

MONITOR

VOL. 2 NO. 7 • NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1975

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DEC 23 1975

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
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HEALTH AND SAFETY SHOPTALK: A Matter of Breath

by TONY WILKINSON

Stayner Corporation, a pharmaceutical manufacturing and packaging outfit recently organized by International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) Local 6, is located in a brand new warehouse in Hayward. The overwhelming majority of the workers are women; many are Black, Brown and Asian. Although coming into Local 6 meant a substantial pay increase, wages are still substandard.

On Wednesday, Sept. 10 overhead fire sprinklers were drained, and strong nasty fumes filled the warehouse shipping area. The women in the shipping department complained about the smell. The draining continued for two more days. Several women became nauseated, one fell asleep, and everyone in the department felt dizzy. By Friday, seven workers were sent to the company's industrial clinic where a doctor examined them and sent them home. Two were told they had unusually high blood pressure. The plant manager decided to close the plant, fearing the spread of the fumes.

The union safety committee, working closely with the plant manager, set out to find what made these women so sick. One of the women was five and a half months pregnant and was ordered to stay away from the plant until the cause was discovered. The rest returned to work. The Local 6 safety committee recommended we contact the University of California Occupational Health Program which sent two occupational health specialists to survey the plant. The company agreed to pay lost time wages for the women who were ill.

We contacted the Allan Sprinkler Company. When they learned that people had become ill after smelling fumes from their pipes they would only

Tony Wilkinson is a warehouseman and a member of ILWU Local 6 safety committee. He was subsequently laid off by Stayner Corp. and has filed a discrimination complaint with the Labor Commissioner's office.



Stayner workers pose for a group picture following victory in health and safety dispute.

say "contact our lawyers." They refused to give us any information about materials used in the system. We checked out several possible causes for the illnesses and tests were made.

The report on the first tests was inconclusive so we had the county health department take new air and water samples from the original pipes and new pipes. People in the shipping department continued to feel ill; headaches, giddiness, and in some cases loss of memory. We found that vapors were still escaping into the shipping area periodically.

The safety committee decided to file a formal Cal-OSHA complaint with the Division of Industrial Safety officials, who sent out a safety engineer. He cited the company for a few minor safety violations and said he couldn't promise an industrial hygienist investigation because of priorities. The State Dept. of Health took over the testing of the air and water samples. Their tests for carbon monoxide were inconclusive. The union asked Cal-OSHA to close the plant until it was safe; however, they refused. The company said anyone who felt sick should go to the clinic and if

sent home would be paid. But this did nothing to solve the problem.

The next day the safety committee cleared the plant because everyone was feeling sick. The clinic found most people had high blood pressure and made blood tests. When people returned to the plant for a safety meeting we unanimously agreed that we would not return to work until it was safe. Then the company decided to get tough. They threatened to hire new employees if people wouldn't work.

Curtis McClain, president of Local 6, came to the plant, met with the workers and assured them of the union's full support. He warned the company against any threats of scabs and said the union would defend the workers' right to refuse to work in unsafe conditions.

The following day Cal-OSHA returned with their conclusions. The plant was unsafe. The blood tests revealed abnormal amounts of carbon monoxide in many of those tested. The company was cited for dangerous amounts of carbon monoxide and banned the warehouse forklift until it was made safe. They demanded that the company no

Continued on next page

HEALTH AND SAFETY (cont'd)

longer allow any trucks to be driven into the warehouse and made suggestions to further cut down fumes.

Later the workers met at the union hall to hear the report from the safety committee. The report was accepted. Knowing that the company had been forced to remove the dangerous forklift, they were willing to return to their jobs. The spirit was tremendous. The workers knew that without the militancy and determination of the union safety committee and the shop stewards this problem would have never been solved.

The company had tried to force them to work in an extremely dangerous situation in spite of pompous declarations that "your health is our main concern." United we had refused to work and united we were returning to work knowing that our union had fought for safe working conditions and was ready to back our demands for full pay for time lost.

RECENT EVENTS

Senator Metcalf Launches Silkwood Investigation

Friday, November 21, 1975, one year and eight days after the tragic and mysterious death of Karen Silkwood, U.S. Senator Lee Metcalf (D.-Montana) announced he will conduct a full Senate investigation of the Silkwood case.

Karen Silkwood, age 28, a laboratory worker in a plant manufacturing highly radioactive plutonium fuel for nuclear reactors, died in an auto wreck on November 13, 1974. She was en-route to Oklahoma City with a package of documents alleging health and safety irregularities in the plant where she worked, located in the Cimmaron facility of Kerr-McGee Corp. Awaiting her arrival were a New York Times reporter and an official from her union, the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers International.

