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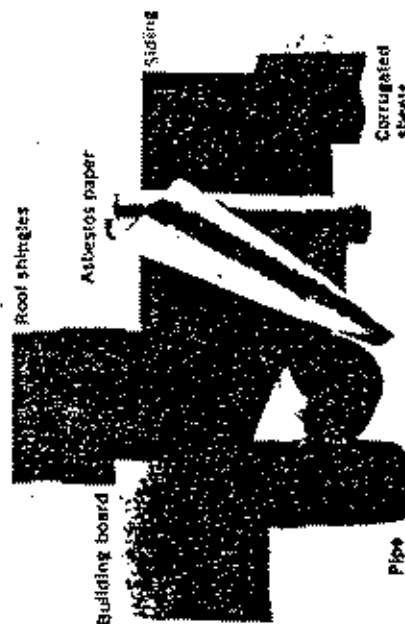
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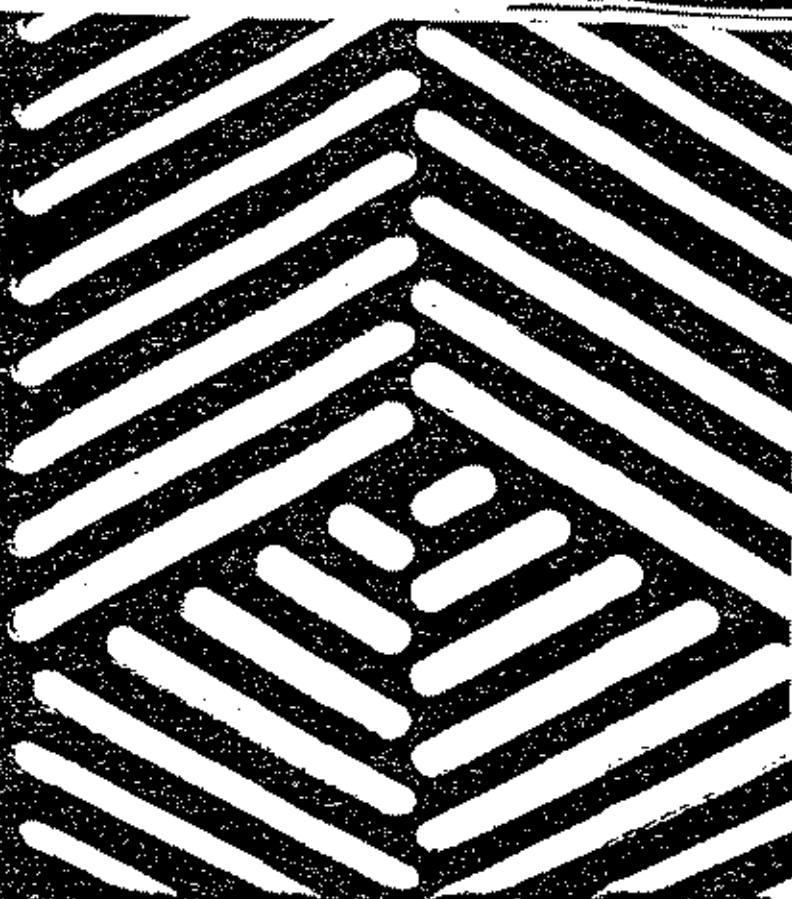
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THE HISTORY OF THE ASBESTOS TEXTILE INDUSTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

By John A. Sellen, Jr.
As edited by the Staff of ASBESTOS

Chapter XXVII Highlights in the History of the Asbestos Textile Institute

PART I

In the writer's opinion, the founding of the Asbestos Textile Institute is the single most important event in the history of the Asbestos Textile Industry in the United States. It, therefore, seems fitting that the story of the founding of the industry's own trade association conclude this history of the asbestos textile industry.

In 1944 L. R. Hoff was President of Johns-Manville Sales Corporation. It was Roy Hoff who perceived the need for an industry trade association and it was he who sold the various company Presidents on the advantages to be gained in the establishment of the Asbestos Textile Institute. There is no question but what Roy Hoff was the father of ATI.

An organizational meeting was held at the University Club in New York City on November 16, 1944. Eleven asbestos textile manufacturers were represented, as follows:

Asbestos Textile Co.—Thomas I. Gathie;
J. Franklin Barker & Co.—J. Franklin Barker;
Carolina Asbestos Co.—C. H. Calhoun;
Garlock Packing Co.—George Aldrich;
Johns-Manville Corporation—L. R. Hoff, F. J. Wahren and A. L. Fick, Jr. (Attorney);
Kensley & Madison Co.—E. Muehlbeck and Wm. C. Scott;
Philadelphia Asbestos Co.—P. R. Fischer, Jr. and A. J. Scandrett;
Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc.—J. E. R. Reinbach and G. W. Marshall, Jr.;
Southern Asbestos Co.—F. E. Scholter and G. S. Fabel;
Union Asbestos & Rubber Co.—J. L. Crider and R. Wible;
United States Rubber Co.—H. C. Smith and H. F. Sundary.

