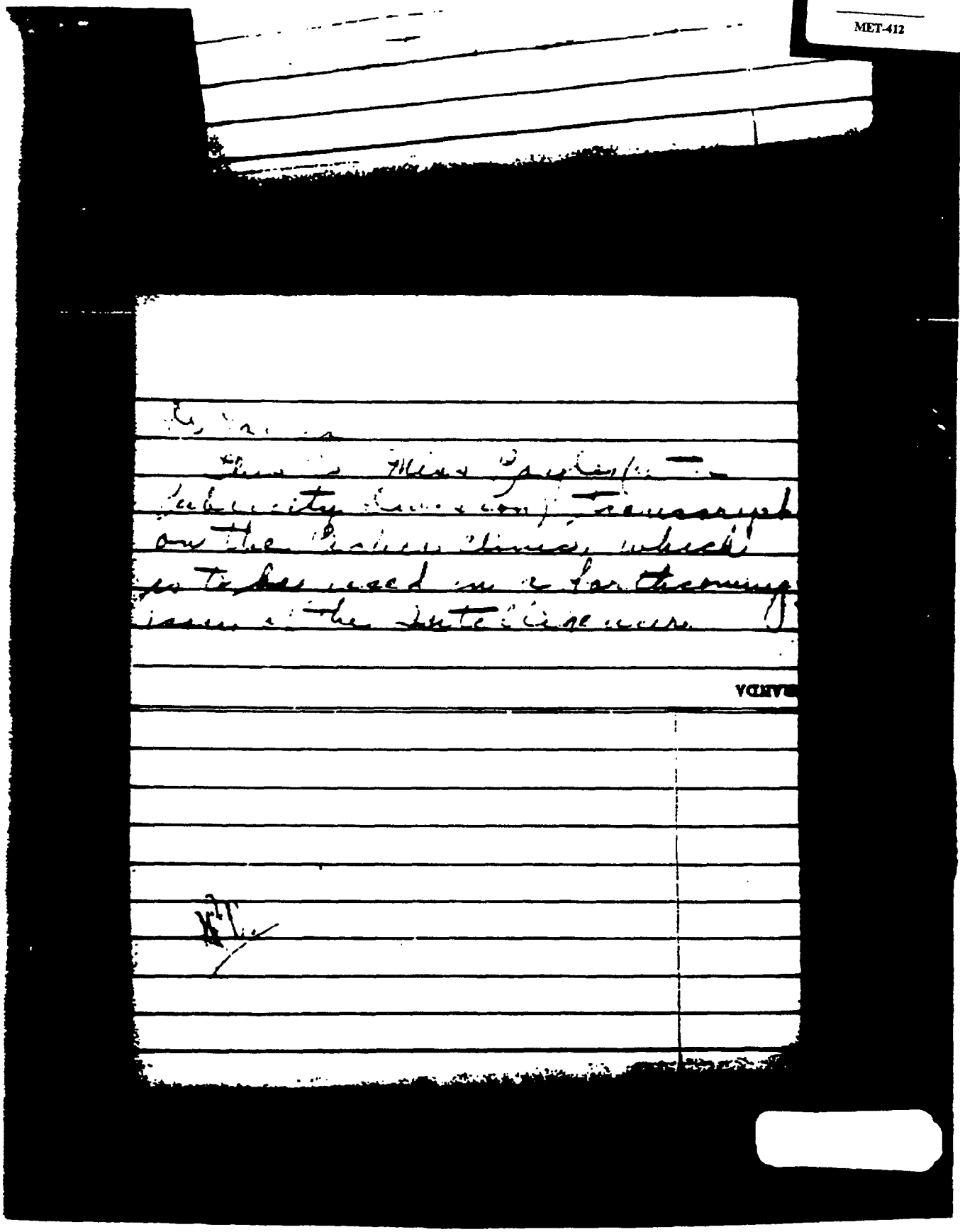
PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT

MET-412



Written by Miss Boyle
in October, 1927, to be used in
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One copy sent to Sayers and
kept there. Other returned to
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PICHER CLINIC

Go to any of the "hard rock" mines of the world, in Canada, Australia or the United States, the South African Rand or the "big hill" in Butte, Montana, and watch thousands of miners going to the mines where gallows frames and mine houses, skeleton-like structures, stand over well-like shafts; watch them enter the cages which drop hundreds, sometimes thousands of feet under ground, and follow them to the stopes and raises where they extract gold, lead, zinc or copper from the veins of ore that thread the earth.

Some of the miners walk slowly, hesitatingly, and once in a while, they stop for a rest. These are the men whose lungs have been "dusted". They have "miner's con", "silicosis" as the doctors call it, because of the silica in the dust. Some of these men too, have tuberculosis as well.

The miners work in a dusty atmosphere, for it is hard to ventilate underground, and hard rock dust arises from blasting, shoveling and boulder popping. Much of this dust is controlled by water, which is used in drilling and in wetting down muck piles.

