

Mr. Bearden

Norfolk

RDE:ST

Mr. Moore (Personal)

Phila.

2-17-40

NORFOLK, VA. TERMINAL
Cleaning Tank No. 11

With reference to your letter of the 15th, under the above subject, I show below a report covering this, which I believe is complete in detail.

[REDACTED] - Our records agree with yours in that he was colored, age 32 and resided at 1001 Culpepper St., South Norfolk. He was married about 13 or 14 years ago, though his wife deserted him in 1930 and her whereabouts at present are unknown. He lived with his mother who claims that she was dependent on him for support, though the claim of support would be questionable since he has four brothers all working, also a married sister and they all contribute to the general support of the family. You will note from the attached report showing moneys paid by us to him that it would be impossible for him to contribute \$10.00 to \$15.00 a week towards his mother's support unless he had other income which I doubt very much. I should mention he has never been a regular employee, working only on the unloading of tankers and occasionally cleaning up about the plant.

He signed up on 1-1-40 for the unloading of the S. S. Sulftide, signing the usual mimeographed contract of employment we use for this purpose. On 1-2-40, he was loaned to the Construction Department for general laboring work with a change of rate shown on our payroll. This employee first went into #11 tank on the morning of the 30th of January with several others to handle the fire hose in washing down. He was also in the tank the following day and on 2-1-40 was in Wakefield with Schumacher and Blackwell cleaning their kerosene tank. He worked with the Construction Department crew on 2-2-40 and 2-5-40 at general labor and was laid off on the 5th. During this time, no one having contact with him noticed anything unusual or erratic.

On the afternoon of 2-10, some one called the office and stated that he was ill and he was advised to see Dr. Woods, which he did at 7:00 o'clock that evening. Dr. Woods treated him and sent him home and visited him the following morning at which time his condition had become so serious that he was sent to St. Vincents Hospital. This man died on the morning of 2-13-40.

[REDACTED] - Your records agree with ours in that [REDACTED] is 37 years of age, colored and resides at 945 Middlesex St., Berkley, Norfolk, Va. He is not married and the only possible dependent he could have would be his mother and our information shows that he contributes to her support though that is questionable since his mother has remarried and her husband is working. An older brother is living with his mother with three small children and it is possible that he might be contributing to the support of these children rather than his mother which might be beside the point should a claim be made.

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He was employed by us on 1-1-40 for the unloading of the S. S. Gulf-tide and loaned to the Construction Department on 1-2-40 for general labor work with a change of rate shown on our payroll. As in the case of Olds, this employee first went into #11 tank on the morning of the 30th of January with several others to handle the fire hose in washing down. He was also in the tank the following day. He remained in our employ until 2-8-40 finishing up work in the tank field and pump house when he was paid off. His actions and conduct subsequent to his being in #11 tank and during this period were normal until he reported to Dr. Woods at 10:30 a.m. 2-10-40 when he was treated and sent to St. Vincent's hospital. He is still in the hospital seriously ill and any prognosis will be uncertain for several days, though I understand he is this morning rational.

With reference to the facts surrounding the cleaning of Tank #11, the following is based on my questioning the construction group and personal observations made while they were doing this job. These show that Tank #11 was steamed from 4:00 p.m. 1-25-40 until 3:30 a.m. 1-29-40. This was opened for cooling and about 3:00 p.m. 1-29-40, F. W. Schumacher, properly equipped, with A. D. Blackwell handling the air pump, went into the tank for an inspection and to shovel out the sludge. He shoveled the sludge through the manhole while his crew consisting of [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted], all white, and [redacted] and [redacted], colored, were digging a pit approximately 60' from the tank for burying the sludge.

Late this same afternoon, this crew washed down the tank with the fire hose, pumping the residue into the pit that had been prepared. These men, I know from personal observation, were equipped with boots, raincoats and hats and were wearing leather-palmed, canvas work gloves. The sludge removed from the tank remained outside the manhole over night and was carried in shovels to the pit the following afternoon where it was covered over. These men were wearing approximately the same clothing they had had on the previous day.

Work in this connection and the necessary pipe changes were [redacted] 2-2-40, at which time the tank was closed and ready for service. [redacted] resigned on 2-2, Olds laid off 2-4, White, Williford and [redacted] kept for additional work and laid off the 8th.

With reference to the sixth paragraph of your letter, only [redacted] the gas mask while in the tank for cleaning the sludge, but no one wore masks for washing down, [redacted] having assumed probably that they were unnecessary after the steaming and his having removed the sludge.

In connection with your last paragraph, Mr. [redacted] notified me he was ready to clean #11 tank about 2-22-40 and I asked him if

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he had the proper equipment and knew that The Ethyl Corporation must be notified and he advised that he understood the procedure and would take care of it, though he apparently forgot as there is no record of their having been notified.

Messrs. Lewis and Cole and Dr. Machle of The Ethyl Corporation arrived on the 15th and nation. He found that [redacted] and [redacted] were in a satisfactory [redacted] and [redacted] were suffering [redacted] are re-covering. Dr. Machle states that to what extent lead has contributed to their condition will be established more completely after analysis of the various samples taken during the tests. He has advised in this connection that we employ the last three mentioned men about the terminal for at least a week so that we may note anything unusual or abnormal in their behavior.

I believe this covered the incident in detail, but if there are, however, any points which I have overlooked, I can dig them up if you will advise me. I understand Mr. Alverson of the Travelers Insurance Company has forwarded you a full report covering H. Olds and T. Jordan.

Dr. Machle has requested that I give him a copy of this letter to you and since they are as interested and concerned in this as The Gulf Corporation and have cooperated 100% with us on this, I assume that it will be satisfactory to do so unless you advise me by phone as early as possible Monday.



P. S. The viscera and brain of [redacted] I understand, has been sent to Richmond for some necessary tests, which will, we hope, determine the exact reason for his death. We expect a report concerning this some time during next week.



WIRE received from H. G. Southworth of Gulf Oil Corp., Pittsburgh, Pa. 2/14/40

Regret to advise death one temporary employee and serious illness of second temporary employee, both colored, at our Norfolk Virginia terminal Stop Travelers Insurance Company Panel physician Dr. Wood at Norfolk reports symptoms of lead poisoning in both cases Stop Work of cleaning No-Nox Ethyl tank completed February fifth and death reported yesterday Stop Will follow with additional information when received.

Excerpt from Jack Cole's weekly letter of April 22, 1939.

Mr. Whitmarsh of Gulf advised that all of their tank cleaning was handled by Mr. E. F. Moore, Asst. Division Mgr. in their Philadelphia office. Mr. Brooke Shehan the Agent of their Baltimore Terminal advised that in July 1937 they had both an Ethyl and a "Q" tank cleaned at this terminal. According to my records I have no record of ever receiving a notice on this and I do not believe it was supervised by anyone from this office. I believe it would be a good plan to have Jim Baldwin of the N.Y. Division contact Mr. Moore and see if they anticipate any cleaning in this division this year. In the Northern part of this division Gulf has 52 bulk plants.

Excerpt from Jack Cole's weekly letter of April 29, 1939.

Gulf Oil Corp., Norfolk Terminal, Norfolk, Va. - Mr. Beardon the Supt. of this terminal was contacted regarding their tank cleaning schedule. He advised that they had cleaned no tanks since we were last notified and at present anticipated no cleaning in the near future. He also advised that he had an ample supply of notification cards on hand and that we would be duly notified when same occurred.

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