

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 1 - NEW ENGLAND

IN THE MATTER OF: ) ADMINISTRATIVE  
 ) DEPOSITION OF:  
 )  
CENTREDALE MANOR SUPERFUND ) LAWRENCE R. BELLO  
SITE, NORTH PROVIDENCE, )  
RHODE ISLAND )

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DEPOSITION OF LAWRENCE R. BELLO, a witness  
herein, taken on behalf of the EPA, on Thursday, August  
31, 2000, 10:00 A.M., at the office of the United  
States Attorney, Fleet Center, 8th Floor, Providence,  
Rhode Island, before Sally Brassard, Registered  
Professional Reporter/Certified Shorthand Reporter.

Vivian S. Dafoulas & Associates  
465 Stone Ridge Drive  
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(401) 885-0992

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APPEARANCES:

FOR EPA:

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
BY: CATHERINE GARYPIE, ESQUIRE  
ONE CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100 (SES)  
BOSTON, MA 02114-2023

ALSO PRESENT: MR. STEPHEN BELLO



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LAWRENCE R. BELLO,

called as a witness and having been first duly sworn,  
testified as follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MS. GARYPIE:

Q. Good morning. Mr. Bello, I'm an attorney, as you know, with the United States Environmental Protection Agency, and I represent the United States today for purposes of this administrative deposition or sworn statement. The purpose of the proceeding today is to investigate the Centredale Manor Superfund Site, and this information is being taken only for information purposes. It's not a hearing, and there's no adjudication that's happening today. The authority for taking this sworn statement is Section 122(e)(3)(B) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act, which is also known as CERCLA or Superfund.

The information that I'll be asking you for today relates to the volume and toxicity of waste at the site and also potentially responsible parties of the site.

I'm going to ask you a series of questions, and I am going to ask you to answer out loud so that the court reporter can get down whatever it is that you have to say. If you're writing something down, I may

1 have to ask you to describe it. If you have any  
2 questions about what I'm asking, please feel free to  
3 ask.

4 If you need to take a break at any time, just let  
5 me know and we'll do that. Do you have any questions?

6 A. No.

7 Q. So the first thing that I need to ask you is  
8 whether you're represented by an attorney with regard  
9 to this Centredale Manor Superfund Site.

10 A. No, I am not.

11 Q. If you could, please state your name for the  
12 record.

13 A. Lawrence R. Bello. Is there any reason why I  
14 should have an attorney?

15 Q. Well, some people prefer to have an attorney.  
16 Quite frankly, with sworn statements, it's relatively  
17 rare. If we're interviewing current employees of a  
18 company, sometimes we'll have attorneys present.  
19 That's really the only instance that I'm aware of for  
20 that.

21 A. I would think one would want an attorney if  
22 there was some liability that they were involved with.  
23 There's no liability whatsoever in my case.

24 Q. What I can tell you is that there are four  
25 categories of liability under the Superfund Act. One

1 is current owners and operators of a facility. The  
2 others are past owners and operators of a facility.  
3 Also transporters, the people who brought waste to a  
4 site and people who generated the generator category,  
5 who generated waste that came to be located at a site.  
6 So that's basically it.

7 A. Would I fit in as an operator because I worked  
8 there?

9 Q. Well, there's a lot of case law on operator  
10 liability. What the courts have tended to rule is that  
11 if someone is being directed by a higher-up at a  
12 company to do particular activities at a facility, then  
13 they would not be held liable. It's really where you  
14 have someone who's in charge of the facility and  
15 directing people to do certain types of waste disposal,  
16 so I hope that's the answer to your question.

17 A. I was in a position of authority there, but  
18 the formulations and all of that -- I think I told you  
19 before I am not a chemist, you know. I have a  
20 background from Brown in Math and Physics. What I know  
21 from chemistry, I got from the School of Design. They  
22 had a Textile Chemical course there, and that's my  
23 background in chemistry. However, as these came out  
24 from the lab, I would direct them in the facility. It  
25 would not be my decision to make a certain formulation

1 or to drop a certain formulation. All of these would  
2 come from higher-ups. That would be my operation, my  
3 involvement in it.

4 Q. Okay. I'm going to be asking you -- you and I  
5 spoke on August the 16th and discussed generally  
6 operations at the chemical company and also operations  
7 at the Drum Recycling Company. Those are the same  
8 types of questions that I'm going to ask you today. It  
9 makes a difference for us to have it in writing, with  
10 you sworn in. It makes it -- we're able to use the  
11 information in a different way, if it's recorded that  
12 way.

13 A. Okay.

14 Q. Could you state your age, please?

15 A. [REDACTED].

16 Q. And I'm going to ask you to briefly outline your  
17 employment history.

18 A. I worked there roughly from 1952 to 1977.

19 Q. And when you say you "worked there," where do you  
20 mean?

21 A. I started at Atlantic Chemical Company in  
22 Centredale and then the name was changed to Metro  
23 Atlantic. I don't know what year, and then they merged  
24 with Crown Chemical and became Crown Metro. We left  
25 that facility, and we went down Dudley Street in

1 Downtown Providence. At that point they closed the  
2 facility here and the manufacturing was done primarily  
3 in Greenville, South Carolina.

