



Workers Take Action

Fighting Asbestos
In The
Building Trades

For additional copies of this booklet
or for more information about asbestos
and your health, contact:

The Baltimore Building and Construction
Trades Council, AFL-CIO
5907 Harford Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21214
(301) 426-9415

OR

Division of Occupational Medicine
Francis Scott Key Medical Center
Baltimore, Maryland 21224
(301) 955-0540

Baltimore, Maryland 1984

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Credits

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Brandon Shores Electric Generating Plant of Baltimore Gas and Electric kindly made it possible to photograph work scenes. The Polaroid Foundation generously provided cameras and film for scene set ups.

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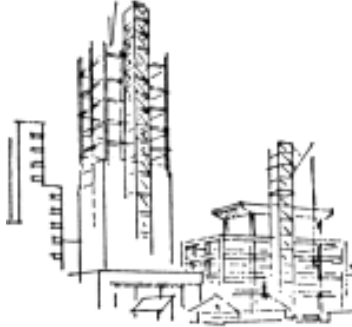
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SPECIAL THANKS

HEARTFELT THANKS ARE OFFERED TO ALL PARTICIPANTS WHO VOLUNTEERED TIME AND EFFORT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS BOOK. VERY SPECIAL THANKS ARE OFFERED TO THOSE PARTICIPANTS WHO HAVE ASBESTOSIS. THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TEACHES US ALL.



Baltimore

AFL-CIO

Building and Construction Trades Council

5907 HARFORD ROAD
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21214

CHARLES H. RUSH
PRESIDENT



PHONE
426-9415

MEMORANDUM TO ALL BUILDING TRADESMAN

Several years ago the Building Trades Council and its affiliate Local Unions embarked upon a three part program to alert its members and their families to the deadly dangers associated with exposure to asbestos and asbestos containing products in the construction workplace. This program included changes to Maryland's Workmen's Compensation Laws and Court procedures so that workers would receive adequate Workmen Is Compensation benefits when occupational disease claims were filed as a result of exposure to asbestos. The Council also worked closely with the several concerned medical, legal and technical groups which were then forming that were concerned with the problems of asbestos, workplace exposure, and compensation for injuries sustained as a result of coming in contact with asbestos. The latter part of this program has now been expanded to include product liability litigation at the State and Federal levels to obtain benefits for workers.

The Council's efforts to date are reflected in the new laws which now apply to the payment of Workmen's Compensation benefits, especially as these laws relate to the administration and resolution of occupational disease claims filed by workers. The implementation of special screening and diagnostic programs for building tradesmen designed for the early detection of asbestos exposure is now well underway through the participation of local unions and interested medical and legal professionals. These screening and diagnostic programs are also now available to the wives and family members of building tradesmen who may have suffered exposure to these deadly fibers by coming in contact with building tradesmen in the home environment.

This photo novel has been developed in conjunction with the Council, its affiliate Local Unions, and the many interested professionals who are concerned about the health of building tradesmen and their families.

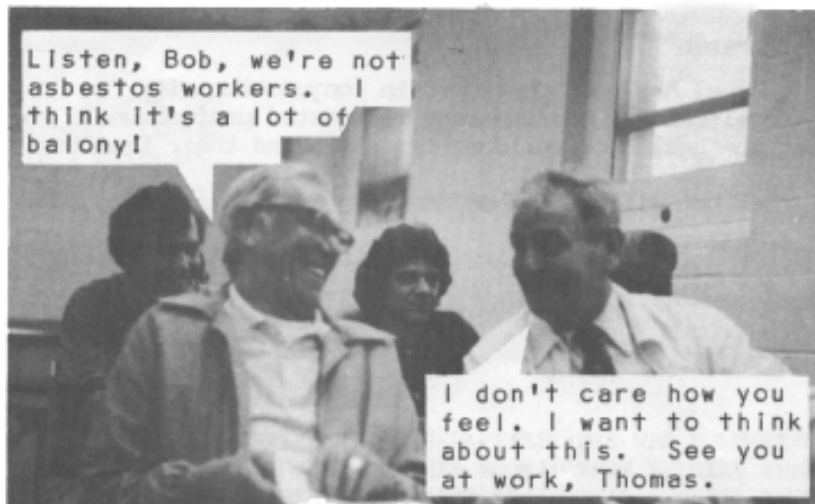
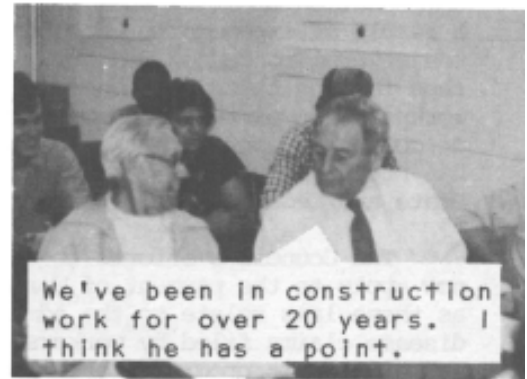
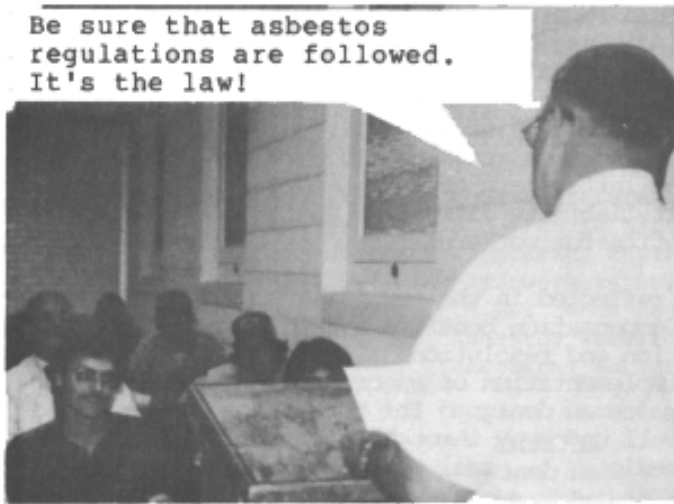
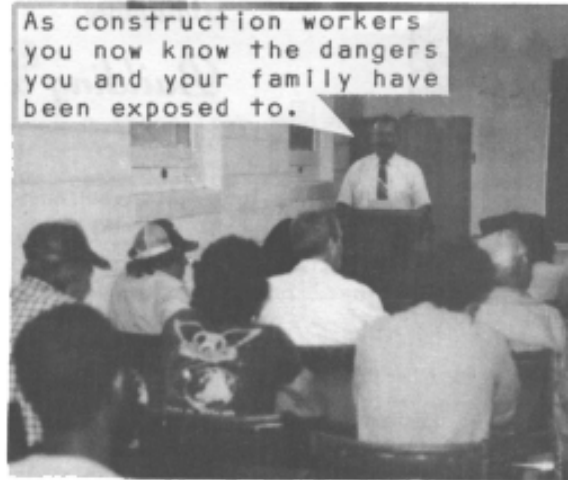
We trust that you will be guided accordingly.

