

Apr. 21-76
Garrett



Virgil Christian

Rite Friday For Liver Cancer Victim

Service will be at 2 p.m. Friday for a third vinyl chloride worker at the South Charleston Carbide plant who died of a rare liver cancer attributed to vinyl chloride exposure.

The rite for Virgil Marvin Christian, 61, of 714 Chestnut St., Spring Hill, will be held in Snodgrass Funeral Home in South Charleston by the Rev. Norbert Fisher. Burial will be in Glendale Cemetery in South Charleston.

Mr. Christian died Tuesday in the National Institutes of Health at Bethesda, Md. He was being treated for angiosarcoma, which is believed caused by inhalation of vinyl chloride gas that is used to produce polyvinyl chloride plastics.

He worked from 1943 to 1968 in the vinyl chloride unit of the Carbide plant, during a time when emission levels of the gas were much higher than they are today.

Two other workers from the unit previously died of the same liver cancer—Charles T. Smart in 1968 and Richard E. Clendemin in 1974.

Mr. Christian learned last summer he had angiosarcoma, and retired from Carbide Jan. 1. Last summer he said in a Daily Mail interview that he felt "no grudge against the company." He said that, 30 years ago, workers ignored the smell of vinyl chloride, "although you didn't breathe it too long or you would get high."

He was a member of the machinists union at the plant.

Surviving are his wife, Marguerite; son, Marvin; daughters, Wanda at home, Mrs. Louise Racer and Mrs. Selma Walker, both of Dunbar; brothers Orin of St. Albans and Donald of South Charleston; sisters, Mrs. Elsie Vance, Mrs. Mildred Lotshaw, Mrs. Erma Fross and Mrs. Vera Daoust, all of South Charleston; Mrs. Opal Marsh of Miami, Fla.; Mrs. Aubrey Sutphin of Winfield and Mrs. Thelma Forth of Dunbar.

UCC 102452

Rare Cancer Claims Ex-Carbide Worker

By RICHARD HAAS
Daily Mail Business Editor

Virgil Marvin Christian, 61, the third former employe of Union Carbide's South Charleston plant to be afflicted with a rare form of liver cancer, died Tuesday in Bethesda, Md.

At the time of his death, he was a patient at the National Institutes of Health, where he was being treated for angiosarcoma. Scientists believe there is a link between the liver disease and exposure to high concentrations of vinyl chloride gas.

A 40-year veteran of Union Carbide, Christian worked in a section of the plant producing vinyl chloride between 1943 and 1968. At the time of Christian's employment in the unit, vinyl chloride emission levels were far higher than they have been since concern over the angiosarcoma link developed in 1974, Carbide officials said.

Early in that year B. F. Goodrich Co. reported to federal health officials that several employes at its Louisville, Ky., plant were afflicted with angiosarcoma. Following this incident, Union Carbide reviewed its employe health records and found that one former worker — Charles T. Smart — died of the disease in 1968, and a second victim — Richard E. Clendenin — was seriously ill. Clendenin died in July, 1974.

Carbide has not produced vinyl chloride at the South Charleston plant for several years, but continues to use the gas to produce polyvinyl chloride plastic. Part of the latter operation, however, is scheduled to be phased out by the end of the year.

A plant spokesman said Carbide is in compliance with new federal emission standards which went into effect April 1.



VIRGIL CHRISTIAN
Worked With Vinyl Chloride

Christian, who resided at 714 Chestnut St., South Charleston, discovered he had angiosarcoma last June, following a routine blood test. He officially retired from Carbide on Jan. 1.

Interviewed by the Daily Mail last summer, Christian expressed confidence that the disease had been detected in time for effective treatment.

"Sometimes I've had my ups and downs," he said at the time. "A person always thinks, 'It can't happen to me.'"

"I started at Carbide in 1935. I have no grudge against the company. Thirty years ago, this (the gas) was no more than steam would be. That's all we thought about vinyl chloride, although you didn't breathe it too long or you would get high."

During his stay at the National Institutes of Health, Carbide encouraged Christian's co-workers to call him on company telephones. "I shook everybody up when I got it (angiosarcoma)," Christian said last summer, but he added that he appreciated the phone calls.

Surviving: wife, Mrs. Virgil (Peggy) Christian; son, Marvin of St. Albans; daughters, Miss Wanda Christian of South Charleston, Mrs. Louise Racer of Dunbar, Mrs. Selma Walker of Dunbar; brothers, Orin of St. Albans, Donald (Sam) of South Charleston; sisters, Mrs. Elsie Vance of South Charleston, Mrs. Mildred Lotshaw and Mrs. Erma Fross of South Charleston, Mrs. Thelma Forth of Hurricane, Mrs. Vera Daoust of South Charleston, Mrs. Aubrey Sutphin of Winfield, Mrs. Opal Marsh of Miami, Fla.

Friends may call Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. at Snodgrass Funeral

"people are more important than computers."

