rivers or lakes, contamination is a lurking killer.

As the water level falls, or an accident of nature or man occurs, the bacteria count in the water supply can rise suddenly and fatally. It is this danger, too, that lurks over summer cottage residents—the people who have gone back to nature for their two-week vacation.

Tests on water purification are constantly made because only about two-thirds of the nation's people live in areas where there is adequate health inspection.

At De Paul University's biology department, for example, Dr. John R. Cortelyou has come up with some appetizing statistics on the 200 virus diseases that are fighting their way into the human stomach.

At least one answer to the problem has been reached through toaster-sized ultraviolet purifying units which can be in any home water system. These units are portable and can be set up in no time at all.