4 Q. Where was the manufacturing done initially?

5 A. Pardon?

6 Q. Where was the manufacturing done before it moved  
7 to Dudley Street?

8 A. Mineral Spring Avenue in North Providence.

9 Q. Were you involved with the sales or mergers of the  
10 companies at all?

11 A. No, I was not.

12 Q. Were there any other locations where the chemical  
13 company operated other than in Rhode Island and South  
14 Carolina?

15 A. South Carolina. And we had a sales office in  
16 Granby, Quebec. We had a sales office in Havana, Cuba,  
17 a sales office in San Francisco for a very short  
18 period, and one in Paterson, New Jersey. Outside of  
19 South Carolina and North Providence there was no  
20 manufacturing done at the other locations. There might  
21 have been some blending or something of that sort but  
22 no manufacturing per se.

23 Q. And what was your title at the chemical company?

24 A. What was my title?

25 Q. Right.

1 A. Production Manager.

2 Q. Was that true for 1952 through 1977?

3 A. Yes. Well, at first I started as an operator  
4 in one of the chemical departments to learn the  
5 business.

6 Q. What products were produced by the chemical  
7 company at the facility in North Providence?

8 A. Well, water repellants, cotton softeners,  
9 urea-formaldehyde resin, sulfonated tallow for wool,  
10 powdered soap, a metal stripper to strip metal for the  
11 jewelry trade. Then we had a contract to manufacture a  
12 pesticide for Eli Lilly. I'm sure we made many more  
13 products.

14 Q. Okay. I'd like to focus on the pesticide. Was  
15 there a chemical name that you can recall for the  
16 pesticide?

17 A. I believe we used hexachlorophene and  
18 nitrobenzene.

19 Q. Were those the products or the raw materials that  
20 were used?

21 A. Raw materials.

22 Q. Was Eli Lilly involved in the manufacture of the  
23 pesticide at all?

24 A. No. Eli Lilly gave it the formulation. It  
25 was a contract deal where we manufactured and shipped

1 it down to them.

2 Q. And where did you ship it to?

3 A. I believe, eventually it ended up either in  
4 Arkansas or Alabama, but we would deliver it to South  
5 Carolina in bulk in tank trucks.

6 Q. Where at the facility was the pesticide  
7 manufactured?

8 A. The pesticide?

9 Q. Right.

10 A. A new building was constructed when they got  
11 the contract, and it was adjacent to where we  
12 manufactured our metal stripper. It was a separate  
13 building with a corrugated roof. I believe the sides  
14 were corrugated too, that plastic, with a cement floor.

15 Q. Can you describe the process for manufacturing the  
16 pesticide?

17 A. Well, we'd put the raw materials in and let  
18 them react. The specific reactions, I don't recall.  
19 We'd heat it up. When the reaction was completed, we  
20 would take it out and either put it in the storage tank  
21 or put it in drums, usually in the storage tank. It's  
22 conceivable at some point in time that a representative  
23 from Eli Lilly came up to check the quality and  
24 whatnot. I'm not aware -- if I were, I forgot about  
25 it -- that someone came up to check it. It would seem

1 to me that if I had one manufacturing a chemical for  
2 me, or a product, I would want some kind of control to  
3 see that it was coming out the way it should.

4 Q. But you don't specifically recall anyone coming?

5 A. I don't specifically recall. With each  
6 reaction you would return a representative sample to  
7 the lab. They in turn would check it, you know, before  
8 it was discharged. What they did or did not do, I  
9 don't know. I'm sure I did know at one point in time,  
10 but I really can't recall.

11 Q. Just to go back, you mentioned raw materials were  
12 placed in -- I wasn't clear what they were placed in to  
13 start the reaction. Was there a particular --

14 A. On the pesticide?

15 Q. Right. Was there a particular kind of container?

16 A. Yeah. We had a tank. I think it was a 3,000  
17 gallon tank, stainless steel. We would put it in that.  
18 When we had a load, we'd put a tank truck up and put it  
19 in the tank truck. Now, there were times that some  
20 might have been put in maybe two or three drums to  
21 finish emptying one of the reactors, because the  
22 storage tank was full. That might have been the case,  
23 but then we would take it and put it back and react  
24 with the next batch that we made. None were stored,  
25 per se, in drums.

1 Q. Okay. Was there any sort of by-product that was  
2 part of this manufacturing process for the pesticide?

3 A. I'm sure there was, but once again, not being  
4 a chemist I really can't say. I might have known at  
5 one point in time, but I'm not aware of any. However,  
6 being a reaction, I'm sure there is some residue and  
7 some by-product, you know.

8 MS. GARYPIE: I'm going to ask the court  
9 reporter to mark a map that I brought with me as  
10 Exhibit 1.

11 (Whereupon, Exhibit 1 was marked for purposes  
12 of identification.)

13 Q. I'm going to ask you to take a look at the map.  
14 What it purports to be is a map of the chemical company  
15 facility in the year 1965. If you can take a minute to  
16 look at that, and then I'm going to ask you a few  
17 questions about it.

18 A. What year was this?

19 Q. 1965.

20 A. This would be the building. I asked the year  
21 because I wasn't sure. There was no other building on  
22 that side until this building was put up. This was  
23 where our metal stripping was manufactured. This was  
24 our maintenance shop. At one time there was a screw  
25 machine company in there.

1 Q. Okay. I'm going to ask you to stop for just a  
2 second, because I'm going to ask you to mark the map as  
3 soon as I find a pen. I'm going to ask you to mark  
4 with the blue pen the building that was used to  
5 manufacture pesticide. You can mark that as Number 1  
6 or use the word "pesticide."