He also said an NBC analysis showing strong labor support for Carter, although Udall had endorsements from union leaders, showed that "what really counts is the vote of workers, not the endorsement of the leadership."

Both Carter and Jackson said their victories gave them a psychological advantage. Carter said the Wisconsin contest also was "a psychological disadvantage to Mr. Udall" since he has not yet won a primary.

Jackson said, "The real significance of New York is that New York is the epitome of the political effort and winning in New York carries with it a tremendous psychological impact. This is what we planned. We can argue one or two delegates, it doesn't matter. We were on target in this state."

Pollster Louis Harris, in an interview on the ABC show, "Good Morning America," said the results showed that "Mo Udall is still a bridesmaid."

He also said the outcome might help Humphrey. "By not getting into the fray, he seems to be doing magnificently," Harris said. "There were a lot of survivors and no winners" in Tuesday's elections. "There is no front-runner in the Democratic party."

'You (C... Man-On-The

By ROBERT KELLY
Of The Daily Mail Staff

Party lines define sentiment about yesterday's State Supreme Court ruling which denies a third consecutive term to Gov. Moore.

Hours after the announcement of the court decision, an informal survey conducted by the Daily Mail in downtown Charleston showed 75 per cent of those queried in agreement with the ruling. This group included 10 Democrats, one Republican and one Independent.

General disagreement was expressed by four persons (two Republican, two Democrats).

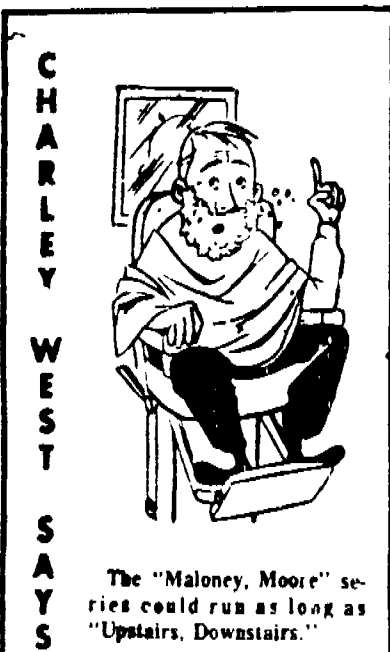
Sixteen persons—the first 16 willing to voice their opinions—responded to "What do you think of the decision?"

"It's proper. You've got to live by the rules," said Lee Porter, 32, of 4815 Washington Ave., a construction worker and Democrat.

"Moore's got a Napoleonic complex. He thinks he's bigger than life itself. It's about time someone brought him down," Porter added.

With few exceptions, respondents brushed aside legal arguments and directed their comments to Moore, rather than the court decision, and the result was a popularity contest.

"It didn't matter to me. I don't think he



DEMONSTRATING his style, Eddie Keeling flings a tightly rolled Gazette while sitting as-

tride Star, his pony
(Gazette Photo by Lawrence
Pierce)

On 2-Mile Route

Gazette Delivery Depends on Pony

The Gazette is being delivered in Dunbar by a pony express of sorts.

The pony is a 16-year-old Shetland named Star. The rider is 12-year-old Eddie Keeling, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward L. Keeling of 222 Midway Dr.

Eddie's route covers two miles. It would take him about three hours to travel that distance, he said, if he were walking. But he doesn't walk.

At 6 a.m. every morning, he delivers his papers astride ol' Star. "It only takes me an hour or an hour and a half that way," he explained.

Eddie has a small route, only 15 customers. But before he became interested in being a Gazette carrier, there wasn't a route in his neighborhood at all.

Last summer, he called the Gazette circulation office and received the authorization to start a route. He's been at it since then.

A seventh grader at Dunbar Junior High, Eddie makes good grades even though he's up and working bright and early each day. On the latest report card, he got three A's and three B's.

On weekdays, he rides bareback. But on Sundays, the heavier papers which he carries in a bag around his neck, tend to throw him off balance. So he uses a saddle on Sundays.

"I'd like to build up the route," he said, "and have even more customers."

Pay Raises For County Workers Eyed

Kanawha County employees appear to be in line for a 5 per cent pay raise in fiscal 1974-75.

Court President Dewey E.S. Kuhns said Thursday that he and other county commissioners are obligated to give serious consideration to across the board pay raises.

"I don't see how we can avoid it," he said.

KUHNS POINTED out that the county court legally can't dictate raises to county employees. Instead, he said, the court only can increase allocations to other county officials who in turn decide on which employees receive raises and how much they receive.

Commissioners will begin next month weeding through budget requests from county officials. Kuhns said that as of Thursday, only a few requests have been filed. Generally, they are requesting 5 per cent increases, he said.

"We can't penalize county employees because they work in government," he said. "They have to meet inflation just like everyone else."

Rare Cancer Affects One At Carbide

Carbide has reviewed the records of 725 employees and former employees who have worked with vinyl chloride monomer and found only one employee who had angiosarcoma, a rare type of cancer that affects the blood vessels of the liver, the company said Thursday.

