

Rock Products - Dec 1964 - file

in this area since 1940. Its plant is located in Ventura and products are marketed in Central and Southern California as well as in the Las Vegas, Nev., and Phoenix, Ariz. areas.

The company will continue to operate as Rocklite Products and all operating personnel will be retained.

Rare cancer is linked to asbestos

A rare but increasing form of cancer was recently linked to asbestos by a team of medical detectives.

The cancer involved is a knobby form called mesothelioma which grows in the lining of the chest or abdomen.

The peril is still small, the specialists told the annual meeting of the American Public Health Assoc. at the New York Hilton Hotel.

However, Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York pointed out that production of asbestos has multiplied sevenfold in the last 30 years and that the common insulating materials, unlike radiation and some chemical hazards, "has no half-life; it does not wear out; its half-life is infinity; its effect is cumulative. To the extent that it does harm to living tissue, the harm piles up and it lasts forever."

The doctors nailed asbestos as the culprit in the rare ailment by gathering facts from several distinct angles.

In a study of cancer and other statistics in more than 1 million Americans, American Cancer Society statistician E. Cuyler Hammond established that between 1959 and 1962 only one in 10,000 was dying of this rare cancer. (Other evidence indicates the rate is rising.)

However, among asbestos insulation installers who died in the last 20 years, mesothelioma claimed one in 30. (Lung cancer killed one in six, stomach and intestinal cancer one in 10).

Dr. Jacob Churg, Mt. Sinai pathologist, reviewed 2,500 consecutive hospital autopsies. Seven deaths had been caused by this rare cancer; all were among the 26 who also showed signs of high exposure to asbestos.