

JUN 27 1974

From the desk of
E. V. JOHN

6/27/74

~~Mr. W. P. Papgeorge - BIND~~
Mr. P. S. Park - A3SA

FYI

E. V. John

The Knoxville News-Sentinel
KNOXVILLE, TENN.
D. 108,750 SUN. 162,255

JUN 8 1974

3 Deny Blame in Chemical Spill

Defendants in a Federal Court suit over the spilling of 1400 gallons of transformer oil off Highway 58 in Roane County March 5, 1973, have disclaimed any responsibility in the alleged damages.

The defendants are General Electric Co., New York; Monsanto (chemical) Co., Delaware and St. Louis, Mo.; and Moss Trucking Co., Charlotte, N.C.

It is charged by plaintiffs Edward and Elsie Humphreys, Roane Countians, that Moss truck driver Larry Pressley opened the valve on a transformer, letting the oil run out, polluting the earth and water at the site.

Monsanto's answer is that although it does manufacture the fluid, its responsibility ends with its sale to another party.

GE also denies responsibility for the spill.

Moss answers that its driver was faced with a sudden emergency, not of the company's creation and that his action — on instructions from a dispatcher — was reasonable under the circumstances and that the incident was unavoidable anyway.

There are other cases pending, brought by other residents of the area, and it is expected that the defendants will file similar answers to those complaints also.

DSW 325267

STLCOPCB4075447