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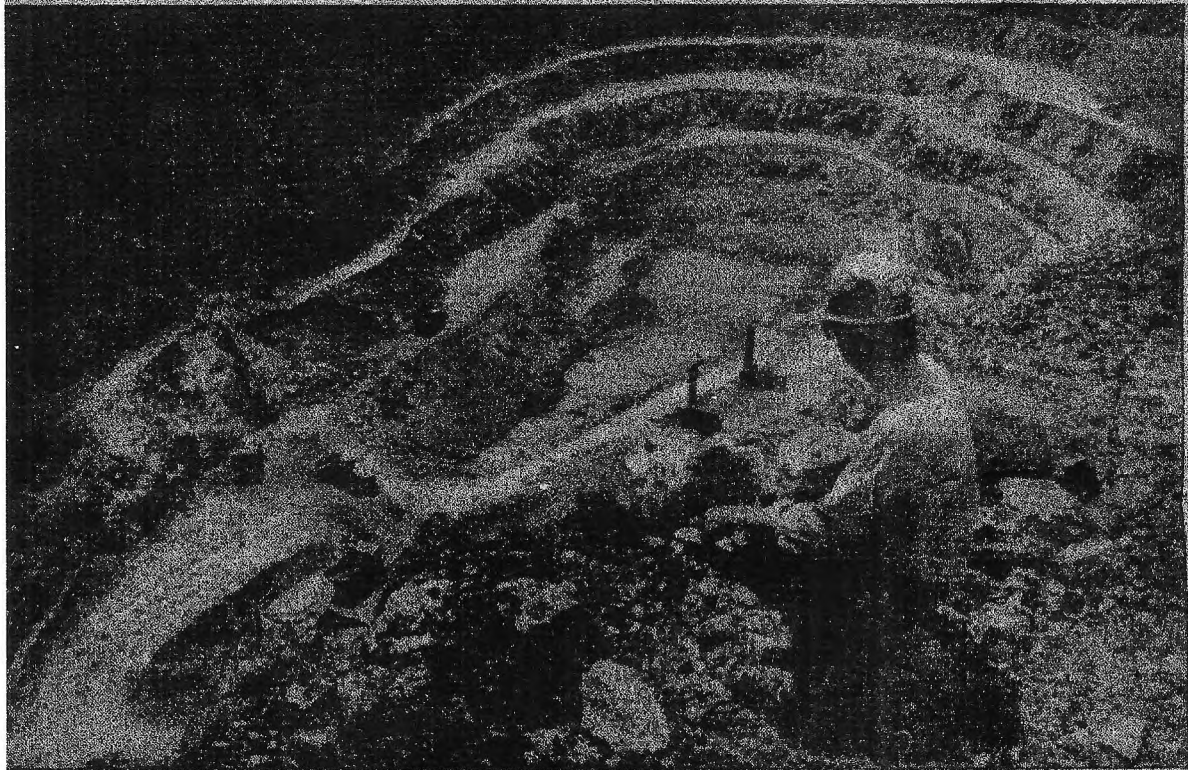
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MONDAY, JULY 28, 1986

## Job Threat in Asbestos Pits



BY PEARSE FITZMAURICE, THE CHRONICLE

Asbestos mine foreman Bob Beltger watched carriers hauling ore out of the 500-foot-deep mine at Calaveras Asbestos near Copperopolis.

### Indecision on Shuttle Stalls Space Programs

By Charles Foltz  
Science Correspondent

Washington  
Six months after the space shuttle Challenger disaster, a recent White House failure to decide whether to replace the destroyed craft has paralyzed NASA's ability to plan America's space future, many analysts warn.

Although a decision is expected soon, perhaps this week, even ardent congressional supporters of the space program say enthusiasm has dwindled for paying for construction of a new \$9 billion space-going truck that will not fly for at least three or four years.

### Reports of Crime Rise Since 1981

Washington  
The number of crimes reported in the United States rose 5 percent last year, the highest increase since 1981, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported yesterday, according to figures released

"The situation looks bleak right now because you got a bunch of naysayers at the White House who have been unable to come to any decision, right, wrong or indifferent," snapped Representative George Brown, D-Ill., a long-time supporter of the space program and an influential member of the House Science and Technology Committee.

"Their very delay in reaching a decision is probably worse than any

### State Lottery's Allure Waning — Sales Drop

By Gary E. Swan

In places like the remote timber and ranch country of southern Trinity County, the coming of the state lottery last fall was the most exciting thing since indoor plumbing.

Folks would make a special trip to Archie Fugate's combination store-laundry-filling station in Zenith to buy a few lottery tickets in hopes of making a quick fortune. It was a down-home Las Vegas at the cash register.

