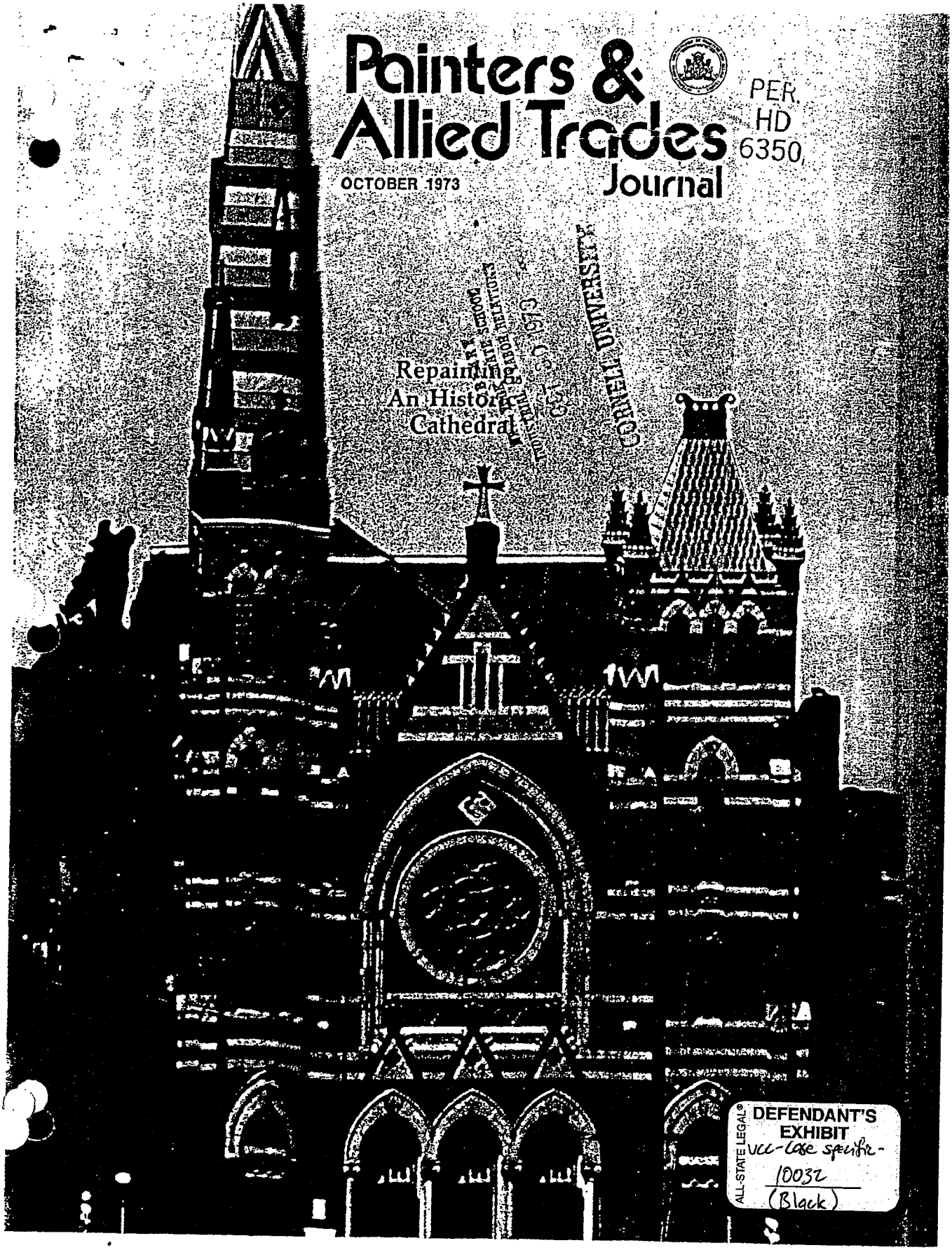
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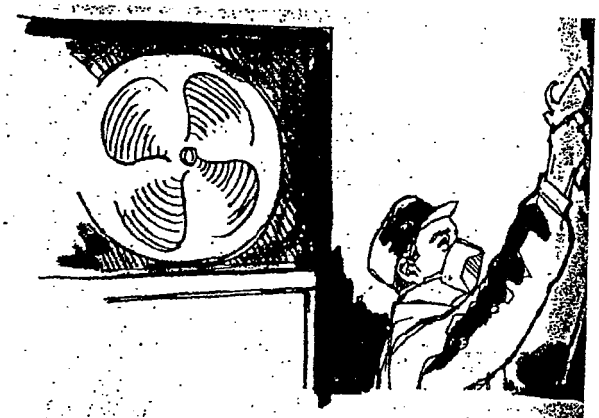
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DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION: Article from Painters & Allied Trades Journal