7 What was the second building that you mentioned?

8 A. Metal stripping is Number 2. Number 3 was a  
9 screw machine and a plastic mold injection.

10 Q. What about the larger buildings to the right?

11 A. Over here?

12 Q. Of the one that you've marked.

13 A. This was manufacturing -- all the chemicals  
14 were manufactured in here.

15 Q. So the entire large building here?

16 A. Right. Except for up here was the office.

17 Q. You want to mark the office?

18 A. Number 4.

19 Q. That's Number 4. South of the office, that large  
20 portion of the building, that was where --

21 A. General manufacturing.

22 Q. Okay.

23 A. Number 5. You don't have to take this. You  
24 know what's very surprising to me, over here was a  
25 restaurant. Our insurance went up here because we were

1 next door to a restaurant. There was more of an  
2 insurance liability with the restaurant than with the  
3 chemical plant. That always amazed me.

4 Q. Did the chemical plant rent to the restaurant?

5 A. No. It was a separate building. We used to  
6 rent this out for furniture storage.

7 Q. Can you mark where the furniture storage was?

8 A. Right here. Number 6.

9 Q. So the area, Number 6, was that ever used for any  
10 sort of chemical manufacturing or storage?

11 A. Not for any storage or anything.

12 Q. Okay. Going back to Number 2, what you've marked  
13 as metal stripping, what happened in that building?

14 A. The actual product was manufactured in here.

15 Q. When you say, "in here" you mean --

16 A. In building Number 5.

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. What that was was nitrobenzene and sulphur  
19 trioxide. It was reacted here. Then, in this part of  
20 the manufacturing building and part of Number 5, we had  
21 a drying room. It would dry this liquid, and then it  
22 was manually transported across to building Number 2  
23 where it was dried and powdered. It was shipped out of  
24 that area of Number 2.

25 Q. What about building Number 3, the plastic molding

1 and screw machine? What happened in that building?

2 A. There was a screw machine company there for a  
3 while. Then they went into plastic mold injection, you  
4 know, making -- I can't even think of anything right  
5 now. I can't think of any one of the products. Pans,  
6 plastic dishpans, things like that. Only much smaller.  
7 For a while they were made for brakes on automobiles.  
8 I really know nothing about that.

9 Q. Okay. So the other products that you mentioned,  
10 the water repellants, the soaps, and the  
11 urea-formaldehyde, was that all manufactured in  
12 building Number 5, the large building?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Who were the customers of the chemical company  
15 other than Eli Lilly?

16 A. Well, Eli Lilly wasn't a real customer, you  
17 know. Swan Printing in Fall River.

18 Q. How do you spell that?

19 A. S-W-A-N.

20 Q. Okay.

21 A. Newport Finishing, Duro Finishing.

22 Q. Take your time. I know it has been an awful long  
23 time ago.

24 A. We had a couple in Woonsocket. I forget their  
25 names. Then we had paper mills in Maine and New

1 Hampshire.

2 Q. Do you recall which specific mills they were?

3 A. No. If I knew the name of the company, I  
4 would say it. We delivered a lot. Mauldon Mills was  
5 one. Stafford Printing. I believe we sold some  
6 products to Alrose Chemical which later became Hoechst  
7 Chemical.

8 Q. How do you spell Hoechst?

9 A. H-O-E-C-H-S-T, I believe. Before, when you  
10 asked me about the different locations, Metro Atlantic  
11 had another company in West Warwick. The name of it  
12 was Metro Dye Stuff, and they used to manufacture all  
13 the dyes there. Then that company -- they never  
14 manufactured in North Providence -- that company was  
15 later sold to American Hoechst.

16 Q. Okay. I think I'd like to turn to a few more  
17 questions on by-products and waste disposal at the  
18 facility. Can you describe how waste was disposed of  
19 at the facility?

20 A. If the material was solid, and normally in a  
21 chemical plant and place of business rarely do you  
22 throw anything away. If there were some solids that  
23 were not salvageable, we would put them in drums and  
24 they would be taken away by Truck-Away, which was a  
25 waste hauling company. If they were liquids, rarely if

1 ever were any of them discarded. What we would do is  
2 put them in drums, and the next reaction we would make  
3 we'd put one drum back in, or two, or five depending on  
4 the degree of variation on it until they were used up.

5 Naturally, being a place of business, you  
6 don't waste anything that you can salvage, you know.  
7 Any drums that we shipped out we would ship them to  
8 customers with our own trucks, and we would pick up the  
9 empty drums and take them back to New England  
10 container. At the beginning it was all part of the  
11 operation, because New England container was part of  
12 Metro Atlantic or part of Atlantic Chemical Company. I  
13 don't think the name became New England Container until  
14 after it was purchased by the current owners. Prior to  
15 that it was part of the chemical operation.

16 Q. Okay. When you mentioned that empties were picked  
17 up each time new products would be delivered, was that  
18 true for all of the customers that you had recalled  
19 just a few moments ago?

20 A. The bulk of them, yes. I'd say ninety percent  
21 of them. There was no deposit on the drums, you know.  
22 Sometimes they would take back drums from other  
23 companies, you know, empty drums from other companies  
24 and take them back and recondition them.

25 Q. When you say, "drums from other companies," do you

1 mean drums from other companies that the customer would  
2 have at their facility?