Sincerely and fraternally,

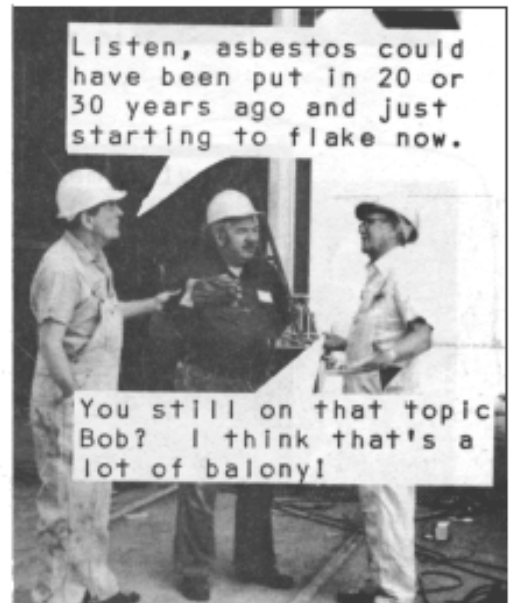
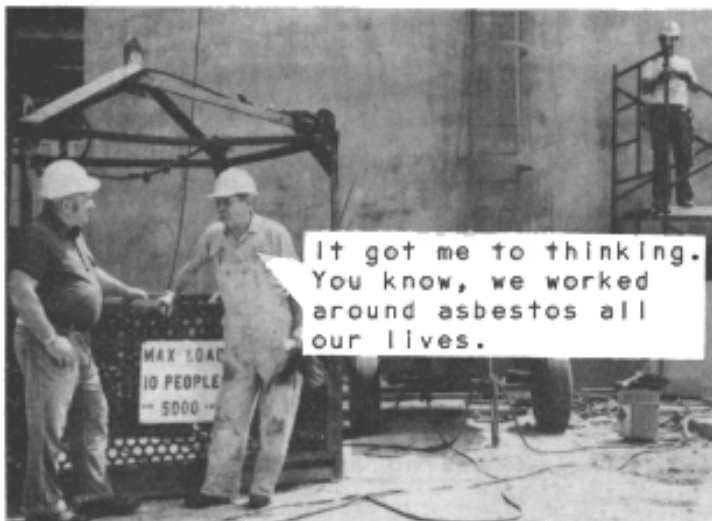
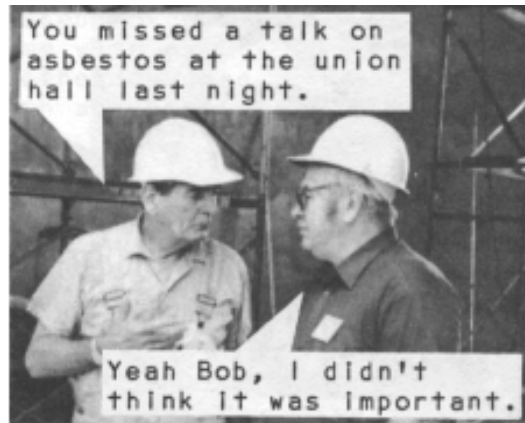
Charles H. Rush
President

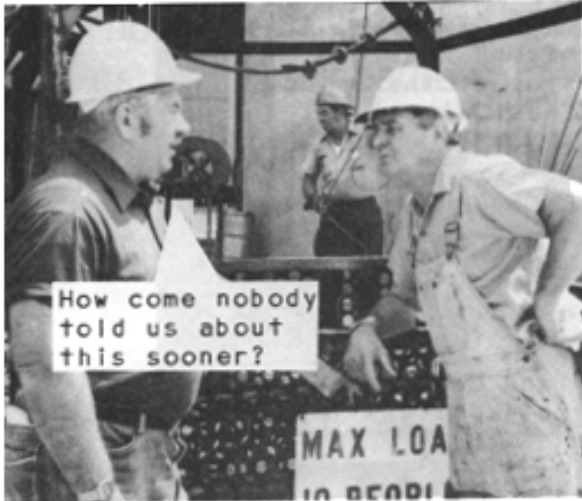
CHR:jnd

Bob and Thomas are listening to a talk on asbestos exposure in the building trades at their union meeting

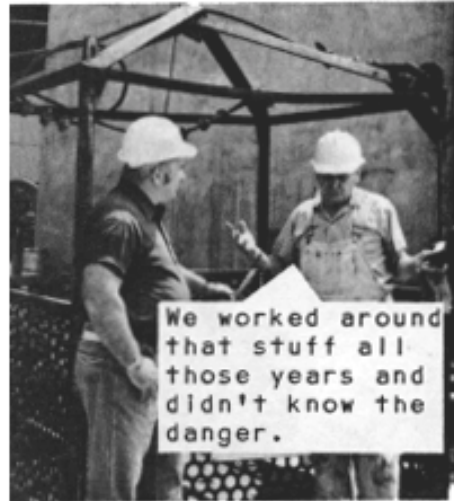


The next day at work





How come nobody told us about this sooner?

