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DATE: 1957 Jan

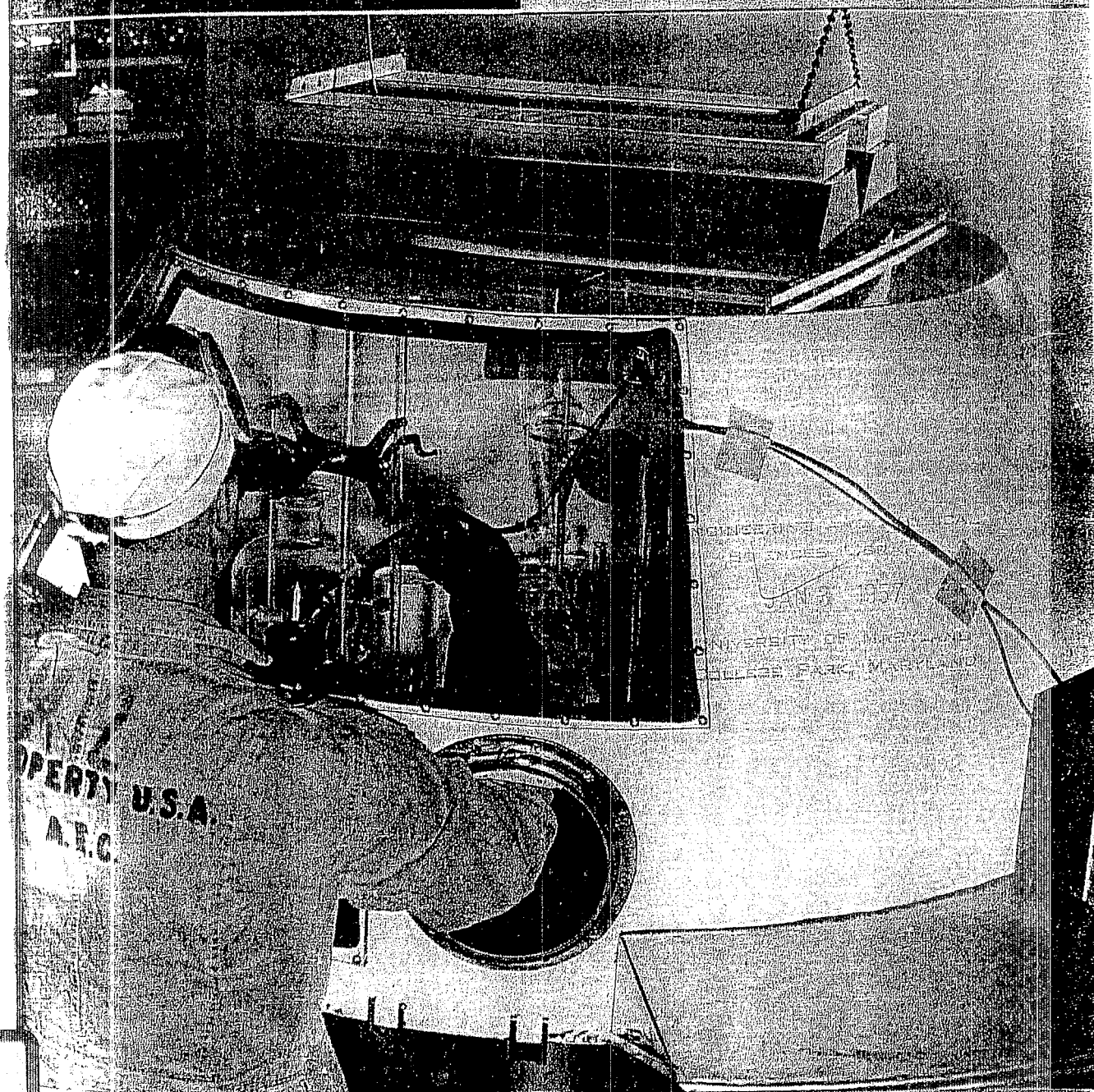
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National SAFETY NEWS

JANUARY 1957

▼ HOT LAB SAFEGUARDS



PLAINTIFF'S
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NSC-30
Labbooks

IN THIS ISSUE

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Conferences for Operating Management



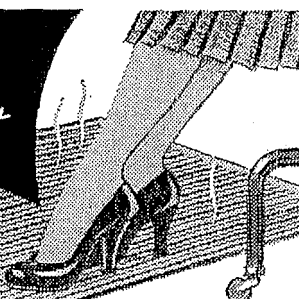
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Industrial Health

—From page 63

in conditions of this sort and prevention of silo-filler's disease depends on adequate ventilation of the silo and on preventing people and animals from straying into the dangerous area during the first seven to 10 days after the silo is filled.

