

FILE NAME: BF Goodrich (BFG)

DATE: 1991 Oct 25

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IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

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CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO

3 JANE CUNNINGHAM, Executrix
4 for the Estate of
David G. Cunningham,

5 Plaintiff,

6 -vs-

JUDGE TALTY
CASE NO. 150433

7 AKRON GASKET & PACKING
8 ENTERPRISES, INC., et al.,

9 Defendants.

10 - - - -

11 Deposition of WILLIAM MCCORMICK, taken as if
12 upon cross-examination before Gala J. Marzec, a
13 Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio,
14 at the offices of Bevan & Economus, Northfield
15 Road, Northfield, Ohio, at 10:00 a.m. on
16 Friday, October 25, 1991, pursuant to notice
17 and/or stipulations of counsel, on behalf of
18 the Plaintiff in this cause.

19 - - - -

20
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1 employees?

2 A. There was a potential problem.

3 Q. Are you aware of any specific industrial
4 hygiene memos at B.F. Goodrich Company relating
5 to not potential problems but actual problems
6 based upon measurements taken by the industrial
7 hygiene department, asbestos exposure?

8 A. I think we perhaps took some measurements. I
9 think we perhaps took some measurements at this
10 operation.

11 Q. Did those measurements indicate to you that
12 there was a hazard to employees?

13 A. I don't recall specifically, because that's
14 been years ago. But we did do air sampling.
15 We also examined personnel.

16 Q. Did you do air sampling on a regular basis in
17 every department?

18 A. It depends by what you mean by regular.

19 Q. Every day?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Every week?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Every month?

24 A. No.

25 Q. Every six months?

1 A. It would vary.

2 Q. So you really don't know how often you did it
3 or how frequently?

4 A. No, I don't.

5 Q. There was no program set up at Goodrich which
6 established a periodic air sampling regimen in
7 every department that you know of?

8 A. No.

9 Q. Are you familiar with whether or not -- strike
10 that.

11 Let's talk about air sampling a little bit
12 more. Did you personally ever conduct any air
13 sampling in any of the tire curing areas?

14 A. I probably did.

15 Q. Do you have any records of that that you can
16 show me?

17 A. No.

18 Q. Do you recall the results of those air
19 samplings?

20 A. No.

21 Q. Do you recall how often you did it?

22 A. No.

23 Q. At Goodrich was the curing area also known or
24 were the curing areas --

25 There were more than one tire curing

1 A. A compounder?

2 Q. Yes.

3 A. A compounder was basically a chemical engineer
4 who devised formulations, checked raw
5 materials, did a number of things.

6 Q. Would a compounder have been exposed to
7 asbestos containing materials at the Goodrich?

8 A. Probably not.

9 Q. Was raw asbestos used in the calendar room?

10 A. No.

11 Q. Did you or anyone in your department ever
12 monitor for asbestos in the ambient air at the
13 B.F. Goodrich in the 1940's and 50's?

14 A. I do not know. That's a long time ago.

15 Q. Do you recall specifically when you yourself
16 first became involved in air monitoring at the
17 Goodrich?

18 A. Oh, I became involved from 1946 on.

19 Q. In air monitoring?

20 A. To some degree.

21 Q. Did you keep records?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. You don't know where they are?

24 A. They're with the B.F. Goodrich Company. They
25 were there when I retired. I don't know where

1 they are now.

2 Q. Are you aware as we sit here that asbestos
3 exposure can cause disease in human beings?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. When did you first become aware of that fact?

6 A. Oh, I can't recite dates. But certainly back
7 in the late 30's probably.

8 Q. Are you familiar with the department 153 in
9 Building 5-F at the Goodrich?

10 A. No. I'm not familiar with it.

11 Q. Do you know whether or not asbestos was ever
12 used as a binder in rubber formulation in that
13 department?

14 A. I don't know.

15 Q. You don't know?

16 A. No.

17 Q. Do you know whether employees at the Goodrich
18 ever used wire brushes and drills to cut
19 asbestos blocks used at Goodrich, one of the
20 hazards in the ink mill with asbestos exposure
21 at Goodrich?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Do you know whether or not Goodrich was ever
24 cited by the U.S. government for violation of
25 standards regarding airborne asbestos?

1 Q. That's a very general term. Are you familiar
2 with a principle which indicates that asbestos
3 fibers once released into the ambient air have
4 a tendency to settle, and once settled, again
5 released based upon sweeping or blowing or some
6 other such of mechanical action?

7 A. Perhaps no more than any other particles of
8 dust that settle.

9 Q. Do you know whether or not at Goodrich that was
10 ever a concern?

11 A. Never a concern for us.

12 Q. Never a concern. Okay. Why was that?

13 A. Why was it?

14 Q. Yes. Why wasn't it a concern?

15 A. We wouldn't be any more concerned about that
16 than we would with sweeping city streets --

17 Q. Why not?

18 A. -- which contain asbestos fibers.

19 Q. Except you had no control over the sweeping of
20 city streets containing asbestos fibers?

21 A. That's correct.

22 Q. But you did have control over Goodrich?

23 A. Yes and no, but not to that degree.

24 Q. When you did air sampling studies at the
25 Goodrich, if you found what you believed to be

1 asbestos in the ambient air, would you make a
2 report of it?

3 A. Oh, yes.

4 Q. Would you let the employees in the area where
5 the sample was done know of the contents of
6 your report?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Why not?

9 A. The company policy, and I think this was at
10 that time, perhaps still is, very general. The
11 reports went to management with
12 recommendations, if there were any
13 recommendations.

14 Q. Up until the late 50's at Goodrich no one had
15 done any work on anything that could be related
16 to asbestos, is that a fair statement?

17 A. You'll have to define your terms. You said no
18 one did any work on asbestos. I can't verify
19 that. I don't know.

20 Q. Did you establish an industrial hygiene
21 laboratory at the Goodrich?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. In the mid to late 50's?

24 A. I established a laboratory soon after I came
25 there in 1946.