The J-M Factory Circle

No. 3 | Chrysotile, Ariz., November, 1929 | Chrysotile Edition

COWBOY PROSPECTORS STAKE CLAIMS IN ASH CREEK CANYON

Where Johns-Manville Now Operates the Largest Underground Asbestos Mine on the Continent

A Colorful Story of Activities in Arizona as told by Frank Knuckey, Superintendent

Apache Indians Roamed the Mountains till a Few Years Ago

Ash Creek Canyon in the Apache Mountains of Arizona, five thousand feet above sea level, until a few years ago was known only to a few active cowboys who would occasionally round up wild cattle in the vicinity of Bar Hole or hunt brown bears and mountain lions that were killing their horses. Now it shelters the little village of Chrysotile, which boasts the largest underground asbestos mine on the continent.

Within a mile of the J-M Mine Office stands the famous Rock House, with its many portholes, which was built by cowboys as a protection against the Apache braves. Many stories may be told of this district, where a gloved right hand was unknown until a few years ago, and where a 40-some-odd on the hip is still a common thing.



The road winding into Chrysotile. The X shows the location of White Point, several hundred feet above the canyon floor.

In 1914 the walls of this canyon, which tower from 800 to 1,000 feet above the creek bed, echoed to the whack of the prospector's pick and the hoarse, even-song of his burro. The West brothers, cowboy prospectors, or "optimists of the hills," whose "miner's compass" was the swinging tail of their pack burro, staked out the first claims in this now famous canyon. After they had filed on several claims their next worry was "What will we do with it?"

Then, after some time, Messrs. Fisk and Snell of Globe, Arizona, became interested, and began mining on a small scale under the management of N. A. Nelson. A year or two later C. H. Shoemaker, Vice President of Canadian Johns-Manville Company, Ltd., visited the property with the result that it was soon acquired by the Johns-Manville Corporation.

This was the starting point of the camp, which up to that time was without a name. Knowing of no other name more suitable, Mr. Shoemaker decided it should be called "Chrysotile", a word closely allied to the variety of asbestos of which this mine has produced many tons. In the intervening years the mine has proved worthy of its name.

A Task for Burros

From early in the year 1916 the mine began to grow under the able management of Mr. Nelson. Semi-diesel air compressors were installed, a task accompanied by many hardships as there were no roads over which to transport heavy machinery, and mule teams and pack burros had to do what is ordinarily done with flatcars and locomotives.

Soon the few tents were replaced by stone buildings, the tin mess hall was replaced by a two-story stone building of ample size for mess hall and store, and the frame shack that housed the compressor was supplanted by a stone structure. Road improvements were started, and in general the camp took on an atmosphere of permanency. Most of these improvements were made after the writer came to Chrysotile in the spring of 1920.

Since 1922 work has been carried on under the direction of the writer. Several hundred feet of tunnels have been driven, new full-diesel engines as well as more powerful rock drills have been installed, an electric mule has replaced hand trammers, and generators have been installed for light and power, for electric refrigeration in the mess hall and staff houses, and for lighting the camp.

I recall Mr. Shoemaker asking as recently as 1927 to be the "torch bearer" when escorting a party one evening from my home to the power house. Since then lights have been installed from one end of the camp to the other, and it is now safe to walk around at night without the "torch," which had been used as a safety measure to guard against the possibility of stepping on the business end of a rattlesnake that might be enjoying peaceful slumber on the hot sandy road.



This queer-looking tree is a giant cactus, considered the largest in the Southwest. It was knocked down by lightning recently.

Tons of Asbestos Taken from Mine Tunnels at Chrysotile

From the many tunnels driven under the ore zone, branch raises are put into the fibre-bearing rock. These raises play a very important part as they disclose the presence or absence of fibre.



A closer view of White Point, so named from the white limestone cliff. The car in the circle is on the main highway.

Mining is of the room and pillar with backfill method, meaning in general, that a room is mined out in the solid rock about five feet high, and sometimes 50 feet square. At intervals little pillars of rock are allowed to remain to hold up the "back" or ceiling, thereby eliminating the use of timber as roof supports.

The asbestos fibre which occurs practically horizontal, or in blanket formation, varying in thickness from three inches to almost nothing, and which sometimes occurs in two streaks within the height of the stope or room, is separated from the rock by hand hammers. It is then placed in boxes, according to grade, and later bagged and transported to the surface.

(*Continued on page* 18)

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/12767/1

Camp Is Isolated, But Active

Chrysotile Offers Amusements Different From Those in Cities

Because our location is so far from other towns, and because its size prohibits such amusements as moving pictures, our social activities are somewhat limited. Yet this does not mean that we are without forms of entertainment, for we are not.

