

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY LABORATORY

A. Barton Hepburn Hospital

Ogdensburg, N.Y.

May 6th, 1936

Standard Oil of New York,
Division of
Socony-Vacuum Oil Company, Inc.,
Ogdensburg, New York

Attention: Mr. D. G. Scammell

Gentlemen:-

Enclosed is the report on the autopsy of [REDACTED] who died last August. The report has been delayed considerably because an analysis of his tissues required some time and even longer than usual as this laboratory has been in a process of organization and I have also been busy with several cases which came to court.

It is unusual for a person to have serious lead absorpition from handling ethyl gasoline, although slight absorption has been recorded. Of course, handling the pure tetra-ethyl there is easily serious absorption and this man may have handled this at some time. At any rate he has had considerable lead absorption as indicated by the lead in the tissues at this time, and by the fact that he had a typical lead line which was observed by all of the people who took care of him that I have inquired of.

I am enclosing a bill for my services and am sending a duplicate report to the Workmen's Compensation Board.

Very truly yours,

F. W. Porro, M. D.

Pathologist

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Report on Autopsy of [REDACTED], age 38 years who died on August 23, 1935. Autopsy was performed on same date. Employed by Standard Oil Co. of N.Y., Socony-Vacuum Oil division. Attending physician at death Dr. Garfield Claxton.

The body is that of a robust white male who appears to be about 35 years of age. The body has been partially embalmed. There are no external findings of importance. All of the teeth have been replaced by false teeth.

Upon opening the body cavities, the peritoneal surfaces were found to be smooth and the cavity to contain no free fluid. The pleural and pericardial cavities are also normal.

The heart weighs 400 gm. which is rather large, but not necessarily hypertrophy considering the size of this man. The epicardium is smooth and on sectioning the heart the myocardium is found to present no gross changes. The cavities are not dilated, the mitral tricuspid and pulmonary valves are normal. The aortic valves are irregularly stiffened from arteriosclerotic plaques which results from some deformity of the valve but this is not excessive being very much like that found in many very old people.

The coronary arteries are extremely sclerosed through out and in the circumflex branch of the left coronary artery is a recent reformed thrombosis. The other coronary arteries are extremely narrow from the sclerosis.

The lungs are both somewhat edematous with hypostatic congestion but present no other abnormal findings.

The liver weighs 1600 gm, and on sectioning shows no definite gross lesions.

The gall bladder and bile ducts are normal.

The spleen is normal in size and appearance weighing 25 gms.

The pancreas weighs 100 gms and shows no abnormalities except extreme sclerosis of the arteries about it.

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The gastro-intestinal tract is grossly normal.

The kidneys are both normal in size. On section show a normal architecture.

The pelvis and urethra and prostate are likewise normal.

The aorta and its branches everywhere show exceedingly extreme arteriosclerosis with great thickening of the intima and large calcified plaques. This is also present in the arteries supplying the arms and legs. There is no localized wrinkling of the arch of the aorta.

The microscopic sections are as follows: A section of the aorta shows the great thickening of intima with calcified plaques with atrophy of the underlying media. There is no evidence of any inflammatory process. A section through a coronary artery shows extreme sclerosis with thickening of the intima but no evidence of inflammatory reaction. The cardiac muscle adjacent shows no change.

A section of the kidney shows some irregular scarring but there is no extensive sclerosis of the smaller vessels. Chemical examination of the tissues show the presence of lead in the liver and kidney. A quantitated determination of the amount in the kidney resulted in finding of 4 mg. of lead per 100 gm. of kidney tissue.

The arteriosclerosis in this case is the most extreme this observer has seen and it is especially striking in a person under 40, as nothing approaching this is commonly seen at this age.

Lead is one of the known agents which can produce severe arteriosclerosis and since the cause of death in this case is the result of coronary sclerosis and since lead was found in the tissues in considerable amounts, lead poisoning would be the primary cause of death.

F. W. PORRO, M. D.

Pathologist

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