

GRATIOT COUNTY

Chemist tells story of working at Velsicol

By Linda Gittleman*For the Morning Sun*

As a brand new Alma College graduate in 1974, Bruce McGlone remembers well his first week on the job at the then Michigan Chemical Co. in St. Louis.

He began work on a Monday and on Friday everyone was called to a meeting.

There it was announced that the cattle feed got mixed with the fire retardant, which introduced PBB into the food chain, subsequently creating one of the worst health related disasters in the country.

As he heard the news, he saw the other employees whose “jaws were on the floor.”

They were instructed not to say anything.

“The next day it was on the front page of the Detroit Free Press,” the now retired chemist said.

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