Ms. Silkwood never made that meeting as she was killed instantaneously in an apparent accident that has since been the subject of much controversy. Unhappy with the initial investigation of the alleged accident, the National Organization for Women, Ralph Nader's Congress Watch, a citizens' advocacy group, the United Auto Workers, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women all joined with Steve Wodka and Anthony Mazzocchi of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union in support of a full scale Senate investigation. The initial investigation was clouded by complete disagreement on the part of experts as to the cause of the auto wreck in addition to no explanation for the mysterious disappearance of the documents Ms. Silkwood had in her possession prior to her untimely death.

Sweden Bans Most Uses of Asbestos

Sweden's industrial health board has banned the use of asbestos in building insulation, soundproofing and most other purposes except fireproofing effective October 1, 1975. The action followed findings that eight lung cancer deaths among workers at the Nohab Machine Works in Trollhattan between 1959 and 1969 was attributable to the use of asbestos as insulating material for locomotive engine exhaust pipes. The Metal Workers Union has expressed disappointment that the Swedish government did not call for a ban on all uses of asbestos in the country. Meanwhile, government health inspectors and trade unions are compiling a registry of all industrial users of asbestos and are monitoring their safety standards.

—*Toxic Materials News*

Asbestos Union Keeps Grim Watch for Cancer

A union secretary in San Francisco is keeping constant surveillance of cancer deaths among asbestos workers. The count continues to grow.

Eddie Story of the Asbestos Workers Union Local 16, says he keeps careful records of each union member as (s)he becomes ill or dies. He stated that the records are for Dr. Irving J. Selikoff of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York. Dr. Selikoff is a pioneer in the study of cancer-related deaths among industrial workers.

So far, four members of the San Francisco local have died of lung cancer this year. All of them worked with asbestos for more than 20 years. Since 1967, 42 of the 74 deaths among Story's union members have resulted from cancer or asbestosis.

The findings support Selikoff's warning of the threat of the unrestricted use of asbestos in U.S. industry. Dr. Selikoff recently told the American College of Surgeons that a million one-time American war workers will eventually die of lung cancer caused by long-term exposure to asbestos. That would be one-third of the more than three million men and women, still living, who were exposed to the substance in World War II Shipyards.

—*United Press International*



Rich Jackson presents safety award to John Stillwell, President of L.L. 1781.

1781 Wins Top Honor

For the second consecutive year the International Association of Machinists L.L. 1781 was named a Labor "Award of Honor" winner at the National Safety Congress held last month in Chicago. This is the highest safety award given in the United States. Approximately seven hundred labor organizations belong to the National Safety Council.

In addition, individual awards for "Service to Safety" were presented to eight of our members. Brothers Joseph Freydoz—SFOJJ; Don Travnichek—SFOPB; Keith Fisher—SFOSG; Art Von Bradford SFOMP; Terry Parsley—SFOMM; Keith Matthews—SFOCG; Victor Hernandez—SFOFF; and Richard Jackson—SFOMP.

The strength of L. 1781's accomplishment is not only its winning in both 1973 and now 1974, but to receive a higher award means that a participating group must improve on its safety work each year. The volume of documentation for entry into the 1974 Safety Award was compiled for our Lodge by brothers Hernandez and Travnichek. Members may be interested to know that this means going into great detail on how the committee investigates accidents, inspects work premises, publicizes safety to members, presents safety talks, trains members, joins with other safety groups, promotes safety legislation, and compiles records on everything done. The list is long, detailed, and time consuming.

The Safety Committee thanks all members, outside groups, and United Air Lines management for their continued cooperation and assistance. Once more it all helped to win this award.

—*Rich Jackson*





Editor's Note: The following is an overview of an article entitled "Two-Fifths of the Nation's Workforce," by LOHP staff member Andrea Hricko. It appeared in the *Journal of Current Social Issues* (Spring, 1975). This editorialized version by Sidney Weinstein is written in order to acquaint workers with yet another occupational hazard about which little research has been conducted.

PROTECTION FOR WOMEN WORKERS: A Case of Sexual Discrimination

Women first entered the workforce in large numbers in the mid-nineteenth century. Exploited for cheap labor, they worked in appalling conditions. At first, women workers tried to improve working conditions, increase wages, and shorten working hours. They allied themselves with the suffragettes to expose the absurd contradiction between women's oppressive working conditions and their exclusion from the polls.

In 1908 the Supreme Court upheld an Oregon law limiting women's work day to ten hours, but the reason—"women are fundamentally weaker than men"—opened the door for discriminatory practices. Within ten years, 38 other states had similarly legislated women's working conditions.