This employee died in 1968 and had worked in poly vinyl chloride production in South Charleston from 1944 to 1962, the company told the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health in Washington, D.C.

Carbide made the study after B.F. Goodrich said a number of employees who worked in the polymerization of vinyl chloride had died of the disease.

Carbide will continue to review the records of employees to see if there are any other indications of a connection between exposure to vinyl chloride polymers at South Charleston and Texas City, Tex., plants, the company said.

Learning from EPA

Mayor Hutchinson commented that the bad part was that about \$2.5 million in local funds would still be necessary.

Jerry Thompson, treasurer for the board, said the board will have to decide whether to spend the expected \$422,000 reimbursement from EPA on additional sewer lines or plant improvements.

Belle Bank's Assets Hiked

The First National Bank of Belle increased its assets by 44 per cent in 1973 and operating earnings by 78 per cent after taxes, said President William H. Moore.

Deposits during the year grew by 43 per cent while the bank's investment portfolio rose to \$4.1 million, Moore explained. Earnings per share rose to \$9.04 in 1973, up from \$5.08 in 1972.

State's Aid Topic of Me

By Edward P.
Business/Labor E

Gov. Moore and other public officials will hold an all-day meeting today with 10 federal regional directors here on revenue sharing in the new federal budget.

Moore will be joined by 89 other elected officials, including mayors from the state's largest cities and county court members, to discuss federal money expected in July for job training, housing and other state programs.

Federal regional directors represent the major U.S. departments and will talk about programs and money overseered by these departments under what the Nixon administration calls "new federalism." It seeks to decentralize federal aid and put it at the disposal of state and local communities for them to decide how best to use it.

WEST VIRGINIA and the rest of the states will share \$1.67 billion earmarked in the 1975 national budget for job training and economic development under the new Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). J. B. Archer, regional director of the U.S. Labor Department, explained Thursday.

This employment program replaces various job and manpower programs funded by the federal government during the war against poverty in the 1960s. "What we are trying to do is to be more effective and efficient," Archer said. "We have no more categorical programs, but we suspect that

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Post Office Resumed

dered the Postal Service to follow its own rules in future actions.

The Postal Service announced that its program of closings resumed Friday evening, but a spokesman said he knew of no immediate closing announcements.

POSTAL OFFICIALS had argued that not being allowed to close the offices will cost them \$5,500 a day.

The ruling means that in order to close a post office the Postal Service will have to conduct a survey of mail users affected and provide a 90-day notice of the closing.

Two associations of postmasters and a group of congressmen had argued that the law prohibited the closing of small post offices.

When a rural post office is closed, rural delivery routes are extended or a local citizen is given a contract to operate a community post office.

Since last July 1 the Postal Service has closed 186 post offices for an annual saving of nearly \$2 million. Some 600 other offices are being studied.

Opponents of the closings had argued that the law prohibits the closing of unprofitable offices merely for economic reasons. "Congress wanted service in this area rather than efficiency," said Isaac N. Groner, a lawyer for the opponents.

But John K. Villa, attorney for the Postal Service, said the agency uses other criteria besides economics in deciding whether to close small post offices.

For example, the Postal Service is more likely to close a small post office if there is another office in the area, he said.



NOT TOO THRILLED with the appearance of a presidential candidate is 10-month-old Renee Rosen of Miami Beach, Fla.—and Pennsylvania Gov. Milton Shapp finds he's not having too

much luck with the voters either. Shapp, campaigning for Tuesday's Florida primary, ran last in his previous primary fling.

(AP Wirephoto)

Vinyl Chloride-Birth Defects

Area Subject of Health Probe

By Jane E. Brody
(c) New York Times Service

NEW YORK—The National Center for Disease Control is studying a second region of the country where exposure to vinyl chloride from a chemical plant may be related to a higher than expected rate of birth defects among children born in the area.

The region is Charleston, W. Va., where during the four years from 1970 through 1973, 53 children were born with defects affecting the central nervous system. Thirty-one such cases were expected for the region during that time period, accord-

ing to the normal national incidence of these defects.

Just south of Charleston is the home, since 1938, of a Union Carbide plant where the gas vinyl chloride is converted into the plastics polymer, polyvinyl chloride. Vinyl chloride was found two years ago to cause a fatal liver cancer among exposed workers in the chemical plants. Since then, it has also been linked to an increased risk of cancers of the brain and lungs.

A YEAR AGO, Dr. Peter F. Infante,

then with the Ohio Department of Health, uncovered an unusually high rate of birth defects generally, and central nervous system defects in particular, among children born in three Ohio communities where polyvinyl chloride polymerization plants are located. The finding suggested, but did not prove, a causal link between vinyl chloride and the defects, since large amounts of the chemical can enter the air around plants.

The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta, a part of the United States Public Health Service did its own study in one of

(Please Turn to Page 2A, Col. 1)

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the relief to the middle-income family is only slight, and a "mere pittance."