One of our best entertainments is hiking. Our climate is so ideal that there is seldom a day but that a person may take a long hike into the hills surrounding Chrysotile. From camp there are many trails leading off into the mountains, any one of which offers beautiful scenery to recompense the hiker. Some of these are trails used by cowboys, some are used by woodpackers, others lead to neighboring mines or cattle ranches and some are used by moonshiners.

One may climb up into the pines to enjoy their cool, restful shade, or spend the day climbing steep cliffs which offer many a thrill to the seasoned hiker. Then again, one may spend his time on level mesas upon which there are many rabbits, quails, rattlesnakes, deer, fox, coyotes and even occasionally a bear. This offers keen enjoyment to the hunter.

Each month we have two dances. The mess hall is of sufficient size to accommodate 20 to 30 couples at one time. To attend one of our dances is indeed a rare treat. Everybody attends, and this includes the young and the old. One of the adjoining rooms is used for a nursery to take care of the sleeping children while their parents are dancing. Lunch is always served, and any of our J-M friends who may be in this vicinity are cordially invited. A good time is always assured as we are one group, there being none but J-M employees in this camp.

In the summer we quite often dance in Sonora, our Mexican section, where there is a large stone house called Casa Hidalgo that has a small park in front of it. Here we dance on the ground, but the ground is so hard that it is almost like cement. It is hard to describe this picture, but if you could see our little camp lost in the surrounding mountains, if you could see one of our open-air dances in the wonderful Arizona moonlight, with just enough light so objects are discernible, and could see the moving figures and hear the soft drumming of the banjos, you would realize this was a picture likely never to be forgotten.

During the winter we gather at the different homes and spend the evenings playing bridge or making candy. Mrs. Knuckey and I quite often keep "open house," and many gather to listen to the music from the radiola or to hear the radio news of the outside world.

Last, but not least, the knights take their respective seats at the Round Table and an evening is sometimes spent in the ancient pastime of trying to guess whether the next card will break you or just give you 21.

Pay day in Chrysotile is the one time when all of our employees seem very happy. Upon these occasions, most of them, being of a music and fun-loving nature, sing and play guitars and banjos until far into the night. This form of entertaining is never interfered with, but a strict vigilance is necessary to keep the camp dry.

"Oh-Be-Joyful" (in liquid form) is absolutely forbidden in this camp at all times and this is one rule we strictly enforce.

Some of our close neighbors try to slip this liquid into camp by coming down the steep cliffs after night, but this most usually ends in a trip to town for the offender and his loss of fire arms and stock in trade. On one occasion an employee, while under the influence of this refreshment, arrived at the conclusion that he was a foot specialist and was humorously trying to remove corns from the feet of his suffering patient with the aid of a "45". A few days in our "Bastile," however, served to convince him that he was a miner and not a surgeon.

The white mule, or mountain dew, of Arizona is very detrimental to mining efficiency and for this reason has been completely barred from camp. Anyone breaking this rule is soon asked to leave camp, and somehow none have refused this request.



The old Rock House where the Indian braves and prospectors met on not too friendly terms--the cemetery is just 100 feet away.



Guitars and banjos are a familiar sight at Chrysotile, and scenes like this one are not uncommon.

THEY CRAVE THE "WHITE LIGHTS"

For some reason—possibly it is our isolation—we, unlike most every other J-M plant, cannot boast of long service records. This is truer of the Americans than of the Mexicans. It seems that after an American has been here a year or so he suddenly becomes "stake bound" a term generally applied to a person having too much money to stay in the hills, and craving the white lights.

It is not unusual for an employee to notify the office that he has "got 'em rolled up and is taking 'em along", meaning that he has got his outfit together and is ready to leave camp. It seems that the bright sun light, warm nights and light air give a "can't



Sonora, the Mexican settlement, nestles among the trees below the brightly colored cliffs. It is the largest residential section of camp.

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
ACL Doc 12767 · Page 2 of 8
asbestosclaims.law/library/12767/2

be worried" feeling to most of our inhabitants.

Next to myself, Joe Castaneda has the longest continuous service record, having been here since January, 1927. Mr Castaneda has, however, worked at this location at different times since early 1916. Mr. Castaneda and I were together in early 1917 in the Sierra Ancha Mountains some 50 miles from Chrysotile, mining asbestos for the American Ores & Asbestos Company, then controlled by the U. S. Asbestos Company.

Our present Staff consists of: Frank Knuckey, Superintendent; G. V. Stevens, Assistant to Superintendent and Engineer; Joe Castaneda, Mine Foreman; R. A. Grange, Accountant; G. F. Dean, Assistant to Mr. Grange; H. E. Claude, Stenographer; and H. M. Blanchard, Master Mechanic.