A Lack of Governmental Response

Dr. Alice Hamilton, a pioneer in occupational medicine, recommended special legislation in 1912 to protect pregnant workers. She found that fetuses were affected by toxic substances in their mother's bloodstream. But the first comprehensive critical investigation of women workers' health problems was not conducted until 1942. Following the report, the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor recommended transferring pregnant women from workrooms using benzene, carbon monoxide, carbon disulfide, hydrocarbons, lead, mercury, and radiation. The report also stressed that nonpregnant women were no more susceptible to these substances than fertile men.

After World War II, special interest in pregnant workers declined. Now, no single agency researches women's occupational health problems—menstrual disorders, infertility, spontaneous miscarriage, stillbirth, or birth defects. The Women's Bureau of the Dept. of Labor has no funds for original research. The National Institute for Occupational

Safety and Health (NIOSH) is investigating only two predominantly women's workplaces — hospitals and beauty shops.

The 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act guarantees that no employee suffer "material impairment of health or functional capacity." Standards must be set based on the "best available evidence." However, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has no policy to regulate teratogenic or mutagenic substances.

OSHA's major scientific sources usually do not review research on toxic substances' effects on human reproduction. Neither the DOCUMENT OF THRESHOLD LIMIT VALUES (published by the American Conference of Governmental Hygienists) nor the CRITERIA DOCUMENT ON INORGANIC LEAD (published by NIOSH) mention women's increased risk of spontaneous abortions when exposed to high lead concentrations or everyone's risk of chromosome aberrations which could affect future offspring. Fortunately, the newly-proposed OSHA standard recognizes that lead can cross an exposed woman's placenta and enter the fetus' bloodstream. Of the 500

standards in effect, this is the first OSHA proposal to even mention reproductive problems.

Title VII of the Civil Rights Act prohibits discriminating against women in employment, including exclusion of qualified women workers from jobs. Thus, excluding fertile women from workplaces using suspected birth-defect-causing (teratogenic) substances is discriminatory. Pregnant workers should have the opportunity to transfer to nonhazardous jobs during their pregnancy, without loss of pay or seniority. However, by the time a woman discovers her pregnancy, toxic substances may have already passed to the fetus. Standards should be strict enough to protect all fertile women. Since teratogenic substances can also be mutagenic, affecting both male and female fertility and reproductive functions, stricter standards would protect *all* workers.

What Can Be Done?

We cannot continue to disregard toxic substances' teratogenic and mutagenic effects on workers. Birth defects place a tremendous burden on working parents and society as a whole. The most pressing need is for more federal epidemiological research on reproduction and fertility problems in both males and females. One unique NIOSH study investigated operating room workers' exposure to waste anesthetic gases. The offspring of *both* male and female workers suffered increased birth defects; women personnel had increased stillbirths. Other studies have linked male sexual impotence to carbon disulfide and diethylstilbesterol exposure. Abnormal sperm production has been associated with radiation and lead poisoning.

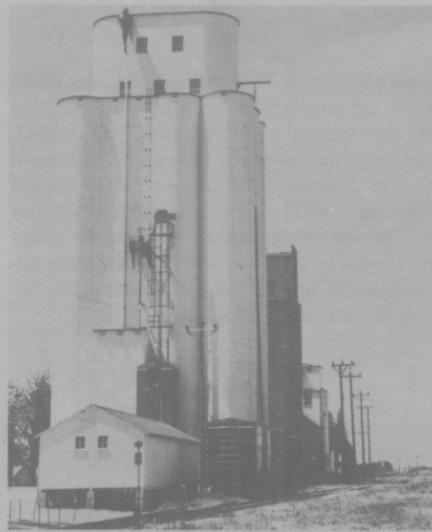
Animal experiments should be performed to detect substances' mutagenic,

Continued on page 8



Health Hazards of Grain Workers

by BOB FOWLER



A shocking story of job hazards affecting the health and lives of countless workers in our nation's grain industry was the focal point of a recent Grainworkers OSHA conference in Wisconsin.

Grain workers have long recognized the risks of fire, explosion and elevator cave-ins. They have faced the daily hazards of slippery working surfaces and rickety, dirty, disorderly surroundings. Unguarded machinery and antiquated man-lifts are common. Yet the focus of the Wisconsin School for Workers' Conference was on the health hazards of grain workers rather than the safety hazards. Many of these health hazards are caused by the increased use of highly toxic grain fumigants. Fumigants such as Phostoxin, Malathion, Methyl Bromide are used daily in grain storage bins, in the holds of ships, in trucks transporting grain, and in railroad cars. Phostoxin was the subject of a feature article in the April issue of 'Monitor.' The ILWU recently passed a resolution calling for a boycott of Phostoxin treated cargoes. A sad tale of worker exposure to Methyl Bromide was reported in the February issue of 'Monitor.' In addition, thousands of workers in the grain industry are still faced with potential loss of health due to pesticide exposure.

