

March 1, 1933

Mr. Frederick H. Rhee
Claims Division
The Travelers Insurance Company
30 South Broadway
Yonkers, N.Y.

Re: B-3040292
Alec Horsfall
ro
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Rhee:

Your letter of February 15th concerning Mr. [REDACTED] addressed to the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation has been referred to me for attention. Mr. [REDACTED] is at present under the care of Dr. D. W. Johnson to whom I have written today. Dr. Johnson is repudiated to be of the belief that a dermatitis from which Mr. Harding is suffering is the result of skin contact with Ethyl Gasoline. My associate, Dr. Machle, has recently carried out some experimental observations in which he has shown that certain specific substances which occur in gasoline in association with gum or gum forming materials, (presumably the result of "cracking" processes) are capable of producing a type of dermatitis which recurs during exposure to such gasoline. These conditions are somewhat difficult to treat as we found from experience with a number of such cases, and it is questionable as to whether a means will be developed for preventing recurrence under conditions of exposure. There is no reason to attribute these conditions to the ingredients of Ethyl Fluid which is introduced into Ethyl Gasoline. The increasing occurrence of skin irritation of this type since the advent of Ethyl Gasoline to the market is due, in our opinion, to the fact that "cracking" processes have been used only since the development of Ethyl Gasoline, and since Ethyl Gasoline is a premium fuel which frequently contains considerable amounts of cracked gasoline, it is natural that these injuries should result more frequently in association with Ethyl Gasoline rather than in relation to standard fuels many of which do not contain a fraction of cracked gasoline. However, it can be said with every assurance of accuracy that it is the gasoline base which is responsible for these injuries, and not Ethyl Fluid.

Very truly yours,

RAK:IS