Rollins said a family of two with annual income of \$5,040—the minimum wage Gov. Moore recommended for state employees—would save only 41 cents a week. A family of two with an \$8,000 income, he said, would save 31 cents a week, or 35 cents a week if the income was \$10,000. If the income was \$15,000, he said the savings would be 80 cents a week, or \$46.20 a year.

Del. Charles Polan, D-Cabell, also opposed the bill, because he said, revenue collections this year would be about "dead even" with expenditures, and next year, the expenditures would be higher than the income. The problem, he said, in West Virginia, in addition to inflation, is "we're trying to make up for 50 years of neglect." Polan cited bad roads that needed money, for repairs. He said it would be a fraud on the taxpayers to give relief this year, and have to raise taxes next year.

Voting against the bill were: Allen, D-Wyoming; Arnold D-Lewis; Ballou, D-Weitzel; Brenda, D-Hancock; Brown, D-Preston; Bryan, D-Barbour; Burke, Chafin, D-Mingo; Christian, D-Mercer; Crabtree, D-Wayne; Dalton, D-Lincoln; Dinmore, D-Monongalia; Fitzgerald, D-Jackson; Hagedorn, D-Monongalia; Johnson, D-Kanawha; Long, D-Braxton; Mathis, D-Logan; Miller, D-Roane; Milleson.

From Page One

Area

the three suspected Ohio communities and found no evidence to support the link.

However, Infante, a specialist in epidemiology, said there were several methodological errors in the center's study that could account for its negative findings. Larry D. Edmonds, the center epidemiologist who did the study, said in an interview that his findings did not rule out the possibility that exposure to vinyl chloride in the general environment might cause birth defects.

"The question has not been resolved—that's why we're doing this second study in Charleston," Edmonds said.

IN THE CHARLESTON study, Edmonds and his colleagues will try to interview the parents of all the children born with central nervous system defects to learn where they worked and how far they lived from the vinyl chloride plant, particularly during early pregnancy.

Infante, who now works for the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, said, "We are extremely concerned about the public health consequences of vinyl chloride."

In addition to birth defects among the general population living near vinyl chloride plants, Infante has studied the results of pregnancies among the wives of vinyl chloride workers. In a report to be published in the British journal, The Lancet, Infante states that he found a two-to-three-fold increase in the rate of stillbirths and

CRUISE ON SEA
lending of money

Senate Rejects \$15 Malpractice Amendments

The State Senate voted down a mass of amendments to a medical malpractice bill Friday night and prepared to pass it today. Senators rejected major amendments that would have cut premiums in half and held lawyers' fees to one third of the net claims awarded.

The main thrust of the bill, as it will come up for a vote today, puts West Virginia in the business of providing the insurance.

The legislation would establish a nine-member medical malpractice insurance corporation. All doctors and hospitals in the state would be required to participate in an insurance plan prepared by the corporation.

Doctors would be divided into three classes for premium purposes. Those who perform no surgery would pay an annual premium of \$1,200 a year. Doctors engaged in minor surgery would pay \$2,400. Surgery specialists would pay \$6,000.

Hospitals would participate at the rate of \$300 a bed. Other health care professionals could participate on a voluntary basis.

From Page One

Senate

Roy Rogerson, said the main reason for any failure of the EEE has been the failure of the legislature to appropriate adequate funds.

Activity in the Senate Friday ranged from the big electric power bill to bow and arrow legislation.

A bill passed 31-2 and sent to the House would require delivery of any deer killed by a bow and arrow to a conservation officer for checking purposes.

MODERN HUNTERS have been known to kill a deer with a gun, then insert an arrow in its carcass.

Other bills passed and sent to the House would create a state fire commission and the office of emergency medical services. Both new units of government would be coordinating agencies in keeping with their titles.

Action was delayed on a bill that, tentatively, would provide for distribution of about \$2.3 million in coal severance tax collections to the state's 224 municipalities. It's understood that a move will be made today to divide this money among cities and counties.

Albertazzie Speaks

West Virginia Department of Commerce Commissioner Ralph D. Albertazzie will speak at an informal luncheon program beginning 12:30 p.m. March 11 at a meeting of the Pairs and Spares Retired People's Club in the Baptist Temple, Mor-

Promised M.U. Med School

HUNTINGTON — Marshall University will be getting \$15 million from the Veterans Administration to develop a medical school.

The funds will be paid over a seven-year period, beginning July 1. That initial amount is expected to be \$2.8 million and will be used to begin employing the faculty and installing equipment.

The funding came about because Marshall shall receive a reasonable assurance accreditation by a joint committee of American Medical Assn. and the Association of American Medical Colleges the initial money the school hopes to provisional accreditation that will allow the school to accept students for term of 1977.