Fugate sold 100 instant game tickets the first hour. In those first few weeks he could not keep up with the crush of lottery madness.

Nine months later, Fugate laughs at the memory.

"We're lucky to sell 100 tickets in a couple of days now," he said.

"People are just not asking for them," he said, a statement typical

### Miners Fear EPA Will Bring Unemployment

By Kevin Leary  
Chronicle Correspondent

Copperopolis, Calaveras County  
You have to roam far and wide in the rolling hills of the Gold Country to hear a discouraging word about asbestos.

To hard-working family men here, the miracle mineral may cause cancer, but it also provides jobs.

Stan Hinton has mined and milled asbestos and inhaled its invisible fibers for 21 years. He says he is as strong as a horse.

"I've worked here half my life, and I've never gotten sick," said Hinton, 44, production superintendent of Calaveras Asbestos Ltd., the largest asbestos operation in the United States. "I love it here. I love the job and I love the people."

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SP Chronicle, 1986

BY DEANNE FITZMAURICE/THE CHRONICLE

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# Reports Crime Rise Since 1981

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The number of crimes reported in the United States increased 15 percent last year, the highest increase since 1981, the Federal Bureau of Investigation said yesterday.

According to figures released by the bureau, there were increases in major categories of crime. The number of violent crimes, including murder and rape, went up 4 percent.

Detroit had the highest murder rate with 58 murders for every 100 residents.

The bureau said it could not explain the overall rise, and experts have noted that the figures, which have been criticized in the past for being incomplete, did not necessarily demonstrate a trend toward increased crime.

The figures were contained in the bureau's annual summary of its Uniform Crime Reporting program, which gathers crime statistics from about 16,000 police departments and other law-enforcement agencies.

The program, which the bureau plans to expand and modernize,

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"I've worked here half my life, and I've never gotten sick," said Hinton, 44, production superintendent of Calaveras Asbestos Ltd., the largest asbestos operation in the United States. "I love it here. I love the job and I love the people."

With 170 workers, Calaveras Asbestos is the biggest nongovernment employer in a county with a 9.2 percent unemployment rate. If the Environmental Protection Agency succeeds in carrying out its plan to phase out production and use of asbestos during the next 10 years, Hinton will be out of a job.

About 11 million Americans have been exposed to asbestos in the workplace since World War II, according to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, which predicts that more than 2 million of them will die of cancer and other lung diseases.

Hinton believes the dangers of cancer 20 or 30 years from now are overblown.

"I've worked here since 1965, back when they weren't very safety conscious, and I've breathed a lot of dust," said the cheerful Hinton, who started his career sweeping the mill floors. "So far, I haven't had any

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# Marin Writes a Manifesto To 'Nurture' Its Principles

By Paul Liberatore

Mellowspeak may soon become an official part of the language in Marin County.

A civic group is asking local governments to adopt what amounts to a Marin Manifesto, written in the psychobabble that has earned the county a national reputation for New Age flakiness.

"We need space to refresh ourselves. . . We need diversity to expand ourselves. . . We need relationships to nurture ourselves," the

statement says.

Titled "A Statement of Principles for Marin County," the credo will be making the rounds of city councils and other local governments during the next few months. If adopted, it would not have the force of law, but rather serve as a quick reference for decision-makers who may be uncertain about Marin attitudes and values.

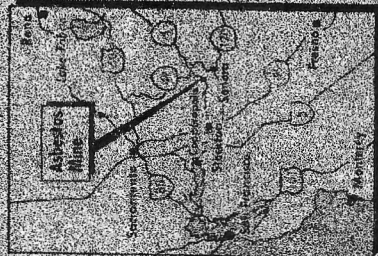
Marin Conversations, a panel of community leaders, worked two

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# EPA May Shut Thriving Sierra Asbestos Mine



The 500-foot-deep Calaveras Asbestos open-pit mine near Copperopolis has produced 500,000 tons of asbestos from serpentine ore since it opened in 1952.



Asbestos mines in the country — has produced about 600,000 tons of asbestos since it opened in 1952. It will continue to produce under full production.

From Page 1  
including 500,000 tons of asbestos that have been treated and stored in a nearby town.

The new study shows that asbestos is a health hazard, but it is not as serious as once thought. The study also shows that asbestos is a health hazard, but it is not as serious as once thought.

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asbestos for 30 years. He says the mine and mill workers, despite their obvious high morale, are in danger.

"We made a study for the Department of Labor in 1981 and 1982 and calculated that during the next 15 to 20 years there will be 9000 excess cancer deaths each year because of exposure to asbestos," Seli-koff said in a telephone interview.

"Exposure to all types of asbestos increases the chances of lung cancer and mesothelioma (an invariably fatal cancer of the chest and abdominal lining)," said Seli-koff, a pioneer researcher in the field. "Most people don't die until 30 or 35 years after exposure."

