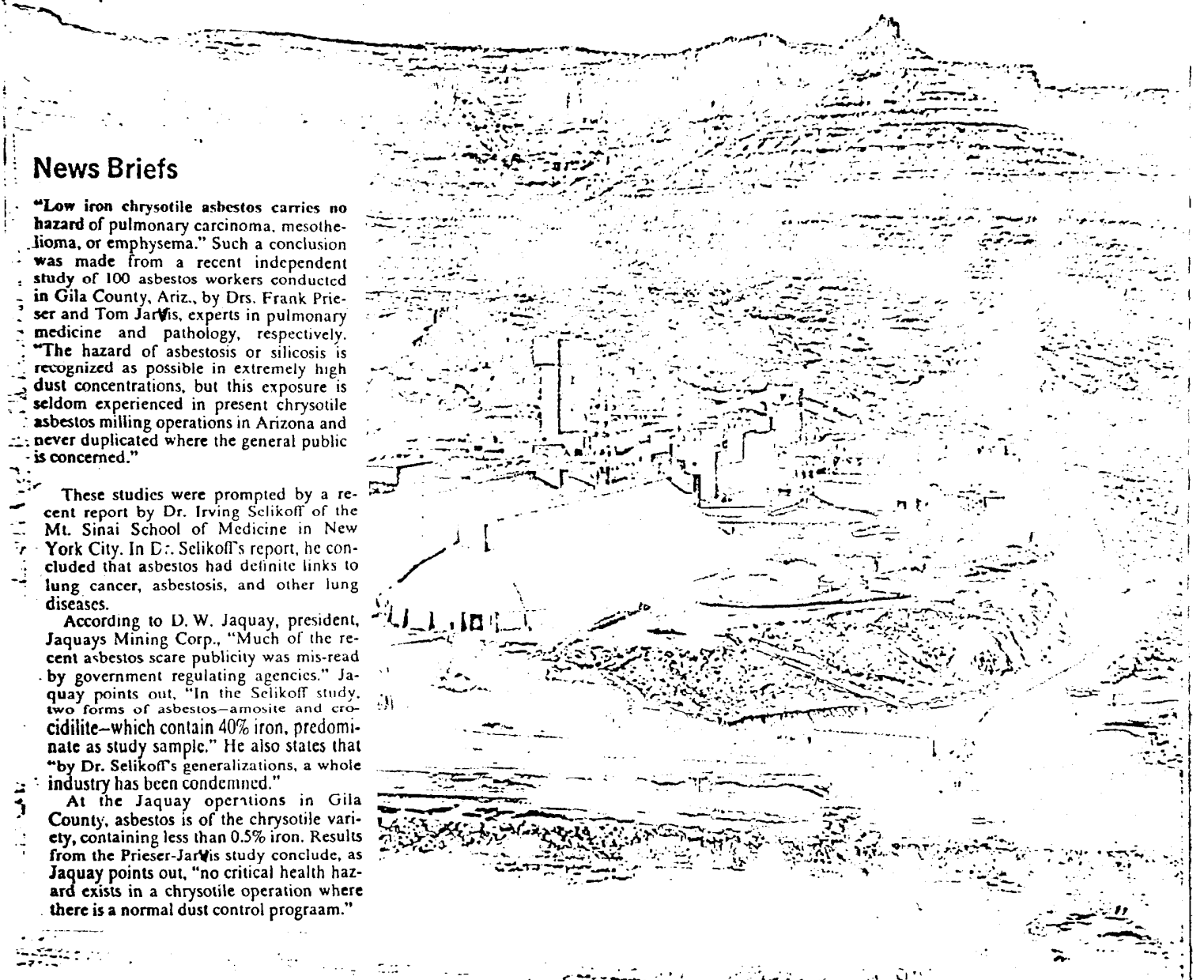
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News Briefs

"Low iron chrysotile asbestos carries no hazard of pulmonary carcinoma, mesothelioma, or emphysema." Such a conclusion was made from a recent independent study of 100 asbestos workers conducted in Gila County, Ariz., by Drs. Frank Prieser and Tom Jarvis, experts in pulmonary medicine and pathology, respectively. "The hazard of asbestosis or silicosis is recognized as possible in extremely high dust concentrations, but this exposure is seldom experienced in present chrysotile asbestos milling operations in Arizona and never duplicated where the general public is concerned."

These studies were prompted by a recent report by Dr. Irving Selikoff of the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York City. In Dr. Selikoff's report, he concluded that asbestos had definite links to lung cancer, asbestosis, and other lung diseases.

According to D. W. Jaquay, president, Jaquays Mining Corp., "Much of the recent asbestos scare publicity was mis-read by government regulating agencies." Jaquay points out, "In the Selikoff study, two forms of asbestos—amosite and crocidilite—which contain 40% iron, predominate as study sample." He also states that "by Dr. Selikoff's generalizations, a whole industry has been condemned."

At the Jaquay operations in Gila County, asbestos is of the chrysotile variety, containing less than 0.5% iron. Results from the Prieser-Jarvis study conclude, as Jaquay points out, "no critical health hazard exists in a chrysotile operation where there is a normal dust control prograam."

Solution mining pumps new life into Cane Creek potash venture

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