The grain storage trade is one of our most essential but least studied industries. A substantial number of workers are employed in hundreds of large grain terminals and thousands of small 'country' elevators throughout the United States. Relatively little attention has been given to occupational health and safety throughout the industry. This is due mainly to the lack of uniform health and safety regulations; the small establishments (from 2-4 employees in a country elevator to 40-50 em-

ployees in a major terminal facility); the isolated rural location of elevators; and fierce competition between dealers and terminal points.

Grain Workers Take Action

Current interest in grain workers' health problems was sparked by Don Roberts, safety chairman of the American Federation of Grain Millers local 118 in Superior, Wisconsin. Though local 118 may be small in size (300 members) the result of their 12-year struggle for a safe and healthful place of work has had national impact. The September issue of *Job Safety and Health*, a U.S. Dept. of Labor OSHA publication featured the local 118 struggle in an all inclusive article on health and safety in the grain industry. The November Grain Workers' Conference brought together union representatives from all over the country to learn about and discuss the local 118 experience. As Fred Huntsinger, from the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union, stated at the close of the conference, "We've spent three days reviewing the problems our respective memberships are faced with, now we must individually shoulder the responsibility of returning to our membership and outlining a course of action."

In studies of seven midwestern grain elevators, dust levels were from 6-30 times higher than those considered safe by OSHA. Workers were exposed to these excessive levels: (1) during dumping and overloading of grain; (2) while grain is being moved within the elevator; (3) around drying and cleaning equipment; and (4) during maintenance and cleanup work on equipment and machinery.

Workers exposed to grain dust can develop an acute allergic reaction known as "grain fever." Distinguished by fever and shivering, the reaction often recurs when grain dust exposures are especially heavy or after a week or more between exposures.

Another common health problem unique to grain handlers is "farmers lung." Caused by inhaling spores and gases from moldy hay or grain, farmers lung is characterized by chills, fever, headache, shortness of breath, and a dry cough. In a chronic state, the worker may suffer extreme breathlessness and potential permanent disability.

Grain Fumigants

Grain may be treated in several different stages of its transportation from field to final use. Thus, all workers in the industry are subject to pesticide poisoning. Truck drivers, longshoremen, warehousemen, grain elevator operators, railroad personnel, grain inspectors and grain mill operators are being exposed to one or many of the fumigants. Many of the fumigants contain such toxic ingredients as malathion, carbon disulfide, methyl bromide, carbon bisulfide, ethylene dichloride, and carbon tetrachloride. Exposure to these chemicals can cause minor health problems such as a mere rash to the extreme cases of cancer and brain damage. A more recent popular pesticide is phostoxin. Containing aluminum phosphide, this pesticide will release poisonous and deadly phosphine gas when combined with moist air or water.

Compounding the grain industry workers' health problems were regulations imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency. When the Clean Air Act was passed, the EPA required employers to reduce the dust emissions to the outside air. This resulted in higher levels of dust in the work environment

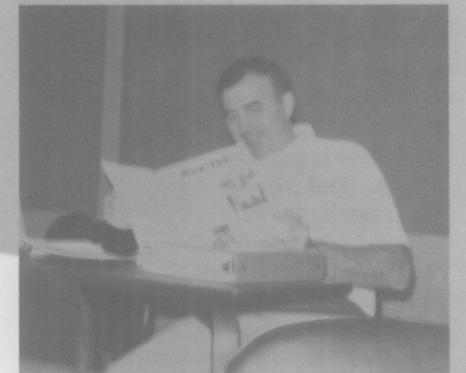
and an increased potential for worker health problems. In November of 1974, a medical research team from the University of Wisconsin Dept. of Preventive Medicine tested 307 grainworkers in the Twin Ports of Duluth, Minnesota and Superior, Wisconsin. Although the group's average age was only forty, 59% "showed evidence of airways disease." 46% suffered persistent respiratory symptoms such as coughing and wheezing. 37% had chronic bronchitis.

AFGM local 118 safety chairman, Don Roberts, was optimistic that these statistics would spark nationwide interest of local unions to begin to form health and safety committees leaving no stone unturned in their quest for safe and healthful working conditions.

