

ETHYL GASOLINE CORPORATION

CHRYSLER BUILDING
405 LEXINGTON AVENUE

NEW YORK February 20, 1939

SAFETY DIVISION

ROBERT A. KEHOE, M. D.
CHAIRMAN

OSCAR B. LEWIS
MANAGER

RUSSELL SCHELL
ASSISTANT MANAGER

Dr. R. A. Kehoe

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

This will acknowledge copy of your letter of February 17th to Mr. McEldowney of Gulf Oil Corporation regarding an alleged case of lead poisoning to [REDACTED] delivery salesman.

We have today received additional information from Mr. McEldowney and are attaching copy of his letter of February 17th together with the enclosures mentioned therein, all of which you will find self-explanatory.

Very truly yours,

O. B. Lewis

gcl
Enclosure

VS 0010838

OIL CORPORATION
LF BUILDING

Pittsburgh, Pa.
February 17, 1939

Mr. O. B. Lewis
Ethyl Gasoline Corp.
Chrysler Bldg.
New York

RE: Alleged case of lead poisoning to delivery
salesman [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Since receipt of your letter of February 15th dealing with the above case, we received additional information from our Philadelphia office, enclosing an exchange of correspondence between our agent, Mr. Hills, at York, Pa., and Dr. Feldman of the same city. The additional information which we have received from our Philadelphia office is to the effect that on December 28th, [REDACTED] was reported off duty because of a stomach ailment as he was suffering from nausea. This, according to the first physician who was called, Dr. R. L. Feldmann, might be due to lead poisoning.

The background in this particular instance is that [REDACTED] wife was formerly a nurse at Pennsylvania Hospital in Philadelphia and when, after a short time, the local physician did not relieve [REDACTED] condition, she arranged to have him placed for observation in the Pennsylvania Hospital. As soon as we learned of the hospital physician's diagnosis, you were advised.

We, of course, have no idea how this individual could have acquired any lead poisoning, if such is an actual case, since his duties are similar to those of any other delivery salesman or one who works intermittently in the warehouse.

If there is any additional information that you would like in connection with this case, please let us know and we will arrange to secure it for you.

Very truly yours,
Gulf Oil Corporation

W. M. McEldowney

By L. R. Milne

KE 0010839

C O P Y

From Mr. Hills at York SSH/E
To Mr. Moore at Phila. 1-12-39
Subject- [REDACTED]
Delivery Salesman
York Bulk Plant

I refer to my report of 1-9, CPB, regarding the above Delivery Salesman.

I saw [REDACTED] Tuesday and his trip to Philadelphia was a farce. The examination he received was only superficial and he was told to come back Wednesday, 1-18, and prepare to stay for a week or so for a series of X-Rays, blood tests, etc. [REDACTED] is disgusted with the way Dr. Feldman has been handling him and I believe is going to get another doctor. [REDACTED] said he is positive his present trouble is due to the abdominal strain he suffered last fall. He said he has frequent pain in that region and he thinks there is something wrong there.

I hope [REDACTED] will get another doctor who can diagnose his trouble or at least have something done about it. Of course I was careful to make no specific recommendation to him.

S.S. HILLS (Sgd.)

KE 0010340

C O P Y

York, Pa. February 6, 1939.

[REDACTED]
Delivery Salesman

Dr. R.L. Feldman
c/o West Side Sanitarium
York, Pa.

Dear Dr. Feldman:

I tried to get you on the telephone several times recently without success.

Will you please write us giving us your opinion of the cause of [REDACTED] inability to work and prospects of his returning to work? He has now been off duty since December 28th and I have been unable to make any statement to our Philadelphia office as to the cause.

Mr. [REDACTED] told me several days ago that the University of Pennsylvania Hospital confirmed your diagnosis of lead poisoning. I wish to state that I cannot see how it is possible for any man to develop lead poisoning from working at our plant either as a warehouseman or a Delivery Salesman. The amount of Tetra-Ethyl lead in our No-Nox Ethyl Gasoline and our Good Gulf Gasoline is so small and the lead is not added here, but at the refinery, and it is my opinion that it would be humanly impossible for anyone to develop lead poisoning from it.

Thanking you for your reply, for which I enclose a stamped envelope, I am

Yours very truly,

GULF OIL CORPORATION,

S.S. HILLS (Sgd)

Agent

SSH/E

KE 0010341

C O P Y

WEST SIDE SANITARIUM
1253 W. Market St.
York, Pa.

Feb. 6, 1939

Mr. S.S. Hills,
Manager Gulf Refining Company,
Loucks Mill Road,
York, Pa.

Dear Mr. Hills:

Relative to [REDACTED] on January 31,
1939 The Department of Neurology of the
University of Pennsylvania Hospital, re-
porting that a "blood lead determination
showed values compatible with a diagnosis
of acute lead poisoning and well above
the values obtained in normal individuals."

They request that the patient be seen in
two months at the clinic.

I feel that the above excerpt is suffi-
ciently sufficient to clarify any question
previously raised relative to the diag-
nosis. The case was not a simple one
from the start and without this confirmation
the diagnosis would still be debateable.

At this time [REDACTED] shows considerable
improvement. Previous treatment is being
continued, as recommended by the Hospital
of the University of Pennsylvania.

If there are any further details desired,
I shall be glad to forward them.

Very truly yours, .

R.L. Feldmann, M.D. (Sgd.)

RLF/AMK

KS 0010842