A constitution and by-laws were adopted at the ATI organizational meeting. The stated purposes of the Asbestos Textile Institute, as enumerated in its constitution, are as follows:

1. To promote ethical business standards in the industry and fair trade practices in dealings between manufacturers and the trade and in representations to the public.

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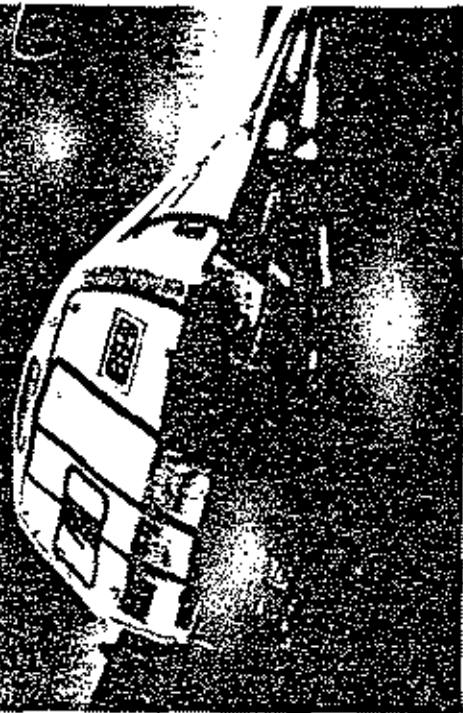
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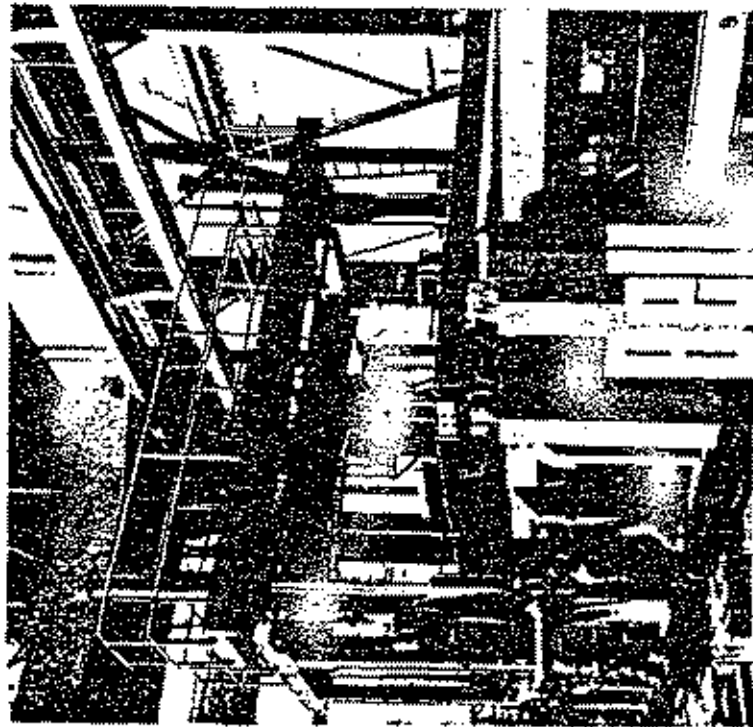
2. To lawfully promote the following activities:

- (a) The development of standards through research, practical tests and other available means, the application of which by individual manufacturers, will insure a proper measure of quality in each of the industry's products.
- (b) The development through research and other means of new uses and markets for the industry's products, resulting in an increased consumption and a grading up of the industry's products through the sale of better quality asbestos textile materials.
3. To lawfully promote and foster such industry policies and programs as will tend:
 - (a) To cultivate the good will of engineers, distributors, manufacturers, and the consuming public, and to improve their acceptance of the industry's products.
 - (b) To develop a more creative selling by the industry's salesmen, and to instill among such salesmen an attitude of courteous aggressiveness in combating attacks upon the industry, its members and its products.
 - (c) To promote industry welfare through cooperative research, improved manufacturing, selling and distribution methods.
 - (d) To cooperate in maintaining open, free, unrestrained and equitable competition in a manner consistent with the laws of the United States.
4. To act as a clearing house in the collection and dissemination of lawful information and statistics in respect to production, order, shipments, stocks on hand, costs, credits, freight rates, employment and such other matters as may be of value to the different manufacturers and the trade. No Member shall be required to furnish or receive any such information.