A dramatic high point of the Wisconsin Grain Workers' Conference was provided by Joe Leonard, safety director for the International Longshoremen's Association. Mr. Leonard submitted a 20-page document entitled "Studies in Diseases of Grain Handlers" by Adelaide Ross Smith, M.D., Leonard Greenburg, M.D., and William Siegel, M.D. Outlining health problems of grain workers and recommendations for improving their working conditions, the

document corroborated the information presented to the conference attendees. Ironically, the document was published some 30 years ago by the New York State Dept. of Labor, Division of Industrial Hygiene and Safety Standards, 80 Centre St., New York City. Mr. Leonard stated, "Employers have long known how to properly protect employees in the grain industry but have chosen to take shortcuts for the purpose of profiteering. It's time we all join together to stop this outrageous exploitation of our members."

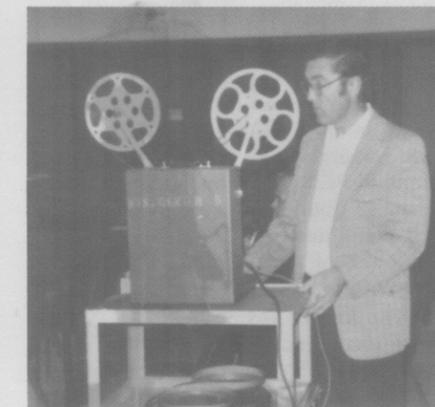
An aroused group of 61 union members representing 10 international unions in the U.S. and Canada left the highly successful Grainworkers conference with solid information and a rekindled spirit that could result in amber waves in the grain industry. Congratulations to Professor George Hagglund and Richard Ginnold of the University of Wisconsin, School for Workers for another fine conference.



Dan Bryant, Brewery Workers Local 2205, Minneapolis, reading Monitor article on Phostoxin.



Panel discussion (l-r): Joe Leonard, ILA; Joe Smisek, Grain Millers Intl.; Bill Gilbey, Grain Services Union, Canada; Ed Estowski, OSHA; Dick Ginnold, Univ. of Wisconsin School for Workers; Fred Huntsinger, ILWU Coast Committee, San Francisco.



Prof. George Hagglund—University of Wisconsin School for Workers.



Bob Fowler, LOHP, testing lungs of Joe Leonard, Safety Director for International Longshoreman's Association. Bob reports Joe's lungs are poitect!

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Write for:

Grain Elevator Hazards, an article published in *Job Safety and Health*, Sept. 1975 by Phyllis Lehman. Single copies available for \$1.15. Write to Editor—Job Safety and Health, OSHA, 3rd and Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20210.

Grain Elevator Occupational Safety and Health Problems focuses on experiences in the Twin Ports area. \$1.50. Richard Ginnold, University of Wisconsin School for Workers, OSHA Project, 432 N. Lake St., Madison, Wisconsin 53706.

Safety and Health Guide for Grain Mills, an Industry guide published by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. For single free copies, send a self-addressed mailing label to: Office of Technical Publications, NIOSH, Room 530, Post Office Building, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

Donald Whorton, M.D.

Dear Doc:

We work with cardboard that is impregnated with biphenyl and use this cardboard for packing gum, tobacco, cigarettes, and candy. The smell is very bad and we are worried that it is harmful to us. What is your opinion about this material?



Accompanying the letter sent in by this union representative was an analysis of the cardboard done by the California State Health Department. The impregnated material was 50% biphenyl and 50% paraffin. The cardboard was also bought from another firm after being used for other purposes.

Biphenyl (also known as diphenyl) is a chemical that is commonly used to impregnate wrapping materials of citrus fruit in order to prevent growth of molds. Like many other chemicals it was thought not to be harmful (nontoxic) when it was first used. More recent evidence, however, has shown that original belief to be in error.

The major problem arises from the fumes which are readily noticeable in the piece of cardboard which was sent to me. These fumes tend to be an irritant or cause unpleasant sensations of the eyes, mouth and throat. More serious effects have been reported from Finland where some workers developed severe liver disease and severe problems with the nervous system like weakness of the arms and legs, severe headaches, etc. Although these workers were exposed to levels from 20-100 times higher than the Threshold Limit Value of 1 mgm/m³, the severe results do show that this compound is more dangerous than ever believed.

Another danger recently reported by the Public Health Service is gastrointestinal illness related to eating food that was contaminated by wrappers containing biphenyl. The people involved suffered with nausea, headache and cramps. Half of the people later vomited. The problem lasted up to three days in some of those involved.

