

Niagara Falls Gazette, dated 6/16/74
Titled "Goodrich Vinyl Chloride"

The reporter who wrote the story of a 57 year old (street?) woman of liver cancer associated with the breathing of vinyl chloride fumes evidently did not do his research thoroughly. The accusing finger is always pointed at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company because it is the only remaining vinyl chloride user in the area. The deceased woman lived about eight blocks from the vinyl chloride plant and with the direction of the prevailing winds, any fumes from Goodyear would never reach that area, but there was a vinyl chloride plant to which an accusing finger could be pointed. The vinyl chloride plant disregarded by the government and medical research agencies -- and that was the BFGoodrich plant at 164 53rd Street. The first vinyl chloride plant in the US. It was in operation from 1940 until they suddenly closed without a decent explanation in 1971, which evidently was about the time of the reporting of the deaths of three workers in the BFGoodrich plant at Louisville, Kentucky, due to angiosarcoma of the liver. Between 53rd and 56th streets is a wide open field over which the vinyl chloride fumes from the former BFGoodrich plant could flow freely and the prevailing winds are such that continually blow toward the residential area of the deceased woman, and there were plenty of emissions, as any ex-BFGoodrich worker would attest to. It is odd that in view of all the VC publicity no governmental or research agency, if they were really interested in research, would check the former employees of BFGoodrich, who have had the longest exposure to VC of anyone in the country, many with thirty years of exposure. Workers were given yearly hand x-rays, lung tests, finger temperature tests, but the only report given to the workers was that most of them had arthritis. Perhaps BFGoodrich had already noticed the deteriorating effects of vinyl chloride and closed the plant to save themselves from bad publicity and possible legal action.

Signed by Joe Borel, ex-BFGoodrich employee, 419 West 25th Street,
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