CANYON SCHOOL EQUAL TO BEST

Arizona ranks high in education and Chrysotile keeps pace with the rest of the state. Although we are practically isolated during the winter months, we have a good school for the youngsters of camp, lasting nine months each year.

This school is divided into two divisions: the primary and intermediate grades. Approximately 30 pupils were enrolled this year. Miss Barnette has charge of the intermediate grades and Miss Jackson the primary department.

The teaching is rather difficult owing to the fact that most of the pupils are Mexicans and most of them do not speak English. They do not have the background that our American children have and for this reason it takes longer to teach them things that American children know before they start to school. It usually requires two to three terms before the pupil has a knowledge of the English language. However, the fact that children from this school quite frequently transfer to other schools throughout the state, without being demoted, speaks well for our school.

All pencils, books, and other supplies are furnished the students free so that there is no excuse for a child's not attending.

(*Continued in column* 4)



Spanish girls on their way to the school. The stop sign, near the mine office, is for visitors.



Mr. Knuckey's residence, nestling against the hills, is the scene of many informal "get-togethers" during the winter months at the mine.

Chrysotile a Delightful Spot

Ideal Climate and Gorgeous Scenery Make Life Enjoyable

A camp garden has been built up and maintained in a very efficient manner and abundant fruits and vegetables are furnished the Staff free of charge, a consideration which is highly appreciated after a hard winter.

From the garden the Staff houses are located on the eastern side of Ash Creek for a distance of one mile, ending with the store, which is a two-story rock house containing store and mess hall. Below the store are the Company plant buildings which include the power house, fibre house, office, warehouse, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, and shift-boss office.

From the shift-boss office it is about one-quarter mile to Sonora, where all of the Spanish-speaking employees live. As Mexicans constitute about 95 percent of the employees at this location, Sonora is the largest residential section of camp. From here the canyon narrows again and soon terminates in two perpendicular walls only a few feet apart through which Ash Creek flows into Salt River.

On the eastern side of Ash Creek the ground gradually rises until it reaches its crown of very high, brightly-colored cliffs. These cliffs are from 200 to 1,000 feet high and reflect many bright colors against the setting sun. On the western side of Ash Creek a very high mountain comes down almost to the water's edge, thus cutting off the view in that direction.

The climate here is most ideal. The summers are warm, but never to extreme. One is able to sleep comfortably as it is always cool at night at this altitude. The fall, or Indian summer, is particularly pleasant, lasting about four months. During this period there is very little rain. The days are long and very bright, and the nights very cool. This sort of weather is very invigorating. The winters are not extreme. However, we do have some snow, but never enough to prevent surface labor.

From the top of the high cliffs partly surrounding camp the nicest view may be obtained. From here one can see the garden and the trees growing along Ash Creek. One can also see the roofs of the Staff houses, which appear to peek from beneath the shade of some large trees. Below can be seen the white tops of the houses in Sonora, with thin spirals of smoke curling upward from their chimneys. Then the view is lost in the darkness of the narrow canyon below.



The mess hall and store at Chrysotile, which has a Brooks white top roof. Note the Navajo rugs on the rail. These are a local product.

(*Continued from column* 2)

A truant officer has been appointed to see that all children between the ages of six and sixteen go to school.

The school is under the efficient supervision of the County School Superintendent. The mine management each year asks the County Supervisors for the necessary amount to operate it.

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/12767/3



This picture of Chrysotile is not an aerial view; it was taken from high up on one of the cliffs. The little white dots in the center are the Mexican houses in Sonora. Just above, to the left, are the mine dumps, and in the distant left is the road at White Point.

How Asbestos is Taken from the Mine Tunnels

(*Continued from page* 15)

The rock from which the fibre is cobbed is then shoveled back out of the miners' way and automatically backfills the room, thereby preventing cave-ins. After the room is well filled with waste the pillars are then removed if they contain fibre. The rock that cannot be used to backfill, for lack of space, is shovelled into a chute and later trammed to the surface waste dump.

"Desert Canaries" Used

The fibre is transferred from the mine entrances to the receiving platform close to the warehouse, where it is inspected, graded, and bagged in sacks of approximately 100 pounds each and then stored in the warehouse. To one not familiar with Arizona methods of transportation, the transferring of fibre from the mine to warehouse is interesting as oft'times "desert canaries" or burros (sometimes called donkeys) are used for this purpose. Two bags containing about 120 pounds each are placed on the animal's back and this patient beast of burden wanders merrily off in the direction of the warehouse seemingly knowing just what it is supposed to do. It is also interesting to note how well the burro seems to understand the Mexican language and how well the Mexican and burro work together.