3 A. Right.

4 Q. Do you recall any markings or names on any of the  
5 other drums that came back to the facility for  
6 recycling?

7 A. No, I really couldn't say.

8 Q. Okay. You had talked about liquid waste was rare  
9 but when it did occur, it would generally be placed in  
10 drums. Was it disposed of any other way?

11 A. Well, when a reaction was completed and the  
12 reactor was emptied, very often there would be a  
13 residue. You would take out all that you could. When  
14 everything was out, you would flush it down, wash the  
15 tank down. Most of that went down the river. We had,  
16 used to have, we had a drain on each side of that long  
17 manufacturing building. When one of the operators got  
18 through with the reaction and the reactor was emptied  
19 they'd flush the floor down for cleanliness. It would  
20 go down into the drains and out to the river.

21 Back in those days the thought was, if you  
22 wanted to get rid of something, the best way to do it  
23 would be to dilute it. So you'd let it go out into the  
24 river. Whether any of it was toxic or not, I guess in  
25 this day and age anything you put down the water is

1 toxic but we did do that. We'd wash the floor and  
2 rinse the reactor, that kind of thing. On occasions  
3 the drum would leak. We'd salvage what we could. The  
4 minute we saw it, we would empty the drum and then we  
5 would flush it down the river. Now, this flushing that  
6 I'm talking about with these two drains was not in a  
7 pesticide building. Those two drains were in the main  
8 manufacturing plant.

9 Q. That's building Number 5 that you marked?

10 A. Yeah.

11 Q. What was used to wash down the reactors?

12 A. Normally, water. Most of the things we made,  
13 before we reacted them, they might not have been water  
14 soluble, but once they were reacted they became water  
15 soluble.

16 Q. Was anything else ever used to wash out the  
17 reactors or wash down the floors?

18 A. If so, it was an isolated case. I would say,  
19 no, you know.

20 Q. When wastes were flushed out to the river, did the  
21 river ever change color?

22 A. No, it did not. I'm saying, no, it did not.  
23 If it had happened at any time, it might have been once  
24 or twice. I can remember once that there was a flood  
25 down in the lower part of the raceway. It was quite

1 low and whenever we had a lot of rain the river would  
2 overflow. Sometimes, I can remember four or five times  
3 that it happened that water would come up. As a matter  
4 of fact, you'd see drums go floating down the river.  
5 Maybe on these occasions some of the residue could have  
6 been washed out. As a regular procedure in washing  
7 down, no, it did not change. It's possible where it  
8 came out of the drain it might look cloudy. I don't  
9 know if that would be a change in the color, but that  
10 would be the extent of it.

11 Q. Were there other businesses along the river that  
12 were discharging liquids or solids or any type of waste  
13 into the river during the time you worked at the  
14 facility between '52 and '77?

15 A. Are you talking about our general area or are  
16 you talking about up or down?

17 Q. In the general area of the facility. Either  
18 upstream or downstream.

19 A. Downstream from us is Evans Plating. They  
20 supplied metal stripping companies. As a matter of  
21 fact, I have two more names on customers. McDermott in  
22 New Haven, Connecticut, and Enthone.

23 Q. What was the second one?

24 A. Enthone, E-N-T-H-O-N-E.

25 Q. And turning back to Evans Plating, what would they

1 discharge to the river?

2 A. I really don't know. I don't know enough  
3 about that operation. I'm not sure what they  
4 manufactured there. They might have blended things  
5 there. I don't really know. I'm not familiar with  
6 their operation.

7 Q. Were there any other industrial facilities that  
8 were upstream of the chemical company?

9 A. Well, upstream, quite a few. Worcester  
10 Textile. That's quite a way up. In the neighborhood  
11 of two or three miles. And then all the mills in  
12 Pawtucket. Just about every one of these old mills was  
13 built next to the water. They all had the big water  
14 wheels, because this is what they used for their source  
15 of power. They were all built, even Slater Mill was  
16 built close to the water so that they could generate  
17 their power. So any one of the mills up that way was  
18 close to the water.

19 Q. Do you recall any of these companies discharging?

20 A. No. I'm not familiar with that.

21 Q. What about companies just downstream of the  
22 facility?

23 A. Well, Atlantic, New England Container was on  
24 the same land that we were on. A little further down  
25 there was an asphalt plant. I can't think of the name

1 of it. It seems to me, I'm not sure, but I believe  
2 there was a jewelry company down there. This would be  
3 on the Johnston side. As a matter of fact, the asphalt  
4 plant was on the Johnston side. Then further down in  
5 Johnston was Colonial Chemical, a very small operation.  
6 I think that's pretty much it.

7 Q. Do you recall --

8 A. Colonial Chemical just reclaimed alcohols.

9 Q. That was their operation?

10 A. That was their operation, pretty much.  
11 Perchloroethylene and things like that.

12 Q. Do you recall any of these downstream facilities  
13 discharging into the river?

14 A. It was said way back, I can't say that I had  
15 witnessed it or that I had any information with the  
16 companies themselves that they were doing this. I  
17 don't know.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. Directly across from New England Container was  
20 a lumber company, Centredale Lumber. I don't believe  
21 they discharged anything. It was a retail lumber  
22 company.

23 Q. Turning to the ownership and management of the  
24 chemical company, who did you report to?

25 A. Bernie Buonanno. He was the General Manager.

1 Q. What were his duties at the company as General  
2 Manager?

3 A. His duties. He had nothing to do with the  
4 manufacturing, just to oversee it. He had nothing to  
5 do with the chemicals that were produced or the  
6 products that were produced. He was in charge of  
7 sales. In charge of the office staff. He reported  
8 directly to the owners.

