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He said that, in the past, concentrations of airborne asbestos fibers there were higher but that the unit is safe now because of a recent \$500,000 program to clean up the operation. The recent deaths were due to past exposure to high asbestos concentrations, he said.

US Energy Industry

A-1 Equipment & Chemical
A.I.D. Chemical Co., Inc.
Aaron Equipment Compan
Inc

American Hoechst Corp.
American Tars Corp.
Amoco Division, Union
Asphal Chemicals Di
vision

ARChem Company
Aries International
Armat Chemicals Di
Arnold-Newman Co
Ashland Chemical
Bathlehem Steel C
Stanley Blackman
Boehringer, C.H
Brill Equipment
Burke Parsons

Burke Parson
 Business Co
 CPC Interr
 CPS Che
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E
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Ferro
Fine
Fine O.
Foster Gr.
Gelb, R. &
Glidden Orgs
SCM Corpora.
Glyco Chemicals, Ir.
H & P Equipment Cc
C. P. Hall Co.
Harshaw Chemical Comp.
Kewanee Oil Company

Heico Inc.
Hercules Incorporated
Hoffmann-La Roche, Inc.
Hummel Chemical Division
Hutchinson, D.W., & Co., Inc.
ISIS
Industrial Investors
International Caselin Corp.
J.B. Chemical Co.
Jobs B.V.
Jones Chemicals, Inc.
Kuehne Chemical Co. ...
Lawler Company
Lee Chemicals
Machinery & Equipme
Machinery Reserve o'
Mayco Oil and Che
McKesson Che-
Meer Corp.
Metalwo
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Great asbestos hunt

It is a little difficult to understand the high dudgeon that some public officials have worked themselves into over the existence of asbestos in school buildings.

It's puzzling because of the fact that the mineral, which is one of the known causes of cancer, has been around schools for a long, long time.

Asbestos can be found in the acoustical tile ceilings, in floor tiles and, if one wants to continue the search long and hard enough, out in the parking lots in the brake linings of vehicles.

It can also be found in the serpentine rock formations that many schools in California are built upon.

Nevertheless, after several schools in New Jersey were shut down because ceilings containing high concentrations of asbestos were found, the word went out to check all California schools.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Wilson Riles has asked the school system to check records or run tests to determine the asbestos content of their facilities. The latter request, unless further clarified, could run into considerable needless expense.

Upshot of the flap over asbestos in schools has been the scheduled visit of a team of investigators from the State Department of Health

to inspect all 42 schools in Cupertino Union School District.

As a result of Riles' notification, many schools have apparently gone ahead on their own to take an asbestos inventory, so to speak, to the extent of hiring outside experts.

Perhaps it would be better for the hundreds of school districts throughout the state to cool it a bit and await the findings of the State Department of Public Health which will be spot checking schools in northern and southern California.

It is safe to assume that this knowledge will be shared with all parties concerned, in due time.

But, once again, overkill and overpanic seems to set in whenever the environment appears to be under the threat of another potential pollutant.

That asbestos is one of the causes of cancer has been established, in 1972, by researchers affiliated with the American Cancer Society.

But, its sudden "discovery" within the hallowed walls of our schoolhouses, shouldn't touch off a wild scramble to get rid of the stuff.

It would be bad enough removing it from the brake linings of all our automobiles, but getting it out of that serpentine rock under each school building would be just too much.

SAN JOSE NEWS
SAN JOSE, CA.

JAN 27 1977

Illness Wasn't Due to Asbestos

HOWELL TOWNSHIP, Feb. 18 (AP)—A 13-year-old student whose illness was attributed to asbestos ceilings, leading to school closings and a statewide search for the cancer-causing fiber, has been sick with mononucleosis, his doctor said today.

Dr. Michael Quatrella of Asbury Park said that recent tests showed the cause of Ramtown School eighth-grader Joseph Sarraf's swollen glands and sore throat was the virus and not asbestos particles.

