

McLean County Museum of History

Exhibit – Asbestos
“A Deadly Deception: The Asbestos Tragedy in McLean County”
2024-2027

Processed by
Rochelle Gridley
Fall 2024

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History

Scope

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: General

Folder 2: Trial Exhibit Materials

2.1 Undated materials:

- a. Catalog, Dustfoe #55 respirator.
 - b. Advertisement or catalog entry, Flex a Foam Dusk Mask.
 - c. Newsclipping, "JM to purchase North Carolina textile plant."
 - d. Newspaper advertisement, Castle and Cooke, Dry Goods, Asbestos paint and pipe coverings.
 - e. *Pantagraph* clipping, "Asbestos make files for bankruptcy."
 - f. *Pantagraph* clipping, "British crew in area to do asbestosis film."
 - g. Advertisement for Shannon Ellis Co. Asbestos Cement roof tiles, undated.
 - h. Catalog, Unibestos Insulation.
- 2.2 Letter with attached memo from Union Asbestos & Rubber Co regarding animal studies on asbestos exposure, 1938.
- 2.3 Letter from O.J. Cowen, M.D. to McKenna & Harris giving the opinion that Anton Becvar was not incapacitated by changes in his lungs, July 12, 1939.
- 2.4 Second letter from O.J. Cowen, M.D. to McKenna & Harris acknowledging second stage pneumoconiosis and the difficulty of defending a suit, July 12, 1939.
- 2.5 Table entitled "Employees transferred by doctor's advice," August 21, 1939.
- 2.6 Memo, summarizing paper written by Dr. W.C. Hueper on occupational cancer, November 22, 1948.
- 2.7 Memo from Dr. O.J. Owens to E. S. Shuman suggesting two men with fibrosis be "eased out" of the company, September 8, 1950.
- 2.8 Memo between R.E. Cryor and J.H. Balch regarding need for eliminating dust conditions to eliminate "cause of cases," September 29, 1950.]Memo from R. E. Cryor to E.A. Hayes enclosing report on asbestosis by Vorwald, April 17, 1951.
- 2.9 Memo between E.A. Hayes and R.E. Cryer with list of employees with potential liability claims at Paterson plant, January 3, 1952.
- 2.10 Letter from Donald Burgess (Safety and Claims Services) to Arthur Mead (Mead Gleeson Hansen & Pantages) regarding possible testing on litigants, September 7, 1955.

- 2.11 Letter from E.A. Hayes to Donald Burgess enclosing Kenneth Smith article on Pulmonary Disability in Asbestos Workers, November 3, 1955.
- 2.12 Article, "Mortality from lung cancer in asbestos workers," *British Journal of Industrial Medicine*, 1955, Vol 12 p. 81 – 86.
- 2.13 Letter from T. K. Gifford to Safety and Claims Services Inc. regarding claim by Tom Sylvester and his cause of death, April 14, 1959.
- 2.14 Letter from Hayes to Dr. Harold Shinall, regarding acceptance of outside x-rays and preference for the company x-ray department, June 5, 1959.
- 2.15 Letter from T. K. Gifford to E. A. Hayes regarding autopsy of Tom Sylvester, June 13, 1959.
- 2.16 Letter from Ruddick of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. to Baumler, Pittsburgh Corning Corp with literature on the conditions resulting from asbestos exposure, May 16, 1962.
- 2.17 Letter from Emil T. Johnson to Jerome S. Weiss regarding composing a letter to the Department of Justice with regard to the sale of the Marshville Asbestos plant, January 29, 1953.
- 2.18 Letter from Emil T. Johnson (Chembest/Unarco) to Earl P. Halvorson (Dept of Labor) promising compliance with department recommendations, May 15, 1964.
- 2.19 Letter from Mrs. J.E. Lueck to Unarco, complaining of her husband's health in relation to his work with asbestos, undated.
- 2.20 Memo to E.T. Johnson from F. Smith enclosing the letter from Mrs. Lueck, November 24, 1965.
- 2.21 Letter from E. T. Johnson to Mrs. Lueck advising her that Unarco no longer had any insurance policies that would pay for her husband's condition, December 1, 1965.
- 2.22 Industrial Hygiene Survey at Bloomington IL Unarco plant, June, 1967.
- 2.23 Memo from Bernard Collieran with dust counts by Unarco hygienist in May 1964, sent March 21, 1969.
- 2.24 Memo, from J.D. Torrey (Dept of Labor) to C.T. Benjamin, re three different industrial plants, including Unarco, and damage to sampling charcoal pads at the Bloomington plant, April 29, 1969.
- 2.25 Memo, re U.S. Dept of Labor Inspection report, actions to be taken, October 9, 1969.
- 2.26 Grievance form, J. Armstrong, ineffective dust collector, January 5, 1970.
- 2.27 Grievance form, Frank Eaton, ineffective dust collectors, April 2, 1970.
- 2.28 Grievance form, Frank Eaton, saw blowing out dust, April 23, 1970.
- 2.29 Memo, Industrial Hygiene Survey, Jon L. Konzen, M.D., J.J. Young, P.H. Klein, and S.H. Thomas, July 14, 1970.
- 2.30 Letter from George D. Clayton (Owens Corning) to Jon Konzen, M.D. enclosing industrial hygiene report showing unacceptable levels of asbestos exposure at Bloomington IL plant, August 13, 1970.
- 2.31 Letter from B.B McNeely, M.D. to Jon L. Konzen, M.D. (Owens) regarding monthly plant inspections and recommendations for individual employee medical care, November 27, 1970.
- 2.32 List of grievances filed during 1970.
- 2.33 Grievance form regarding lack of protective equipment for employees, August 20, 1971.
- 2.34 Memo between W.W. Boeschstein and Jon L. Konzen M.D. regarding industrial hygiene sampling inside the Bloomington plant and violations of federal regulations, January 4, 197

- 2.35 Table, Industrial hygiene survey results, September 25, 1981
- 2.36 List of lay offs from 1920s to 1960s.
- 2.37 Analysis of Paterson, New Jersey occupational disease cases, 1940s and 1950s.
- 2.38 Comparative list of doctors' assessments of levels of disability and other notes by attorney (probably), no date.
- 2.39 Exhibit 56, two copies of a proposed letter to former Bloomington Owens-Corning Fiberglass employees, and two copies of a list of employees, cover letter dated September 8, 1978, 5 pp.
- 2.40 "5/7/10 Ideas re UNR Sources," includes list of "transcripts of trials re Bloomington Plant," 1 .

Folder 3: Employee Lists

Folder 4: Oral Histories

- 4.1 Stanley Emberton, March 30 2013
- 4.2 Rick Velde, March 1, 2013
- 4.3 Judge Charles Witte, April 17, 2013
- 4.4 Atty Jim Wylder, March 18, 2013
- 4.5 Darlene Shaw, February 22, 2013
- 4.6 Fred Moore, February 25, 2013
- 4.7 Ruth Byrd, February 19, 2013
- 4.8 Ed Weaver, February 28, 2013
- 4.9 Judge James Knecht, February 26, 2013
- 4.10 Ron Thacker, 2012
- 4.11 Elizabeth Compton, February 21, 2013
- 4.12 Atty James Walker, May 1, 2012
- 4.13 Cheryl Tipsord Wills and Terry C. Redman, August 16, 2024.

Folder 5: Union News

Union News (newspaper) five-part series on asbestosis law suits, 1986, complete copy of each newspaper, two copies each