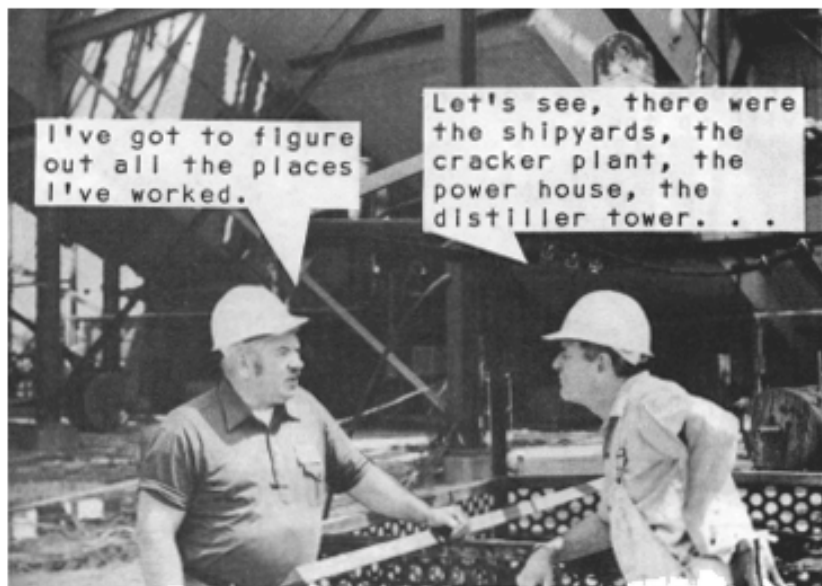


We worked around that stuff all those years and didn't know the danger.



Boy! Remember when we worked together back in 1946?

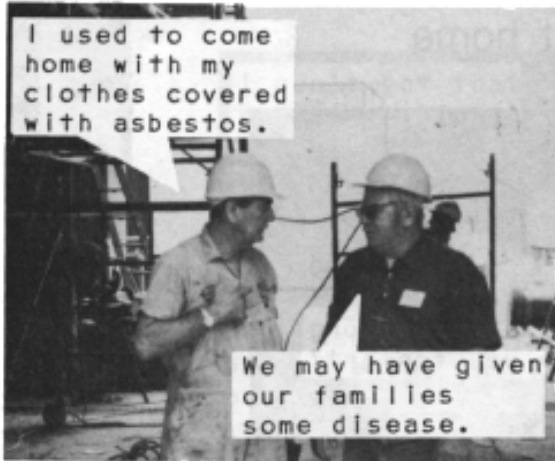
Yeah! No matter what season it was, it was always snowing asbestos.



I've got to figure out all the places I've worked.

Let's see, there were the shipyards, the cracker plant, the power house, the distiller tower. . .

I used to come home with my clothes covered with asbestos.



We may have given our families some disease.



I remember the wife saying something about my overalls.

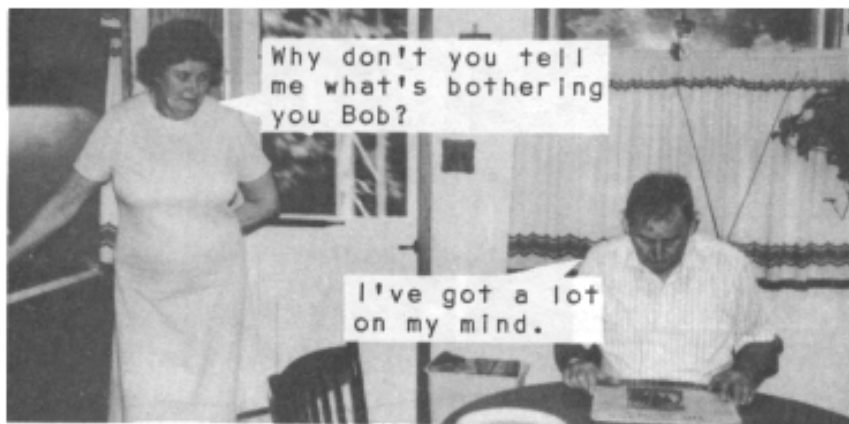


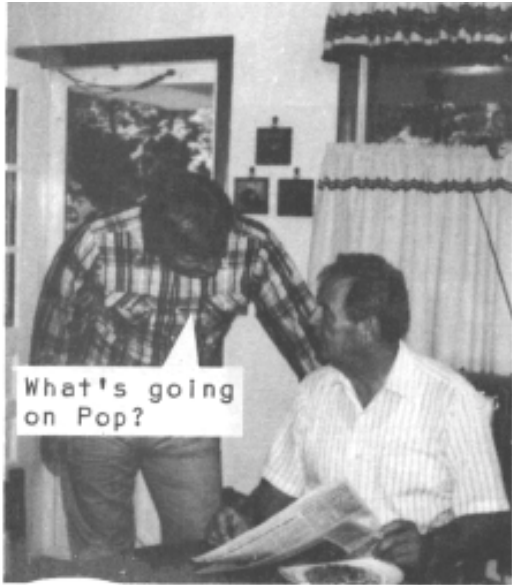
Man, are you still harping on that stuff? What makes you such an expert?



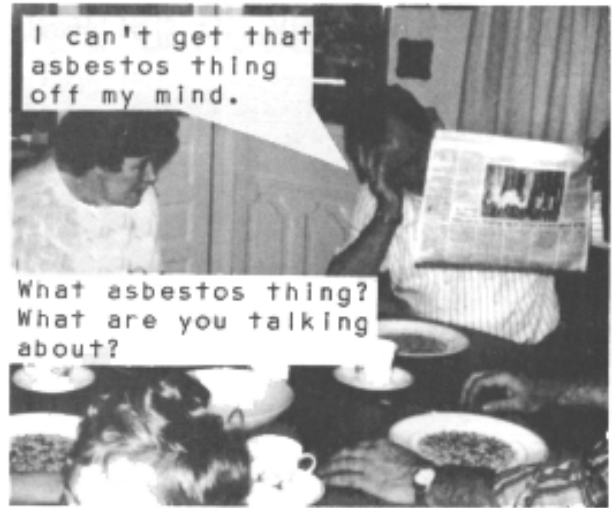
I'm no expert Thomas but this makes me angry!