The paraffin is a wax and would cause no problem in relation to the biphenyl. I would recommend as the most prudent course to discontinue the use of the impregnated paper and card-

HEALTH HAZARD ALERTS

Toxic Effects of Polychlorinated Biphenyls

Reports of adverse health effects in humans and the demonstration of carcinogenic (cancer-causing) effects in certain animal species have led to the re-examination of the distribution of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in the environment and the potential health effects of human exposure. Because the industrial environment represents the major source of potentially high exposure to PCBs, NIOSH has begun to advise the occupational health community of the potential hazards.

There are 209 chlorinated biphenyls which are collectively referred to as PCBs although many are not actually polychlorinated. PCBs are generally prepared industrially by the chlorination of biphenyl with anhydrous chlorine in the presence of iron filings or a ferric chloride catalyst. The most common trade names for these mixtures are Aroclor, Inerteen, Kanechlor, and Pyranol. The major domestic manufacturer, Monsanto Company, produces PCBs at Sauget, Illinois and reported manufacturing 40 million pounds of PCBs in the U.S. during 1974.

PCBs are used primarily in capacitors and transformers. More than 95 percent of all power capacitors contain PCBs, used on electric utility lines, in fluorescent lamp fixtures and air conditioners. PCBs are also utilized in heat exchange fluids, as transformers.

The known toxic effects of PCBs in humans include an acne-like skin eruption (chloracne), pigmentation of the skin and nails, excessive eye discharge, swelling of eyelids, and distinctive hair follicles. Workers exposed to PCBs in the process of insulating cables, production of condensers and manufacturing of chlorobiphenyls, have reported occurrences of digestive disturbances, edema, burning of eyes, impotence and hematuria. The current OSHA standards for chlorinated biphenyls are 1 mg/cubic meter for 42 percent chlorine mixtures and .5 mg/cubic meter for 54 percent chlorine mixtures.

board since a substitute is readily available and not more expensive. It would seem unwise to expose workers to potentially unsafe hazards needlessly.

Requests for information on your work problems should be addressed to: Dr. Donald Whorton, LOHP, 2521 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94720.

• The staff of the LOHP will conduct a 2½-day educational conference for local union health and safety committee-persons on Jan. 18-20, 1976. The conference format will include 6 two-hour workshops in addition to 3 two-hour general sessions with guest panelists from labor and government. The conference will be held at the Asilomar conference grounds in Pacific Grove, California. Registration fees are \$60.00 per person which includes rooms, meals and conference materials. Attendance will be limited to the first 180 prepaid registrants. Participants must be authorized health and safety committee-persons from local unions. All attendees will receive a certificate of completion. For further information, contact: Bob Fowler, LOHP, 2521 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94720. Phone: (415) 642-5507.

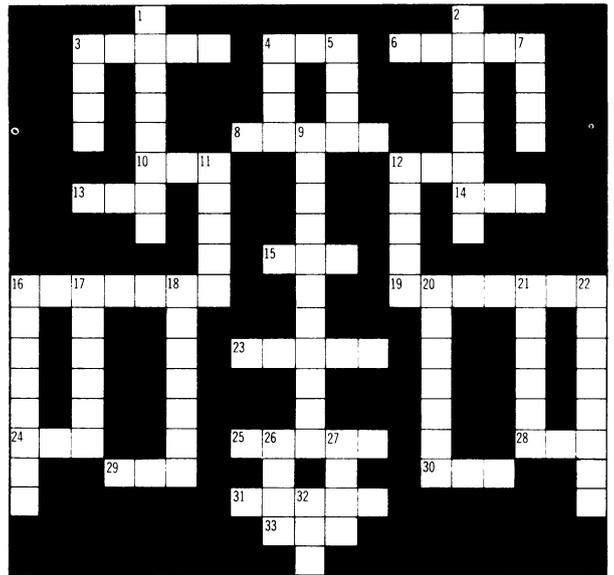
• **JOB HEALTH NEWS SERVICE** was introduced on Nov. 24, 1975. Designed specifically for local union health and safety committees, the biweekly **NEWS SERVICE** will focus on all aspects of occupational health and safety as related to the local union level. A primary goal of the **NEWS SERVICE** is to serve as an information exchange between the thousands of local unions nationwide. The **NEWS SERVICE** will feature current happenings in OSHA and NIOSH, in addition to useful information on hazardous and toxic substances. Legal, scientific and medical news will also be reported on a regular basis. The **NEWS SERVICE** has received wide praise among international union leaders in the field of occupational health and safety such as Tony Mazzocchi of the Oil, Chemical, and Atomic Workers and Frank Wallick of the United Auto Workers. They feel every local union should subscribe. Subscriptions are priced at \$25.00 per year for local unions and \$40.00 per year for others. Send your order to **JOB HEALTH NEWS SERVICE, Scientists' Institute for Public Information, 49 East 53rd St., New York, N.Y. 10022.**

