

LONGLAC PULP AND PAPER COMPANY LIMITED
Terrace Bay, Ontario.

August 23, 1955.

A MEMO FROM THE SAFETY SUPERVISOR (Reading time 2 minutes)

I have just come from an accident investigation. Fortunately.. very fortunately.....the victim was present. He had a big bandage on his chin covering a gash that required 14 stitches to close. His right hand was also bandaged.....But it didn't have any stitches in it.....The doctor had just been probing around looking for stray bits of glass.

I shudder to think of what the victim might have looked like if circumstances had been just a little different. He could have been looking.....or rather trying to look through eyes that had been blinded.....Or his jugular vein might have been punctured, or severed, by the same missile that caused the injuries he suffered. Fortunately.....very fortunately.....these things did not happen.

As with most accidents, this accident was caused! You can't blame anybody particularly (As a matter of fact, accident investigations are not held to fix blame, but rather to deal with causes and try to prevent the same kind of thing from happening again.) A form of horseplay was at the root of the mishap. Signals got crossed as a "coke" bottle was tossed from one fellow to another. A stairway handrail got in the way. The bottle shattered. Fortunately.....very fortunately.....good luck entered the picture..... It could so easily have been otherwise.

Let's take a good look at this business of horseplay. Under the label we're obliged to tag a lot of things including "just fooling around". Frankly, in any form it's bad business. Seldom does anyone set out to deliberately hurt someone else. But too often, mishaps get mixed up with horseplay. (There are numerous cases on record wherein indiscriminate use of an air hose has caused death. And lots of fellows have ended up with a strained back or broken limb that started with a bit of jostling.)

It's not a case of being a "sour puss".....not wanting people to have fun.....It's simply a matter of facing facts..... dealing with causes.....Horseplay doesn't pay.....in any form..... and particularly on the job!

Fortunately.....very fortunately.....we only have a doctor-care case on our hands. It might have been a serious lost-time injury with permanent loss of vision.....or worse. Let's not have such a thing happen again!

BEFORE YOU GET INVOLVED IN HORSEPLAY.....THINK! THEN DON'T!

F. O. Soughton,
Services & Safety Supervisor.