

STANDARD
ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY

Detroit, Mich.

October 13, 1931

Dr. L. H. Winans
Ashland, Kentucky

Dear Sir:

Re: [REDACTED] vs Ashland Ref. Co.

[REDACTED] For your information I am attaching hereto a copy of statement made to me. I have the signed original in my file. I likewise attach a memorandum containing a few questions and some observations.

Dr. Salmon, Dr. Woods, Dr. Cooper and yourself have already examined this man and you report nothing wrong with him, physically. Nevertheless, he complains bitterly of various disabling ailments and upon the trial of the case I have no doubt at all but that he will produce medical evidence to show that he is totally disabled from something or other and that whatever disables him is due to inhalation of ethyl vapor. I am furnishing a copy of his statement, the memorandum and this letter to the Ashland Refining Company to be referred to Mr. Irwin for a checkup upon all the matters mentioned in Conley's statement. When these things have been gone over I intend to go up to the plant and take written statements from all concerned which will form the basis of testimony upon hearing the case.

I am asking your co-operation in following out the medical features of the case. In some way we should secure the co-operation and assistance of the Ethyl Gas Corporation. I am informed that Dr. Robt. A. Kehoe, Physiology Department of the University of Cincinnati has done considerable investigation of ^{ethyl} lead poisoning and has possibly published some articles. I would like very much to secure these, also the records of the examinations made of [REDACTED] by the Ethyl Gas Corporation would be very valuable.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) H. Van Antwerp, Jr.

C O P Y

Statement of [REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED] my present address is Kenton, Ky. R.F.D. #1, about 22 miles back of Covington. Independence, Ky. is located two miles away from where I live. I am staying with my father who rents a farm there and I have been there about one month. I am 25 years old, married and have a wife and two children and we all have been at my father's for the time mentioned. Previous to going to the farm, we lived at Paddle Creek, Catlettsburg, Ky. for about eight months and before that time we lived in a house belonging to Mart Runyon near the Ashland Refining Company plant.

I began to work for the Ashland Refining Company on or about September 17th, 1928. My work was blending gasoline and treating it with Ethyl lead. I worked at the same job practically all the time that I was with the Ashland Refining Company. H. L. Litz was my foreman and I received .45¢ an hour and worked enough hours to average \$140.00 a month. My work was all at night. I worked there until the latter part of August, 1931 when I was discharged by Fred Irwin, Supt. He did not give me any reason why he discharged me with the exception of what he told me yesterday morning, September 27th, that the reason he discharged me was on account of my health and that he had realized my health was failing me for the last year.

I first noticed something was wrong with my health about a year ago, at which time I thought something was wrong with my lungs. My breath came hard and I consulted Dr. J. T. Cottrell at Catlettsburg, Ky. He said I had very weak lungs and told H. L. Litz to not work me any more on night turn, that my lungs were not strong enough to stand night work. I was off about two weeks and went back to work and worked about two weeks, off another spell, about three weeks, went back to work and got about half time last winter and in place of Mr. H. L. Litz placing me on day turn, he kept me on night turn. The first year I was there I do not think I lost over three days out of twelve months. The second year I never lost any time at all, but in the last year about half time.

During the spells that I mentioned above, I was treated by Dr. Cottrell as my lungs were giving me trouble during that time. Since I was discharged in August I have done nothing. The report I have from the doctors is on the left lung is a 3 inch space that is dead, the lower part of my right lung is going dead. They claim the only thing that they can find would be from inhaling vapors off of gasoline containing Ethyl lead. My kidneys are giving me trouble which would be caused from Ethyl lead. Dr. Cottrell examined me about Sept. 16th and made an X-ray which he has at his office. He also has a picture which was made in Huntington. The X-ray showed that both lungs were infected very much. The picture showed that the left lung was dead and the right lung was dying, that is the lower part of the right lung and a space of three inches in the left lung.

I sent my spit to Louisville and had it analyzed. It came

KE 0017012

N20938.01

back with no T. B. In my right lung at times I cannot get my breath and my left lung has not bothered me anything at all. At night I have to sleep with about three pillows under my head and there is a pain just like a knife cutting in my right lung. I cough just an ordinary cough.

I can eat a lot for dinner but at breakfast and supper I can hardly eat a thing.

Our treating plant is a building about 10x12 just with a cover over it, no walls or ceiling. The washhouse building is right beside the treating plant, the sewer leading from the washhouse is connected with the sewer leading from the treating plant. It would be very easy for the vapors off of Ethyl lead to drift into the washhouse. I reported to the company Ethyl lead vapors were in the washhouse. Mr. Hugh Jenks laughed at me. I took Mr. Clay Callihan, Mr. Henry Bluebaum and Mr. Al Kingfield to the washhouse. I told them to go in and see if they could smell any peculiar odors. They walked in and walked back out and said that they would not take a bath in there at all. The washhouse is brick with a concrete top and has two windows in it. It is about 6x8 square and has six lockers in it where we keep out Ethyl treating clothes. The washhouse is used only for Ethyl treaters at the time they are treating Ethyl gasoline. Mr. Bluebaum and them stated there was a peculiar odor and they could not distinguish what it was.

About a week later two inspection men from the Ethyl corporation visited the plant, they also condemned the washhouse of Ethyl vapors being in and we went ahead and used the washhouse just the same as if there wasn't anything the matter. The reason we have six lockers, we have to keep clean clothes in a separate locker, our dirty clothes in one and our own individual clothing in another.

At the time I was there for the first six months I was on that job me and Walter Brakefield, me and him were buddies on night turn for about six months. No Ethyl is treated in the day, practically all of it treated at night. After that period of time in practically the last year I was the only one that treated Ethyl gasoline except when we could not get it treated at night and Mr. Hugh Jenks would treat it on day turn.

We pump gasoline and Ethyl lead into the tank at the same time, pumping about 1,000 barrels an hour of gasoline and 25 cu. cc of lead every three-fourths of an hour. We have to gage that tank to keep from getting too much gasoline in it. A treat just required 997 barrels of gasoline, over that amount of gasoline would make the treat come out wrong. In gaging this tank we have to raise the gage hatch about 14 in. in diameter. When we raise the gage hatch the pressure of vapors would be so strong it would blow a hat off your head. We would be sure to inhale some vapors. In the treating plant we used canister masks at the time we were handling Ethyl lead. As soon as we got the lead out of the drum we would not use the canister any longer. We would not use it in gaging tanks. My theory is that in haling the Ethyl vapors which escaped into the washhouse in which there was no ventilation and in which

we had to take a bath day after day, also in-haling the vapors from

RE 0017013

day to day and time to time produced the trouble which I now have with my lungs and also night work.

During the time that I was working at the treating plant, I never spilled any ethyl liquid. My idea is that just breathing air in which there was ethyl vapor day after day while at my work is what caused my trouble.
