

September 20, 1941

Mr. St. John
Coleman Stove and Lamp Company
Wichita, Kansas

Dear Mr. St. John:

Our attention has recently been directed to the fact that your company is engaged in the development of a stove or burner designed for use with leaded gasoline. As medical consultants for the Ethyl Gasoline Corporation, we are naturally interested in any investigations of this type and are writing you to get such information as you feel free to impart concerning the nature and mechanical details of the stove.

Since Mr. Coleman's last communications with Dr. Kehoe and Dr. Edgar concerning the use of leaded gasoline in stoves, the Quartermaster Corps of the United States Army has developed a satisfactory filtering device for use with the Army field range. This device permits the use of gasoline that contains up to 3 c.c. of lead per gallon and is sufficiently complete in the removal of lead to avoid any stoppage of burners or deposits. Moreover, the degradation of lead in the generator tube and subsequent filtration is so complete after the stove is in operation that no hygienic hazard is created by its use.

Experimental work in which the potential hygienic hazard from the use of the stove was studied, has been carried out at the Army Medical School under the direction of Lieut. Colonel Gentzkow and here at the Kettering Laboratory. Information on the results of both of these sets of tests will be available to you or to the Navy, I am sure, upon request.

We would like to have one of the stoves when your development work is completed, and I presume it will be necessary for us to secure this through appropriate channels in the War Department or the Navy. I would appreciate, therefore, if you will advise us concerning the proper person, or persons, to get in touch with to obtain such a stove for study. Will you let us know at your earliest convenience.

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For your information, the Army field range that burns leaded gasoline is designated as M-1937. Details of construction and full operating instructions can, I believe, be obtained by you if you will address the Commanding Officer, Jeffersonville Quartermaster Depot, Jeffersonville, Indiana.

Very truly yours,

WM:vr

Willard Machle, M. D.