That night at home



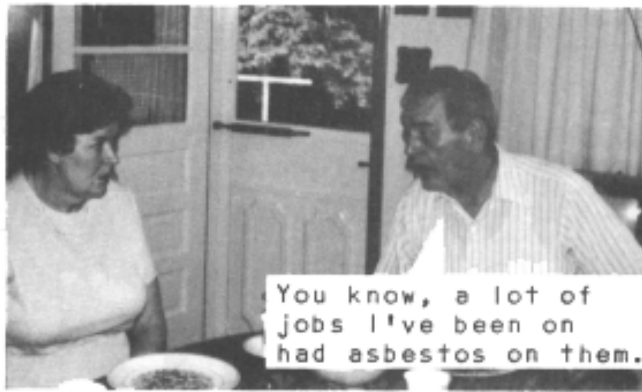


What's going on Pop?



I can't get that asbestos thing off my mind.

What asbestos thing? What are you talking about?



You know, a lot of jobs I've been on had asbestos on them.

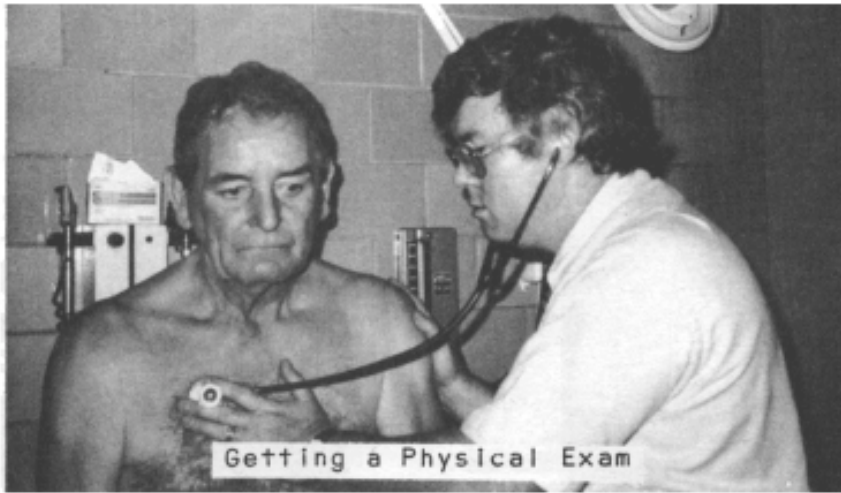


And Ann, both of us may have been exposed. We may have it in our lungs.

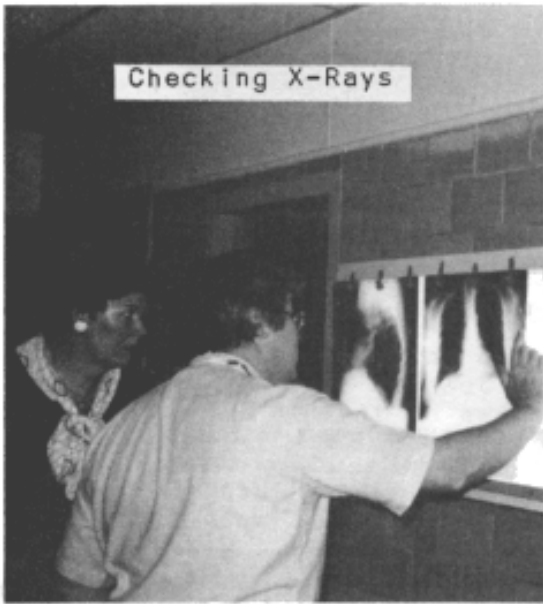


Well, is there some way to find out?

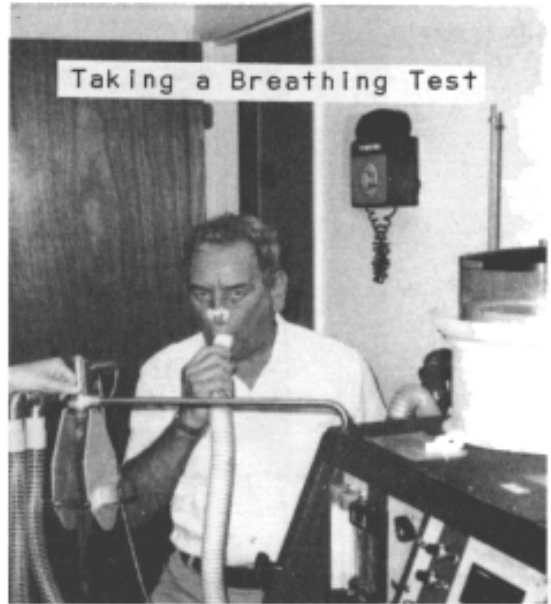
Some time later, Bob and Ann go to the clinic to get tested



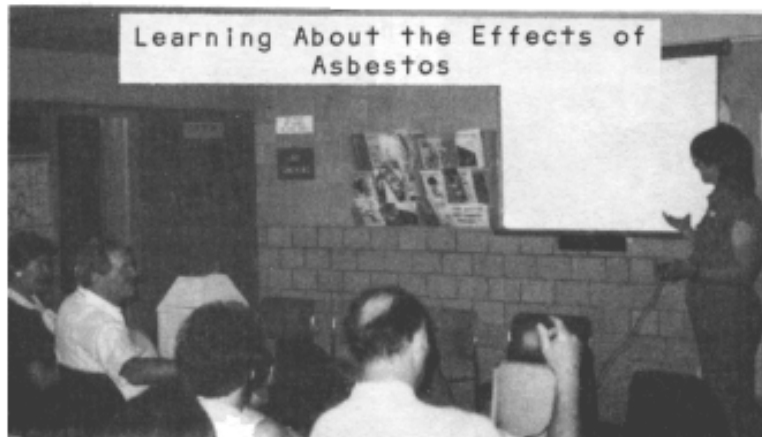
Getting a Physical Exam



Checking X-Rays



Taking a Breathing Test



Learning About the Effects of Asbestos

Asbestos Caused Disease

ASBESTOSIS

- SCARRING OF THE LUNGS CAUSED BY INHALED ASBESTOS FIBERS.
- SCARRING SHOWS UP ON X-RAYS 10 TO 20 YEARS AFTER FIRST EXPOSURE.
- IT IS NOT CANCER.
- MANY WORKERS WITH ASBESTOSIS HAVE ONLY SMALL AMOUNTS OF SCARRING.
- SOME HAVE MORE SEVERE SCARRING AND SHORTNESS OF BREATH.
- FAMILY MEMBERS MAY ALSO GET THIS DISEASE.
- AVOIDING CIGARETTES AND GETTING MEDICAL FOLLOW-UP CAN REDUCE SYMPTOMS AND PREVENT COMPLICATIONS.

