



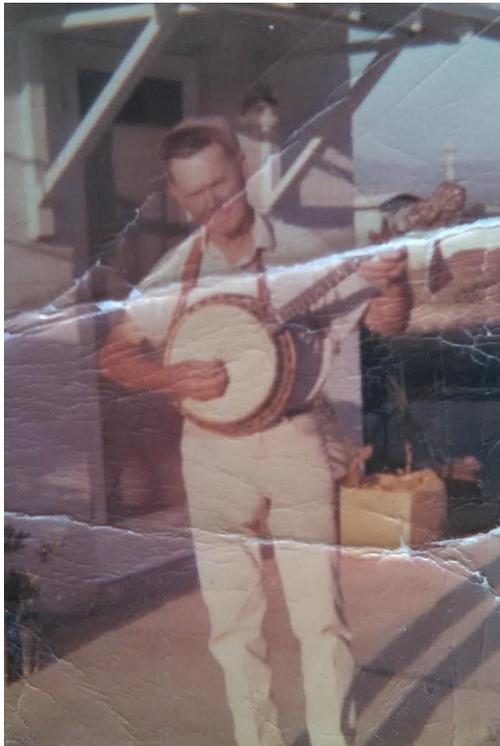
## Letter to the Editor: Tex (Sonny) Gilligan - hunter and ex-underground miner

Monday, July 29, 2019

To: The LEAD Group Inc

Subject: Lead and other heavy metals.

From: Tex (Sonny) Gilligan <[sonny95@protonmail.com](mailto:sonny95@protonmail.com)>



I have been an underground miner the greatest part of my life. That includes Uranium Mining, Zinc Mining, Gold, Tungsten and Copper mining. My mining started at age 9 when I would enter mines with my Dad whose life as a prospector/miner was many years. He died from prostate cancer I believe brought on by a small chunk of high grade Uranium that he carried for years. It looked like a small meteorite a bit larger than the size of what is termed a boulder in child marble playing.

*Archival photo of the father of Tex Harold Eldon Gilligan (Sonny).*

My hiking partner, Joy Collura for a period of about six years were the last two civilians to see the 19 Granite Mountain Hot Shot Crew alive that terrible day of June 30, 2013 when they were burned alive. It left a profound effect upon us since we were on the fire edge before they were and photographed, talked with their crew boss Eric Marsh and were at the very place they descended into a trap that would end their young lives.



I had lost a young son, Ted, due to similar circumstances so it bore especially hard upon my person so I felt the loved ones pain very deeply. So Joy and I took up to hiking hundreds of wild land fire fighters to the sight feeling it almost our duty. We have also posted much on Investigative Media where there is still controversy over why those men did the unthinkable and the questions involving what we believe was a faulty investigation.

*Archival photo of Ted Gilligan, the son of Tex Harold Eldon Gilligan (Sonny) who died from injuries later from an underwater welding incident.*



*Archival Photo of Tex Harold Eldon Gilligan (Sonny) New Mexico Logger Days - hauling firewood he cut from dead trees*

We had barely escaped that mega fire at Yarnell, Arizona by less than ten minutes ourselves. But that is not what I was concerned about in contacting you. You see Yarnell was surrounded by a saturation of the orange slurry in an attempt to save the residences. It was ineffective except that after the slurry drops and in these past years upwards of 200 individuals from Yarnell and its immediate area have died. Others have suffered illness related to oxygen deprivation such as heart attack, cancer, lung issues and the like. I myself fell dead in a hospital parking lot of a heart attack some months after the slurry drops. Since I have had more and six stents in my body now. Doctors have indeed saved my life more than once.

I know that lead is the end product of the half lives of Uranium. Both are heavy metals and the slurry as well carries depleted Uranium. A cursory search of the effects of the phosphates that are a major constituent of slurry show the terrible devastation on aquatic life and the death caused to millions of fish lying on river banks and beaches of Florida. We know that the phosphates and ammonium compounds also are heavy contributors to the ocean dead zones both in the Atlantic and Pacific.

There is a range of 5-15% of hidden chemicals added to the Phosphate slurry solutions. We do not know what they are since these chemical companies are able to hide them under trade secret laws. PhosChek slurry brand advertises 8% or less of hidden chemicals--that would be about three quarters of a ton of unknown chemicals spread about Yarnell since



information reports about 500 thousand gallons of the retardant were unloaded about Yarnell.

I had written EPA but they are not concerned about fire retardant effects. They have however spent hundreds of millions trying to clean up the abandoned phosphate mines in Florida. There are 16 abandoned mines I believe and another 9 that are still in production. The EPA concerns are that the Uranium, Thorium, Radium and Radon contents of the phosphates will enter the fresh water tables--well they already have.