A new road from camp to our El Dorado workings (on the west side of Ash Creek) has recently been completed. This gives us access to this part of the mine with our Dodge truck. Burros were formerly used, but the completion of this new road means that burros will not be used in the transporting of fibre from tunnels to receiving shed except during heavy storms when the condition of the road prohibits the use of the truck.

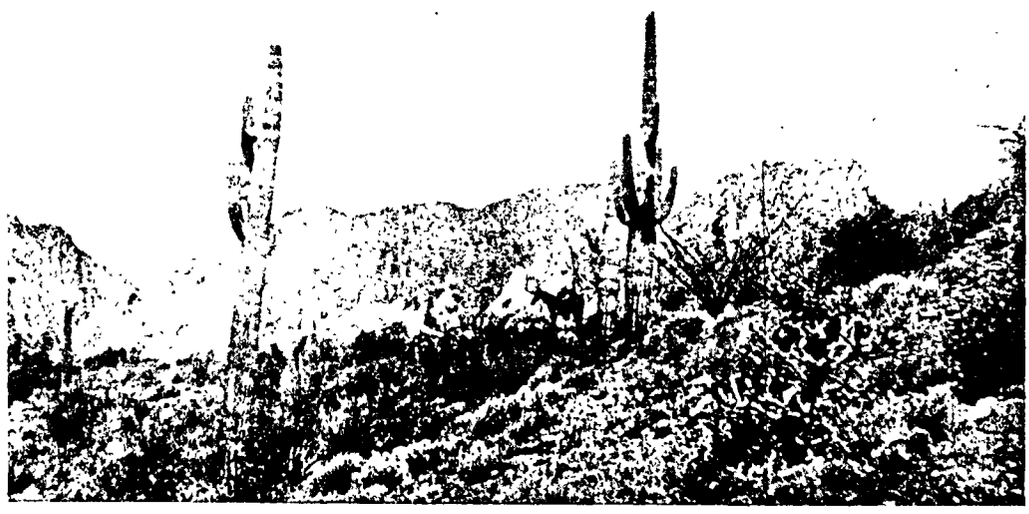
The fibre is later transported from the mine warehouse to a warehouse at Rice, a station on the Southern Pacific Railroad, some 42 miles from Chrysotile. The road between these two points reaches an elevation of 6,500 feet. It winds through wonderful timbered country, and passes by the San Carlos Indian Saw Mill which was dismantled just a few years ago.

Under favorable road conditions the transfer is taken care of by motor trucks. While the road connecting camp with Rice is usually in fair condition, the heavy rains and occasional snows sometimes make trucking a difficult task. It is rather discouraging to get stuck at night and have to unload the entire load of fibre in order to lighten the truck until it can be gotten out of the mud or back on the road. This, however, is not an unusual situation and explains why all Arizona truck drivers carry "Balloons."

When the road gets "too tough" the burros are again pressed into service, carrying two bags of 100 pounds each over the 42-mile stretch, a task usually accomplished in two days. It is customary for one man to handle 10 burros—two men with 20 burros constitute the usual burro train. The asbestos fibre is then shipped from Rice by rail, and sometimes by rail and water, to the factory needing the material.

Nearest Town 60 Miles

Globe, Arizona, a mining camp of approximately 12,000 population, is our nearest town. It is 60 miles away, but it is our nearest telephone and telegraph station. One can readily see that main events can sometimes happen several days before we know it at Chrysotile. One instance in particular I remember is when C. H. Shoemaker came from Quebec to visit Chrysotile. Mr. Shoemaker stepped out of an auto at the camp and after the customary "good morning" handed me a telegram which he had picked up at the Globe office. It was a message from Mr. Shoemaker advising me of his intended trip to Chrysotile. It is a rare privilege to send a message across the continent and deliver it yourself, but such was Mr. Shoemaker's experience in 1926.



The country around Chrysotile offers unlimited possibilities for the hiker, the horseman, and the hunter. Here are a few of the boys and girls, out for an afternoon ride four miles from camp.

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/12767/4

The J-M Factory Circle

No. 3 | Chrysotile, Ariz., November, 1929 | Chrysotile Edition

COWBOY PROSPECTORS STAKE CLAIMS IN ASH CREEK CANYON

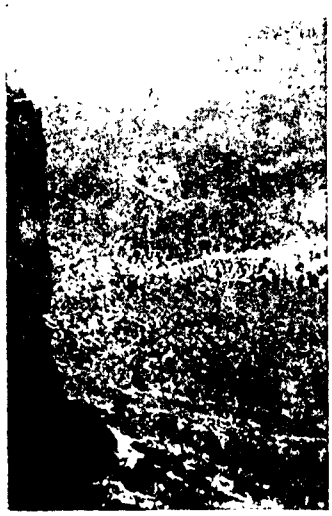
Where Johns-Manville Now Operates the Largest Underground Asbestos Mine on the Continent

A Colorful Story of Activities in Arizona as told by Frank Knuckey, Superintendent

Apache Indians Roamed the Mountains till a Few Years Ago

Ash Creek Canyon in the Apache Mountains of Arizona, five thousand feet above sea level, until a few years ago was known only to a few active cowboys who would occasionally round up wild cattle in the vicinity of Bar Hole or hunt brown bears and mountain lions that were killing their horses. Now it shelters the little village of Chrysotile, which boasts the largest underground asbestos mine on the continent.

