

ETHYL CORPORATION

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

AIR MAIL

TO Dr. L. P. Saunders

ADDRESS Cincinnati, Ohio.

FROM S. M. Wagner

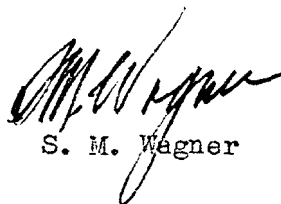
ADDRESS Los Angeles, Calif.

SUBJECT

DATE August 18, 1943

Attached hereto is a carbon copy of a report
I am sending to Harry Kaley in regard to the situation
at Stockton, California.

Yours very truly,



S. M. Wagner

KE 0021215

104524

AIR MAIL

Mr. H. W. Kaley

New York City

S. M. Wagner

Los Angeles

August 18, 1943

Last Friday afternoon Bill Sievert telephoned me concerning a Mexican who had been used as a laborer by Coast Oil Company for a tank cleaning at Stockton. Incidentally, the Coast Oil Company is a jobber. I am attaching, hereto, Mr. Sievert's report on the matter.

Supplementing Bill's report. As quickly as possible I telephoned to our Medical Department in Cincinnati talking with Dr. Saunders, who requested that we have the attending physician to the Mexican - a Dr. Goldberg - telephone him the following morning. Dr. Goldberg was out of town until Monday.

Believing that this situation should not be left to ride any longer than was necessary, I asked Mr. Sievert to get hold of Mr. Flodin, Superintendent for Coast Oil Company, and have him talk direct with Dr. Saunders. Mr. Flodin and Mr. Sievert were advised by Dr. Saunders to do nothing but keep track of the Mexican and report if he showed any symptoms of becoming ill again.

Yours very truly,

S. M. Wagner
S. M. Wagner

cc-Mr. C. B. Lewis

cc-Dr. L. P. Saunders.

KE 0021216

August 16, 1943

Memorandum on Report of Illness in Tank Cleaner

On Friday, August 13 Mr. [REDACTED] called from Los Angeles and reported that a Mexican laborer had become ill after cleaning leaded gasoline storage tanks and that the attending physician had made a diagnosis of "probable lead poisoning." The man was employed by the Coast Oil Co. at Stockton, California. Mr. Frank Flodin is in charge of the terminal.

Industrial History

The man whose illness is reported was one of five men who cleaned four 7500 bbl. tanks. The cleaning was started Saturday, August 9 and completed August 12. The work was observed by Mr. W. H. Sievert in its entirety the first two days and intermittently on the following days. Mr. Sievert states that all rules and regulations were carried out correctly and faithfully with the possible exception that after presumable thorough cleaning had been accomplished the last procedure of sweeping up remaining water and sludge with sawdust was done without masks.

History of Associate Workers

One man out of the remaining four became nauseated and vomited the fourth (?) day but had no known other symptoms and recovered rapidly. No symptoms were reported in the other three. No difference is known to have existed in execution of procedure, observance of rules or time spent on job in the five men.

KE 002121

N 2452402

History of Illness

It has not been possible to determine with any accuracy or completeness the symptomatology. Dr. Leopold Goldberg, the attending physician, stated that the man appeared to be drunken but that he convinced himself that the intoxication was not alcoholic. The man's foreman stated that there was marked insomnia. He did not believe there was any disorientation or mania. There were no pains or gastro-enteric symptoms reported.

Disposition

Mr. Wagner was requested to have Dr. Goldberg call in order that further information and possibly samples could be obtained.

On Saturday August 14 Mr. Sievert called and reported that Dr. Goldberg had left town and could not be reached. By this time the patient was feeling much better and expected to return to work August 16. Mr. Sievert was advised that the patient should be kept under observation and if any symptoms returned the laboratory should be informed at once. If recovery seemed to be complete and no symptoms returned, the case should be dropped.

Comment

Due to language difficulty the doctor did not know that the patient had cleaned a tank. He believed that the exposure had occurred in filling a tank. A blood count is said to have been done and that the result supported the diagnosis. The two contacts with Dr. Goldberg were at the office. The patient apparently remained ambulatory and

apparently was not advised to go to bed. The charge for the first office visit was \$17.50 and for the second \$8.00.

History of exposure as understood by the doctor would not support a diagnosis of lead intoxication.

An acute intoxication of this kind would in all probability show no blood changes particularly at the time of the observation.

Impression

The illness was probably due to the absorption of gasoline or lead vapors. The meager history as obtained would support either diagnosis. The apparent rapid recovery would tend to support a diagnosis of gasoline intoxication.

Lester W. Sanders, M.D.