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Monitoring Program Will Check Level Of Asbestos Pollution Here This Fall

The Bridgeport area is among several that will be monitored for possible high levels of asbestos air pollution this fall, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection which will be making the study.

The area has several industries which use asbestos and a number of buildings are being demolished, both factors that warrant a study, said Robert Rubino, assistant director of the DEP's air compliance division in charge of engineering.

Mr. Rubino, however, did not want to list which industries may be involved "so as not to give the wrong impression."

"Some of them already have made considerable efforts to safeguard against asbestos pollution and we don't want to hit them again," he said.

But, he added, "if we find a serious problem, we will be yelling very loud."

The study will be made in downtown Bridgeport, in nearby rural communities, near construction and factory sites and at toll booths on the highways.

Mr. Rubino said that demolition may be a source of asbestos pollution because many materials used in construction—vinyl floors and pipe insulation, for instance—contain high amounts of the asbestos. "Buildings 20 to 30 years old probably would be full of it," he commented. "When they are knocked down it causes a lot of fugitive dust."

"But first of all we have to find out if there really is a problem," he cautioned.

If demolition is creating a high level of pollution, he explained, the asbestos materials should be removed by hand before the structure is knocked down.

Another asbestos pollution source may be motor vehicle brakes. Mr. Rubino said that when brakes are applied, asbestos particles may drop to the road and be blown into the air by the wind.

"I don't want to play that up yet, though," he said. "Evidence of this being a problem is inconclusive so far."

The DEP will monitor the air for about a month and then have their studies analyzed. Final reports should be ready in mid-winter, Mr. Rubino said.

As for the problem on a statewide level, Mr. Rubino said, "I think we will find the level high enough to warrant a (asbestos pollution) standard."

He said the results should reveal "crossing" problems if not articles.

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has set asbestos level regulations but Rubino says they are "too general and vague" and are poorly enforced.

Rubino and other air pollution authorities have proposed a standard which they say would restrict the annual asbestos emissions from Connecticut industries to one-tenth of the federal minimum.

State Health Department statistics show 122 persons between 1935 and 1972 were diagnosed to have cancer induced by asbestos inhalations, usually from inhaling the fibers.

TEEN MATHEMATICIAN KILLED IN TREE FALL

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — A Nashville teen-ager who was considered one of the best young mathematicians in the world has been killed in a fall from a tree in his backyard.

Killed on Wednesday was Gerhard C. Arenstorf, 17, who last month traveled to East Germany and tied for second-place honors on the first United States team ever to participate in the International High School Mathematical Olympiad.

Police said Gerhard was alone in the tree — a favorite climbing obstacle — when he fell about 20 feet to the ground. Authorities said Arenstorf broke his neck, shoulder and arm.

U.S. IMPORTS MORE TEA

PHILADELPHIA — U.S. tea imports in 1973 totaled 173 million pounds, up from 151 million pounds in 1972 and nearly matching the 1971 record of 176 million pounds.

Indians Seized U. S. Property 3 Years Ago, Still Control It

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (AP) — Indians who occupied 3½ milwaukee's old U.S. Coast Guard station three years ago still stubbornly hold their enclave in a fashionable neighborhood on the Lake Michigan shoreline.

But they have mixed emotions about the take-over.

"It's been a moral victory in that doesn't mean anything as far as what it is doing for the community," said Reynold Denny, new a youth program director for the city's Indian Urban Affairs Council.

"It was never our idea to keep it," Denny said of the $150,000 facility between county parklands and the exclusive Milwaukee Yacht Club. "We wanted to highlight the lack of facilities in our area."

Alcatraz Invasion

Denny was one of about 20 American Indian Movement members who took over the station's two buildings early on an August morning in 1971, set up barricades and declared the site Indian land.

They based their claim on 120-year-old treaty provisions that abandoned Indian property would revert to the native inhabitants. The Coast Guard had moved to new quarters and the federal government had not yet sold the land or shifted control of it to another agency.

Law enforcement officers never seriously pressured the Indians to leave and the Bureau of Indian Affairs said it is attempting to gain control of the land.

The Indians established on the base the Indian Community School, which had an enrollment of 75 — from preschoolers through children of high school age — during the last school year. Most are bused to the school from northwest Milwaukee, where most of the city's Indians live.

U.S. Pays For School

The school has been operated with the aid of various federal grants, including $145,000 from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

The school's director, Donathy Le Page, said the Indian Education Division within HEW's Office of Education is attempting to gain control of the land through the federal government's General Services Administration.

She said such an arrangement would allow her school to operate under a lease and would give the school more stability.

She said the school program features the Ianis subject matter taught in any school system, but with an Indian orientation.

Herbs In Curriculum

A biology lesson, for example, might talk about how medicine made use of plants and herbs for medicinal purposes and how some are used in the same way today, she said.

"We take our kids out of that ghetto and bring them here to this beautiful place," she said. "This to us is an Indian environment. I feel it's closer to nature."

ADIRONDACK ESTATE GIVEN TO N.Y. STATE

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York received a 318-acre Adirondack estate from the Post Foundation this month, and officials are wondering what to do with it.

The 28-building resort complex at Upper St. Regis Lake, formerly known as Camp Topridge, was owned by the late Marjorie Merriweather Post, heiress of the Post cereal fortune. It includes a main lodge and guest houses.

The state Office of General Services said on Wednesday that officials are conducting inventories of the facilities. One possibility is using the retreat for training seminars and meetings of state employes, a spokesman said.

Whether the remote lakeside estate will be opened to the public has not yet been determined, the spokesman said.

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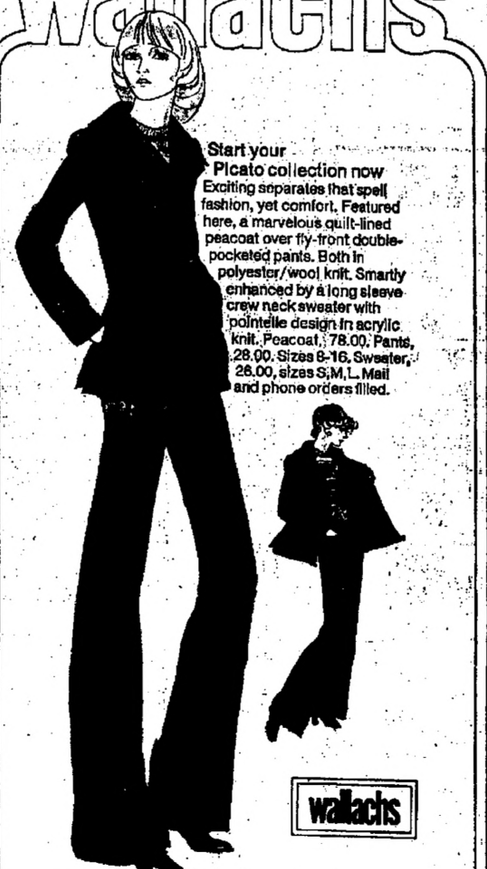
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