LUNG CANCER

- KILLS 1 OUT OF 5 INSULATORS.
- THE ASBESTOS EXPOSED WORKER WHO SMOKES HAS A 90 TIME INCREASED RISK.
- QUITTING SMOKING CAN DRAMATICALLY REDUCE THIS RISK.

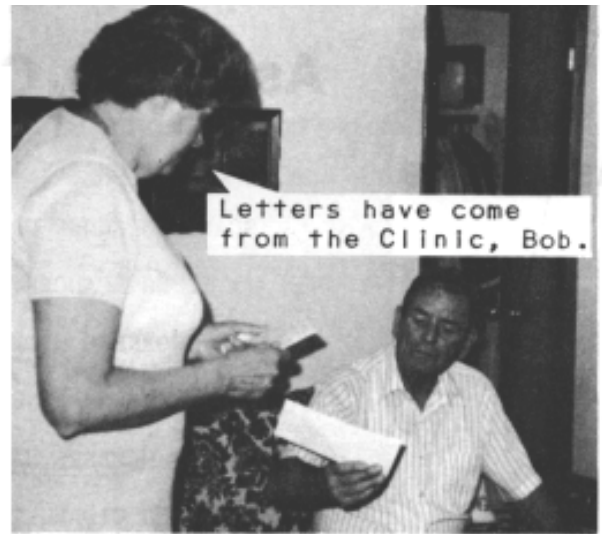
MESOTHELIOMA

- A RARE CANCER OF THE LINING OF THE CHEST OR THE STOMACH CAUSED ONLY BY ASBESTOS AND IS UNRELATED TO CIGARETTES.
- CAUSES DEATH IN 1 OUT OF 10 HEAVILY EXPOSED WORKERS.
- CAN BE CAUSED BY A VERY SMALL DOSE OF ASBESTOS.
- FAMILY MEMBERS CAN DEVELOP THIS DISEASE.

DIGESTIVE TRACT CANCER

- ASBESTOS EXPOSURE INCREASES THE RISK OF CANCER OF THE THROAT, ESOPHAGUS, STOMACH, COLON AND RECTUM.
- 75% OF THESE CANCER CAN BE CURED IF FOUND EARLY.
- PROTECT YOURSELF BY SEEING A DOCTOR FOR ANY CHANGES IN BOWEL HABITS OR BLOOD IN YOUR BOWEL MOVEMENTS.
- IF YOU ARE OVER 40, GET A YEARLY TEST FOR BLOOD IN THE STOOL AND REGULAR EXAM OF THE LOWER BOWEL.

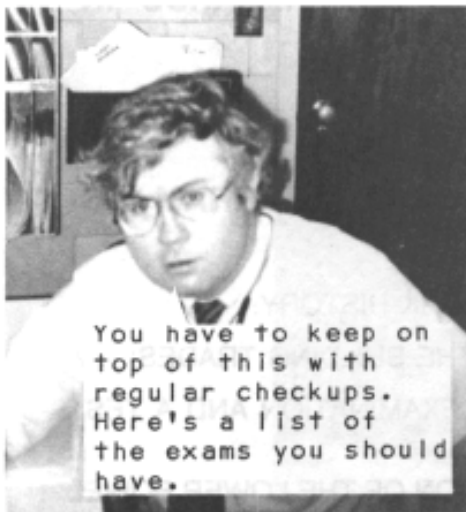
At home a few weeks later,
Bob and Ann get their test
results—



The next week
at the doctor's
office



You know, Doc, I sort of
knew I had a problem. It's
hard to believe it got to
Ann too. What can we do?



You have to keep on
top of this with
regular checkups.
Here's a list of
the exams you should
have.



Also, you both have to quit
smoking. If you do, you will
greatly reduce your chances of
getting lung cancer.



Doc, you know we have
a young grandchild.
Will we ever see him
grow up?

There's no reason why
not. You have to take
care of your health,
follow these rules, and
stop smoking.

Rules To Reduce The Risk Of Cancer

1. **PREVENT FURTHER EXPOSURE BY SAFE WORK PRACTICES.**
2. **WORK WITH YOUR COMMUNITY TO ELIMINATE HAZARDS IN SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC PLACES.**
3. **STOP SMOKING AND HELP YOUR FAMILY TO QUIT.**
4. **WORK WITH YOUR DOCTOR ON A MEDICAL PROGRAM TO PROTECT YOU:**

KEEP YOUR DOCTOR INFORMED ABOUT YOUR WORK HISTORY.

