

10067

Dr. Say
5-1759

G. S. Linn

January 8, 1937

Mr. J. C. Taylor,

Attention: Mr. O. B. Lewis

Dear Oscar:

We are attaching copy of a letter received from our Mr. Kinley regarding an alleged case of lead poisoning at St. James, Minnesota.

We have instructed our Mr. Crane to check into the matter as soon as he returns to Minnesota.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Boudreau

B:R

cc-Dr. R. A. Kehoe
Mr. B. G. Crane

KE 0011675

NO 422

LEWIS & CLARK HOTEL

Mandan, N. Dakota

December 30, 1936

Mr. J. E. Boudreau,

Dear Jim:

I wish to report for your information, and possible investigation, a story which I heard while on that series of jobber investigations last week in Southern Minnesota. It came to me from Mr. Devens, of the Devens Oil Company of St. James, Minnesota, and according to him, is known by all the farmers in that district and is not doing Ethyl any good.

The tale goes thus - a Mrs. [REDACTED] of St. James, had occasion to hold her finger over the gas line to keep the gas from running out while her husband cleaned some carburetor screens. A little later she peeled and ate some oranges - that evening she became violently ill with a complaint which two doctors diagnosed as lead poisoning, and it took her some six months to recover. The story has been repeated all over that district, and as a result, there is considerable fear of leaded gasoline in that vicinity.

Naturally, I pointed out to Mr. Devens the difficulty of diagnosing lead poisoning and the fact that very few doctors are qualified to detect its presence -- also the fact that if it were lead poisoning, there is practically no possibility whatsoever that it could have come from the highly diluted form in which it is present in gasoline -- but cannot say how thoroughly I convinced him.

Don't know if you care to investigate such a thing as this, but am merely forwarding the facts for your interpretation.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) M. A. Kinley

Copy- Mr. B. G. Crane

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