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Center for Labor Research & Educ.

LABOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM

MONITOR

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LOHP Moves Into 1977: A Progress Report

This is a special issue of *Monitor*. Regular columns, articles, and features will return in the next issue. For the New Year, we would like to update our longtime readers on the progress of the Labor Occupational Health Program, and introduce new readers to our staff, activities, and publications. It has been 2½ years since *Monitor* began. During that time LOHP has expanded both in staff and in focus.

Many readers may wish to save this issue as a reference, or pass it along to a friend who is interested in our work. Extra copies are available from LOHP.

General Goals and Objectives

One of the primary objectives of the Labor Occupational Health Program is the translation of scientific or technical information into a form usable by local unions concerned about job health hazards. To meet this objective, LOHP assists workers, union representatives, and their employers in designing and implementing their own health and safety programs; develops educational programs and materials; and provides technical assistance upon request. Part of the Center for Labor Research and Education, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California, Berkeley, LOHP receives major financial support from the Ford Foundation as well as contract funds from federal OSHA.

At the conclusion of 2½ years of operations, LOHP counts among its achievements:

- Development of educational materials on health hazards and their control, including manuals for union and apprenticeship training, pamphlets, handbooks, a film, and a newsletter.
- Further development of an apprenticeship training program.
- Sponsorship of the first California conference solely designed for health and safety representatives from a variety of unions.
- Development of specialized health and

safety education and training programs for specific employee groups.

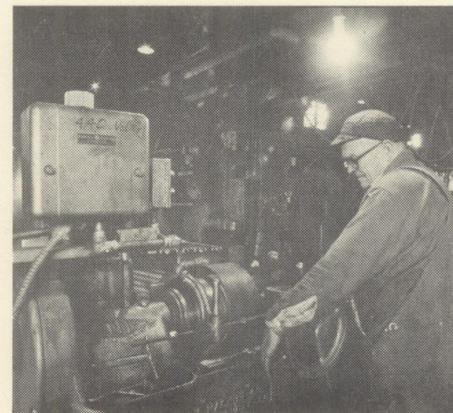
- Offering technical services (health hazard surveys, medical screening evaluations, and assistance in documenting job hazards and discrimination complaints) to individual workers and unions. Some of the unions involved included: International Chemical Workers, Local 422; Teamsters, Local 2707; International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, Locals 10 and 34; Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers, Local 1-5; and American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Local 2428.

Educational Sessions

LOHP staff members have presented occupational health and safety instruction at local union meetings, at gatherings of shop stewards, and at union district meetings. The variety of occupations covered by these sessions include: machinists; drivers; stationary engineers; woodworkers; and garment, railway, and chemical workers. For early 1977 LOHP has plans for training shop stewards of the San Francisco Joint Board, International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; Transport Workers' Union Local 522 Flight Attendants' Health Committee; and the Health and Safety Committee of the International Association of Machinists Local Lodge 284.

Apprenticeship Training

To help decrease the unusually high rate of occupational injuries and disease among young workers, LOHP has developed an apprenticeship training project, supported by a Federal OSHA contract and designed with the cooperation of the California Apprenticeship Council. The project has succeeded in developing a health and safety curriculum for a specific metal trade—the Molders and Coremakers. This was also done for a specific building trade—the Carpet, Soft Tile, and Linoleum Workers—and will become part of the trade's actual apprenticeship program. A workshop for instructors of apprentices in the floor covering



This machine shop worker faces both health and safety hazards. LOHP helps workers and their unions to acquire the technical and bargaining skills needed to resolve them. (Photo by Ken Light)

trade was also designed to demonstrate how the curriculum can be taught.

Materials developed include a *Manual for Floor Covering Apprentices*; a *Manual for Foundry Workers*; *Instructors' Guides* for both the floor covering and foundry manuals; and slide shows on Lifting, Chemical Hazards in the Floor Covering Industry, Noise, Hand Tools, and Power Tools.

OSHA has refunded LOHP to conduct a second year of apprenticeship training, with the major building trades as the target.

Asilomar Conference

A three-day educational conference for local union health and safety committee members was held January 18-20, 1976, at Asilomar in Pacific Grove. The conference attracted more than 100 persons representing industrial, building, and craft unions, as well as railway workers and public employees.

Workshops covered: Formation of local union health and safety committees; Collective bargaining; Employee rights and responsibilities under OSHA and Cal/OSHA; Monitoring the workplace; Evaluating membership health; and Workers' Compensation.

Continued on page 4

BOOKSHELF

As part of its efforts to bring scientific and legal information to local union members, LOHP has developed books, pamphlets, slide shows, and other educational materials. All are available for sale from LOHP. Prepaid orders are preferred. Make checks payable to: The Regents of U.C. If you require other than fourth class delivery, please send additional postage cost with your order.