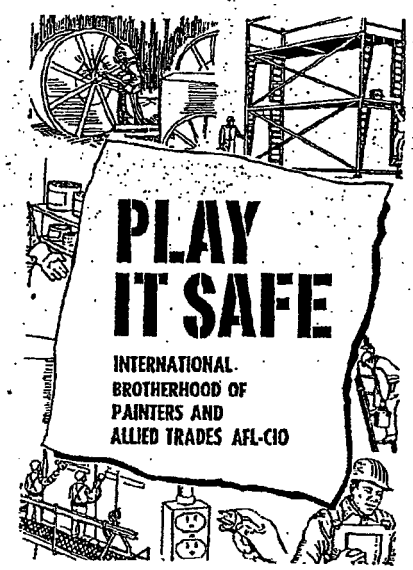


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New Horizons In Our Safety Program

Through the years, our Brotherhood's continuing concern with the safety and health of every member has prompted us to pursue better on-the-job safety through every available avenue—through legislation, negotiation, education and enforcement. Now we are opening the new avenue of medical analysis, with the nation's foremost expert on job-related respiratory ailments beginning a study of the potential hazards our members face.



"Play It Safe," our Brotherhood's safety manual has been of invaluable assistance through the years.

Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, author of extensive studies into safety hazards on the job, is beginning research into the detection of possible toxic effects on members of our Brotherhood, it was announced by General President S. Frank Raftery.

The cooperation with Dr. Selikoff is another step in the Brotherhood's expanding program of on-the-job safety, which embraces enforcement of the milestone Occupational Safety and Health Act, continuing efforts to get IBPAT members to make maximum use of the safety devices provided them and continuing negotiation with concerned management in quest of better safety conditions.

"At present, the Brotherhood is working with Dr. Selikoff in providing staff assistance, record management, computer department cooperation, field staff and local union participation," said John Pecoraro, the Brotherhood's Legislative Director who has responsibility for safety and health programs.

The Brotherhood is studying the possibility of using a mobile laboratory, fitted with diagnostic and X-ray equipment, in a pilot project in 12 to 15 cities.

The cities will be selected by the Brotherhood to provide a cross-section of conditions throughout the country.
The trades represented by the Brotherhood will include: painters, tapers, sandblasters, steel and bridge painters, glaziers, carpet and soft-tile workers and paintmakers.

In all of those categories, some workers are involved in special risk jobs which will receive particular attention.

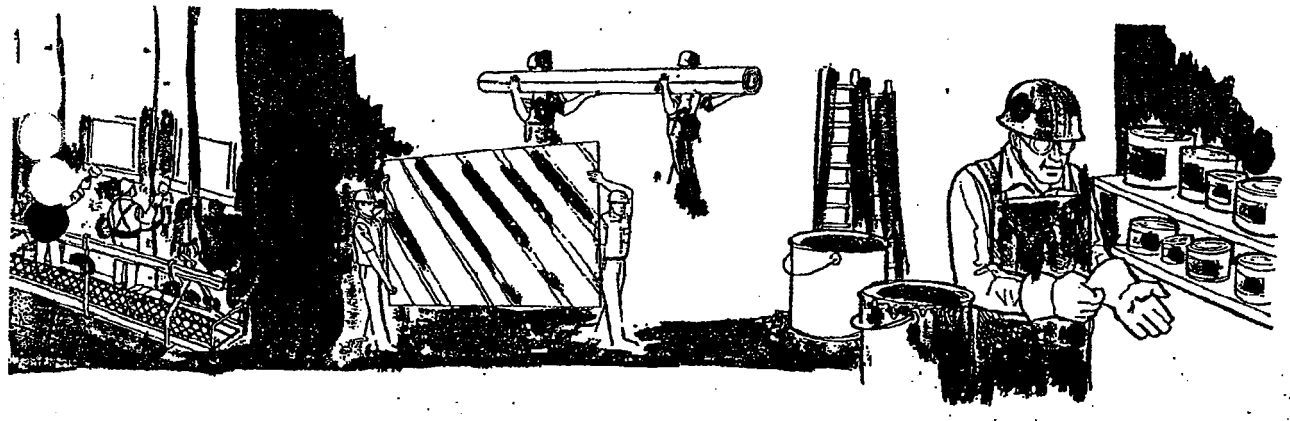
Dr. Selikoff's work on occupational diseases has been a milestone in job safety improvements, and in no small part responsible for the nation's concern which culminated in Congress enacting OSHA in 1970.