• **OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE SYMPOSIA**—(HEW Publication No. (NIOSH) 75-189) is a publication of major papers presented at the 34th AMA Congress on Occupational Health and co-sponsored by NIOSH. Published as an introductory text, topics include: occupational pulmonary diseases; chest x-rays for the detection of pneumonioses; work evaluation and stress testing; medical monitoring for occupational disease; chemical exposures; noise, hearing, and audiometry; and cardiovascular disease in occupational medicine. The LOHP recommends this resource to occupational physicians and other persons responsible for or interested in occupational health. Inquiries should be sent to: DHEW/NIOSH, Parkline Bldg., 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, MD 20852.

PUZZLED BY HEALTH AND SAFETY?

By JANET BERTINUSON

This crossword puzzle is a new feature of the *Monitor*. Readers are requested to submit original puzzles to LOHP. If your puzzle is selected, you will receive a free subscription to the *Monitor* for yourself or a friend. See page 8 for answers.



ACROSS

- 3. The part of the body that breathes for you.
- 4. A pesticide banned except for emergency use in the U.S.
- 6. Part of HEW; they are responsible for research under OSHA; prepare criteria documents.
- 8. Some miners still owe their soul to the company
- 10. Your organ of sight, it can be injured by such things as flying objects, ultraviolet radiation and acids.
- 12. Threshold Limit Value.
- 13. Caustic Soda.
- 14. Noise can damage this part of your body.
- 15. Parts per million.
- 16. The for violating OSHA standards is a citation or fine.
- 19. The California Occupational Safety and Health Act.
- 23. The cause of occupational hearing loss.
- 24. Exposure to many chemicals in the workplace can make you
- 25. The of meeting standards is often given as an excuse for not correcting unsafe or unhealthy work conditions.
- 28. Supersonic Transportation.
- 29. Benzidene is an example of a that causes bladder cancer.
- 30. Most of the carbon monoxide in our air is emitted by the
- 31. You must a trench correctly before it is safe.
- 33. A beverage made from malt that may help you unwind after a day's work.

DOWN

- 1. To control exposure to noise the company should out the noise instead of relying on personal protective equipment.
- 2. The Steelworkers are one group fighting the standard proposed by OSHA.
- 3. A heavy metal that affects the brain.
- 4. Composed of small particles produced by grinding, sawing, mining, etc.
- 5. Exposure to irritating gases or vapors may cause your eyes to
- 7. High temperatures can cause stress.
- 9. This puzzle is about the diseases of
- 11. resins are used in adhesives and can cause skin irritation.
- 12. Harmful, dangerous, poisonous.

- 16. Polyvinyl chloride and polystyrene are examples of
- 17. A metal that causes cancer — 5 cents.
- 18. A commonly used solvent; it is in the same chemical family as benzene.
- 20. A substance that causes cancer; byproduct of zinc, copper, and lead smelting.
- 21. Noise is considered a factor.
- 22. May cause mesothelioma and lung cancer.
- 26. The Federal Health and Safety Law.
- 27. The URW has a cents/hour agreement with some of the nation's manufacturers such as Goodyear to provide money for health and safety studies.
- 32. Presbycusis is the natural loss of hearing as you grow ...

• **OIL REFINERY HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARDS: Their Causes and the Struggle to End Them**, by Richard Engler is an excellent publication focusing on the origin and nature of hazards in the petroleum industry. Topics include: the relationship between cancer and oils used in catalytic cracking; hazards due to exposure to benzene; uses and limits of OSHA and collective bargaining; and the background to the OCAW safety strike against Shell Oil Company in 1973. Copies may be purchased at a cost of \$25.00 (institutions), \$3.00 (individuals), and \$2.00 (OCAW members). Send checks to: Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health (PACOSH), 5115 Pulaski Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19144.

• The July–August 1975 issue of *SURVIVAL KIT* contains an excellent article on the hazards of solvents. Topics covered include legal standards, solvent classifications, a reference chart of common solvents and their effects, and protective measures. Copies can be obtained by writing: Occupational Health and Safety Project, Urban Planning Aid, 639 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02139.