The Marshall Medical School will be affiliated with the Huntington V.A. H

The Charleston Gazette

Entered as second class matter of the P. Charleston, W. Va., under the act of March 3, 1879 (Established 1879)

Independent Democratic newspaper published Sunday by The Daily Gazette Co., Virginia St. E., Charleston, W. Va. 25301

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UCC 102456

AT SOUTH CHARLESTON

Dispersion Resins Shutting Down

Carbide announced this week that we are shutting down our vinyl dispersion resins unit at the South Charleston plant by the end of the year. The facility is located in Building 190 on the Island. About 60 employees are involved and they will be reassigned to other operations when the shut-down is completed.

The decision to discontinue vinyl dispersion resin production is based solely on an analysis of our commercial position which indicates that to remain in this business is not justifiable. The unit has a capacity of 40 million pounds a year which is less than 10 per cent of the domestic industry capacity.

Instead, Carbide has decided to concentrate its support efforts on solution and suspension vinyl resins in which we have a strong market position. Additional capital will be expended for these operations.

Carbide is an industry leader in solution vinyl resins which are produced by a unique solvent polymerization process at both South Charleston and Texas City. These are widely used for solution coatings in cans, house siding, paper, cloth, and high performance maintenance paints.

We also produce a broad line of suspension vinyl resins in a modern production unit at Texas City. These are used in such applications as piping, floor tile, and extruded cellular moldings.

Carbide pioneered and built the first commercial unit for the production of vinyl resins at South Charleston in 1930.



MORE PRODUCTIVE TIMES.....This night shot, with lights reflecting in the Kanawha River, shows our Vinyl Dispersion Resin Unit (Bldg. 190) on Blaine Island at the South Charleston Plant. Carbide announced we will be phasing out our Dispersion Resins business by the end of the year.

New Shift Supervisors

Our Distribution Fleet Operations Group has announced the promotion of three employees to Shift Supervisors at their new Private Trucking Operations located West of the Institute Plant.

People You Know

The American Cancer Society offering another of their "STOP SMOKING" Clinics at Spring Hill Junior High beginning at 7 pm on January 15th. If you are interested contact the Society at 343-3409.....R and D's HUGH DAVIS will be teaching a course on "Energy Resource Planning and Management Problems" at the Graduate School here this Semester.....It will meet on Tuesdays from 7-10 pm.....Employment's WILMA RUDOLPH leaving Carbide to take a job with the United States Olympic Committee. She will be helping promote the 1976 Olympics.....Distribution's RON TEUFEL transferring to our Dallas Field Office as Customer Service Manager.....Oldest retiree passes away...TOM GOODRICH, aged 90, died in St. Petersburg, Florida, on November 26th. An Architectural Engineer, he joined the Peoples Light Gas and Coke Company in 1911. Officials of this Company were the prime organizers of Union Carbide. At the time of his retirement in 1952, he was Manager of Real Estate for Chemicals. His son, DONALD GOODRICH, is a Product Distribution Coordinator with our Distribution Department here.....Engineering's BOB PROFFITT off to Samia as Assistant Construction Manager for the Polyethylene Project there.....WEST VIRGINIA dropping out of the Top Ten. Recent figures released by the Treasury Department showed that The Mountain State wasn't even ranked in the "Moonshine Still Raided" Category during the past year. What is going to happen to our image in New York?.....Our Home and Auto Products Division announcing that Carbide is phasing out Synthetic Motorcycle Oil products.....Talk about inflation! In Canada, estimated cost of the PETROSAR Petrochemical complex has risen \$128 million since last May. The total is now \$570 million. Work is on schedule and the olefins units are due onstream by March, 1977. Partners in the project include UNION CARBIDE CANADA, DUPONT of CANADA and POLYSAR.....Excitement in the New York Office. Our big City correspondents report that a streaker hit the 42nd Floor this week.....R and D's PAULA GUERRANT taking a Leave of Absence to work on a Secretarial Science degree at West Virginia Tech.....Want to find out what's going on in the Legislature when it convenes next week? Call 348-8905. For those out of the Charleston area a toll free number...1-800-642-8650...has been set up.....SALLY GOEDECKE of our C and P Communications Department one of several women honored by the New York YWCA in their "Salute to Women Business Luncheon" recently.....L. F. COOPER and E. E. GRINSTED of Tech Center Services off to Seadrift for 12-24 month assignments as inspectors on the expansion projects there.....

Bill Starr Promoted

Bill Starr has been promoted to Engineering Assistant with the NERP Group (Northeast Regional Project Group). He reports to Paul Bama in this assignment. Bill joined

Computer Moves

(Continued from Page 1)

After these moves are completed, the Computer Center's Aids Support Group will move down to Institute from Building

Ladies' Fitness Class

Has Room For You

Ladies.....it won't be long before

60 Cancers Workers Affected By Unit Shutdown

About 60 workers will be affected when the Carolina South Charleston plant shuts out its vinyl dispersion resin unit by the end of the year.