However, the doctor said, "for reasons we don't understand, some people don't get it. The amount of danger is proportionate to the amount of asbestos inhaled."



Gordon Coats, 61, owner and president of Calaveras Asbestos, stood on the rim of his 500-foot-deep mine one day last week and frowned across the yawning, half-mile-long open pit.

He was angry. Back in Washington, the EPA was holding hearings on a wide-ranging asbestos-ban proposals that would put him out of business.

"Mining is a difficult enough profession without having the albatross of the EPA hanging around your neck," he said.

Far below, huge 35-ton ore carriers looked like toy trucks as they hauled asbestos-laden serpentine ore to the factory above, where it would be crushed, strained, sorted and packaged for sale in plastic 100-pound bags.

Calaveras Asbestos produces about 34,000 tons of the fibrous mineral a year in three different grades for use in asbestos cement products. It sells for about \$325 a ton.

The open pit's steep, terraced walls are lined with grayish serpen-



tos mines in the country — has produced about 600,000 tons of asbestos since it opened in 1962. It will continue to operate under full production for another five years unless the EPA adopts regulations that would cut back its operations.

The EPA recently wound up nine days of hearings on the plan to halt the mining and manufacture of asbestos and its products in the United States. It expects to announce its decision next summer.

Under the plan, the manufacturing of asbestos-cement would be banned immediately and Calaveras Asbestos would be required to reduce its production by 70 percent. "The day they pass those rules is the day we close up," Coats said grimly. "That will be the day all U.S. asbestos firms will go out of business, then the country will have to import all we need from Canada."

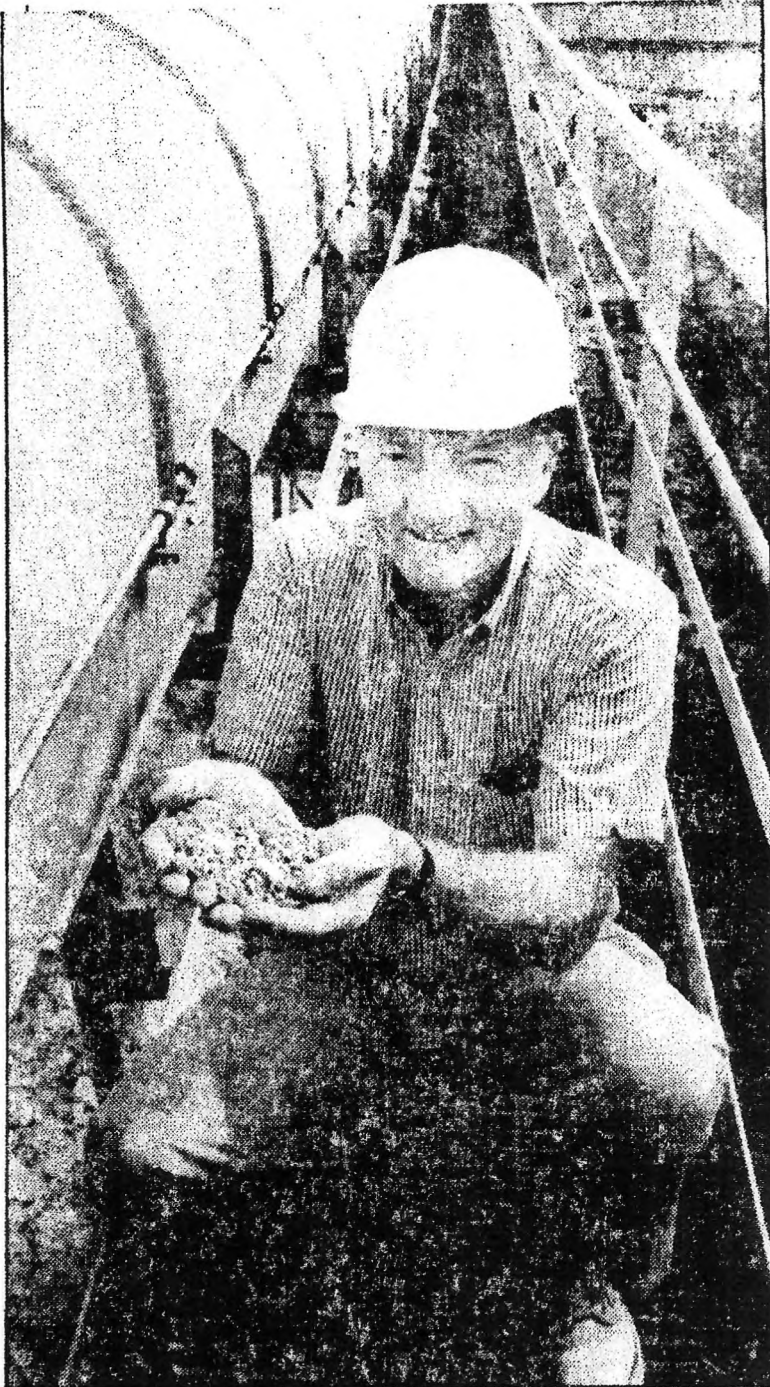


David Ryan, spokesman for the EPA, described the agency's intent: "The bottom line of the proposal is to have no asbestos in American-made products in 10 years. We consider all types of asbestos to be definite human carcinogens, even at low levels of exposure."