9 Q. Who were the owners?

10 A. Joseph Buonanno, Hugh Bannino, and Henry  
11 Papini. Hugh Bannino and Joe Buonanno were the  
12 original starters of the company. Then Henry Papini  
13 got involved because they wanted an operation in  
14 Greenville, South Carolina. Henry Papini was a sales  
15 person in that area.

16 Q. Okay. I do want to ask you some questions about  
17 New England Container. One more question on the  
18 chemical company. During what years was the pesticide  
19 manufactured?

20 A. This is a guess. I would say in the late  
21 '50s. Wait a minute, early '60s to early '70s. Maybe  
22 not that long in that area.

23 Q. So approximately ten years?

24 A. Yeah. I feel that it wasn't that long but it  
25 could well have been. It was eight, nine or seven.

1 Q. Okay. Turning to New England Container. If I  
2 could ask you to take a look at our Exhibit 1, again.  
3 Mark with, I believe we're on Number 7, if you could  
4 mark Number 7 where New England Container was.

5 A. Number 7 was this whole thing.

6 Q. Can you go ahead and circle what Number 7 was?  
7 What were the operations at New England Container like?

8 A. New England container would get used drums in.  
9 It was an open head drum, they would take and wash it  
10 out and burn it. They would put it in the incinerator  
11 and burn it. Then they would sandblast it. Sometimes  
12 they would put a coating in it, and sometimes they  
13 would leave it sandblasted. They would burn it in the  
14 burnerator, and every so often they would take the  
15 residue out and put it in drums and ship it away with  
16 Truck-Away.

17 The liquids, they would come in tight drums  
18 with a two-inch bung on the top and a three-quarter.  
19 They would hook a hose to it, run water into it and  
20 flush it and let the water come out through the small  
21 opening. These were primarily alcohols.

22 Q. With the flushing?

23 A. Yeah, these liquids.

24 Q. After the tight drums were flushed, would they go  
25 through the furnace?

1 A. No. No. No. They were all ready to be  
2 shipped. They'd take them and dry them. Some of them  
3 had linings in them and some of them were used for  
4 isopropyl, alcohol, and things like that. They would  
5 leave them just sandblasted.

6 Q. Where would the drums be shipped to?

7 A. Where were they shipped to?

8 Q. Right.

9 A. Metro or any one of the chemical companies in  
10 town. Any one of the manufacturers. As a matter of  
11 fact, I guess they were the biggest drum distributor in  
12 the area.

13 Q. Was the furnace inside of a building?

14 A. Outside. It was outside. It was enclosed,  
15 you know, and it had a stack. They had -- I believe  
16 they had a water scrubber to wash down the vapors.

17 Q. When you say it was enclosed, do you mean it had a  
18 roof?

19 A. You know, I'm trying to visualize it and I  
20 really can't. It seems to me they would have some kind  
21 of covering on it, but I can't really recall.

22 Q. Do you remember if there were walls around it?

23 A. Not really. You do realize, I did not work at  
24 any point in time for New England Container. They  
25 would come down or we would take our empty drums down

1 to them. Yes, I walked down there from time to time.  
2 I was certainly friendly with all the people there.  
3 But this much later to be asked things that you  
4 observed sixty years ago, I mean, back then it was  
5 something just ordinary so it didn't ring a bell.

6 Q. Before the drums were recycled, were they stored  
7 near the New England Container building?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. How were they stored?

10 A. They were laid down and stored in a pile, you  
11 know.

12 Q. Were they laid down on their side?

13 A. On their side, yeah.

14 Q. How high were they stacked?

15 A. It wouldn't be any higher than what they could  
16 reach, you know. They did not have any equipment to  
17 raise the individual to put them up there. They might  
18 have had at sometime stood on the back of their truck  
19 and as they unload them make the pile higher, but it  
20 wasn't tremendously high. There would be more rows  
21 than height.

22 Q. When you mentioned the tight drums being flushed,  
23 where would the water that was used to flush those  
24 drums go?

25 A. Good question. I know it was done inside the

1 building. Where they went -- the only thing I can say,  
2 whether it's a fact or not, I don't know that it was  
3 flushed out and went into a drain and went down the  
4 river, I would say. I don't know that for a fact.

5 Q. You never observed that?

6 A. I never observed that.

7 Q. Did you ever see any indication that there had  
8 been liquids spilled on the ground outside of the  
9 building?

10 A. At New England Container?

11 Q. Right.

12 A. I can't say that I had seen it, but it must  
13 have happened at some point or another. I would say no  
14 great amount was ever spilled, but I'm sure that  
15 sometime when somebody turned a drum over it's  
16 conceivable that some of the products did spill on it.  
17 Also, when people ship drums back, there were times  
18 when the drum was not completely empty and maybe you  
19 would get a quart or whatever that would spill on the  
20 ground. But once again, these are things that I never  
21 observed.

22 Q. Okay. Fair enough. In the area to the south of  
23 New England Container were there any activities being  
24 undertaken?

