

August 24, 1960

Mr. Ernest Sanders
147 Denny Avenue
Penns Grove, N. J.

Dear Mr. Sanders:

I am not sure that I can help you in the manner of your request, but I am glad to provide you with all the information at hand here, and to interpret it as it appears to me. I have not been able to put my hands on any correspondence that was exchanged between myself and Mr. Evans; it is entirely possible that there was none for I visited the Chamber's Works fairly frequently and the arrangement for your coming to Cincinnati may have been verbal. I have a copy - or at least a partial copy of your work record and, of course, I have the data which we obtained.

As I remember the situation, you and Mr. Combs were instructed to come to Cincinnati for observation at a time when I was seeking an opportunity to carry out some fairly extensive observations on men from the Deepwater plant (later known as the Chamber's Works). I don't know just what your status was from the aspect of the form of your leave of absence from the plant, but you had reached a point at which it seemed desirable to discontinue your work in the lead area, and this provided an opportunity for me to have you here for observation. You were not ill at the time of your coming, but you had had some complaints the character of which I do not remember in any detail. So far as I know - and I repeat that I have no knowledge of your precise employment status, since this was not within my province - you were on leave with pay (I say the latter for the reason that to the best of my knowledge we did not compensate you during your somewhat prolonged stay.

It would have been my view in practical terms that you were on leave, not because you were ill, but because it seemed advisable to keep you out of the lead area for a time, after which if all went well you would return to your normal work. This I believe is what occurred.

I would be glad to confer with any of your people in personnel concerning this situation, if they so desire. We are still looking for the records of the correspondence or other information transmitted in writing. At present I have only the analytical data (all such data are maintained carefully as a matter of record), while the other information, the medical notations of Dr. Henry Ryder (who is no longer on our staff) who examined you for me, seem to have disappeared. I am sure it is around somewhere, but the changes in staff over the years, and the re-arrangement of files and office records, make it difficult to trace at short notice.

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With respect to your ability to work, I am prepared to say that you worked at what we could find for you to do while you were here, and you certainly were not disabled. We did not, of course, have the kind of work that you were accustomed to do, but you were kept reasonably well employed so as not to have you sitting around in utter boredom. I am quite sure, from my recollection of your visit with us, that you were willing and able to do what we found for you to do as a laboratory helper.

I remember also, because of the significance of this somewhat unusual procedure of having you under observation, that while you were not ill when you came to us, you stated, along toward the end of your stay, that you had not felt so well for a long time. It was my belief, as it was Dr. Ryder's that your physical state had improved, and we attributed this improvement to the fact that you had achieved a very considerable reduction in the amount of lead which had been retained during your years of work in the lead area. This was not, in my view, a recovery from illness, but an improvement in health and well-being.

If I can be of further help, I shall be glad to do so, and if I find the remainder of our record of your stay I'll let you know. This, I think, would be only a proper expression of my personal appreciation of your willingness to co-operate with us in what must have been, for you, a long and somewhat tedious experience.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.

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