Within a mile of the J-M Mine Office stands the famous Rock House, with its many portholes, which was built by cowboys as a protection against the Apache braves. Many stories may be told of this district, where a gloved right hand was unknown until a few years ago, and where a 40-some-odd on the hip is still a common thing.



The road winding into Chrysotile. The X shows the location of White Point, several hundred feet above the canyon floor.

In 1914 the walls of this canyon, which tower from 800 to 1,000 feet above the creek bed, echoed to the whack of the prospector's pick and the hoarse, even-song of his burro. The West brothers, cowboy prospectors, or "optimists of the hills," whose "miner's compass" was the swinging tail of their pack burro, staked out the first claims in this now famous canyon. After they had filed on several claims their next worry was "What will we do with it?"

Then, after some time, Messrs. Fisk and Snell of Globe, Arizona, became interested, and began mining on a small scale under the management of N. A. Nelson. A year or two later C. H. Shoemaker, Vice President of Canadian Johns-Manville Company, Ltd., visited the property with the result that it was soon acquired by the Johns-Manville Corporation.

This was the starting point of the camp, which up to that time was without a name. Knowing of no other name more suitable, Mr. Shoemaker decided it should be called "Chrysotile", a word closely allied to the variety of asbestos of which this mine has produced many tons. In the intervening years the mine has proved worthy of its name.

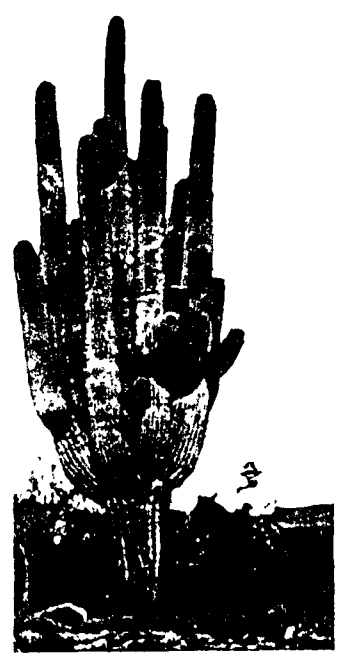
A Task for Burros

From early in the year 1916 the mine began to grow under the able management of Mr. Nelson. Semi-diesel air compressors were installed, a task accompanied by many hardships as there were no roads over which to transport heavy machinery, and mule teams and pack burros had to do what is ordinarily done with flatcars and locomotives.

Soon the few tents were replaced by stone buildings, the tin mess hall was replaced by a two-story stone building of ample size for mess hall and store, and the frame shack that housed the compressor was supplanted by a stone structure. Road improvements were started, and in general the camp took on an atmosphere of permanency. Most of these improvements were made after the writer came to Chrysotile in the spring of 1920.

Since 1922 work has been carried on under the direction of the writer. Several hundred feet of tunnels have been driven, new full-diesel engines as well as more powerful rock drills have been installed, an electric mule has replaced hand trammers, and generators have been installed for light and power, for electric refrigeration in the mess hall and staff houses, and for lighting the camp.

I recall Mr. Shoemaker asking as recently as 1927 to be the "torch bearer" when escorting a party one evening from my home to the power house. Since then lights have been installed from one end of the camp to the other, and it is now safe to walk around at night without the "torch," which had been used as a safety measure to guard against the possibility of stepping on the business end of a rattlesnake that might be enjoying peaceful slumber on the hot sandy road.



This queer-looking tree is a giant cactus, considered the largest in the Southwest. It was knocked down by lightning recently.

Tons of Asbestos Taken from Mine Tunnels at Chrysotile

From the many tunnels driven under the ore zone, branch raises are put into the fibre-bearing rock. These raises play a very important part as they disclose the presence or absence of fibre.



A closer view of White Point, so named from the white limestone cliff. The car in the circle is on the main highway.

Mining is of the room and pillar with backfill method, meaning in general, that a room is mined out in the solid rock about five feet high, and sometimes 50 feet square. At intervals little pillars of rock are allowed to remain to hold up the "back" or ceiling, thereby eliminating the use of timber as roof supports.

