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Monsanto to phase out PCB output

ST. LOAIS (AP) — Monsanto Co. has announced it intends to phase out the production of chemical polychlorinated biphenyls PCBs, which have been termed a significant health hazard by the Environmental Protection Agency.

In making the announcement Monday, F. J. Fitzgerald, managing director of Monsanto Industrial Chemicals Co., said it was too early to put an exact timetable on the phaseout but that it would take place in "a planned and orderly manner."

PCBs, the fire-resistant chemicals used mainly as insulating fluids in electrical equipment such as high-power transformers, have been shown to cause reproductive failures, gastric disorders and skin lesions in mammals.

Russell E. Train, the EPA administrator, said last month that PCBs should be effectively controlled "with every means at our disposal."

Monsanto is the only American manufacturer of PCBs, producing about 40 million annually at its Sauget, Ill., plant on the Mississippi River. The agency has listed 37 other plants where the chemical is used in the manufacture of transformers or capacitors.

According to Fitzgerald, Monsanto will voluntarily shut down its PCB manufacturing unit "as soon as we are satisfied that the electrical power supply industries" needs for usable, acceptable alternate dialectric fluids have been met..."

He noted that Monsanto began reducing production before a federal task force study on PCBs was completed in 1972.

Since then, he said, Monsanto has installed special high-temperature incinerators which completely destroy waste PCBs by burning them at extremely high temperatures.

The EPA has estimated that 700 million pounds of the virtually indestructable PCBs have been produced in the United States since 1929. It said last month that about 300 million pounds were in use, with most of the remainder dumped into land fills, leached into water or allowed to sift into production sites or in lake or river bottoms.

Train said PCB levels above those allowed by the Food and Drug Administration have been found in fish from the Great Lakes, the Hudson River, the upper Mississippi and off the southern California coast.

MONS 032042

night.

TWO NORTH TONAWANDA HOMES WERE found broken into late Tuesday evening. Eighty dollars was taken from a bedroom in the home of Annamae Hughes, 494 Esther St. Glass in the rear door was broken and the lock sprung to enter.

One hundred and fifty dollars was taken from the home of Sandra Saber, 1012 Gilmore Ave., where the kitchen and bedrooms were ransacked. A rear door was jimmied to gain entrance.

A TOWN F NIAGARA woman will appear Friday before Justice Casey Zygmont to answer a charge of petit larceny.

Wilma Montante, 44, of 7230 Porter Rd., was charged

As a result of an investigation by officers of the Criminal Investigation branch, Richard Dugas of that address was taken into custody. He will appear before a Justice of the Peace this afternoon.

Police said a gun and some money were recovered.

TWO SUITCASES containing

BURGLARS MADE A H
in two locations Monday — over $5,000 in items were stolen.

Gloria Welch, 23G Southgate, told police when she returned to her home shortly after 11

to grand jury

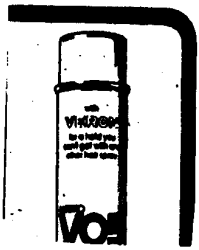
NIAGARA FALLS — Two men face grand jury action after a preliminary hearing in City Court Monday on charges of burglary.

Martin D. Crumpler, 19, of 16B Jordan Gardens and Robert L. Welch, 21, of 1346 Ontario Ave. are alleged to have been involved in the burglary of a Royal Avenue tavern in July of 1975.

Both are free on $4,000 each pending grand jury action.

90 DAYS IN JAIL is the sentence handed to Michael G. Frank, 24, of 13F Orange Walk after he pleaded guilty to a charge of menacing.

Frank is accused of threatening to stab a newspaper delivery boy in 18th Street in July of 1975.



MONS 032043