

October 7, 1939

Mr. Wm. A. Loveland
54 Community Park
Hack's Point
Earleville P.O.
Maryland

Dear Mr. Loveland:--

Your letter of September 13th addressed to the E. I. duPont de Nemours and Company, Wilmington, Delaware, has been referred to me by Dr. Gehrman of the DuPont Company for the reason that I and my associates have, over a period of years, investigated any and all types of reported difficulties from the use of gasoline containing lead.

I regret very the misfortune which you describe in your letter. I would be quite unfair, however, if I did not tell you that in my opinion, as the result of years of experience, there is no good reason for attributing the development of carbuncles to the use of Ethyl Gasoline. Since 1923, and to a much greater extent since 1926, thousands of men have been engaged in the work which involved daily contact with Ethyl Gasoline at refineries, filling stations and garages. Among these thousands of people, there have been no evidences of injury from handling Ethyl Gasoline that have been in any way different from the consequences of handling ordinary gasoline. There have been no cases of lead poisoning and there has been no evidence of lead absorption. It seems quite clear, therefore, that there has been no danger to the handlers and users of gasoline from the introduction into it of small quantities of tetraethyl lead. As you probably know, when gasoline comes in contact with the skin frequently, it is irritating and it causes some drying out and cracking of the skin. Generally speaking, however, this does not result in serious injury, and it never produces injurious results of any consequence except on continued and repeated contacts. It seems quite certain, therefore, that the cessation of the carbuncles which you and your wife have had, had no relationship to your use or discontinuance of the use of leaded gasoline. I think, therefore, despite your misfortune, you need not feel that you made

a mistake in making use of gasoline of this type. As a matter of fact, boils and carbuncles may frequently arise without any apparent cause. Sometimes they are an indication of some serious disease process in other parts of the body, and sometimes, on the other hand, they come without warning and they quit coming without apparent cause.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.