The youth, who has been at home since last November, might be allowed to return to school by Tuesday if another blood test shows the mononucleosis is waning, Dr. Quatrella said.

After it was believed that asbestos particles floating in the air had caused Joseph's illness, concerned parents here pressured the school board to close six elementary schools with an enrollment of 3,300 from Dec. 23 to Jan. 24 while the asbestos-coated ceilings were replaced at a cost of \$60,000.

Concern about asbestos in schools spread, and dozens of schools made air tests for the fibers.

Howell school officials said the board had acted properly in taking down the ceilings, but Schools Superintendent Sidney Zaslavsky said:

"I think we could have waited until June. That way we wouldn't have uprooted the whole school system, upset the whole community and affected the education of 3,300 kids."

Incompetence Laid to 4 Engineers Who Refuse to Visit Asbestos Plant

By FRANCES CERRA

Charges of incompetence and misconduct have been leveled against four air-pollution-control engineers employed by the New York City Department of Air Resources, who have refused, on grounds of personal safety, to inspect plants that manufacture products containing asbestos.

The four engineers, each of whom has at least four years of service with the city, say they are refusing to make the inspections because the city will not provide them with disposable, protective clothing. Referring to research done by Dr. Irving Selikoff of the Mount Sinai Medical Center's Department of Environmental Medicine, they maintain that asbestos particles that adhere to their clothing could cause them, their families and co-workers to contract lung disease, including a particular form of cancer.

A spokesman for Ethan C. Eldon, Air Resources Commissioner, said he had no comment because the charges were pending. An administrative hearing on the charges will be held tomorrow. If the charges are upheld, the four engineers could face dismissal, suspension without pay, a reduction in rank or a simple reprimand. They can appeal an administrative ruling to the state courts.

The letter to the engineers informing

them of the charges stated that they had refused repeated orders by their immediate superior, Benjamin Radzka, to make the inspections. Furthermore, it said they continued to refuse after their superior told them that "if upon arrival at various plants you encountered what you consider to be hazardous conditions, you were to telephone Mr. Radzka for further instructions."

"How can I know if it's hazardous asked George Cecchini. "You can't see fibers in the air." Mr. Cecchini and other engineers pointed out that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration had been steadily reducing the allowable number of fibers of asbestos in the air of such plants, and recently proposed establishing a safety level of one-tenth of a fiber per cubic centimeter of air. Workers in such plants are supposed to wear disposable clothing.

The engineers say further that before they learned of the hazards of asbestos they did make inspections in plants using the substance and were concerned not that they had already harmed themselves. In addition to Mr. Cecchini, the other engineers involved are John Cilen, Henry Danziger and Abraham Reich.

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

TIMES FEB 6 1977

School officials: Asbestos present, but no danger

THE JOURNAL
NEWARK, N. J.
JAN 12

Asbestos in Industry Has Wide Application

Asbestos, as just about every school-age child knows, is that magic cloth that won't burn no matter how many matches are applied to it.

It's been used by magicians throughout history to create sensational illusions. Charlemagne, as legend tells it, was even supposed to have an asbestos tablecloth that was cleaned by putting a torch to it.

In the real world, asbestos is used in industrial and commercial construction, roofing, sealants, friction substances, and flooring material.

At one time, asbestos posed a health hazard to those who worked with it extensively. Long periods of inhaling unsafe quantities led to asbestosis, an ailment of the respiratory system similar to what scientists have proven smoking cigarettes over a long period can cause.

But for the homeowner, there appears to be no danger of even mild cases of asbestosis because of the way it is packaged.

The only real concern these days is in industrial and commercial uses where large quantities of asbestos materials might be used.

One problem arose after World War II when manufacturers put an asbestos spray coating that served as an acoustical buffer and fire preventative on the market, according to Edmund Fenner, director of Environmental Services for Johns Manville, Denver, a major supplier of asbestos products in the country.

"The problem was that it was being improperly installed," said Fenner. "It was improperly applied, and fibers were released into the air."