The miner's exposure to "black lung," and specialized ailments which afflict workers inhaling dus from textiles (byssinoisis) and (asbesteosis) have shaken the nation with revelations of the seriousness of the respiratory problems among workers—and each such recognition was prompted by research in Dr. Selikoff's Mt. Sinai laboratories, Pecoraro pointed out.

Dr. Selikoff's work for the Brotherhood will, of course, be aimed primarily at Brotherhood members in the manufacture and application of paints, varnish and other exotic coatings.

This is one of a wide range safety problems for the Brotherhood, which has many members in hazardous occupatio such as bridge painting and othe construction, a wide range of inhalation problems from other construction components such a gypsum board and glazing work with sharp materials.

In addition to the wide range on-the-job hazards it consistently encounters, the Brotherhood has pointed out that some products offer potential hazards for the c sumer. And in that field, the



otherhood is determined to pass
ng its experiences to the Ameri-
n public, so that the safest pos-
le products are produced.
In fact, one of the Brotherhood's
lest continuing safety programs
in the use of safety glass, where
e danger is present, especially
children, of serious cuts when
e glass is broken and shatters.
placing older types of glass with
fety-glazed glass is a major
ntribution to consumer safety.
n other safety fronts, Pecoraro
continued progress in
gotiations with the Painting &
ecorating Contractors of America
d continued concern by
resident Raftery that members
se the safety devices designed
r them.
The cooperation the Brotherhood
as experienced from the PDCA
nce the first meeting in May
as been heartening to President
aftery, who has high hopes that
ooperation between union and
anagement will greatly speed up
ie process of searching out and
orrecting potential job dangers.
The inaugural meeting with the
ontractors established an IBPAT
ommittee which includes Presi-
ent Raftery, General Vice Presi-
ents A. L. Monroe, Jack T. Cox
nd William A. Duval, General
resident Emeritus L. M. Raftery,
irector of Organizing Robert
elch, Director of Jurisdictions
ar Shay and Pecoraro.
Subsequently, subcommittee
as continued, with General
ice President Duval and Pecoraro
leeting with PDCA subcommittee.
"The main work is to review the
reas of priority for presentation
to the full committee," Pecoraro said. This has included:

- preparation of technical data with respect to safety in the use of exotic coatings;
- preparation of a slide show on safety, possibly for use in the proposed mobile unit;
- development of a program—and finding the funding—for safety training.

The negotiations with management obviously tie in very closely with the work in Dr. Selikoff's laboratory, Pecoraro pointed out.

The management members of the full committe are Avery Boyd, chairman of the Painting & Decorating Contractors of America; Charles R. Haines, manager of the safety committee for Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co.; Earl A. Dixon, president of the Earl A. Dixon floorcovering company and Wayne Mullen, president of Gypsum Dry Wall Contractors International.

It was from the early meetings of this committee that a revision and updating was made on the pamphlet, Play It Safe.

This pamphlet has been highly significant in getting the safety message across to membership, Pecoraro said.

"And that is a vital part of our program—all the laws, precautions and safety devices in the world are worthless if they aren't used," he pointed out.

As an example of the educational job that is necessary to encourage membership cooperation, Pecoraro cited the examples of safety problems among bridge painters, whose occupation is particularly hazardous.

Pecoraro has found that some workers were not using their safety belt for they felt that if they fell, the snap of the belt would be more injurious than a fall into the water.

Also, he has found job sites where the manila life lines provided had become so coated with paint that they could not be tied and untied handily. Consequently, the bridge painters worked with their life lines lying untied beside them.

In each case, there is a solution. If safety harnesses were used to replace the belts the fear of back injury would be removed.

And new types of rope—including nylon—can be tied and untied easily no matter how saturated they become with paint.

The development of this kind of technology—and the wider use of it on the job—is what General President Raftery has repeatedly emphasized as the two-way street of safety.

Just as it does no good for elaborate safety devices to be developed if they are not used, it also does no good for the experts and technicians to be working on materials which are not practical to our members on the job. Thus our Brotherhood has continued to search out the flaws—like the bridge painters' life lines and harnesses—which need mutual cooperation to develop.

And it is in pursuit of objectives going both ways on that two-way street that President Raftery has pledged the fullest possible effort by the Brotherhood.