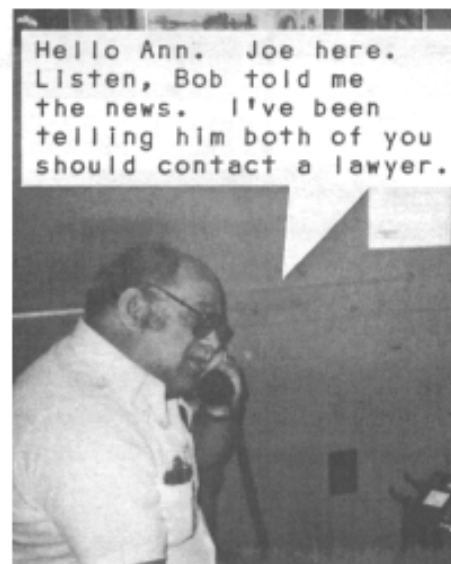
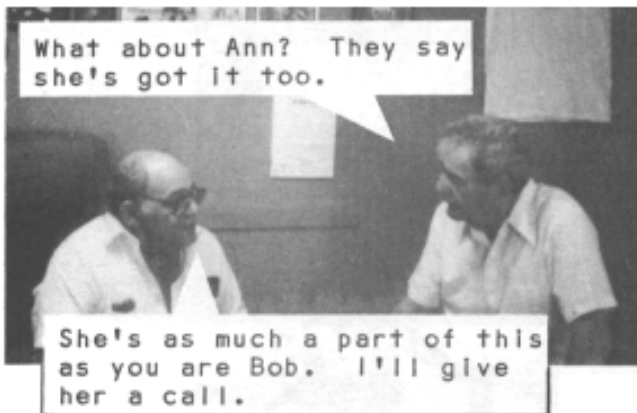
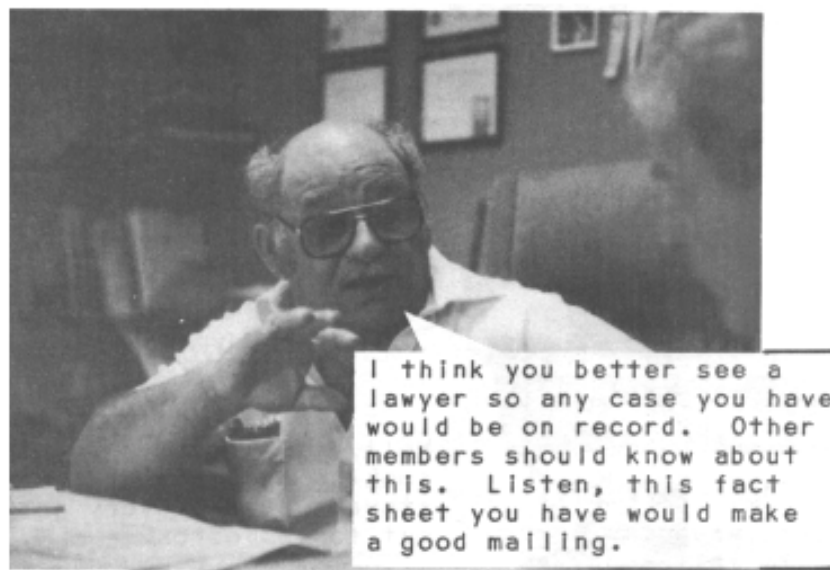
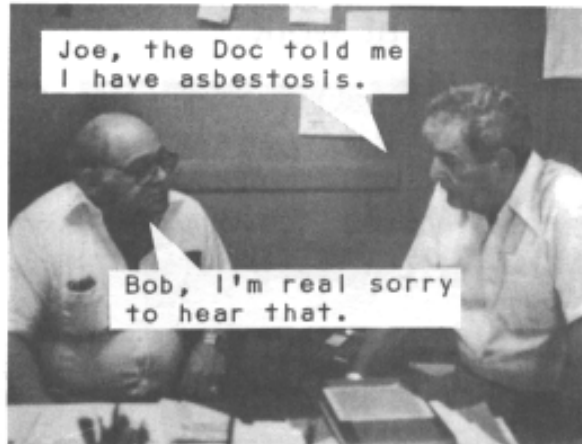
IF YOU HAVE HAD FIFTEEN OR MORE YEARS IN THE BUILDING TRADES:

GET AN ANNUAL PHYSICAL WITH A RECTAL EXAMINATION AND A TEST FOR BLOOD IN THE STOOL.

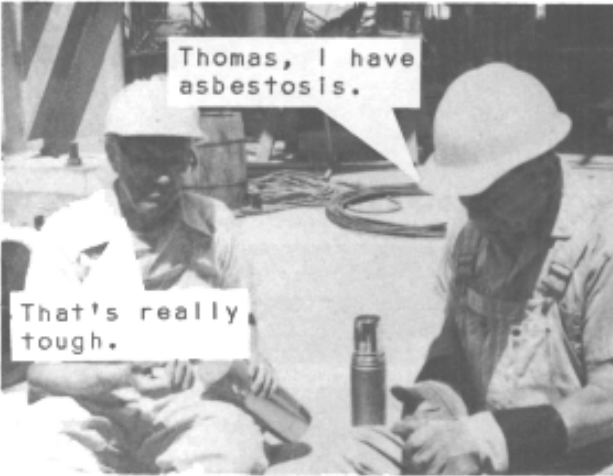
AFTER AGE FIFTY GET A ROUTINE EXAMINATION OF THE LOWER BOWEL (SIGMOIDOSCOPY) ONCE A YEAR FOR TWO YEARS, THEN EVERY THREE YEARS.

CHEST X-RAYS AND PULMONARY FUNCTION TESTS HELP YOUR DOCTOR KEEP AN EYE ON SCARRING BY ASBESTOS. THESE SHOULD BE REPEATED ONLY WHEN SYMPTOMS INDICATE OR EVERY FEW YEARS.

