

ETHYL CORPORATION

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

AIRMAIL

TO Dr. Robert A. Kehoe

ADDRESS Cincinnati

FROM S. M. Wagner - Chenault

ADDRESS Los Angeles

SUBJECT Mr. [REDACTED]

DATE March 8, 1946

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

Mr. [REDACTED], 938 Mulhall Street, El Monte, California, called us to say that he had been ill for some time and that his doctor claims that he has lead poisoning. The facts as we have gathered them are as follows.

Mr. [REDACTED] worked for the California Construction Company prior to October 20, 1945. While in the employ of the California Construction Company, he helped to replace the roofs on three 1000 bbl. tanks of the Socal Refining Company at Huntington Beach. One of the tanks was a leaded tank. This work was done on October 2.

Our records show that Socal cleaned Tank #42 on October 2, 1945. This was a leaded gasoline tank and the cleaning was done by Socal's own employees, and was observed by our Mr. W. O. Van Wyck. On September 25, 1945, Tank #41, also a leaded tank, was cleaned by Socal's employees and observed by me. All precautions were taken on these cleanings and the tanks were thoroughly cleaned. These tanks are bolted tanks, and to replace a roof consists of taking out the bolts and replacing similar type sheets.

Mr. [REDACTED] reports that after leaving California Construction Company on October 20, he felt sick and visited a doctor on November 8. It seems that he has been to see numerous doctors. The first examinations were for stomach trouble. Secondly he was examined for gall bladder trouble, and thirdly for kidney stone, apparently finding no kidney stone. During the series of contacts with various doctors he has had all of his teeth pulled and is now wearing plates, hoping that this would cure the trouble.

The last doctor he consulted, under whose care he was when he called us yesterday, was Dr. Elmer Dero at 728 East Azusa Road, El Monte, California, (Bud-long 8-6372.) Dr. Dero has told Mr. [REDACTED] that he has symptoms of lead poisoning. Apparently Mr. [REDACTED] has some knowledge of the symptoms of lead poisoning, having lived in the vicinity of the Eagle Pitch Lead Company in Missouri. Mr. [REDACTED] tells us that he now has stomach cramps that last from three to four hours and also that he has wrist drop.

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I talked with Dr. Dero by telephone, and he says that in his opinion Mr. [REDACTED] has lead poisoning. He has had a blood sample taken, which shows stiple cells. Since Mr. Flinn's teeth have all been removed and his gums have receded, he is unable to find a lead line on the gums. He has recommended to Mr. [REDACTED] that he have urine and feces samples analyzed. Mr. [REDACTED] told him that he did not have the money to do this. Dr. Dero reported to me that Mr. [REDACTED] shows a pallor color, amnesia and other symptoms of lead poisoning.

We have contacted the California Construction Company and have talked with their manager, Mr. Hall. Mr. [REDACTED] has been in touch with them and they have arranged with their insurance company, the Pacific Employers' Insurance Company, whose Los Angeles office is at 1033 South Hope Street, to investigate. Pacific's representative, Mr. Flick, is handling the case. Mr. Hall says that Pacific has arranged for their doctor to examine Mr. [REDACTED]

After we were able to reach Dr. Dero, we attempted to reach you or Dr. Schradin on the telephone Friday afternoon, but were unsuccessful. Since this case has extended over a considerable period of time, we are writing the report to you by airmail so that you may have it on Monday.

Will you please let us know if there is anything further that we should do.

Yours very truly,

A. H. Chenault

A. H. Chenault

C:w
C/C Mr. O. B. Lewis

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