The agency figures an asbestos ban would save 1000 lives over the next 15 years at a cost of about \$2 billion in higher prices to consumers. It also would eliminate about 650 jobs of people who produce asbestos products, according to EPA economic impact analysts. That number does not include 300 or so employees who work in the nation's mines and mills.



Mine owners next to a asbestos mine aren't that r



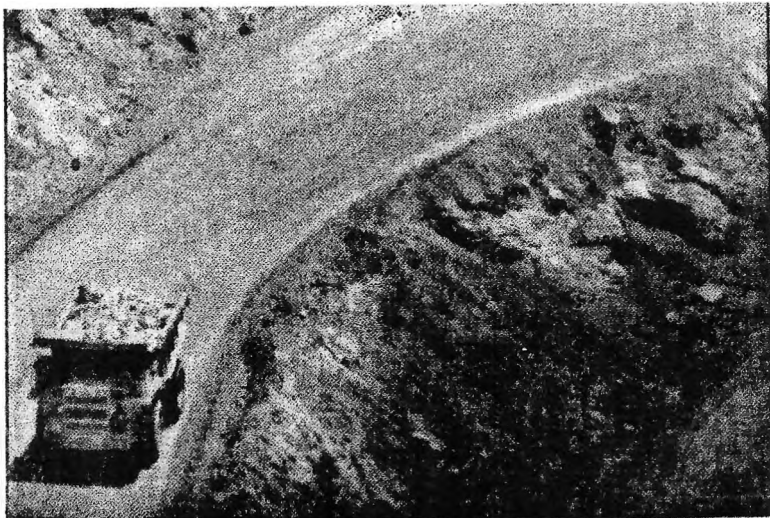
**Mine owner Gordon Coats held a handful of ore as he squatted next to a conveyor that moves the ore into his factory**

aren't that many people in the asbestos mining industry. We are not expecting a very large unemployment impact."

That's the kind of statement that sets Coats' teeth on edge. He

believes the EPA has targeted the small and politically weak asbestos industry to show off its regulatory effectiveness.

"I believe the little empire builders of the EPA are perpetuat-



35-ton trucks hauled ore to the factory at the rim of the pit

ing a hysteria and falsities about asbestos for their own benefits, without considering the welfare of the American public," said Coats, who believes asbestos is vital to nations all over the world.

To him, asbestos is a precious commercial mineral with more than 3000 uses and irreplaceable in many products. Dozens of Third World countries are begging for asbestos-cement pipes for sewers and plumbing.

Even its enemies concede that asbestos is an amazingly versatile material. The EPA estimates that 240,000 tons of asbestos are used in the United States annually. The stuff is everywhere.

It is in concrete, floor tiles, insulation, fireproofing and wall coverings. Brakes and clutches depend on asbestos' strength and heat resistance. Its fibers can be spun or woven like cotton into fireproof textiles for fireproof clothing, blankets and safety curtains.

However, the miraculous mineral became tarnished in 1964, when Selikoff released his pioneering study warning that exposure to asbestos fibers in the workplace drastically increases the incidence of cancer. Since then, demand for its use in this country has slowly fallen.

Coats agrees that asbestos has caused health problems in the past, but that was before the dangers

were recognized and measures were taken to protect workers.

He is proud of his company's health and safety record and said there have been no cases of asbestos-related ailments since he took over the operation in 1975.

Coats invested \$1 million in environmental and safety improvements, and spends \$750,000 to \$800,000 a year to meet state and federal standards.

He beamed with entrepreneurial pride last week as he escorted a reporter and a photographer on a tour of his spotless, seven-story mill that quivered and shook to the constant rumble and rattle of the rock crushers pounding the asbestos from the serpentine ore.

"Our philosophy has always been to comply with all governmental regulations and maintain a healthy place for our employees to work.

"Sure, there are hazards in dealing with asbestos, just as there are many other minerals and industrial commodities that can be injurious if not adequately controlled," he said.

"Gasoline, benzene and electricity can all be dangerous, but they are useful, so we have learned to deal with them," he argued. "We don't ban them."