

(COPY)

2076 Lone Oak Avenue
Napa, California
March 11, 1949

Shell Oil Co., Inc.
San Francisco 6, Calif.

Research Dept. --

Dear Sirs:

Will you kindly tell me if in your opinion it would be possible for a person who has been a service station operator for a long period of time - 15-16 years - to suffer from a mild, chronic lead poisoning. I realize the symptoms of lead poisoning appear slowly and vary in different individuals. However, as in a service station operator, could it be likely to be the result of inhaling gasoline fumes? Would there be any characteristic symptoms?

Your serious consideration of this question would be greatly appreciated as my husband has complained of vague symptoms for the past 4-5 years, unexplainable dizziness, mental depression, tingling and numbness of hands and feet, suggesting poor circulation. The complaint has become increasingly severe - lasts for longer periods of time - 6-8 months now - spontaneous remissions last for only one or two months now.

He has been examined by so many doctors, internists, eye, ear, nose and throat, neurologist, allergist, spinal, skull plate, B.M.R., blood analysis. No one has found anything specific wrong. We're about to the end of our rope.

His doctor hasn't discarded the lead theory entirely, inasmuch as he was feeling pretty well until I repainted a room with lead paint and the symptoms reappeared. Perhaps only a coincidence. However, if the possibility of lead poisoning should be considered, I'd like to let my husband's doctor read your answer and your suggestions for de-leading a patient, inasmuch as a change of occupation is not economically desirable. The doctor has spent a great deal of time with the problem and admits he's baffled, so I know he would appreciate some help. A man can't know everything about all things, and industrial medicine is a special field.

Your answer and opinion will be greatly appreciated.

Very sincerely yours,

(Mrs.) Victor Horney

P. S. If you don't have time to go into this, perhaps you would suggest a book for reference?

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