FILE NAME: Keene (KNE)

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Insert p. 430

KEENE CORPORATION

(Ehret Magnesia, Baldwin-Hill, Baldwin-Ehret-Hill)

Insulation manufacturers Ehret Magnesia and Baldwin-Hill merged to form Baldwin-Ehret-Hill, which in turn was taken over by Keene Corporation in 1968.

In 1930, Ehret ran monthly advertisements in Asbestos magazine on the inside back cover. In the March issue, there was also an article on pulmonary asbestosis. The company hired a sales clerk in 1936 named Dwight Satterthwaite, and within one month he learned that asbestos was a dangerous dust(Deposition of D.L. Satterthwaite, In Re: All Asbestos Cases, C.P. 77-1, U.S. Dist. Court E Dist. VA Aug. 29, 1983).

In 1952, Ehret Magnesia hired chemist John D. McAllister, who had worked for Owens-Illinois, to develop a calcium silicate insulation product. Employees in the pilot plant set up in the 1950s were required to wear respirators and dust control equipment was used in the process. When the process was expanded and a commercial scale plant built, McAllister examined respirators on the market and bought enough to make them available plant-wide. Around this time, the company's insurer conducted air sampling in the plant. In the late 1950s, McAllister recalls that there was considerable discussion over the deaths of three Ehret workers from lung cancer and nonmalignant lung conditions(Deposition of J D. McAllister, same case as Satterthwaite deposition).

Baldwin-Hill patents in the 1950s stressed that insulations whose use entailed "a minimum of dusting" would have "Practically no industrial health hazard. These patents also demonstrated that mineral wool could be used instead of asbestos (Patent No. 2,633,433, granted in 1953; and No. 2,732,295, granted in 1956).

KEENE CORPORATION

--Ehret Magnesia ad in ASBESTOS, March 1930

--Baldwin-Hill patent noting low dusting capability "with almost no industrial health hazard"

-- Satterthwaite learned of asbestos being health hazard within 30 days of taking office job at Ehret in 1936.

-- McAllester was chemist hired from O-I in 1952 who already knew asbestos was dangerous dust. Dust collectors on presses and on finishing operations of mfgr. (~1953 on) and respirators used by employees on past operations (1953-1956). Suspected 3 living diseased workers were occupational (1958-59).