25 A. Well, they stored drums back there.

1 Q. Anything other than drum storage?

2 A. No.

3 Q. Did you ever observe any drum burial at the site?

4 A. I have never observed any drum burial there.

5 I have never seen any heavy equipment go down there.

6 What I will say is that they're in business to make

7 money. If they have a drum that they cannot salvage,

8 they would burn it and clean it out. They'd sell it to

9 the highway department or they'd sell it to

10 recreational parks, and they'd use it for rubbish. If

11 the drum was that bad -- also, some of the drums that

12 did have minor leaks, they would have a man come in and

13 he would solder or plug those leaks. If the drum was

14 too bad, they would sell it to the highway department

15 or the park department. If the drum was completely not

16 salvageable, they'd take and squeeze the drum and give

17 it to the junk man and sell it for scrap metal. I

18 don't see any reason why a drum would be buried.

19 The only other drums down there that there was

20 a problem with were the sulphur trioxide that we used.

21 Sulphur trioxide, when it comes into contact with

22 moisture, it smokes. Now, New England Container had

23 nothing to do with those drums. Those drums would be

24 picked up in Buffalo, New York and we would use them in

25 our manufacturing. When we needed another shipment, we

1 would send our truck to take their old drums back.  
2 We'd give them the old drums and come in with a new  
3 load. I'm not saying that one drum didn't get down to  
4 New England Container. I don't know what they would do  
5 with them. They were very heavy iron drums, but none  
6 of those went to New England Container.

7 Q. You mentioned that occasionally they would smoke?

8 A. Yeah. That's the sulphur trioxide. When the  
9 moisture hit the chemical, just the fumes.

10 Q. Do you recall the names of any other employees of  
11 the chemical company?

12 A. I recall some, but a lot of the names you'd  
13 have difficulty finding them.

14 Q. Why is that?

15 A. Why is that?

16 Q. Yes.

17 A. They're all has-beens, the majority.

18 Q. They've passed away?

19 A. Yeah. They have passed away. I shouldn't  
20 make a joke of it. I know Johnny Joyal, John Tacone,  
21 and Walter Murphy. He moved to Ohio. I think he  
22 passed away. Angelo Carbone, he passed away. Of  
23 course, Jerry Saracino. He used to work in North  
24 Providence, and then he managed the plant in  
25 Greenville, South Carolina. I haven't talked with him,

1 in gosh, thirty years or more. George Hughes, he  
2 passed away. I'm trying to think of people who are  
3 still around. Jay Buonanno, I don't know what kind of  
4 information he had relative to manufacturing or  
5 anything like that. He was primarily in sales. Jimmy  
6 Shore, George Held, Walter Sullivan, they're all gone.  
7 There might be some people, and I just don't remember.  
8 Some people who are younger than I who might have  
9 worked there for a month, two months, a year, or six  
10 months. It's so long ago that I just don't recall the  
11 names. Maybe tonight when I wake up during the night  
12 I'll remember some names, but I don't recall any.

13           These are people that I've mentioned except  
14 for John Tacone. He didn't work there that long. He  
15 had just gotten out of school, and he was in between  
16 not knowing what he wanted to do. Johnny Joyal worked  
17 there a long time. The people that I know that worked  
18 there a long time, they're just not that many of them  
19 left, you know. As I say, these younger people might  
20 have gotten a job. I might have hired them to work  
21 during summer vacation. Maybe they were in between  
22 jobs or friends of some family that they wanted to get  
23 a kid a job. Something along that line, but I can't  
24 really recall any other names.

25 Q.   Turning to New England Container. Do you know who

1 owned that facility?

2 A. Bernie Buonanno. Then, I guess, he sold it to  
3 his son, Vinnie Buonanno.

4 Q. Were they actively involved with overseeing  
5 activities at the facility?

6 A. Vinnie was.

7 Q. Do you recall the names of anyone else who worked  
8 at New England Container?

9 A. John McCookie, but he's passed away. Earl  
10 Taylor, he's passed away. Angelo Carbone, he's passed  
11 away. I think Vinnie is the only one I still know  
12 that's alive, you know. I think his father is still  
13 living too, I'm not sure.

14 Q. Okay. Did either the chemical company or New  
15 England Container operate twenty-four hours a day?

16 A. The chemical company did.

17 Q. Was that during the entire time you worked there?

18 A. No, I'd say -- and this is speculating -- I'd  
19 say the first five years it was only a day operation.  
20 Two shifts.

21 Q. About how many people would be working at the  
22 chemical company in a shift?

23 A. Thirty-five. We're talking production people,  
24 not lab. Oh, yeah, there's another name, Enis. I  
25 forgot all about that name.

1 Q. Did the lab run twenty-four hours?

2 A. They would have somebody in the lab  
3 twenty-four hours, but at night it would be a skeleton  
4 crew. Just enough to check the quality.

5 Q. Okay. How many would be on a skeleton crew?

6 A. Two.

7 Q. How about during the day?

8 A. Five. Well, make it seven with some of the  
9 research people. I'm coming out with these  
10 spontaneously, but I could be off.

11 Q. Fair enough.

12 A. It's not written in stone.

13 Q. Fair enough. I know this was, let's see, as long  
14 as forty-eight years ago.

15 A. Pardon?

16 Q. As long as forty-eight years ago.

17 A. It can't be. I'm only forty-seven.

18 Q. About what year did the drum company stop  
19 operating at the North Providence facility?

20 A. I think it was 1977 when we left the North  
21 Providence facility. They were still operating. How  
22 much after that, I don't know. I know they were  
23 getting ready to relocate, but I really couldn't say.

