

KE 0022537

TANK CLEANING CORRESPONDENCE

August 22, 1941

Mr. William Newman
Ethyl Gasoline Corporation
Mutual Home Building
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Mr. Newman:

We are returning herewith the booklet and I am tabulating our several comments below as they came to use.

(1) The first question one asks is whether such book as this is desirable or necessary. I believe it is desirable in that it makes for easy explanation of tank cleaning practice and avoids the feeling on the part of the listener that he is being lectured to. One would also have to consider whether the cost of an illustrated booklet would justify differential in price over a book that is merely printed. If the cost is not prohibitive, certainly it is the best way of getting the material to the listener.

(2) There are several points very neatly brought out in the book, such as methods of keeping the manhole cleaned, methods of prevention of splashing of sludge, etc. It might be desirable to add several pages showing preferred methods of cleaning within the tanks, where sludge is wet and in instances where it is nearly dry. One might also illustrate the best method of removing sludge from seams and cracks.

(3) The section on pump cleaning should be a separate booklet if reference is to be made to it at all. Authority Men and others concerned with tank cleaning are not usually responsible for pump repair work. Consequently, it strikes us that this material is best omitted from this consideration.

(4) On the first sheet headed "Tank Cleaning" changing the position of items 1 and 2 and stating the purpose of the booklet first seems to us a more logical order.

(5) The order of pages 2 and 3 might be reversed or a new picture substituted for that on page 2. The picture

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on page 3 would be very good for an opening picture, since the one on page 2 shows the tank cleaning already well under way. On page 2 instead of a picture, it might be very interesting to have a graph showing the relative frequency of reasons for tank cleaning. This material could be obtained from Oscar Lewis' study last year and might suggest to some of the readers that tank cleanings are done more often than is necessary, as we know.

(6) The picture on page 4 is definitely bad and it strikes us that the explanation following it is unnecessarily long. I believe the whole thing could be boiled down into a few sentences, pointing out that what is safe in one case is not necessarily safe in the case of the other material. Very few people to whom you talk will be able to jump from per cent to parts per million to milligrams and keep relationships clear. It would be well to retain on that page the statement that you have on page 5, that no instruments are of aid in determining the existence of lead hazard.

(7) Somewhere in the booklet reference should be made to the American Petroleum Institute regulations or recommendations for tank cleaning and along with this reference statement should be made wherein our regulations or recommendations differ and are to be added to the others.

(8) The point in the second paragraph on page 18 is well taken. The matter of location is sufficiently important that the second paragraph might well be placed first.

(9) On page 44, rather than protect the truck from contamination by sludge by means of burlap or sacks, it would be better to clean the equipment before moving it. The picture on page 44, is an example of very bad practice, in that the face-piece and other equipment is lying in close proximity to what is apparently dirty hose. This photograph might be used as an example of such practice, while a more neat arrangement in the picture on page 45 with men in somewhat cleaner clothes, might be used as an example of good practice.

(10) On page 47, do you often find that it is necessary to use kerosene in cleaning air-line equipment? In our experience, water, especially from a high pressure hose has proved adequate for removing sludge.

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(11) We have no assurance that even sandblasting or chemical cleaning will make tanks that have contained leaded gasoline safe for use in drinking water service, and accordingly, the best statement to make in relation to this is that tanks that have contained leaded gasoline should not be used for storage of foodstuffs or drinking water. This statement may not prevent their being so used, but it certainly will not put us in the position of advising that any method of cleaning will make these tanks safe for use.

(12) The items on page 53 might be mentioned on the introductory page and then again at the conclusion.

I think this book in the main has been extremely well done and will be very much interested in keeping in touch with the progress of the work.

Very truly yours,

WM:vr

Willard Machle, M. D.

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