The members of the first Board of Governors of the Asbestos Textile Institute were elected November 16, 1944, as follows: George S. Fabel, Southern Asbestos Co.; George W. Marshall, Jr., Kaybestos-Manhattan, Inc.; William C. Scott, Kinsley & Mattison Co.; Edmund R. Teubner, Philadelphia Asbestos Co.; and Francis J. Waken, Johns-Manville Corporation. The Board of Governors then elected the following officers: C. Herbert Carlucci as President, George W. Marshall, Jr., as Vice President and William C. Scott as Treasurer.

At the organizational meeting, the members retained F. Sims McGrath, of Caldwell, Wickersham & Felt, as legal counsel. This prestigious New York law firm has represented ATI ever since that time. The presently assigned counsel is Wendell B. Akorn.

West Plant & Co. were retained as Independent Accountants November 16, 1944. It was their function to compile industry production figures each calendar quarter and to report to each manufacturer his percentage of the total by



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- Cutting off lathes
- Presses for water pressure test
- Acoustic Equipment
- Waterproof vacuum pumps
- Experiences for detection are
- Qualitative of well designed
- and reliably working machines

product categories. The reporting form adopted was the same as that prescribed by the War Production Board during World War II and, in fact, is still being used by the industry. The first quarterly meeting of ATI was held March 20, 1945. The Board of Governors engaged Harris D. McKinney as Manager and Assistant Treasurer. Mr. McKinney was President of Harris D. McKinney Inc., an advertising agency that specialized in the management of trade associations. The agency now operates from offices in Philadelphia, Pa., and Cleveland, Ohio, and handles many industrial accounts.

Also on March 20th the Chase National Bank was designated the depository of Institute funds.

On July 23, 1945, Manager McKinney outlined "A Primer on Asbestos Textiles." The 28-page booklet was subsequently printed and distributed to familiarize students with the properties and uses of asbestos fiber and asbestos textiles.

On October 16, 1945, a joint meeting was held in Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada, by ATI and the Quebec Asbestos Mining Association (QAMA). Five mines and four asbestos textile manufacturers were represented. This was the start of a program which has resulted in substantially improved quality and grading of asbestos fiber over the years. In addition, lowered dust count in the fiber has resulted in better yields and in improved working conditions in the asbestos textile mills.

From time to time, various committees were appointed to carry forward the stated objectives of the Association. At the December 1945 conference, William S. Acuff, Sales Manager for Keasbey & Mattison, was appointed the first Chairman of the Sales Promotion Committee. Most ATI committees became permanent standing committees of the Institute with rotating chairmen and membership.

At this same conference, Robert E. Cryer, then with Union Asbestos & Rubber Co. (now Unarco Industries, Inc.) gave a most informative report on his inspection trip to Germany and other European asbestos textile mills. Mr. Cryer's tour was under the auspices of the U.S. Army and he had been commissioned a Colonel for the duration of his stated activity.

On December 12, 1945, Malcolm L. Ruddock attended his first ATI conference as the representative of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft. At each succeeding conference Malcolm Ruddock reviewed a current law case which he con-

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sidered pertinent to the asbestos textile industry. His untimely death on June 18, 1961, was a great loss to CW&T and to the asbestos textile industry.

On June 13, 1946, the initial conference of the AUI Dust Control Committee was called by the Committee's first Chairman, Ernest Muehlebeck, then President of K&M. The members of the Committee discussed procedures for exhausting, collecting and measuring asbestos dust. This was the start of a highly beneficial program which is still carried forward by AUI's Air Hygiene & Manufacturing Committee.

On December 12, 1946, Jesse M. Weaver, Chairman of the Technical Committee, recommended the establishment of a Research Fellowship at Rutgers University. He also recommended the employment of Dr. Myril E. Shaw as Research Fellow. Both recommendations were approved and the Technical Committee was given responsibility for the direction and supervision of the Fellowship. Dr. Shaw's laboratory was actually in the Ceramics Department of the Rutgers University Laboratory. For years, the Ceramics Laboratory had specialized in high temperature work and was well equipped to undertake high temperature testing of asbestos textiles under Dr. Shaw's direction. In subsequent years, Jesse Weaver served several terms as Chairman of the AUI Technical Committee and did as much as any man to direct the Fellowship along productive lines.

During World War II wages and prices of all products were "frozen." On December 12, 1946, Manager Harris McKinney notified all members of the industry that the Office of Price Administration (OPA) had removed the price ceilings on industry products.

At the June 1948 conference, Harris McKinney resigned as Manager of AUI and Dr. Shaw was appointed Executive Secretary and Assistant Treasurer, in addition to his duties as Research Fellow.

