

C O P Y

March 13, 1932.

J. E. Boudreau, Esq.,
Division Manager
Ethyl Gasoline Corp.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Jim:

I saw Mr. Cohn in Altoona relative to the poison case. He referred me to Mr. Hamilton, his manager in Clearfield. I found that there are two distinct cases, both employees of the Independent Oil Co., and both working under Mr. Hamilton.

I discussed both cases with Mr. Hamilton, and he assisted me in getting in touch with the doctors on these cases.

The first case is that of Mr. [REDACTED] who on Jan. 26, 1932 was very suddenly afflicted with paralysis of the right side. Mr. [REDACTED] is 34 years old, and has worked for the Independent Oil Co. for eight years as a truck driver.

The doctors in the case are as follows:

Dr. Coudrick-----	Clearfield, Pa.
Dr. W. D. Hall-----	Glen Campbell, Pa.
Dr. Myers-----	Johnstown, Pa.
Dr. Falconer-----	Clearfield, Pa.
Dr. Waterworth-----	Clearfield, Pa.

According to Mr. [REDACTED], he first went to Dr. Coudrick who suggested that it might be due to Ethyl poisoning. Mr. [REDACTED] was not satisfied with Dr. Coudrick, and after the second visit went to Dr. Hall. Dr. Hall's opinion was that it was lead poisoning no doubt caused by contact with Ethyl gasoline. However Dr. Hall sent him to Dr. Myers in Johnstown for further examination. Dr. Myers took blood tests, etc. and reported to Dr. Hall that it was lead poisoning. Mr. Murray is firmly convinced that this was caused by Ethyl Gasoline.

I called both Dr. Coudrick and Dr. Hall.

Dr. Coudrick said he did not have the case long enough to make any diagnosis, but he thought it was not lead poisoning as from his experience he had observed that lead poisoning comes on slowly whereas this came very suddenly.

Dr. Hall confirmed Mr. [REDACTED] account that his diagnosis was lead poisoning probably caused by Ethyl Gasoline, and he also quoted a report from Dr. Myers to the same effect.

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2. (Clearfield cases)

I learned from Mr. Hamilton that Drs. Falconer and Waterworth, considered the best doctors in Clearfield, made a thorough examination for the insurance company. I was unable to get in touch with either of them but Mr. Hamilton, at my request, got in touch with Dr. Falconer who finally agreed to tell him the diagnosis which he and the other doctor were going to report to the insurance company. As the report had not been sent in he asked Mr. Hamilton to say nothing about it until the written report had been sent in to the insurance company.

Dr. Falconer diagnosed it as paralysis caused by a blood clot on the brain. He found no traces of lead poisoning and could see no reason why that should be considered a cause of the condition. He believes this condition will slowly clear up but it will probably be a year or more before Mr. [REDACTED] will be able to do any heavy work.

In view of complications which might possibly arise out of this case, and as two doctors definitely stated that it was lead poisoning I would recommend that Mr. [REDACTED] be examined by one of our doctors in order to give the medical department actual data on the case at its worst. In this way Mr. Murrey will have no basis for claiming that he lost a year's work from lead poisoning caused by Ethyl Gasoline which was cured at his expense.

The second is the case of Mr. [REDACTED] who was afflicted last summer with a severe rash on both hands, both arms, forehead, and face. Mr. [REDACTED] is about thirty years old, and has been employed by the Independent Oil Co. for three years as a service station attendant.

The doctors in the case are as follows:

Dr. J. H. Woolridge-----Clearfield, Pa.

Dr. Frantz-----Clearfield, Pa.

According to Mr. [REDACTED] when the rash first appeared he consulted Dr. Woolridge and I believe that it was from him that Mr. [REDACTED] first got the idea that it might be caused by Ethyl Gasoline. Dr. Woolridge gave him an injection of some kind and told him to rub Ethyl Gasoline on the area affected by the injection to determine whether Ethyl Gasoline was actually the cause. [REDACTED] did not do this. Dr. Woolridge did also give him an ointment which cleared up the rash temporarily, but the rash returns unless he uses the ointment continually.

One day when Dr. Frantz was in the station getting gasoline he noticed the rash on [REDACTED] hand and advised him to keep away from Ethyl Gasoline and volunteered the opinion that it was a case of lead poisoning caused by Ethyl Gasoline. Mr. [REDACTED] has not at any time consulted Dr. Frantz professionally.

After Mr. [REDACTED] heard of [REDACTED] case he became much more worried and believes his trouble is due to lead poisoning caused by Ethyl Gasoline.

I called both Dr. Woolridge and Dr. Frantz.

Dr. Woolridge said he had found that [REDACTED] has a very sensitive skin which reacted unfavorably to an irritant in gasoline or oil or a mixture of both. He thought it possible that it might be the Ethyl fluid but as he has been unable to determine the exact irritant admitted that as far as he knew any gas or oil

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3. (Clearfield cases)

mixture might cause it. He said he had never seen any cases of lead poisoning from Ethyl Gasoline nor read of any, but he had heard of some from unauthentic sources. He said he had advised [REDACTED] to change his occupation to avoid this type of irritant.

Dr. Frantz was very anxious to make it clear that h [REDACTED] was not given in a professional capacity. He however confirmed Mr. [REDACTED] account of the conversation. He said it looked to him as if it mig [REDACTED] en caused by lead poisoning. He again insisted that it was a very superficial opinion, and that he had no actual data on the case.

I think it would be a good idea to have our doctor examine Hickson at the same time he examines Murray.

There is considerable interest in the town in these two cases and their causes.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Meredith Littlefield

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