Diseases in Foundry Workers

"Pneumoconiosis and Other Causes of Death in Iron and Steel Foundry Workers." A. I. G. McLaughlin and H. E. Harding. *The American Medical Association Archives of Industrial Health*, 14:350-378 (Oct. 1956).

THIS PAPER is a continuation of work begun in 1950 when the authors reported on the pathology of the lungs of 64 foundry workers. In this paper they report on the pathology in the lungs of additional foundry workers. Between the two groups there are representatives of 14 different occupational groups and probably all of the occupational groups which would be found in iron and steel foundries.

The results in these groups cannot, however, be taken as indicating the prevalence of pulmonary pathology in workers in iron and steel foundries since the lungs examined are those of men on whom autopsies have been obtained, which probably means they are the ones who were known or thought to have pneumoconiosis at the time of death. The pneumoconiosis was not necessarily the cause of death, even a major factor in the death in these cases. In these 85 cases was thought to be a factor in death in 34 and definitely not a factor in 33. In 18 cases there was doubt as to the precise cause of death.

The condition found in the steel foundry workers is generally a mixed dust pneumoconiosis similar to the pneumoconiosis of soft coal workers rather than typical silicosis. They did not have pneumoconiosis in all but two of 41 cleaning room workers whose lungs they examined. And they also found some slight pneumoconiosis among welders and

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ers, although it was small and not a factor in their deaths. Some of the x-rays shadows in these cases are probably shadows of siderosis without fibrosis but they invariably also find fibrosis present.

They have found fibrosis produced by every category of occupation in the iron and steel foundry although the incidence varies very widely. The pouring of steel appears to be one of the occupations least productive of pneumoconiosis.

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One thing noticeable about the cases studied here are that there were 16 cases of cancer of the bronchial tube, or almost 11 per cent of all the cases examined. This is notably higher than the incidence in the general population of similar age. The British Registrar General has also reported an excess of cancer of the lungs in metal molders and die casters, furnace men, rollers, iron and steel foundry laborers and grinders.

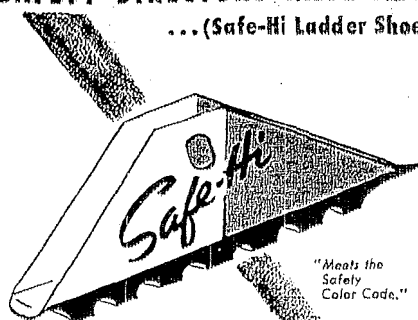
If this represents a true increased incidence of cancer of the bronchus in iron and steel workers there are a number of factors which might contribute to it, including mineral oil, soot, silica, iron and oxide, and the products of decomposition of core binding materials.

It is known that workmen who contract the classical type of silicosis are not more subject to cancer of any part of the lung than is the general population and, also, other groups of workers who inhale iron oxide, particularly welders, but who do not work in foundries do not show excess amounts of cancer of any sort. This seems to eliminate iron oxide and iron as sources of such increased lung cancer among these workers, if further investigation proves that it actually exists.

