

March 26, 1938

Sankey Fuel and Transfer Company
Watertown, South Dakota

Attention: Mr. J. P. Sankey, Mgr.

Dear Mr. Sankey:-

A copy of your letter of March 3rd addressed to Mr. L. A. Snyder of the Champlin Refining Company has been referred to me as medical consultant of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation.

My associates and I have been studying the problems associated with the handling of leaded gasoline over a period of years, and it is quite fair to say that we have never found any evidence that gasoline containing tetraethyl lead is capable of producing any injury more than that associated with the effects of the gasoline itself. I have no doubt you are well aware of the fact that gasoline applied to the skin may produce burning and irritation, at least for brief periods of time, dependent upon the duration of contact and other conditions such as the presence of clothing etc. Sometimes, and particularly under soaked clothing, the skin may be so injured as to not heal promptly and it may become infected if it is not properly cared for. It seems probable from your letter that this is what occurred in your case, and if this is the situation, it seems probable that by this time it has cleared up to a very large degree, or perhaps altogether. These injuries sometimes require medical care, and in as much as you have consulted a doctor, I would expect that by this time your trouble is well under control. If this has not occurred, I should be very glad if you would write me telling me just what is your present condition. It would be still more useful if you would have your doctor write to me, describing your condition and letting me know what he has done for your treatment. I shall be glad to give him any advice or assistance which I can as based on our experience with this type of ailment. I can assure, however, that the type of contact with leaded gasoline which you describe in your letter, could not have resulted in lead absorption or in the production of lead poisoning. It has been quite well established both by experimental work and by the experience of the last thirteen years that lead poisoning

does not occur as a consequence of prolonged exposure to gasoline containing tetraethyl lead. As a matter of fact, Mr. Snyder was quite right in stating that none of the employees of his company had ever suffered lead poisoning as a result of handling loaded gasoline. Indeed there have been no cases of lead poisoning among the thousands of persons who come in contact with this product daily. Therefore you need not worry about any permanent injury to yourself, and it is highly improbable that the injury to your skin will be of any considerable importance. I realize that these skin injuries are a source of considerable nuisance, that they itch and that they are painful, but I feel quite certain that the condition can be cleared up without any significant or permanent damage. Therefore, please let me know, or let your doctor let me know what is your present condition.

Very truly yours,

RAH:is

Robert A. Schoe, M.D.

~~Mr. L. A. Snyder~~
Mr. L. A. Snyder
Champlin Ref. Co.