Inhaling the tiny particles of silica dust injures the lungs, which, irritated, inflamed and injured by the hard rock dust, become fibroid. A scar-like tissue develops which has none of the normal elasticity of the lung. Breathing is impaired, and as the disease attacks both lungs, there is a gradual lowering of vital power. Shortness of breath, coughing, loss of weight and weakness cut into a man's capacity of work when "miner's con" or silicosis attacks him.

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tuberculosis. It is well known that men with dusted lungs are unusually susceptible to tuberculosis. When this happens, not only is the miner threatened with early death, or at least a more hopeless future, but he is a source of danger to others, his fellow-workers, his family and the community. This infection is a factor of prime importance to the health and hygiene of the community.

The hazards in hard rock mines are so great that when a worker wants insurance he pays extra for it: page 391 of the Metropolitan rate book tells the story — "Joplin, Mo. lead and zinc mines, sheet ground miners; special Class B; no disability, no double indemnity."

Several years ago the operators in this particular section, which centers around Picher, Okla., and extends up to Joplin, Mo. made a study of Group insurance. One clause appealed to them particularly, considering the conditions they faced in the mining industry in the Joplin sector. Group insurance could be bought without a medical examination, regardless of age. Many operators bought Group insurance, conscious of the fact that Group policies gave the miners a necessity which cost so much under ordinary circumstances they couldn't buy as much protection as they needed.

Another thing that appealed to the Joplin operators was the effective work the Metropolitan had done along lines of health and sanitation. Many of the operators bought Metropolitan Group insurance and about a year ago the Metropolitan initiated a special health service, a cooperative experiment similar in aim to other investigations made by the Company in Framingham and in the Thetford Mines.

About a year ago the Policyholders' Service Bureau learned

so the United States Bureau of Mines, the Metropolitan, and the operators in the Tri-State region combined forces and enlarged the existing clinic. As many of the operating mines in the lead and zinc field which centers around Picher, Okla., extending up to Joplin, Mo., and Baxter Springs, Kan., are covered by Group policies, the Company was vitally interested in a community health problem which definitely affected the mortality and morbidity of its Groups.

A memorandum which embodied the suggestion for a cooperative experiment reached the President. "Would the Metropolitan be willing to contribute an annual sum for a clinic in the Picher mining region to study silicosis, its effects and to formulate remedial measures?"

"Yes," was the laconic reply and the Metropolitan agreed to contribute an annual appropriation of $8,000, provided the United States Bureau of Mines contributed $8,000 and the local operators, $16,000.

The clinic was financed for a period of three years. It offers free medical examination to all the miners in the district. Its general purpose is to examine miners and diagnose their cases, and to carry on educational work tending to eliminate silicosis and tuberculosis.

The building which houses the clinic was built by the mine owners and Dr. F. V. Meriwether of the United States Public Health Service, assisted by a staff of Government physicians are conducting it. On some days they examine eighty men and they expect to examine fourteen thousand before their work is through. Two clerks interrogate the miners and fill in the information on an examination card. The miners go to the X-ray room where there chests are X-rayed by one of the best machines purchasable, operated by a skilled technician. Late in the afternoon Dr. Meriwether holds a conference with the other physicians, the X-ray films taken

the day before are put on view and are read in conjunction with the man's history clinical findings, and a final diagnosis determined. Each physician has a specia field of interest in the investigations and is gathering data for his particular branch of research.

Dr. A. J. Lanza, who was largely responsible for bringing the Metropolitan, the operators and the United States Bureau of Mines together in establishing the Picher Clinic, says that the cooperation of the operators and miners augers well for the investigation. "The miners and their families are practically all of American stock. They are intelligent, independent and industrious. They are effisient and individually take out more rock than any other miners in the country. Many of them prosper and it is a common saying in southwestern Missouri that every miner is a prospective operator. The wages are good.

"It is to the interest of the miners, of the operators and the Metropolitan, incidentally, since the Company has Group insurance on most of the miners in the region, to have a high degree of sanitation and good health in the region.

"Lack of funds have prevented making investigations of silicosis comparable to those carried on already, but the establishment of the clinic will result in a thorough inquiry into silicosis and its relation to tuberculosis. When the silicosis patient becomes tuberculous, then is the time to watch the case, to see that the people at home and at work do not become infected.

"The Director of the United States Bureau of Mines has given permission to distribute a leaflet among the visitors to the clinic which describes briefly and clearly silicosis and tuberculosis, their nature and prevention. It

recommends a physical examination every six months for men working in rock dust, examinations to be given free by government doctors of the health clinic.

"As no harm can come from a man having true knowledge of his state of health, the miners welcome the chance to avoid long and serious illness and hardship. Because the clinic has been in operation a short time, its results cannot be predicted at present but government officials believe that in scope and thoroughness it will stand out as one of the most important contributions to industrial hygiene."