

May 26, 1936

Mr. Wm. J. Leenhouts
Refinery Superintendent
Johnson Oil Refining Company
Cleveland, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Leenhouts:

Your letter of May 13th addressed to the attention of Mr. Ronan of the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation concerning the case of one of your employees, a Mr. [REDACTED] has been referred to me.

Before I take any action in the matter I should like to be sure that I know the status of the present situation. From the information given in your letter there seems no reason for any suspicion that lead absorption had anything to do with the illness of this man. I base this opinion on the fact that the handling of leaded gasoline has been shown not to result in lead absorption, and moreover, that no cases of lead poisoning have ever been seen in connection with exposure to gasoline. There is the additional fact that the onset of illness in Mr. Baize has no points of similarity to illness resulting from lead exposure, and I have no way of understanding just how any physician would believe an eruption on the face or an attack of unconsciousness would be suggestive of lead poisoning.

I take it from the description of Mr. [REDACTED] illness that he did not become unconscious as a result of an exposure to gasoline vapors. It would appear from your letter that his exposure to gasoline was not dangerous in the sense of being likely to produce unconsciousness from the absorption of gasoline vapor. For this reason it appears that there was not even anything unusual or significant about this man's gasoline exposure.

For all of these reasons I hesitate to authorize a special trip of investigation unless there are new circumstances which justify such a trip. My associate, Dr. Schradin, can make it a point in the course of a trip which he is making soon, to look into this matter

Mr. Wm. J.

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is necessary. Therefore I should appreciate a
by return mail, giving me any further information
may have developed so that I may know whether
there is immediate justification for an investigation
of the case.

Very truly yours,

RAK:ia

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

cc Mr. T. E. Roman
cc Mr. H. W. Kaley