A rather surprising result in both these series of cases was the finding of mild mixed dust fibrosis in the lungs of both pattern makers and crane operators who come from iron and steel foundries. The exposure to dust in these occupations seems to be quite small, particularly among pattern makers who are exposed

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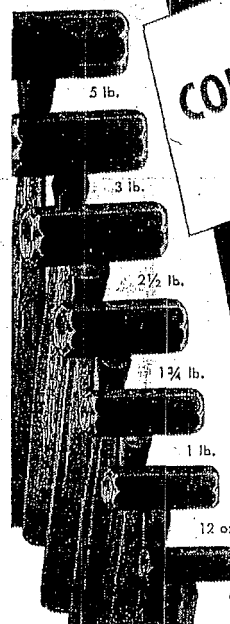
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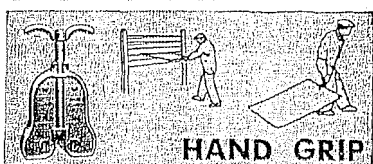
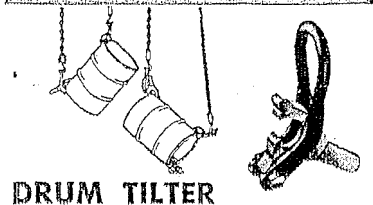
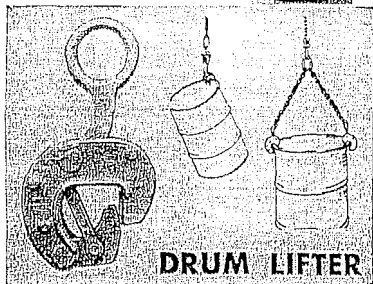
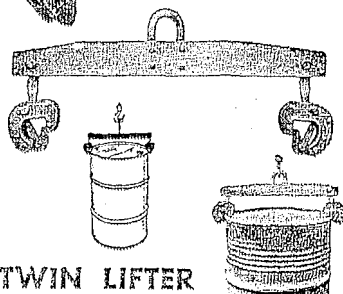
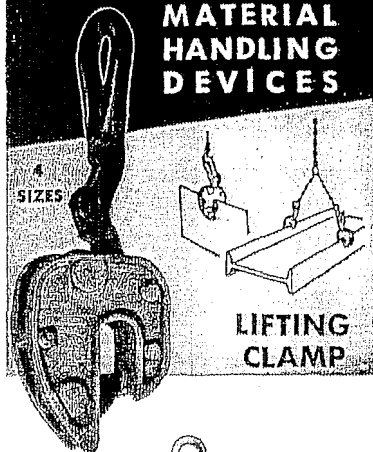
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mostly to wood dust but apparently they develop a minimal pneumoconiosis from the general dust of the foundry.

The authors observed that the general dust in the foundry at crane track height is about the same as it is at the floor level in the fine dusts which are most significant in the production of pneumoconiosis.

Workers on furnaces also showed minimal lung abnormalities due to dust inhalation.

Atomic Power Will Conserve Natural Resources

AMERICANS should not be complacent about the need for developing electrical power installations using nuclear fuel, says C. Rogers McCullough, deputy director of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Speaking at the annual meeting of The American Society of Mechanical Engineers in New York, he said:

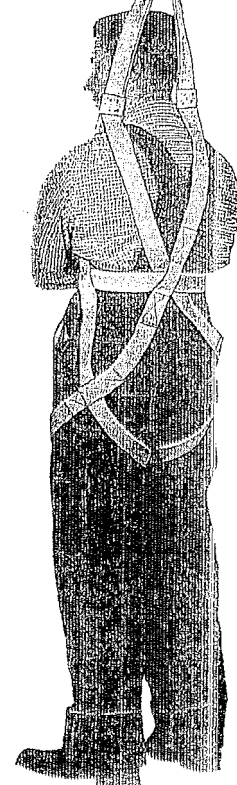
"Because of our abundant supplies of coal, there does not appear to be the pressing need for the development of nuclear reactors for power in this country that there is in other parts of the world. I believe this is deceptive. When we look at the very large job that needs to be done, I think we will then realize that there is not too much time for us to develop nuclear energy power sources in time to meet the ascending needs for electrical power and the dwindling supplies of natural resources of gas, coal and oil."

Mr. McCullough suggested that nuclear power might conserve our hydrocarbon resources for chemical needs "for which they are truly suitable."

He called for greater attention to safety in the design of reactors, and for the establishment of standards in the comparatively young industry. He reminded his audience that reactors have the ability to multiply their power level many thousands of times in a fraction of a second if control is lost, and urged the cooperation of engineers in preventing reactor accidents.

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