

R. T. Ball

ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

TULSA OFFICE
305 SOUTH KENOSHA AVENUE

TULSA, OKLAHOMA

October 6, 1931

Complaint

INTER-OFFICE
CORRESPONDENCE

Dr. R. A. Kehoe,

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter received from our representative in southern Louisiana.

Judging from this letter there is nothing for us to worry about, but, on the other hand, I felt you would want to have a record of this matter, in the event something does develop.

I will appreciate any suggestion you may care to make.

Yours very truly,

John S. Martin

JGM:EC
enc.

KE 0010774

Copy sent Dr. Leake
4-19-36

October 2nd, 31.

Mr. J. G. Martin,
Ethyl Gasoline Corp.
Tulsa, Okla.

Dear Mr. Martin.

In my contact today of the Bogalusa Oil Co., Bogalusa, La. Texaco 'obbers, the following brought to my attention by Mr. E. Cassidy of the Bogalusa

This company had used for about a year a horizontal tank about 10' by 18' for the storage of Ethyl gasoline. The tank had a two foot manhole at the top, and two two inch drain openings at the bottom. Early in April of this year the company wished to paint the inside of this tank. The tank was drained, washed out with fire hose using cold water, manhole opened, two bottom connections broken and let stand that way for about six weeks. At the end of that time the tank was again washed as the first time, and let stand open for two more days. In all the tank had been open for a little over six weeks and washed twice. Mr. Cassidy then entered the tank and there being no trace of gasoline fumes present considered it safe for painting.

[REDACTED], age 49, and a colored helper spent three hours one morning applying the first coat of paint, actually spending about one hour of that time in the tank. On the following morning [REDACTED] with a white helper applied the second coat of paint, spending about the same amount of time as for the first coat.

About three and a half months later [REDACTED] was stricken with Paralysis, taken to Hotel Dieu in New Orleans, where for a time he was not expected to live, but at present seems to be on the road to recovery. In the mean time Mrs. [REDACTED] without the knowledge of her husband, secured an Attorney, placed the case in his hands claiming that the condition of her husband was the result of lead poisoning contracted while painting the inside of the Ethyl gasoline storage tank referred to above. No suit has yet been filed pending the outcome of [REDACTED] condition.

KE 0010776

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No. 2, J. G. M.

I understand the Doctors treating the case have not definitely stated the cause of the stroke, that is they have not said it was or was not lead poisoning. At present a Dr. Anderson of New Orleans is observing the case, and it seems to be the one to decide if lead poisoning was or was not the cause of the paralytic condition. (I asked if the Anderson referred to was E. R. Anderson of the New Orleans Laboratory but was told it was not).

As a matter of further information, I understand this [redacted] suffered a similar stroke of paralysis about ten years ago, before being employed by the Bogalusa Oil Co. and at that time was not connected in any way with the handling of gasoline. I also understand that a brother, a Dr. [redacted] died at about the age of 50 years as a result of a paralytic stroke, and another brother had been a paralytic since infancy, besides that the father of Hall died of a similar condition.

Neither of the helpers employed on the job suffered any ill effects from painting the tank, however two different helpers were employed on the work.

Mr. Cassidy felt certain that [redacted] condition was not a result of the work in the tank, but a natural condition peculiar to his family. I refrained from making any comment other than suggesting that in the future before doing inside tank work, either Ethyl or plain, it might be a good idea to thoroughly steam out as well as wash the tank before entering it.

Yours very truly.

W. M. Munday

KE 0010777