It was that type of spray coating that was applied to the ceiling in the Ramtown Elementary School, Howell Township, where at least one physician suspects a 13-year-old student may have breathed unsafe quantities, causing irritation of the upper respiratory system.

There is no proof the student suffered from inhaling asbestos fibers in the air, but the physician, Dr. Michael R. Quatrella, Asbury Park, said yesterday the student has improved since he has not been attending school.

In the meantime, scientists are trying to determine how much, if any, asbestos fibers are present in the school and three other schools in Howell.

"As I understand the Howell problem, the coating started to flake," Fenner said. "This happened more than once because the people who applied it didn't know how to seal it properly."

The product, which has been discontinued, reached its peak in the 1950s, Fenner

said, and was phased out by the industry in the early 1970s.

Asbestos is actually a mineral and takes its name from the Greek compound word signifying incombustible.

About 95 per cent of the asbestos used in the country is of the type called chrysotile and is imported from Canada. In its natural state, asbestos is quarried because it is as dense as a rock.

In manufacturing, asbestos is formed by crushing the rock-like substance into a mass of tiny fibers.

Fenner said asbestos is used in at least 3,000 products nationally, but they can be lumped into seven basic categories. They are:

- Industrial and commercial interior siding, residential siding and piping.

- Roofing felts for commercial and industrial construction.

- Sealants, coatings, such as automobile undercoatings.

- Textiles, although the use of asbestos in textiles is slowly being phased out.

- Floor tiles.

- Resilient sheet flooring, more commonly known as linoleum.

Fenner said asbestos is not used for ceiling tiles, except in the case of professional soundproofing materials for radio stations.

In virtually all cases, he said, the packaging makes it difficult for fibers to escape into the air.

For example, he said the fibers in asbestos floor tile could not be released be-

cause the tiles are cut with a knife or a shear and not a sawing action.

"I would strongly recommend that anyone who cuts asbestos material with a saw make sure that the saw has proper dust collecting equipment," he said. "The asbestos in today's products are locked into the product so that only physical energy can release any fibers."

One common use is in disc and drum brake linings. However, Fenner said studies have shown that the amount of fiber released into the air, caused by extreme heat produced by the braking action, is within accepted government safety standards.

As far as the local case is concerned, Quatrella said the negative chest X-ray of the student indicates there are no lethal doses of fiber in the schools.

Asbestos publicity ends trial

A federal judge, concerned over publicity generated by the shutdown of Howell Township schools because of asbestos-related health dangers, declared a mistrial in the case of a wrecking company accused of asbestos pollution.

U.S. District Court Judge Frederick B. Lacey ruled that news stories about the asbestos problems could have unfairly influenced the outcome of the trial.

The trial involved the D and V Wrecking Co. of Sayreville, which allegedly violated federal air pollution laws by allowing asbestos dust to enter the air during the demolition of industrial buildings in Kearny last year.

"This Howell Township situation couldn't have occurred at a worse time from the point of view of the parties to this case," Lacey said. "And given the headlines that this Howell Township situation has received, and only after a lot of balancing in my own mind, I decided that I would grant the motion for mistrial."

A new trial is slated to begin on March 1 in U.S. District Court in Newark.

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NEWARK, N. J.

JAN 8 1977

KMX 00371

JAN 4 1977

ASBURY PARK
EVENING PRESS
ASBURY PARK, N. J.

Mother challenged over asbestos claim

By SUE EPSTEIN

The president of the Howell Board of Education said yesterday he "wasn't surprised" that someone filed a complaint against the board because of asbestos ceilings in the township's schools.

But Harold Clark called Mrs. Irene Sarraf's claim for \$20 million in punitive and compensatory damages "absurd" and challenged her to "prove in court" that her two sons have contracted asbestosis adenitis and poisoning as she charges.

"The number is completely absurd," he said. "I believe she is entitled to payment of her medical bills if, upon examination by several doctors, it is determined her children had the illnesses, but this is no one's fault."