Monitor

Now in its third year of publication, this health and safety newsletter, published eight times per year, has nationwide circulation. Copies are distributed to some 1000 unions in Northern California. Among its subscribers are international and local unions, government agencies, management and professional groups, and individuals interested in the field. Among regular columns: *Doctor's Corner* responds to workers' questions about health effects of job exposures; *Sports Report* explains hazards in the sporting goods manufacturing industry; *Clearinghouse* notes new publications, articles, and studies of interest; *Recent Events* contains news items from all over the nation; and *Health Hazard Alerts* details the effects of toxic substances in the workplace. In the past, major articles have covered workers' rights under the asbestos standard; health hazards faced by hospital workers, truck drivers, and grain workers; and methods of funding local union health and safety committees.

Subscription for one year is \$5.00 for individuals and \$10.00 for institutions. Back issues from 1974-75 are available in bound volumes for \$5.00.

Working for Your Life: A Woman's Guide to Job Health Hazards

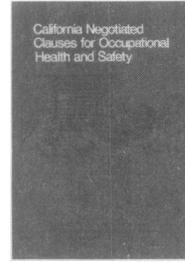
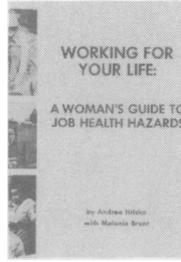
Written by Andrea Hricko with Melanie Brunt, the Guide's purpose is to educate women workers about hazards they may face on their jobs. The Guide explores hazards encountered in occupations which employ large number of women workers, e.g., workers in offices, beauty salons, textile plants, electronic manufacturing firms, and hospitals. The Guide also covers the job hazards which may adversely affect the offspring of both men and women, e.g., lead, radiation, mercury, and anesthetic gases.

Copies may be obtained for \$8.00. A special \$5.00 rate is available for individual nonprofessionals or students.

Working Steel

Working Steel is a 20 minute documentary film about foundry workers. It is intended not only as a specific educational film about the foundry industry, but also for a broader audience interested in occupational safety and health. *Working Steel* is presented through foundry workers' eyes. The film was shot at several West Coast foundries by two independent film makers, Ken Light, a still photographer, and Charles West, a freelance writer. The workers interviewed in the film spent lunch time and breaks discussing their foundry experiences with the film makers.

Film rentals are \$30.00. Sale prints are \$175.00 each. Allow at least 30 days to fill your order. LOHP has also developed discussion guides to be used when showing the film.



California Negotiated Clauses for Occupational Health and Safety

Compiled by Morris Davis, this booklet includes more than 50 sample health and safety clauses in effect during 1974-75 and negotiated by organized labor in the state of California. Topics covered include: employee rights, employer responsibilities, special hazard restrictions or provisions, health and safety committees, and union access to information. Copies are \$2.00 each.

7 Steps to Hazard Identification

Written by Bob Fowler, *7 Steps* is a workbook developed to assist in identifying job dangers. It is most useful in the preliminary evaluation of obvious, hidden, and questionable workplace hazards. Copies are \$1.00 each.

Preventing Occupational Cancer

This pamphlet by Andrea Hricko contains basic information on occupational carcinogens, current regulations, and methods of prevention and control. Copies are \$.50 each.

Occupational Health and Safety: A Manual for Foundry Workers

This manual by Janet Bertinuson and Sidney Weinstein describes some of the potential health and safety hazards involved in foundry work. The manual discusses possible control methods for these hazards, including ventilation, engineering, and personal protective equipment. In addition, general topics such as occupational safety and health laws, first aid, documentation, and workplace standards are covered. A glossary of foundry and medical terms completes the manual. The manual is available from LOHP for \$3.50, with special discounts for large bulk orders.

Occupational Health and Safety: A Manual for Foundry Workers

Similar in format to the foundry workers' manual, this publication, also by Janet Bertinuson and Sidney Weinstein, discusses the hazards involved in laying carpet, tile, and vinyl sheet goods. Control methods and work practices are described in addition to the general topics covered in the foundry manual. A chapter on medical screening contains a sample letter to physicians followed by a list of potential hazards in the industry, their effects on the body, and medical tests to determine possible effects of overexposure.

The manual concludes with a glossary of medical terms, and is available from LOHP for \$3.50, with special discounts for large bulk orders.

Collected Asilomar Materials

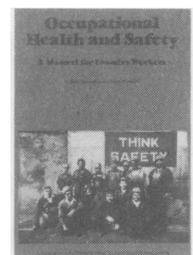
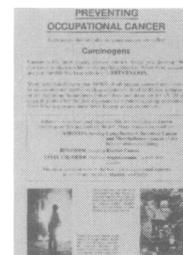
Materials prepared for the six Asilomar conference workshops (see page 1 for description) have been compiled into a single volume. It is available for \$2.50.