24 Q. So they left after the chemical company left?

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. Just so I understand, did the company move to  
2 Dudley Street in '77?

3 A. Roughly, yeah. That's when they merged with  
4 Crown Chemical and became Crown Metro.

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. Then at that point or shortly thereafter USM  
7 Corporation bought Crown Metro.

8 Q. That was after the facility had moved to Dudley  
9 Street?

10 A. Yeah. See, it started as Atlantic Chemical  
11 Company. Then it went to Metro Atlantic. Then it went  
12 to Crown Metro. Then it went to Crown Metro Division  
13 of USM Corporation.

14 Q. Do you know what happened to the property after  
15 the chemical company and the drum company left?

16 A. I wasn't aware of anything. I mean, I wasn't  
17 involved in anything there, but I believe it was sold.  
18 Who bought it? It seems as a temporary thing it was  
19 purchased by Eddie Ritchie and Joe Buonanno. Then, it  
20 was sold to a real estate company. If I think hard  
21 enough, somebody who was involved with some kind of a  
22 HUD operation.

23 Who built it? I don't know. Actually, in  
24 reality, from the time we moved out I can't really say  
25 much about it. I don't live in North Providence. I

1 live in Providence. I really don't know that much. I  
2 do know that somebody was living in the office. I  
3 guess they were street people. For one reason or  
4 another the building caught fire. It was demolished.  
5 From then on, at that point, I don't even know who  
6 owned it. They pulled all the buildings down, and  
7 there were bulldozers and whatnot. What companies, I  
8 couldn't tell you.

9 Q. Do you know if the buildings were pulled down  
10 immediately after the fire?

11 A. I couldn't answer that either. I couldn't  
12 answer that either. I know it wasn't fifty years.

13 MS. GARYPIE: Okay. Why don't we take a  
14 couple of minutes break.

15 (Whereupon, a short recess was taken.)

16 Q. Just a few more questions. Do you recall what raw  
17 materials were used by the chemical company for the  
18 products that you mentioned? Why don't I take off the  
19 products. One was urea-formaldehyde?

20 A. Yeah. That was used for resin to manufacture  
21 resins.

22 Q. So was that a product or was that a raw material?

23 A. Those are raw materials.

24 Q. Okay. How about raw materials for the water  
25 repellants?

1 A. Silicone and water. Some acid, you know, to  
2 adjust the pH.

3 Q. How about the powdered soap?

4 A. Powdered soap, Atcosyne, A-T-C-O-S-Y-N-E. I  
5 even forgot that was a dried powder. It seems to me it  
6 was boric acid and powder. I really don't recall.

7 Q. And how about the metal stripper?

8 A. Nitrobenzene and sulphur trioxide.

9 Q. Those were the raw materials?

10 A. Raw materials.

11 Q. You may have already mentioned this, but the raw  
12 materials for the pesticide?

13 A. Hexachlorophene and perchloroethylene.

14 Q. Anything else?

15 A. That's about it, I think. Now, do you want  
16 other raw materials that we used in the plant?

17 Q. Sure.

18 A. Sulfuric acid, citric acid, tallow, methanol,  
19 and isopropyl. Did I say hydrochloric acid? Man, it  
20 seems as though that's a drop in the bucket compared to  
21 the raw materials we had. That's all I can recall  
22 right now. If someone would come up with a product  
23 then I could remember something that went into it, you  
24 know.

25 Q. Were PCBs ever used at the facility?

1 A. I don't believe so. What does PCB stand for?

2 Q. Polychlorinated biphenyl.

3 A. You know, we made a liquid soup, and we used  
4 phenol in it, P-H-E-N-O-L, and ethylene oxide. That  
5 came in a gas form, the ethylene oxide. See, by  
6 mentioning something you opened my mind to something  
7 else.

8 Q. Was formaldehyde used at the facility?

9 A. Yeah. Remember, I said urea-formaldehyde, the  
10 raw materials at the beginning?

11 Q. You're right.

12 A. Ethylene glycol.

13 Q. Do you know where the EPA would be able to locate  
14 records relating to the chemical company?

15 A. Well, not in Centredale. Not on Dudley  
16 Street. If anything, I would say in Greenville, North  
17 Carolina. Are you referring to maybe one of the owners  
18 that might have records?

19 Q. Anyone, really.

20 A. Well, the owner Hugh Bannino is gone. Joe  
21 Buonanno is gone. Henry Papini is gone. These were  
22 the three of Metro Atlantic as far as USM Corporation  
23 who might have, but they wouldn't have it prior to  
24 being down at Dudley Street. What we had done or  
25 didn't do in North Providence was before USM became

1 involved. In reality, it was before Crown became  
2 involved.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. You have the company name straight; right?  
5 Crown chemical was a competitor of ours, and they  
6 merged with Metro Atlantic. I think the merger took  
7 place because USM Corporation wanted to get into the  
8 chemical business. They wanted a fairly large chemical  
9 company so Crown merged with Metro Atlantic knowing  
10 that at some point in the near future they would be  
11 absorbed by USM Corporation. I think, because we were  
12 competitors, I think that's what was the driving force.

13 Q. Can you think of any other information that I  
14 haven't asked about that might be helpful in terms of  
15 learning about what substances might be on that  
16 property?