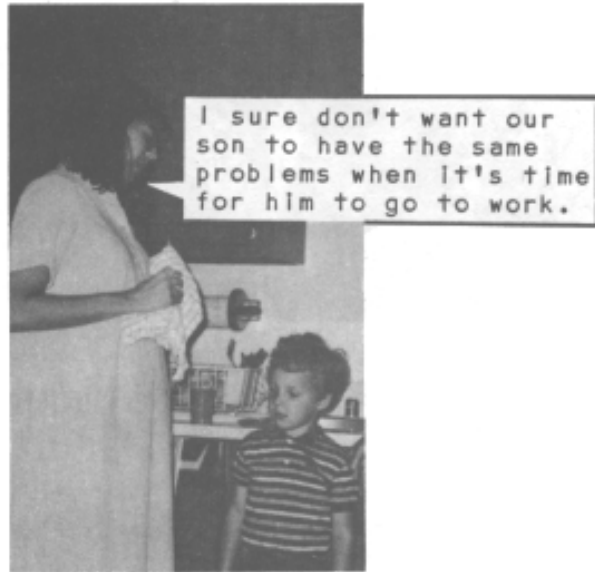
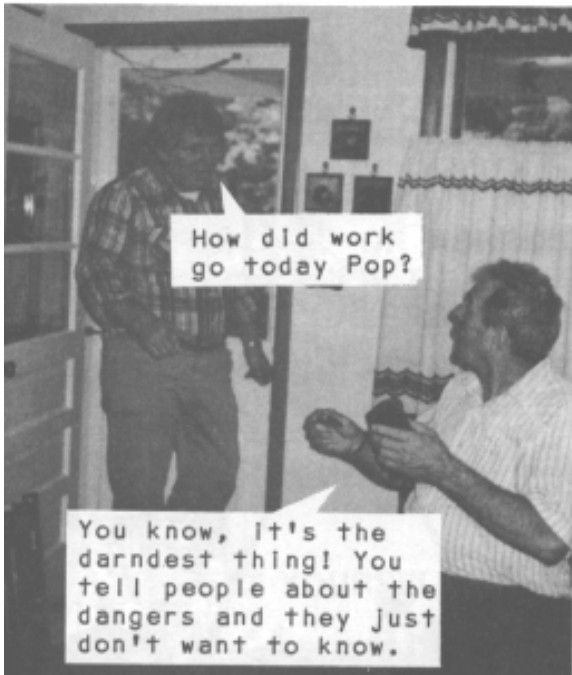
Bob talks things over with the union's business agent



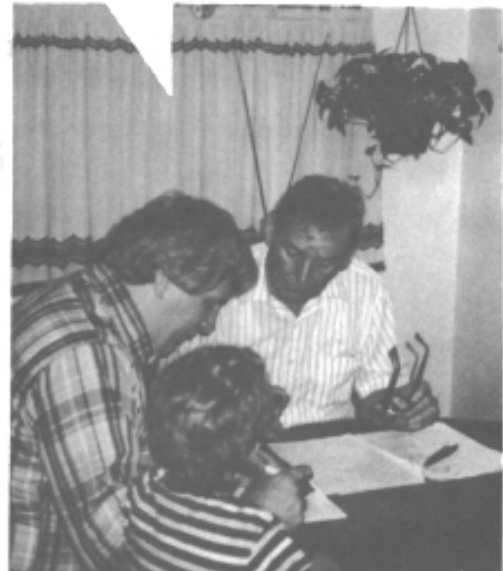
The next day at work



Later, at home



OK Pop, let's get organized. I'll talk to my crew and you talk to yours. How about making a list of what we need to cover.



Bob and his son put their plan into action



SETTING UP MEETING



POSTING SIGNS



QUITTING SMOKING



SECURING THE JOB AND CHECKING THE WORK SPACE



MAILING OUT FACT SHEETS

All Building Trade Workers May Be Exposed To Asbestos On Their Jobs

REMOVAL OF ASBESTOS IS STRICTLY REGULATED BY THE MARYLAND HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND MAY BE DONE ONLY BY LICENSED CONTRACTORS AND CERTIFIED WORKERS.

FEDERAL OSHA REGULATIONS ARE IN EFFECT WHENEVER ASBESTOS DUST IS PRESENT

REMEMBER, WHEN HANDLING ASBESTOS:

PROTECT YOURSELF:

- USE APPROVED RESPIRATORS
- DO **NOT** EAT OR SMOKE IN CONTAMINATED AREAS
- WHEN POSSIBLE HANDLE ASBESTOS WET USING HAND TOOLS
- BE SURE POWER TOOLS ARE FITTED WITH AN EXHAUST OR VACUUM

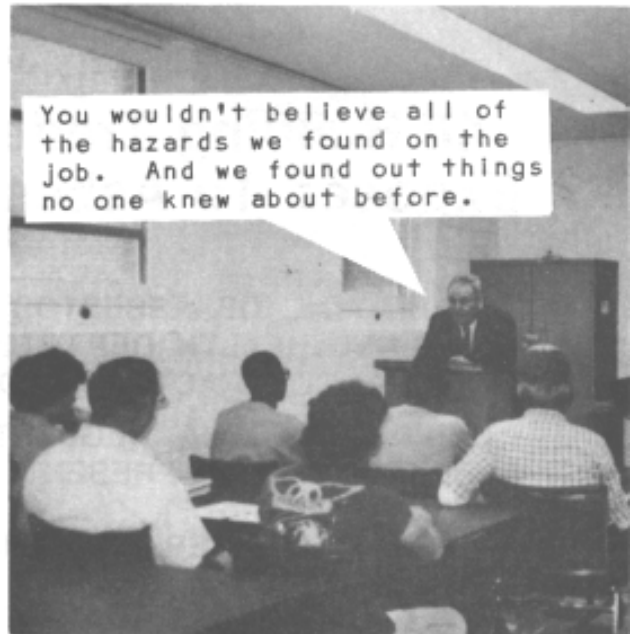
PROTECT OTHERS:

- SEAL OFF WORK AREA
- BE SURE ALL ASBESTOS IS DISCARDED IN LABELLED SEALED BAGS

PROTECT YOUR FAMILY:

- WEAR PROTECTIVE COVERALLS, HAT AND BOOTIES
- SHOWER AND SHAMPOO BEFORE LEAVING WORK
- CHANGE FROM WORK CLOTHING AND SHOES TO STREET CLOTHING WHILE AT WORK
- STORE STREET AND WORK CLOTHES IN SEPARATE LOCKERS

