

May 24, 1938

Mr. J. D. Munger
Tide Water Associated Oil Company
17 Battery Place
New York

Dear Mr. Munger:-

Your letter of May 5th addressed to the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation concerning the case of Mr. [REDACTED] who is alleged to be suffering from boils caused by exposure to Tydol Ethyl Gasoline, has been referred to me for reply.

Over a period of years my associates and I have investigated cases of alleged injury among persons engaged in handling leaded gasoline and during that time we have been unable to find a single instance of illness or of damage to the skin attributable to the lead content of the gasoline. As a matter of fact we find no reason for believing that leaded gasoline differs materially in its effects from the gasoline base to which the Fluid has been added. You are doubtless fully aware of the fact that contact with gasoline under suitable circumstances may result in burns and may also result in dermatitis. Occasionally this dermatitis is of distressing proportions, so much so that susceptible persons may have to discontinue their exposure to gasoline for some time, or perhaps even indefinitely in order to be cured of their skin injury. We have studied carefully a few such cases and have found that they are sensitive to various materials in the gasoline. In no instance have we found any persons who reacted to the ingredients of Ethyl Fluid. As a matter of fact, Ethyl Fluid is less irritating in its concentrated form than is gasoline itself. It seems apparent that some of the material, especially the unsaturated compounds, which are produced by various cracking processes, are considerably more irritating to the skin than is straight run petroleum distillate.

It would be difficult at this distance to express an opinion as to the nature of the skin lesions in the case of Mr. [REDACTED]. However I should be pleased to give you the benefit of my opinion if you could obtain further information as to the onset, the appearance and the progress of Mr. [REDACTED] condition. It may well

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be that he has a gasoline dermatitis. On the other hand "boils" are likely to result from other causes, and it may be that there is no relation between his condition and his contact with gasoline. If it were possible to transmit some precise information from some physician who has seen Mr. [REDACTED], it would be much easier to express an opinion. In any case I shall be glad to do what I can toward the solution of this problem.

Very truly yours,

RAK:is

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.