

July 14, 1958

Dr. S. I. Gleason
Director of Research & Development
Wynn Oil Company
1151 West Fifth Street
Azusa, California

Dear Doctor Gleason:

I appreciate your generous letter of July 11, and I should like to comply with the request in its last paragraph. Unfortunately the reprints, of which I sent you copies, are in short supply, and I find it necessary to exercise care in their distribution, lest they become exhausted soon. I recommend to you, since these articles were published in journals that can be found in good medical libraries; that you cite them as references for consultation in such libraries, where it is possible to do so, and that, otherwise, you refer the inquirer to us directly.

I trust that my suggestions will serve your purpose.

Cordially yours,

Robert A. Kehoe, M.D.

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*Wynn Oil Company*1151 WEST FIFTH STREET
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RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

July 11, 1958

Robert A. Kehoe, M. D.
University of Cincinnati
College of Medicine - Eden Avenue
Cincinnati 19, Ohio

Dear Dr. Kehoe:

I am extremely grateful to you for your excellent letter of June 30. As you will note, I am not an M.D. but I have always been very much interested in the toxicity problems which arise in the manufacturing and processing industries. Please let me state that I am the Safety Engineer for our Company and that as such I am probably wholeheartedly disliked because of my strict application of what I consider good and safe operating and working practices.

For whatever technical value it may have, I am happy to advise you that during my six years with this Company, despite the fact that we use and handle organic lead soaps, both in their pure form and in varying concentrations during our manufacturing processes, we have never encountered a single case of autointoxication or toxicity on the part of any of our workmen. We, of course, impose rigid practices and because of my previous association with the mining industry in California, particularly the lead carbonate mining activities, I have always imposed very strict rules regarding personal hygiene on the part of our men. Like yourself I have always been convinced that the ingestion of lead is usually due to carelessness and lack of personal sanitation on the part of the workmen, particularly in connection with the consumption of food and water and the use of cigarettes and tobacco.

You can believe me that convincing the miners in a mine that the use of a proper respirator and the use of water through the core drills is absolutely necessary to their good health and welfare.

Returning to our own plant, we also wish to advise you that through collaborative efforts of some of our major vendors we have conducted some very credible research and testing in and around our own plant to determine both the chlorinated hydrocarbon levels and the volatile lead levels. The results of our testing satisfied us that danger of toxicity developing from these sources was practically non-existent and negligible.

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We wish to also thank you for the splendid publications which you included and advise that we have read them with a great amount of interest. We are certainly gratified to find that your own, and your collaborator's, work and activities go a long way toward substantiating our own opinions, ideas and experience on the subject of lead toxicity.

Quite frequently we are contacted by the industrial hygiene division of some major manufacturing company who becomes interested in our Wynn's Friction Proofing products requesting from us information regarding the possible accumulation of lead poisoning through the use of our products. Usually this question is aimed at the absorption of petroleum hydrocarbon soluble organic lead salts. Naturally, without going into too much compositional detail regarding our products, we attempt to allay any apprehension on the part of these people concerning this subject.

I am certainly inclined to agree with you, based upon the information and literature which you have supplied that the possibility of accumulation of sufficient lead in the system by absorption through the skin is inconsequential and negligible.

In closing we have a request to make and do hope that you will be able to accommodate us, namely the acquisition of additional copies of the three publications which you supplied us. We would like very much to have perhaps ten of each of these publications. In the event that we receive an inquiry from someone who is responsible for the health and welfare of many workmen, we could send these publications to them and I am sure that their questions would all be answered therein. As an alternate if you do not care to furnish us with these publications would it be permissible for us to suggest to interested parties that they communicate directly with your Division and request that these publications be sent to them?

Again please accept our deepest gratitude for your kind assistance.

Cordially yours,



S. I. Gleason, Ph. D.

Director of Research & Development

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