A month later,
Bob reports on
his activities to
his local

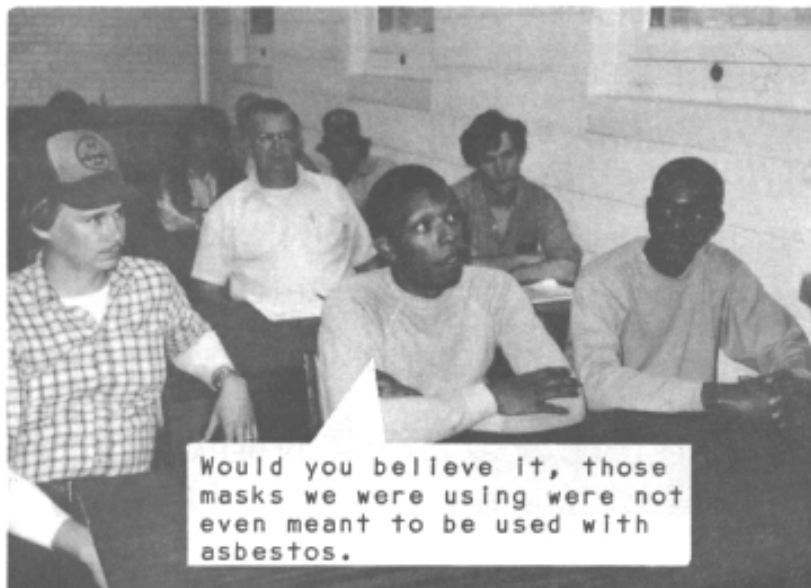


You wouldn't believe all of
the hazards we found on the
job. And we found out things
no one knew about before.



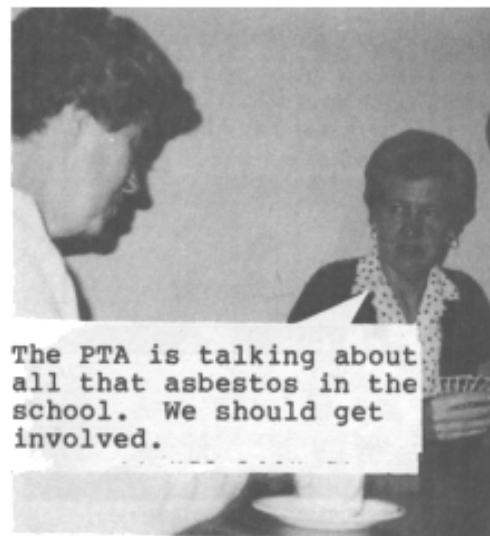
I'm glad we called the Health
Department on that remodeling
job.

Yeah, the guys on the 3rd
floor were tearing out
asbestos and dropping it all
over the guys on the bottom.



Would you believe it, those
masks we were using were not
even meant to be used with
asbestos.

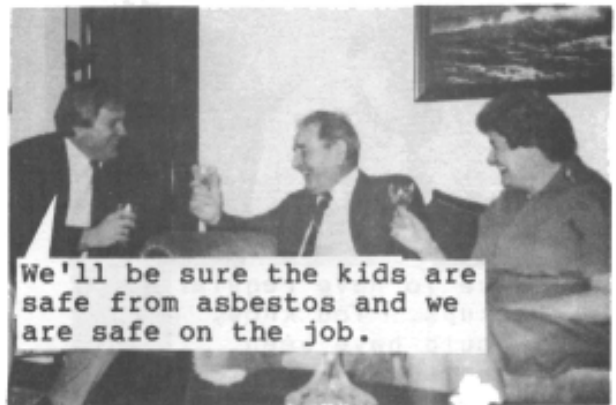
Ann is at her weekly card game



A few months later, at Bob and Ann's Anniversary Party



We're making progress
me at work and you
with the wives in the
neighborhood.



Suspect Asbestos Is Present Whenever Demolition, Renovation, Or Construction Work Produces Dust

Many commonly used products contain asbestos. It is safe to handle these products if they are not broken, crumbling or frayed. When cutting, grinding, or breaking material apart asbestos dust may be produced and safety precautions should be taken.

The following is a partial list of materials used in the construction trades which currently contain asbestos, or contained asbestos in the past:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| BUILDING INSULATION | CEMENT MIXTURES |
| HEAT SOURCE INSULATION | CEMENT PIPES |
| FIREPROOF WALLBOARD | PIPE COVERING |
| DRY WALL | ELECTRICAL CABLE |
| CEILING AND FLOOR TILES | REFRACTORY BRICK |
| ROOFING PAINT | FIRE AND HEAT SHIELDS |
| ROOFING SHINGLES AND COATING | SPACKLING COMPOUND |

For a complete list of consumer products containing asbestos write:

Consumer Product Safety Commission
1111 18th Street, N.W. Room 303
Washington, D.C. 20207

Asbestos Is No Newcomer

| | |
|----------------|---|
| 1st Century AD | Roman writers note the existence of a lung disease suffered by slaves who mined asbestos. |
| 1901 | World's largest Asbestos Company - Johns-Manville Corporation - was founded in the United States. |
| 1906 | First medically diagnosed death from asbestosis reported by a British physician. |
| 1918 | Many insurance companies stop selling life policies to asbestos workers. |
| 1920's | Asbestosis described by the medical literature as a respiratory disease resulting directly from exposure to asbestos. |
| 1955 | The link between asbestos exposure and lung cancer established. |
| 1969 | First asbestos exposure standard established in England for limiting asbestos related respiratory disease. |
| 1970's | Link between asbestos exposure and cancer of the stomach, colon, and rectum established. |
| 1980's | Controversy surrounding the establishment of a safe asbestos exposure standard for cancer. |

Sources Of Help

FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS ARE IN FORCE TO PROTECT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FROM THE DANGERS OF ASBESTOS

YOUR EMPLOYER Is responsible for providing a safe and healthful workplace. Small employers can get free consultation from the Maryland Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

YOUR UNION Only by working together can you and your co-workers maintain safe work practices on the job. Contact your shop steward or business agent about any unsafe conditions.

THE STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT Enforces regulations on the removal of asbestos, licensed contractors and oversees worker training. Call the Air Quality Administration to report unauthorized or improper removal of asbestos. The Health Department can also answer questions about asbestos in schools or homes.

THE AIR QUALITY ADMINISTRATION: 383-2776

MOSH Enforces Federal Occupational Safety and Health regulations in Maryland. Report all unsafe conditions directly or through your union. Complaints may be made without revealing your name.

THE MARYLAND OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION:

(MOSH) 659-4179

OTHER HEALTH AGENCIES The American Lung Association and The American Cancer Society are able to provide information on lung disease, cancer, and how to quit smoking.

AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION: 685-6484 in Maryland
(800) 492-7527 outside of Maryland

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY OF MARYLAND: 828-8890

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