The asbestos fibre which occurs practically horizontal, or in blanket formation, varying in thickness from three inches to almost nothing, and which sometimes occurs in two streaks within the height of the stope or room, is separated from the rock by hand hammers. It is then placed in boxes, according to grade, and later bagged and transported to the surface.

(*Continued on page* 18)

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law

asbestosclaims.law/library/12767/5

Camp Is Isolated, But Active

Chrysotile Offers Amusements Different From Those in Cities

Because our location is so far from other towns, and because its size prohibits such amusements as moving pictures, our social activities are somewhat limited. Yet this does not mean that we are without forms of entertainment, for we are not.

One of our best entertainments is hiking. Our climate is so ideal that there is seldom a day but that a person may take a long hike into the hills surrounding Chrysotile. From camp there are many trails leading off into the mountains, any one of which offers beautiful scenery to recompense the hiker. Some of these are trails used by cowboys, some are used by woodpackers, others lead to neighboring mines or cattle ranches and some are used by moonshiners.

One may climb up into the pines to enjoy their cool, restful shade, or spend the day climbing steep cliffs which offer many a thrill to the seasoned hiker. Then again, one may spend his time on level mesas upon which there are many rabbits, quails, rattlesnakes, deer, fox, coyotes and even occasionally a bear. This offers keen enjoyment to the hunter.

Each month we have two dances. The mess hall is of sufficient size to accommodate 20 to 30 couples at one time. To attend one of our dances is indeed a rare treat. Everybody attends, and this includes the young and the old. One of the adjoining rooms is used for a nursery to take care of the sleeping children while their parents are dancing. Lunch is always served, and any of our J-M friends who may be in this vicinity are cordially invited. A good time is always assured as we are one group, there being none but J-M employees in this camp.

In the summer we quite often dance in Sonora, our Mexican section, where there is a large stone house called Casa Hidalgo that has a small park in front of it. Here we dance on the ground, but the ground is so hard that it is almost like cement. It is hard to describe this picture, but if you could see our little camp lost in the surrounding mountains, if you could see one of our open-air dances in the wonderful Arizona moonlight, with just enough light so objects are discernible, and could see the moving figures and hear the soft drumming of the banjos, you would realize this was a picture likely never to be forgotten.

During the winter we gather at the different homes and spend the evenings playing bridge or making candy. Mrs. Knuckey and I quite often keep "open house," and many gather to listen to the music from the radiola or to hear the radio news of the outside world.

Last, but not least, the knights take their respective seats at the Round Table and an evening is sometimes spent in the ancient pastime of trying to guess whether the next card will break you or just give you 21.

Pay day in Chrysotile is the one time when all of our employees seem very happy. Upon these occasions, most of them, being of a music and fun-loving nature, sing and play guitars and banjos until far into the night. This form of entertaining is never interfered with, but a strict vigilance is necessary to keep the camp dry.

"Oh-Be-Joyful" (in liquid form) is absolutely forbidden in this camp at all times and this is one rule we strictly enforce.

Some of our close neighbors try to slip this liquid into camp by coming down the steep cliffs after night, but this most usually ends in a trip to town for the offender and his loss of fire arms and stock in trade. On one occasion an employee, while under the influence of this refreshment, arrived at the conclusion that he was a foot specialist and was humorously trying to remove corns from the feet of his suffering patient with the aid of a "45". A few days in our "Bastile," however, served to convince him that he was a miner and not a surgeon.

The white mule, or mountain dew, of Arizona is very detrimental to mining efficiency and for this reason has been completely barred from camp. Anyone breaking this rule is soon asked to leave camp, and somehow none have refused this request.



The old Rock House where the Indian braves and prospectors met on not too friendly terms—the cemetery is just 100 feet away.



Guitars and banjos are a familiar sight at Chrysotile, and scenes like this one are not uncommon.

THEY CRAVE THE "WHITE LIGHTS"

For some reason—possibly it is our isolation—we, unlike most every other J-M plant, cannot boast of long service records. This is truer of the Americans than of the Mexicans. It seems that after an American has been here a year or so he suddenly becomes "stake bound" a term generally applied to a person having too much money to stay in the hills, and craving the white lights.

It is not unusual for an employee to notify the office that he has "got 'em rolled up and is taking 'em along", meaning that he has got his outfit together and is ready to leave camp. It seems that the bright sun light, warm nights and light air give a "can't



Sonora, the Mexican settlement, nestles among the trees below the brightly colored cliffs. It is the largest residential section of camp.

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
ACL Doc 12767 · Page 6 of 8
asbestosclaims.law/library/12767/6

be worried" feeling to most of our inhabitants.