Mrs. Sarraf's 13-year-old son Joseph has been home with an upper respiratory infection and what was recently diagnosed as mononucleosis since November.

She charges in her complaint, filed late Friday with the school board as the first step in filing a lawsuit, that Joseph and Ronald, 10, were "exposed to an environment deleterious to their health" while enrolled in Howell's Ramtown Elementary School.

She blamed "defects in construction" with possibly a "shortening of their lives" due to the asbestos coating on the ceilings which flaked.

Ramtown and five other elementary schools were closed for three weeks in January so that workmen could remove the asbestos ceilings in corridors of four

of the schools and in the boiler room ceilings in the other two.

"I don't hold anybody responsible for the asbestos coating or anyone who became ill possibly as a result from it," board president Clark said. "When it was installed, and until about a year ago, everyone was under the belief it was safe."

Clark said he believes the school board should devise a program to monitor the students and examine them to see if in the future any types of asbestos-related illnesses occur.

"We're working with our school physician right now to come up with a program for those who may have already been affected," he revealed. "We won't know what effect, if any, the asbestos has had and won't know for about eight or nine years."

The complaint, which will be turned over to the school's insurance carriers, seeks \$10 million in compensatory damages and \$10 million in punitive damages.

Mrs. Sarraf's pediatrician, Dr. Michael Quatrella, had notified the school board last December, after the board had decided to remove the asbestos ceilings, that Joseph's upper respiratory condition "might possibly" have been caused by the flaking asbestos. Tests taken on the boy for the presence of asbestos have proven negative.

Howell Township is the state's largest elementary school district, with over 4,000 students in eight elementary schools. High school students attend Freehold Regional High School district schools.

STAR LEDGER
NEWARK, N. J.

MAR 8 1977

Officials Plan Asbestos Survey

Special to The News Leader
BIG STONE GAP—Officials in the State Division of Mines and Quarries are working to get under way a program to survey rock quarries in Virginia for possible health hazards from asbestos.

Frank A. Linkous, chief technical assistant in the mines and quarries division here, said the state's concern stems in part from the asbestos findings at a Rockville, Md., quarry.

Linkous said after the state perfects its sampling technique, it will sample eventually all the quarry operations in the state.

Asbestos is a possible cancer-causing agent.

RICHMOND NEWS LEADER
RICHMOND, VA.

MAR 14 1977

Illness Laid to Asbestos, \$20 Million Is Sought

HOWELL TOWNSHIP, N.J., March 7 (AP)—A mother has filed a \$20 million claim with the Board of Education here, charging her two sons became ill because they inhaled asbestos fibers flaking from ceilings in an elementary school.

Irene Sarraf filed the official notice, seeking \$10 million in compensatory damages and \$10 million in punitive damages, from the board, in a preliminary step to bringing a lawsuit, attorneys for the school board said.

The board shut six elementary schools with a total enrollment of 3,300 from Dec. 23 to Jan. 24 while workmen replaced asbestos-coated ceilings at a cost of \$80,000.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Tuesday, March 8 1977

MTC wants EB to pay for asbestos clinic

GROTON — The Metal Trades Council would like General Dynamics-Electric Boat to pay for a permanent clinic for the treatment of workers with asbestos-related diseases.

Such a proposal reportedly was discussed at a meeting recently between an MTC committee, representing 13,000 production workers, and Dr. Irving J. Selikoff at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine.

An EB spokesman said today that the company has received no concrete proposal from the union and that it would be premature to discuss it.

MTC President Anthony L. DeGregory confirmed there was a meeting Saturday in New York.

Individual test results from a clinic conducted last year by Selikoff's team of doctors still are being

mailed to union member who were examined sources said.

MTC leaders have said previously that the union wants the support and cooperation of management in coping with occupational diseases.

A local clinic, which would be staffed by experts in asbestos-related diseases, reportedly is one of several possible proposals to the company. //

THE DAY
NEW LONDON, CONN.

FEB 24 1977

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