

RECORDING
LEG. DIVISION

August 1, 1941.

MR. RAYMOND LUKE,

Dear Ray,

I have had an opportunity to check over your report concerning the Wofford Oil Company and of the case concerning H. B. Coker of Demopolis, Alabama.

For your general information, I would like to advise you that on many occasions, individuals handling gasolines of all kinds will acquire illness either by absorption of fumes or by the effect of gasoline on skin tissue. These sicknesses, however, have nothing to do with the lead in the gasoline which you know is so small as to be negligible as far as danger is concerned.

There is no way in which we can assist the Wofford Oil Company in helping them in their case with the exception of referring them to the fact that the Surgeon General of the United States has approved the use of lead concentrations up to 3 cc per gallon in motor gasoline and this approval is obviously based on the fact that exhaustive tests indicated that such a degree of dilution of lead compounds could be considered harmless.

The knowledge and familiarity with lead compounds on the part of general practitioners on the whole is rather meager and therefore, it is rather possible that by accepting the description as supplied by their client, they may erroneously attach significance to the fact that the gasoline in question was Ethyl Gasoline. Even so, it does not infer that the lead in the gasoline has contributed to the man's sickness for his illness, due to inhalation of fumes, and the dermatitis on his legs and feet is quite common, as any gasoline men will know, to the gasoline itself.

Most individuals who have handled gasoline for some time, learn to respect it and avoid any inhalation of vapors. They also refrain from spilling gasoline on themselves or their clothing for the action of gasoline on skin tissue is aggravating and can turn out very seriously.

Under the circumstances, I do not believe that our Company would be interested in investigating this case. I make this statement mainly because the description is characteristic of the handling of gasoline, not of lead.

KE 0004583

August 1, 1941

page 2

have any reason to contact Mr. Lord further on this matter,
that you will be able to explain our position by presenting
high points of this letter.

It so happens that George Rosser may come over to Birmingham next
week and at that time, I would suggest that you discuss this subject
further with him and allow him to make the contact in this particular
case.

Very truly yours,

Alan C. Tully

ACT/F.L

Alan C. Tully.

enclosure.

KE 0004584

RHODES-HAVERTY BUILDING

J.A.COSTELLO
DIVISION MANAGER

July 30, 1941.

Dear Mr. Tully,

██████████ reported sick on May 1 and has not returned to work since that date. He has been examined by four doctors that I was able to obtain a record of; Drs. Marion T Davidson of Birmingham, W. T. Cocke of Demopolis, Julian Howell of Selma and Glaze of Birmingham.

I reproduce here a letter from the files of the Wofford Oil Co. written by Dr. W. T. Cocke of Demopolis--

Respectfully,

Mr. Lord told me that [REDACTED] had complained of this trouble the year previous claiming that he had spilled gasoline on his feet but apparently last years attack was not as severe .

KE 0004585

ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

ATLANTA OFFICE

RHODES-HAVERTY BUILDING

ATLANTA, GEORGIA

J.A.COSTELLO
DIVISION MANAGER

G.P.ROSSER
ASSISTANT DIVISION MANAGER

#2

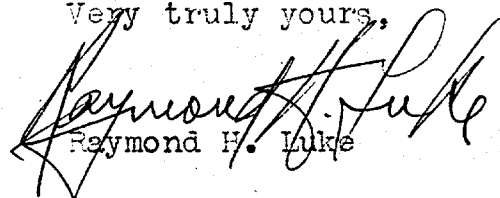
As the Zurich Ins. Co. has dis-allowed [REDACTED] claim Mr. Lord feels that suit might be entered against [REDACTED] the Insurance Co. and Wofford. He further stated that he ([REDACTED]) was "getting nasty" about this matter.

Mr. Lord was kind enough to show me the files on this case and stated that he had not mentioned it before as he hadn't realized that it might be interesting to our company. Should you desire any further information I am sure that Mr. Lord would be co-operative.

I made no comment on this case other than I would report it to my Atlanta division headquarters.

I am submitting this information for your further orders.

Very truly yours,


Raymond H. Luke

P. S. As [REDACTED] duties required the loading of tank trucks he was in a position to inhale gas fumes.

KE

0004586