• **THE SOUTHERN INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**, a non-profit group providing consulting services to employee groups in the South, is offering traineeships in occupational health. Trainees will go through a 12 week training program designed to familiarize them with public and private occupational health institutions, as well as teach them the techniques involved in Occupational Health Consultation. Trainees will have the opportunity to work with both active and retired, unionized and non-unionized workers. Trainees will be able, if they wish, to work with the Carolina Brown Lung Association—groups of retired, disabled, and active cotton mill workers fighting Brown Lung Disease (Byssinosis).

Two training sessions for 1976 will begin January 19th and April 26th. Subsistence stipends will be provided. Applicants for either session should submit brief statements of interest in occupational health along with resumes no later than three weeks before the start of the session. For further information write: SIOH, P.O. Box 861, Cayce, S.C. 29033.

Published monthly by the Labor Occupational Health Program, Institute of Industrial Relations, University of California, 2521 Channing Way, Berkeley, California 94720. (415) 642-5507

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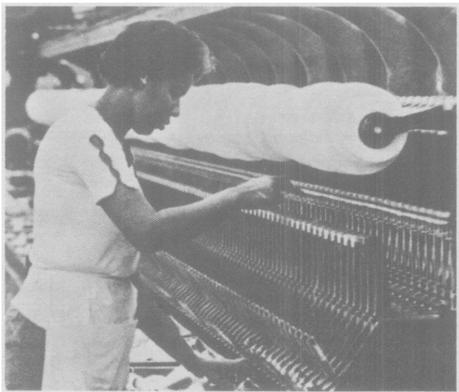
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WOMEN WORKERS (cont'd)

teratogenic, carcinogenic, and behavioral effects *before* they are observable in the population. Standards should be stringent enough so that workplaces are safe for *all* workers—including pregnant workers. During their pregnancies, workers should be able to transfer to nonhazardous jobs without penalty.

Health hazards in jobs stereotypically “women’s work”—office workers, saleswomen, teachers, waitresses, nurses, stewardesses—must be studied. Office workers are exposed to stencil erasing chemicals, copying machine toners, typewriter noise, stress. Lab technicians are exposed to radiation, carcinogenic chemicals, antibiotics, solvents, bacteria. Textile workers are exposed to dust, dyes, moth proofers, flame retardants. All these substances are potentially toxic to reproductive functions.

Finally, workers can document their own or their wives’ pregnancy experiences. Local unions or chapters of women’s labor organizations, such as the Coalition of Labor Union Women,



can conduct surveys on spontaneous abortions, stillbirths and birth defects. These efforts will accelerate the setting and enforcement of comprehensive, nondiscriminatory standards.

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**Company Blames Victims for
Their Lead Poisoning**

For years workers have been poisoned by lead at the Bunker Hill Smelter in Kellogg, Idaho. Children in the small community have also suffered lead poisoning from breathing contaminated air. Now the company has issued a statement blaming the workers themselves for getting sick.

The *BNA OSHA Reporter* (9/18/75) contains details of this company policy on lead exposure which was issued last May to the 1400 smelter workers. Numerous OSHA inspections and citations for excessive lead exposures prompted issuance of the policy statement. Company policy now requires that workers wear respirators in certain areas of the zinc and lead smelter until adequate engineering controls are available to lower the lead levels.

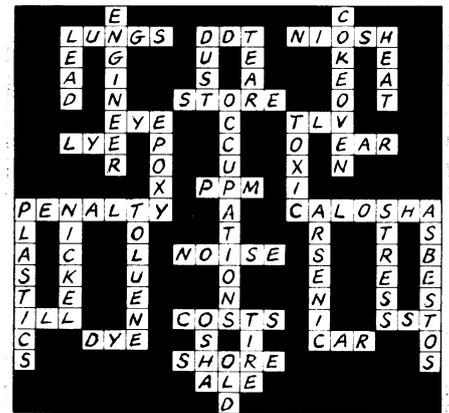
A number of other mandatory work practices are also outlined in the statement, including washing work clothes, showering, trimming facial hair to insure proper respirator fit, and rules against smoking or eating in areas of the smelter.

According to the company’s policy, any employee who violates these work requirements will be subjected to warnings, suspension or discharge. The company claims that it is confident that the blood lead level of any worker who complies with these work practices “will remain below an acceptable standard of 80 micrograms.” (Note: any blood level above 40 can be dangerous.) *If the worker’s blood lead level goes above 80, the company says that it will therefore assume that the worker has not obeyed duties. If the level does not go down within 90 days, then the worker will be discharged.*



In 1973, company billboard shows no problems in plant.

According to the company, this policy on respirators and work practices will stay in effect until adequate engineering controls become available. The United Steelworkers of America has filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board and the AFL-CIO has protested the use of this policy with OSHA.



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