Occupational Health and Safety Guidebook

The *Guidebook* is a resource manual which can assist individuals and members of organized labor in planning and organizing around health and safety issues. The *Guidebook*, compiled by Robert Fowler, covers the following topics: organizing health and safety committees; committee forms and checklists; hygiene and health; Cal/OSHA and Federal OSHA; collective bargaining; and resource materials. Copies are available for \$3.00.

Rights and Responsibilities of Employees Under Cal/OSHA

The original version, written by Fred Ottoboni, Anne Trebilcock, and Shirley Woo, has been updated with current information and forms. It explains how to effectively use the California Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1973. It includes information on filing complaints, the inspection tour, appeals, protection against employer retaliation, employers' duties, etc. The booklet is available for \$1.00.



MEET THE STAFF

Donald Whorton, M.D., the Director of LOHP since July 1975, is a board certified specialist in both Internal and Occupational Medicine. His areas of interest include professional and non-professional educational opportunities in occupational health; adequacy of medical care in the occupational setting and its role in the health care system of the country; improvement of OSHA agencies and of the Workers' Compensation system. After receiving his medical degree at the University of New Mexico, he had further training in Boston, Washington, and in Baltimore, where he received a public health degree at Johns Hopkins University.

Morris Davis is the Associate Director of LOHP. His primary areas of interest are collective bargaining in occupational health and safety; state and federal regulations; and occupational health problems of Black workers. Morris previously served as Editor of the *LOHP Monitor*. He received a J.D. degree in 1970 from the University of Iowa College of Law and a Master of Public Health degree in 1973 from the University of California School of Public Health, Berkeley.

After receiving a Master of Science degree in 1973 from the Department of Environmental Health, University of Cincinnati, **Janet Bertinuson** spent two years working as a Health and Safety Associate for the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union. While with OCAW, she conducted educational, training, and testing programs; prepared educational materials; and was a resource person for the OCAW membership. Since joining LOHP in July, 1975, Janet has coordinated the Apprenticeship Training Program. She co-authored two publications on occupational health and safety for foundry workers and floor covering apprentices. She is the Western Regional Vice-President of the University and College Labor Education Association and a consultant to the CLUW Task Force on Occupational Health.

Our Apologies . . .

We regret that the union "bug" was inadvertently omitted from the November-December, 1976 issue of *Monitor*. The omission was a printer's error. *Monitor* is, of course printed in a union shop, and a union label appears on this issue.

Paul Chown has held many posts in the labor movement; he has been Secretary of a Central Labor Council, research associate, organizer, and a negotiator of many union agreements. He returned to the University of California, Berkeley, and studied economics, receiving his M.A. in 1963. He took a leave from his union, the United Electrical Workers, and has worked at the U.C. Institute of Industrial Relations as a Labor Coordinator of trade union educational programs. Since he joined LOHP in November, 1976, his duties have focused on helping unions develop health and safety committees and programs, as well as aiding in collective bargaining on health issues.

Gene Darling is LOHP's Editorial Assistant. He has worked on the U.C. Berkeley campus for over ten years and has been with LOHP since its inception in the summer of 1974. An active member of AFSCME Local 1695 (Berkeley campus employees), he is on the Local's Executive Board and its Health and Safety Committee. Among other duties, Gene helps produce the *Monitor* and does LOHP's bookkeeping.

Bob Fowler, Labor Education Coordinator from 1974 until September, 1976, left the LOHP staff to become Health and Safety Coordinator for the Montana Energy Resources Development Institute.

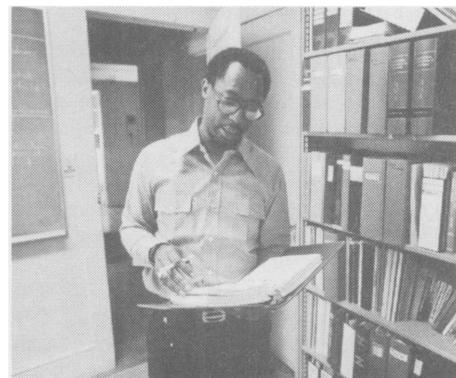
After obtaining her Master of Public Health degree from the University of North Carolina in 1970, **Andrea Hricko** joined Ralph Nader's Health Research Group in Washington, D.C. During her four years there, she focused on problems of occupational cancer and the need for stricter OSHA health standards. Two of her main interests are health hazards affecting reproduction and obtaining full disclosure of all job hazards for workers. Co-author of *Working for Your Life: A Woman's Guide to Job Health Hazards*, she has visited Sweden and the U.S.S.R. to learn more about occupational health policies in those countries. She joined the staff of LOHP in July 1975 and is a member of the Occupational Health Task Force of CLUW (Coalition of Labor Union Women).

