

Mr. M.A.Taylor

New York

Mr. A.J.Baldwin

New York

Cape Fear Terminals
Alleged Lead Poisoning Case

July 6, 1948

Dear Matt:

Fritz Mercer reports from the tank cleaning job now in progress at the Cape Fear Terminal, Wilmington, North Carolina, that Curtis Nelson, one of the workmen, stated that he and [REDACTED] had slept in a tank on Fisher's Island, Miami. It seems that Tank Cleaners, Inc. were cleaning tanks for Belchor Oil Company on Fisher's Island. The white men returned to the mainland nights but the colored crew stayed on the island. The mosquitos were so bad that they abandoned the tents and slept in a tank.

The crew at Fisher's Island was split up and [REDACTED] was sent to Wilmington, N.C. Later Curtis Nelson and another man were sent up to Wilmington to continue the tank cleaning work there after [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were sent home to Jacksonville, Florida sick. Curtis Nelson continued work at Wilmington until the job was completed July 6th and apparently suffered no ill effects from the work or sleeping in the tank.

Fritz reported by telephone Friday to my home that L. Williams had talked with Joe Sova, foreman at Wilmington, that day. He told Sova to tell Fritz that he (Williams) was assuming full responsibility for the accident and events leading up to it.

Very truly yours,

A.J. Baldwin

A.J.Baldwin

AJB:gh
CC: L. SHANK (Airmail)
DR. R. A. KENOE
N.Y. SAFETY DEPT.
F.Y. MERCER

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