17 A. Well, one thing you had mentioned about, and  
18 you mentioned it a couple of times, about drums being  
19 buried there. To my knowledge, that was not the  
20 regular case. It's conceivable, I'm not sure. As I  
21 said, once I left there I wasn't that familiar with it.  
22 The only thing that I can see that's conceivable is if  
23 any drums were left there, and I can't understand why  
24 they would leave drums there, because it's money to  
25 them.

1           When the fire happened, there might have been  
2 some drums there. Whoever went in with the bulldozer  
3 and whatnot to pull it down might have buried these  
4 drums, if there were drums buried. That's the only way  
5 that I could see that any drums would be buried. It  
6 was not, to my knowledge, a standard practice. I can't  
7 see any reason why they would bury them.

8 Q.    Okay.

9           A.  It's just like you throwing a whole set of  
10 dishes away because one is broken.

11 Q.    Anything else that you can think of?

12        A.  No.

13           MS. GARYPIN:  Okay.  I think we're done.  
14 Thank you very much for your time.

15                   (Deposition concluded at 11:05 A.M.)

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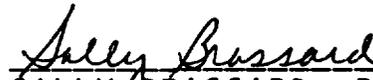
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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
PROVIDENCE, SC.

I do hereby certify that I am expressly approved as a person qualified and authorized to take depositions pursuant to the Rules of Civil Procedure of this Court, especially, but without restriction thereto, under Rule 30 (e) of said Rules; that the witness was first sworn by me; that the transcript contains a true record of the proceedings.

I further certify that neither the deponent nor any party requested a review of the transcript.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of September, 2000.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
SALLY BRASSARD, RPR  
SHORTHAND REPORTER

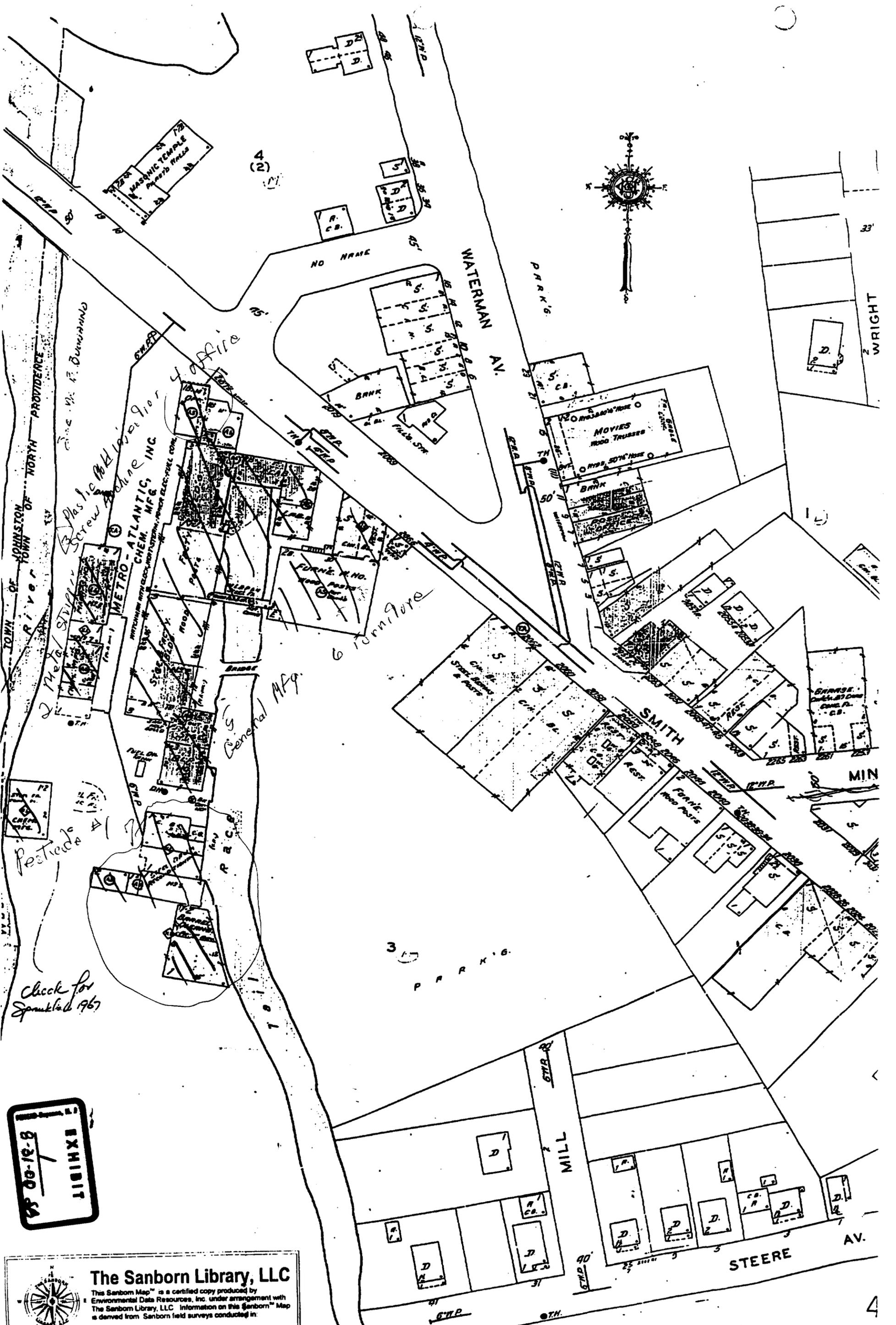


EXHIBIT  
10-18-8

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