

ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

CHRYSLER BUILDING
405 LEXINGTON AVENUE

SAFETY COMMITTEE

NEW YORK

June 23, 1938

O. B. LEWIS
CHAIRMAN

Dr. R. A. Kehoe
Kettering Laboratory of Applied Physiology
College of Medicine
Eden Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

We are quoting the following letter from Joe Costello concerning an alleged case of lead poisoning.

"This is in reply to your letter of June 17th which concerns a reported case of lead poisoning supposedly contracted by an employee of the Atlanta Branch of United Motors Service, from working on fuel pumps.

"When Mac McCoolley contacted this branch this morning, he obtained the following information. The employee concerned is [REDACTED], who at present resides at Omaha, Georgia. He was in the employ of United Motors Service until May 31st as a stock clerk, during which time he had occasion to handle fuel pumps which were shipped in for repair that sometimes had gasoline in the bowls. On May 31st, he was laid off, and at that time was having some difficulty with a rash on his hands which seemed to be aggravated by contact with gasoline. Prior to May 31st, he went on a leave of absence because of the difficulty which he was having with his hands; and since he was partially incapacitated, the fact that he was permanently laid off on May 31st has developed some complications in regard to both his Compensation Insurance and also his Group Insurance.

"The only knowledge that the local branch has of this case is that this employee wrote to them requesting that his Group Insurance be continued, notwithstanding the fact that he had been permanently laid off on May 31st. This request was forwarded to the Payroll Department in Detroit and they in turn turned it over to the Legal Department. There has been no mention of lead being responsible for this man's condition insofar as the local branch is concerned. They have no knowledge of any medical examination, other than that

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made by a representative of the Metropolitan Insurance Company. The insurance company, however, have not reported their findings to the branch.

"So far as we can tell, the local branch is in no way concerned with this man's plight, nor has there ever been any development which would bring our company into the case. Mr. McCookey questioned other men working in the branch who have been in contact with a great deal more gasoline than [REDACTED] and there have been no other cases of similar conditions developing. The town of Omaha, Georgia, where Mr. [REDACTED] is now residing, is about 300 miles from Atlanta, and for that reason, the people of the branch have not made any effort to get in touch with him. Moreover it is not our intention to do so unless we hear further from you."

There does not appear to be any lead poisoning involved in this case. However, some time ago you stated you would be interested in investigating the possible hazards in connection with repairing carburetors. This may be the type of case you had in mind and if you will forward us the necessary instructions, we will be glad to follow it through and obtain any samples you may require.

Very truly yours,

O. B. Lewis

SW:GCL

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