Earlier reports this week indicated that as many as 300 workers might be affected. The estimate was based on the number of workers who were examined last year at the plant for angiosarcoma, a rare cancer of the liver.

Doctors attribute this disease to vinyl chloride, a raw material used in the vinyl dispersion resin unit.

The company said, however, studies showed that continued operation of the unit could no longer be justified from a business standpoint.

Employees affected by the shutdown will be given other job assignments, a spokesman said.

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12A Charleston Daily Mail WED. EVE., JAN. 4, 1978

Environmental Regulations Spell Doom For Carbide's Polyvinyl Unit

By ROBERT KELLY
Of The Daily Mail Staff

Federal environmental regulations apparently sealed the fate of a 33-year-old polyvinyl chloride (PVC) production unit at Union Carbide's South Charleston plant.

Company officials announced this week that the vinyl dispersions resin unit will be closed by Dec. 31, 1978, because it could no longer be justified economically.

About 60 employees will be affected. They will be transferred to other parts of the plant, a spokesman said.

Two other PVC production processes will not be affected. PVC, used for a variety of products from phonograph records to floor tile, is made from vinyl chloride, which doctors say may cause angiosar-

coma, a rare form of liver cancer.

There have been three cases of angiosarcoma among vinyl chloride workers at South Charleston. The link between these and all other PVC plants prompted federal agencies to impose emission regulations on PVC production.

As early as last May, plant officials at South Charleston said the federal regulations might spell doom for the dispersions resin unit, which began operation in 1942.

In a speech delivered repeatedly to concerned Union Carbide customers following establishment of the angiosarcoma-vinyl chloride link, Nick Wheeler, a company official, said "The (dispersion resin) process has major regulatory problems."

"The batch reactors must be cleaned frequently. Because of the foamy nature of the latex, residual monomer is removed

with great difficulty in the stripping operation," Wheeler said last year on numerous occasions.

The residual monomer, vinyl chloride, is the substance which is believed to cause angiosarcoma. In the dispersion resin process, in all PVC production — only trace amounts of vinyl chloride remain in the final product.

"The Environmental Protection Agency, fortunately, has relaxed its position on emissions slightly in providing a separate standard for dispersion resins," Wheeler told customers.

"Prior to this change, I would forecast complete disappearance of the industry. Now, there is a good possibility that this resin will survive EPA," Wheeler said. His original prophecy for South Charleston has come true.

41676

Carbide Plans To Shut Down Vinyl Facility

The Carbide South Charleston plant will shut down its vinyl dispersion resin unit by the end of this year, a company spokesman confirmed Monday.

Reports have been circulating that the unit will be phased out. It uses vinyl chloride, an agent that doctors say causes angiosarcoma, a rare cancer of the liver.

But the company said the decision to close the operation is based on a study that indicated the operation could no longer be justified from a business standpoint.

Workers affected will be reassigned to other departments when the shutdown is complete, the spokesman said, adding that the total number hasn't been fully determined.

EARLIER FIGURES, however, indicated that the number was more than 300 on the basis of vinyl chloride workers examined last year at the plant for angiosarcoma.

The South Charleston vinyl dispersion resin facilities have an annual production capacity of 40 million pounds, less than 10 per cent of the total industry capacity in this country, the spokesman explained.

Products are primarily used for plastics and organics in coatings, adhesives, plastic films and sealing compounds for food containers.

Carbide will continue the solvent vinyl, suspension and nonsolvent resin businesses, the spokesman said. The company is investing substantial amounts of capital in them.

By Wayne Slater
The Associated Press

(Turn to Page 8A, Col. 1)

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Vinyl Chloride Victim Awaits Miracle

Virgil Christian is waiting for something this holiday season that he hoped would

come during Thanksgiving—a miracle.

Christian, who worked for 32 years in the vinyl chloride unit at the Union Carbide Corp. plant here, has angiosarcoma, a deadly cancer that attacks the liver and blood vessels.

Two fellow workers already have died of the disease, but Christian is still alive and travels every three weeks to the National Institutes of Health at Bethesda, Md., for chemotherapy.

"The first news we want is that he's healed," said his wife, Marguerite.

SHE SAID there is reason to believe in their miracles. The plant doctor detected cancer early and tests have been encouraging.

But with the optimism there is fear, comingling in an ambivalent nightmare, especially during the holidays.

Last week, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed new regulations aimed at reducing 90 per cent of the vinyl chloride in the air near dozens of industrial plants in the nation.

EPA Administrator Russell Train said clear medical evidence shows the chemical as a cause of angiosarcoma and related diseases. The new regulations will affect 58 plants including Union Carbide's South Charleston plant and the Pantasote Company's Point Pleasant operation.

The EPA said an estimated \$198 million in new pollution-control equipment will be needed when the rules take effect in the spring.

THE IMMEDIATE effect on Union Carbide and Pantasote in West Virginia remains unclear, according to both plant managers.