At the May 1949 conference, the Sales Promotion Committee presented the first Visual Aid Display. This was an illuminated cabinet outlining the origin and uses of asbestos textiles. The promotional piece met with such enthusiastic acceptance that six additional cabinets were ordered. Over the next several years, the cabinets were on short-term display at most of the technical colleges in the U.S.

In March 1950, Dr. Shaw demonstrated the Abrade-

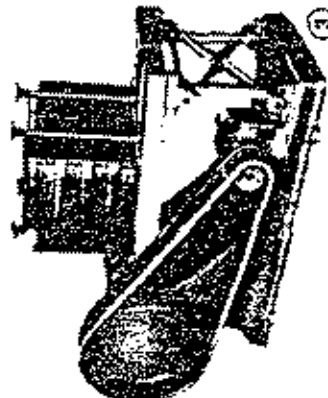
① Bending and crushing test press for sheet and pipes



②

② Bursting test press for pipes

③ Classifier for testing asbestos fibres



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Flex machine which he had developed. This instrument measures the comparative resistance of asbestos cloths to frictional wear, and simultaneously their resistance to flexing. The Abrado-Flex machine simulates the two factors which generally determine the useful life of an asbestos textile in normal service.

In April 1951, the publication of a new four-page booklet was authorized. Twenty-eight thousand copies of "The Story of Asbestos Textiles" were printed, with distribution principally to high schools and elementary schools.

In December 1951, the Constitution and By Laws of ATI were amended to permit the inclusion of associate members. At the March 1952 conference, applications from two asbestos mines and from two asbestos textile manufacturers were approved: Asbestos Corporation Ltd., English Asbestos Co. Ltd., The Johnson's Co. Ltd. and Small & Parkes Ltd. Invitations for membership were also sent to Bell Asbestos Mines Ltd., The Cape Asbestos Co. Ltd., British Belling & Asbestos Ltd. (now BBA Group Ltd.) and Turner Brothers Asbestos Co. Ltd. All of these long-established members of the industry subsequently joined the Asbestos Textile Institute.

The October 1952 conference authorized the printing of the first "Handbook of Asbestos Textiles." The 78-page pamphlet combined product illustrations and data borrowed from the catalogs of various members of the industry. It also offered basic information and performance charts on asbestos textiles which had been developed by Dr. Shaw in the Fellowship Laboratory at Rutgers. Ten thousand copies of the Handbook were printed in September 1953.

In March 1954, it was determined that Dr. Shaw had concluded just about all the test programs he could accomplish with the facilities available to him at Rutgers. It was, therefore, decided to transfer the Fellowship and Dr. Shaw to the Philadelphia Textile Institute (now the Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science), effective September 1954.

It was decided in September 1955 to purchase a most elaborate exhibit of asbestos textiles and their uses. This was to be an extension of the successful sales campaign provided by the seven smaller display cabinets purchased in 1949. The new exhibit consisted of four large illuminated display cabinets to be shown as one unit. During the year

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several years, the educational exhibit was loaned to numerous engineering colleges and technical schools. It was indeed a credit to the industry and to the Asbestos Textile Institute.

The June 5-7, 1986, conference was a gala event in the history of ATTI. It was the first quarterly meeting to be held at Thetford Mines, Quebec, Canada. The Quebec Asbestos Mining Association (QAMA) hosted the event and it was a most informative and educational experience for all delegates who attended. Members had a choice of going underground into the Bell Mines (owned by Turner & Newall) or the King Mine (one of the properties of Asbestos Corporation). Smaller groups also visited several of the open pit mines. The hosts provided a memorable banquet at the Thetford Golf Club.

Part 2 of the Highlights in the History of the Asbestos Textile Institute will appear in the next issue.

Your Attention, Please!

We are considering reprinting, in booklet form, the entire History of the Asbestos Textile Industry in the United States as it has been appearing monthly in ASBESTOS since the August 1970 issue. The booklet would be the same size as ASBESTOS and would run about 100 pages. Price per reprint would be dependent upon the size of the run but would not exceed \$2.95 per copy—a modest sum for what we believe is the only written account of the history of the U.S. asbestos textile industry. Are you interested? If so, please let us know how many copies you would like. If the number of advance orders is sufficient and you contact us now, we will proceed and the reprint could be available for distribution by or before November of this year.

THE COVER

Suction 'box' covers in a herringbone pattern are used in asbestos cement machinery. Made of a synthetic material instead of steel, the covers were developed by Messrs. Leripa of Australia and are marketed under the "Robolit 61" trade name. Turn to page 14 for the complete story.

Page 14

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