Ken Light is a documentary photographer who has photographed shoe factory workers, urban dwellers in Oakland, and foundry and metal trades workers. He recently completed producing and photographing *Working Steel*, a 16mm black and white film about the occupational hazards of foundry work. His work has been exhibited

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Donald Whorton, M.D., LOHP Director (L), with Paul Chown (R)



Morris Davis, Associate Director



Sidney Weinstein (L) and Janet Bertinuson (R)

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Andrea Hricko	Ken Light
Jeannie Lum	Madelyn O'Brien
Sidney Weinstein	Donald Whorton, <i>Director</i>

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PROGRESS REPORT

Continued from page 1

Other Activities

LOHP is engaged in a study to evaluate the medical and legal aspects of work-related lung diseases; the results of the study will be reported to the California Workers' Compensation Board. LOHP has also assisted University students with their research in the fields of law, public health, conservation and natural resources, and health sciences. In addition, the staff has lectured on occupational health to various University departments and at state and national scientific meetings.

Projected Activities

LOHP will expand its resources in the area of technical assistance. Educational and training conferences for selected groups of unionists with common occupational health problems will be conducted. A week-long conference for union members exposed to chemical hazards will be held in early 1977. LOHP hopes this conference will be a model for future sessions.

LOHP also plans to develop a series of "educational packages" on health and safety, each focused on an aspect of technical assistance, to aid unions in ongoing health and safety activities. These would contain information developed by LOHP for particular labor unions (e.g., information on noise, ink mist, and paper dust for printing pressmen), along with information on how the union used the material to bring about changes in the workplace. The LOHP staff hopes that other unions will be able to apply the principles illustrated in these "packages" to solve health and safety problems in their own workplaces.



STAFF

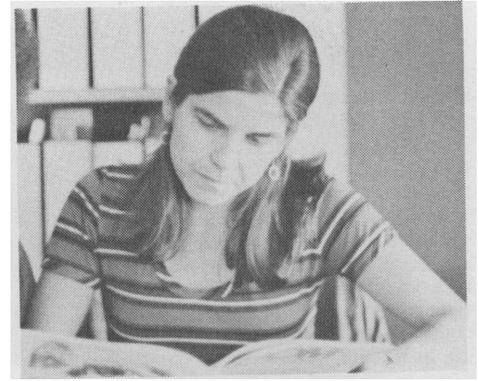
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at the Oakland Museum and has been published in numerous national magazines. He will be concentrating on photographing building trades workers for the next year under the LOHP apprenticeship program. He is a member of NABET Local 532 (filmcraft workers).

Jeannie Lum began work as LOHP Secretary in January, 1977. She assists in the management and coordination of conferences, and special projects and events; she also prepares written manuscripts and other documents for publication. She is a graduate of the University of California, Irvine, in Comparative Culture. Her major academic interests concern comparative cultural studies of Asia and the United States. She has spent two years studying in Europe and two years in East Asia.

Madelyn Dora O'Brien held a variety of jobs before joining LOHP, where she is now the publications coordinator and assists with graphic arts. She has been a remedial reading teacher in Texas and in Berkeley as well as a cartoonist in San Francisco. She hopes that her interest in drawing will lead to a career in graphic arts.

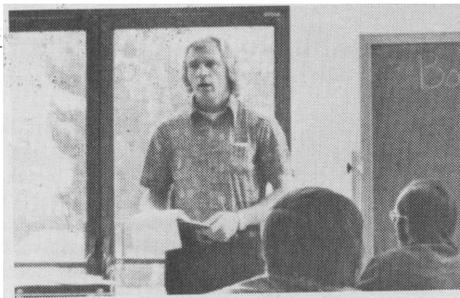
Sidney Weinstein has been a freelance editor and writer in the Bay Area for several years. She has also worked extensively developing educational curricula and teaching at various universities such as U.C. Berkeley and St. Mary's. Since she has been with LOHP, Sidney has co-authored *Occupational Health and Safety: A Manual for Foundry Workers* and *Occupational Health and Safety: A Manual for Floor Covering Apprentices* and developed instructors' guides to accompany these manuals.



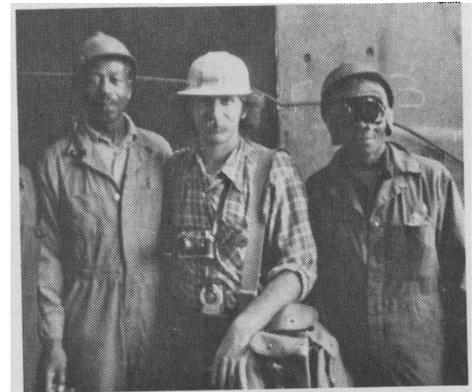
Andrea Hricko



(L to R) Madelyn O'Brien, Gene Darling, and Jeannie Lum



Bob Fowler



Ken Light (in the white hat)

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