Henry Raemlouch, manager of the

Pantasote operation, said final emission standards have not yet been sent out. But he said a rough draft indicates that the permissible level of vinyl chloride in the air or water would be 10 parts per million (ppm).

Raemlouch said his operation was close to that level now but admitted that once the new EPA standards become effective in the spring, "It's going to cost us money."

Arthur Ryrholm, plant manager at the Union Carbide South Charleston plant, said he was still in the dark as to what the firm would have to do to meet the new standards.

The proposed 10-ppm level is a far cry

from the amount of vinyl chloride in the air during the 1940s and 1950s when the faint sweet odor of the chemical covered the valley. It was not uncommon that 2,000 ppm were spewed into the air in those days.

VIRGIL CHRISTIAN was there in 1942 when Union Carbide cranked up its vinyl chloride dispersion unit and stayed there until last year.

It wasn't until June of this year that he found out for sure that he had angiosarcoma. But he harbors no ill feeling toward the company and remains philosophical about the whole ordeal.

(Turn to Page 8A, Col. 2)

Closing Warnings Have Not Come True

(c) New York Times Service

NEW YORK—Late in 1974, a trade association representing nearly all of the chemical manufacturers using vinyl chloride gas, a proven cause of cancer, marched into federal court in an attempt to overturn strict Labor Department health standards about to go into effect.

"The standard," the companies said in their court papers, "is simply beyond the compliance capabilities of the industry."

They offered dire warnings of plant closings, job losses, price increases and massive economic dislocation.

After all, polyvinyl chloride, vinyl chloride's principal derivative, is a \$1 billion industry turning out goods ranging from plastic water pipes to bologna packages.

The legal appeals proved futile; industry was forced to comply. But, one year later, not one of the doomsday predictions has come true.

All the producers are operating within

the strict Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard. The price of polyvinyl chloride has been running about 10 per cent below 1974 highs and supplies are plentiful.

And, although one small plant is closing its doors, four new ones are being built.

The success of the companies in meeting government standards denounced only a short time earlier as unworkable has led to renewed questioning, particularly in government circles, of industry's credibility.

"It's hard to say whether they are crying wolf," says R.M. Kessoff, a plastics consultant. "The acid test is that in a short period of time, they have proven that they can lick the problem."

Industry executives now say they opposed the health standards because they weren't certain they could meet them.

(Turn to Page 8A, Col. 1)

From Page One

Vinyl chloride first became an issue in

Similar discoveries followed, with 17 deaths in all in the industry, and health enforcement officials moved in

In April, after laboratory tests, OSHA moved to a standard of "no detectable" concentration as measured in the air.

By October, they had convinced OSHA to change to a 1 part per million average, with brief exposures to higher levels permitted.

OSHA officials now say the effects of those changes were minimal and claims by the industry that they made all the difference were "a little face-saving semantics."

Goodrich developed a new process to reduce the necessity of cleaning reactors—thought to have been a major exposure point.

This makes it unnecessary for the fabricators to regulate emission levels in their own plants.

It involved 130 scientists and engineers, 425,000 man-hours of work and \$34 million in capital costs.

Industry spokesmen say the regulations lower productivity, and will add 10 to 15 per cent to PVC manufacturing costs.

And the cost increase complaints aren't so impressive when compared to the natural price swings.

**THE CLIPPING FROM:
THE CHARLESTON GAZETTE**

DATE PAGE

From Page One

Vinyl

Also, the medical bills are paid through Workmen's Compensation, company insurance and various programs. Mrs. Christian said the firm even reimburses her whenever she has out-of-pocket expenses related to treatment of her husband.

"Nobody ever worried about vinyl chloride before," he said. "They thought you could take a bath in it and it wouldn't hurt. And they assumed that the company shouldn't be any smarter in this regard, that the company couldn't have known."

With a few exceptions, the plant record in recent months has been good, Copenhagen said.

"But following the tests with the Mount Sinai people, we heard very little about it," he said, suggesting that the three reported cases might be the only victims.

Two are dead, he noted, only ~~one~~ ^{one} in 1948 and the other succumbing last July. That leaves only Virgil Christian, who is still fighting for his life in the ~~center~~ ^{center} at Bethesda and banking on a fair trial.

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On Vinyl Chloride

Carbide Uncertain Of Ruling Impact

Carbide South Charleston plant manager Arthur Ryrholm said Wednesday he couldn't comment specifically on how a new vinyl chloride regulation might affect the plant, but added that the cost of meeting safety regulations "are not generally a major factor to staying in business."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued new regulations Tuesday designed to nearly eliminate vinyl chloride from the air at dozens of chemical plants around the country.

Vinyl chloride is a raw material used at the South Charleston plant in the production of plastics.

...

A WORLDWIDE ALARM developed over vinyl chloride in 1974 as the result of research that indicated workers exposed to the gas for long periods may develop a rare liver cancer called angiosarcoma. Two vinyl chloride workers at the South Charleston plant have died of the disease.