So with your knowledge of the problem, I wonder have you any advice for people who have been subjected to these toxic solutions found in the slurries, namely the phosphates, ammonium and other hidden chemicals we can only guess at.

In a way I am one of the guinea pigs that Yarnell was. I have had 6 heart attacks, and in one month had 9 cancers removed which had gone rampant after my life at Yarnell. I have since moved to New Mexico leaving behind many friends who are now either dead or sick.

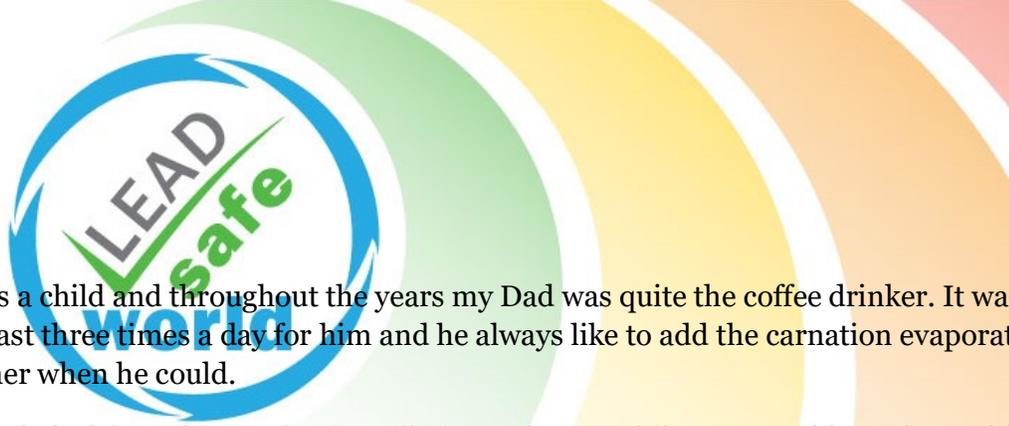
Unfortunately on a rabbit hunt with my three dogs, one was able to somehow get his paw so that he unlocked the safety and fired a twelve gauge shotgun into my back. It shattered my clavicle into many pieces, pierced my right lung and broke three ribs, yet I still have the ounce of number 8 lead shot scatter throughout my chest. Again the miracles of modern doctors and science saved me since I had bled out 6 units of blood some 25 miles out in the desert. You were dead at 5 says my son, a long time trauma RN.

But now I feel like the lead is taking a toll on my health--I feel like I am living somewhere fluctuating between a 1 and 3 in health and vitality on a scale of 1 to 10 and 10 being the best health. Do you have any suggestions to relieve this loss of memory, loss of vitality and breathing difficulties I have? I am 75 years of age, a war time Vet so I will request a blood test for chemicals such as lead at my next VA medical visit.



*Recent Photo of Tex Harold Eldon Gilligan (Sonny) by Joy A Collura*

Photo source: <https://www.yarnellhillfirerevelations.com/single-post/2018/11/03/How-Many-Lives-Does-One-Man-Have-I-Always-Thought-It-Was-Two-The-Second-One-Began-When-One-Realized-They-Only-Have-One-Life-Not-For-Tex-Harold-Eldon-Gilligan-Sonny-This-Is-His-Medical-Status-Update-Post-Tex-Being-On-The-Weaver-Mountains-June-30-2013-Was-Very-Important-To-The-Wildland-Fire-Industry-Too-Many-Times-He-Has-Been-Thanked-For-His-Fire-Knowledge-Experience-Let-This-Post-Honor-The-Fallen-By-Sharing-About-Sonny-Who-Is-On-A-Road-To-Recovery->



When I was a child and throughout the years my Dad was quite the coffee drinker. It was coffee at least three times a day for him and he always like to add the carnation evaporated milk creamer when he could.

I was reminded of that when at the Yarnell Fire and on our hikes we would see those old rusted carnation evaporated milk cans from years gone. The gold mines surrounding Yarnell and in the Weaver Range still have the old dumps. After the hot wild fire of 2013 (reaching up to 1500 degrees Farenheit) and dispersing the energy of a Hiroshima type A-Bomb every 15 minutes, I happened to notice the effects on those old cream cans left by miners 50 and more years preceding the fire. In those days the center of the can was sealed by lead. The lead melts at 700F, and so you could see the lead melted like so much wax from the center of the can and frozen like and elongated bulb.

It demonstrates how even that they knew about the lead toxicity since the early 1900's, the industries were still game to use lead as a sealant on food products.

Thank you – Sonny Tex Gilligan

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[*Editor's note: Sonny's lodged lead shot in his chest, reminded me of the following Letter to the Editor not published until now.*]