Next to myself, Joe Castaneda has the longest continuous service record, having been here since January, 1927. Mr. Castaneda has, however, worked at this location at different times since early 1916. Mr. Castaneda and I were together in early 1917 in the Sierra Ancha Mountains some 50 miles from Chrysotile, mining asbestos for the American Ores & Asbestos Company, then controlled by the U. S. Asbestos Company.

Our present Staff consists of: Frank Knuckey, Superintendent; G. V. Stevens, Assistant to Superintendent and Engineer; Joe Castaneda, Mine Foreman; R. A. Grange, Accountant; G. F. Dean, Assistant to Mr. Grange; H. E. Claude, Stenographer; and H. M. Blanchard, Master Mechanic.

CANYON SCHOOL EQUAL TO BEST

Arizona ranks high in education and Chrysotile keeps pace with the rest of the state. Although we are practically isolated during the winter months, we have a good school for the youngsters of camp, lasting nine months each year.

This school is divided into two divisions: the primary and intermediate grades. Approximately 30 pupils were enrolled this year. Miss Barnette has charge of the intermediate grades and Miss Jackson the primary department.

The teaching is rather difficult owing to the fact that most of the pupils are Mexicans and most of them do not speak English. They do not have the background that our American children have and for this reason it takes longer to teach them things that American children know before they start to school. It usually requires two to three terms before the pupil has a knowledge of the English language. However, the fact that children from this school quite frequently transfer to other schools throughout the state, without being demoted, speaks well for our school.

All pencils, books, and other supplies are furnished the students free so that there is no excuse for a child's not attending.

(*Continued in column* 4)



Spanish girls on their way to the school. The stop sign, near the mine office, is for visitors.



Mr. Knuckey's residence, nestling against the hills, is the scene of many informal "get-togethers" during the winter months at the mine.

Chrysotile a Delightful Spot

Ideal Climate and Gorgeous Scenery Make Life Enjoyable

A camp garden has been built up and maintained in a very efficient manner and abundant fruits and vegetables are furnished the Staff free of charge, a consideration which is highly appreciated after a hard winter.

From the garden the Staff houses are located on the eastern side of Ash Creek for a distance of one mile, ending with the store, which is a two-story rock house containing store and mess hall. Below the store are the Company plant buildings which include the power house, fibre house, office, warehouse, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, and shift-boss office.

From the shift-boss office it is about one-quarter mile to Sonora, where all of the Spanish-speaking employees live. As Mexicans constitute about 95 percent of the employees at this location, Sonora is the largest residential section of camp. From here the canyon narrows again and soon terminates in two perpendicular walls only a few feet apart through which Ash Creek flows into Salt River.

On the eastern side of Ash Creek the ground gradually rises until it reaches its crown of very high, brightly-colored cliffs. These cliffs are from 200 to 1,000 feet high and reflect many bright colors against the setting sun. On the western side of Ash Creek a very high mountain comes down almost to the water's edge, thus cutting off the view in that direction.

The climate here is most ideal. The summers are warm, but never to extreme. One is able to sleep comfortably as it is always cool at night at this altitude. The fall, or Indian summer, is particularly pleasant, lasting about four months. During this period there is very little rain. The days are long and very bright, and the nights very cool. This sort of weather is very invigorating. The winters are not extreme. However, we do have some snow, but never enough to prevent surface labor.

From the top of the high cliffs partly surrounding camp the nicest view may be obtained. From here one can see the garden and the trees growing along Ash Creek. One can also see the roofs of the Staff houses, which appear to peek from beneath the shade of some large trees. Below can be seen the white tops of the houses in Sonora, with thin spirals of smoke curling upward from their chimneys. Then the view is lost in the darkness of the narrow canyon below.



The mess hall and store at Chrysotile, which has a Brooks white top roof. Note the Navajo rugs on the rail. These are a local product.

(*Continued from column* 2)

A truant officer has been appointed to see that all children between the ages of six and sixteen go to school.

The school is under the efficient supervision of the County School Superintendent. The mine management each year asks the County Supervisors for the necessary amount to operate it.

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/12767/7



This picture of Chrysotile is not an aerial view; it was taken from high up on one of the cliffs. The little white dots in the center are the Mexican houses in Sonora. Just above, to the left, are the mine dumps, and in the distant left is the road at White Point.

How Asbestos is Taken from the Mine Tunnels

(*Continued from page* 15)

The rock from which the fibre is cobbed is then shoveled back out of the miners' way and automatically backfills the room, thereby preventing cave-ins. After the room is well filled with waste the pillars are then removed if they contain fibre. The rock that cannot be used to backfill, for lack of space, is shovelled into a chute and later trammed to the surface waste dump.