An EPA report issued in 1974 listed a vinyl chloride emissions rate of between 17 and 115 pounds per hour at the South Charleston plant, except during disc failure when emissions were 24,000 pounds per hour for five minutes. The EPA calculated that 4.8 million pounds were released at the South Charleston plant in 1974.

Ryrholm pointed out the plant has made considerable progress in reducing worker exposure to vinyl chloride, and that process improvements have reduced emissions over-all. He described this as a multimillion dollar effort.

During the past year, Ryrholm pointed out, Carbide made 200 tests for vinyl chloride at the plant fence, and that in 90 per cent of the tests, none could be found. In the other 10 per cent of the tests, concentrations were less than one-half part per million.

"In my opinion," added Ryrholm, "these results say Kanawha Valley citizens are not endangered by vinyl chloride emissions."

Baptist Temple Choirs To Present Program

The Baptist Temple choirs, directed by M. Wayne Eich, will present a "Feast of Carols and Lessons" at 5:30 p.m. Sunday in the church sanctuary.

A brass quartet, two pianists and a percussion ensemble will accompany choirs ranging in age from the 5-year-old beginners to adult chancel singers. The evening will conclude with congregational candle lighting in a "Festival of Lights."



Arthur Ryrholm
'Not Endangered'

The 1974 EPA report said some workers who were found to have angiosarcoma had worked in areas where vinyl chloride concentrations were generally less than 12 parts per million.

EPA reported that two people living near a Connecticut polyvinyl chloride fabrication plant contracted the disease.

...

EPA CONCLUDED THAT "it would be wrong to consider vinyl chloride as an isolated situation, but rather it should be viewed as an example of just one of many potential chemical carcinogens which may be present but as yet unidentified as carcinogens."

The regulations announced Tuesday by EPA would require the plastics industry to install \$196 million in new equipment to reduce the chemical by 90 per cent of currently estimated emissions.

EPA administrator Russell Train said four plants, one owned by Occidental Petroleum Co. and three owned by the Janet Corp., have indicated they will close as a result of EPA's plans.

However, Ryrholm said Union Carbide headquarters in New York stated Wednesday that closing the Janet plants is "in no way being considered." Janet is a wholly owned subsidiary of Carbide.

Ed Light of West Virginia-Citizen Action Group said Wednesday he believes vinyl chloride "is only the tip of the iceberg as far as dangerous chemicals going into the air are concerned." Light said he is working on a report on this matter to be released in January.

UCC 102463

Please deliver to Ed. Van Den Amele,
Public Relations, 4th Floor, NYO

Daily Mail 12/17/75

— no exception Prosecutor Danny Cline.

No Reaction From Carbide Officials On New Vinyl Chloride Regulations

Local Union Carbide officials had no immediate reaction today to new Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) standards requiring chemical plants to reduce vinyl chloride emissions by 90 per cent.

The regulations issued Tuesday take effect this month.

At one time Carbide's South Charleston plant, which used vinyl chloride gas produced in Texas to make polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic, was one of the largest vinyl chloride plants in the country. Last year, however, the company discontinued its Dynel fiber line, a major PVC user, and use of vinyl chloride at the plant has been reduced.

The only other plant in West Virginia to be affected by the new standards is the Panasote Co. facility in Point Pleasant.

South Charleston manager Arthur Ryrholm said local Carbide officials had not yet seen the new regulations and could not comment upon their impact until the EPA statement was reviewed.

He did say, however, that during the past year Carbide has made 200 tests for vinyl chloride at the plant fence. In 90 per cent of the tests, no vinyl chloride could be detected and in the other 10 per cent the concentrations were less than the one-half part per million considered safe by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Ryrholm also said safety considerations are rarely a factor in Carbide's closing of a particular production unit.

In a statement issued after the EPA's announcement, the president of the Society of the Plastics Industry agreed that "rigorous emissions controls are in the public interest." Ralph L. Harding Jr. disputed, however, the EPA's assertion that vinyl chloride emissions pose a health problem to those living near chemical plants.

Vinyl chloride's link to cancer has been a subject of controversy during the past few years. Researchers have found that workers exposed to the chemical over a long period of time have an unusually high incident of liver cancer. At least three former South Charleston plant employees are known to have contracted the disease.

EPA Administrator said some of the 58 plants affected by the regulations may close rather than attempt compliance. His

agency said \$100 million in new pollution control equipment would be needed.

In his statement, Harding listed plants owned by Occidental Petroleum and a Carbide subsidiary, Janet Corp., as facilities which would be closed by the new regulations. The Janet plants, he said, are located in Torrance, Calif., Tucker, Ga., and Somerset, N.J.

According to the Associated Press, no Carbide plants are scheduled to close.

Ed Light, president of the Citizens Action Group, said today his organization is preparing a study to be released in January that will show vinyl chloride emissions pose a local health problem. CAG also believe that vinyl chloride is only the first of many chemical substances that eventually will be linked to cancer.

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