

ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENT
DEEPWATER PLANT

INTER-OFFICE
CORRESPONDENCE

PENNS GROVE, N. J.

August 8, 1932

Memorandum: Mr. A. E. Mittnacht

Confirming our conversation this morning regarding the case of the stolen can of ETHYL Fluid, I am giving you herewith the story as developed at this time.

Yesterday afternoon two children, one about six and one about three, found a can of ETHYL Fluid in an adjacent neighbor's yard. The younger one took a hammer and mail and commenced to drive it into the can. The fluid from the intact of the hammer splashed out and over him. The child in question, age three, is the sone of a Greek proprietor at Penns Grove.

After developing the details to substantiate the above story, and which I found to be true, I took this matter up with the Dye Works' Police and Medical Departments. This morning I went to Penns Grove and located the can which yet contained about 200 cc's of ETHYL Fluid. I also secured the cild's clothing which were quite well covered with ETHYL Fluid.

I found that the can was one of the new type series, B-1167, Our records show it to be one from our stock not yet having been shipped which naturally would be expected. This particular can was filled during May of this year. A count of our can stock reveals the fact that we are one short and bears out the evidence that it is one actually taken from this batch.

The adjacent property to the Greek restaurant is occupied by a man who now works at the Dye Works and had been previously occupied by another Dye Works' employee who had been discharged on account of certain dishonest practices. The Police Department is investigating this end in an effort to run down the party who took the can from our warehouse.

We are as careful as possible in the handling of these cans, but there are times particularly during the filling and during the packing when someone unobserved might get into the canning room and take a can away concealed in his overalls, and I believe under only these conditions could a can get away from us even though we try to prevent even these occasions.

Regarding the child, a Doctor Baker, one of the local Penns Grove physicians, immediately called the Dye Works yesterday afternoon to secure advise as to treatment for a child exposed to tetraethyl lead. This attending physician of the case verified the facts to me this morning. I have asked him to eliminate the usual medical ethics involved and to release the case to Doctor Deuel, the head doctor at the Dye Works, who is fully competent to deal with any lead poison case. He is going to take the child under observation in order that we are sure nothing serious will develop.

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CONFIDENTIAL

ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENT
DEEPWATER PLANT

OR
INTERFERENCE
CORRECTION

PENNS GROVE, N. J.

#2 Mr. A. E. Mittnacht

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While it is a fact that there was no negligence on our part with respect to proper storage of ETHYL Fluid cans, at the same time I feel that there is a moral responsibility and obligation to see this case through inasmuch as we have definitely proven that the child had a severe exposure to ETHYL Fluid, and accordingly, I have taken the responsibility of having the child provided for by adequate attention in order that no more harmful results might be occasioned than can be helped.

I have taken this matter up officially, of course, with Mr. Munson, Manager of the Dye Works, who authorized both the Medical and Police Departments to go into the situation fully for us..

I will advise you further details as they are developed, and in the meantime will appreciate whatever comments you may care to offer on this case.

As a matter of information, I am sending a copy of this letter to Dr. Kehoe in the event that he should wish to take any action.

Yours truly,

J. H. Schaefer

JHS:B

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