"Desert Canaries" Used

The fibre is transferred from the mine entrances to the receiving platform close to the warehouse, where it is inspected, graded, and bagged in sacks of approximately 100 pounds each and then stored in the warehouse. To one not familiar with Arizona methods of transportation, the transferring of fibre from the mine to warehouse is interesting as oft'times "desert canaries" or burros (sometimes called donkeys) are used for this purpose. Two bags containing about 120 pounds each are placed on the animal's back and this patient beast of burden wanders merrily off in the direction of the warehouse seemingly knowing just what it is supposed to do. It is also interesting to note how well the burro seems to understand the Mexican language and how well the Mexican and burro work together.

A new road from camp to our El Dorado workings (on the west side of Ash Creek) has recently been completed. This gives us access to this part of the mine with our Dodge truck. Burros were formerly used, but the completion of this new road means that burros will not be used in the transporting of fibre from tunnels to receiving shed except during heavy storms when the condition of the road prohibits the use of the truck.

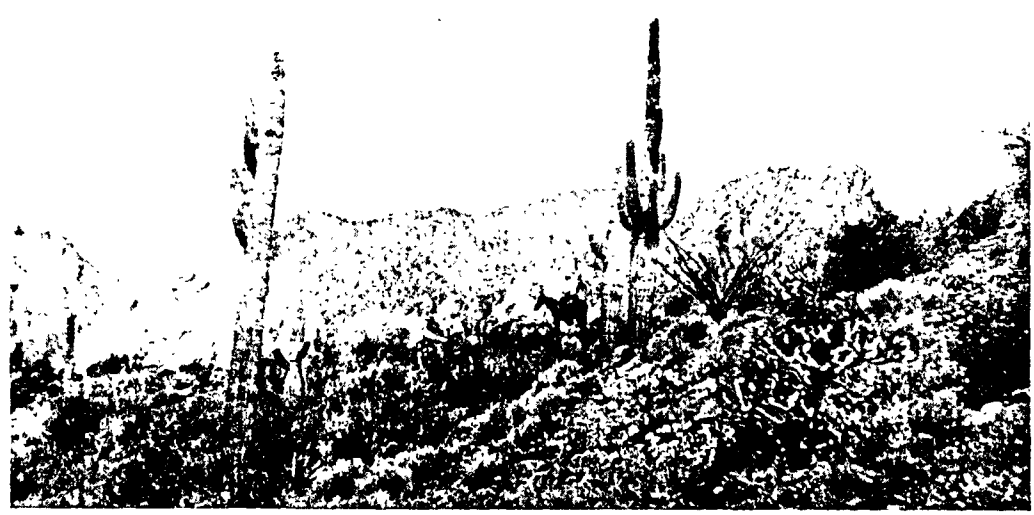
The fibre is later transported from the mine warehouse to a warehouse at Rice, a station on the Southern Pacific Railroad, some 42 miles from Chrysotile. The road between these two points reaches an elevation of 6,500 feet. It winds through wonderful timbered country, and passes by the San Carlos Indian Saw Mill which was dismantled just a few years ago.

Under favorable road conditions the transfer is taken care of by motor trucks. While the road connecting camp with Rice is usually in fair condition, the heavy rains and occasional snows sometimes make trucking a difficult task. It is rather discouraging to get stuck at night and have to unload the entire load of fibre in order to lighten the truck until it can be gotten out of the mud or back on the road. This, however, is not an unusual situation and explains why all Arizona truck drivers carry "Balloons."

When the road gets "too tough" the burros are again pressed into service, carrying two bags of 100 pounds each over the 12-mile stretch, a task usually accomplished in two days. It is customary for one man to handle 10 burros—two men with 20 burros constitute the usual burro train. The asbestos fibre is then shipped from Rice by rail, and sometimes by rail and water, to the factory needing the material.

Nearest Town 60 Miles

Globe, Arizona, a mining camp of approximately 12,000 population, is our nearest town. It is 60 miles away, but it is our nearest telephone and telegraph station. One can readily see that main events can sometimes happen several days before we know it at Chrysotile. One instance in particular I remember is when C. H. Shoemaker came from Quebec to visit Chrysotile. Mr. Shoemaker stepped out of an auto at the camp and after the customary "good morning" handed me a telegram which he had picked up at the Globe office. It was a message from Mr. Shoemaker advising me of his intended trip to Chrysotile. It is a rare privilege to send a message across the continent and deliver it yourself, but such was Mr. Shoemaker's experience in 1926.



The country around Chrysotile offers unlimited possibilities for the hiker, the horseman, and the hunter. Here are a few of the boys and girls, out for an afternoon ride four miles from camp.

Published by AsbestosClaims.Law
asbestosclaims.law/library/12767/8