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LEWIS-GALE HOSPITAL

ROANOKE 11, VIRGINIA

FEBRUARY 27, 1952

DR. W. R. WHITMAN
CHIEF SURGEON
NORFOLK & WESTERN RAILWAY
ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

DEAR DR. WHITMAN:

RE: ANCEL WHEELER

YOU REFERRED TO ME FOR FURTHER STUDY TWO GROUPS OF FILMS OF THE ABOVE INDIVIDUAL. THE FIRST GROUP, DATED APRIL 16, 1951, AND MADE BY DRs. MAHRER, KRAUSE & LUBERT OF CLEVELAND, CONSIST OF STEREOSCOPIC PA AND A LATERAL FILM. THE SECOND GROUP IS DATED SEPTEMBER 28, 1951, AND MADE AT THE GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL IN CINCINNATI. THESE CONSIST OF STEREOSCOPIC PA AND LATERAL AND GRID FILMS OF THE CHEST. IN COMPARING THE TWO GROUPS OF FILMS, I FEEL CERTAIN THAT NO MISTAKE IN THEIR IDENTITY COULD HAVE BEEN MADE AS THEY ARE SIMILAR IN ALL RESPECTS.

ALL OF THEM SHOW A MODERATE DEGREE OF PLEURAL REACTION OVER THE LOWER LOBE OF THE RIGHT LUNG WHICH EXTENDS INTO THE COSTOPHRENIC SULCUS, AND ON THE LATERAL FILMS, THERE IS SEEN SLIGHT THICKENING OF THE INTERLOBAR FISSURES ON THE RIGHT. THERE IS A MILD "GROUND-GLASS" APPEARANCE OVER THE LOWER RIGHT LUNG FIELD, AND I BELIEVE SOME INTERSTITIAL FIBROSIS IN BOTH LOWER LUNG FIELDS, MORE PRONOUNCED ON THE RIGHT. THESE CHANGES ARE COMPATIBLE WITH ASBESTOSIS WHICH, IN VIEW OF THE PLEURAL REACTION, WOULD FALL INTO THE CLASSIFICATION OF MODERATELY ADVANCED. THE EXTREME OBESITY OF THIS INDIVIDUAL MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE TO OBTAIN FILMS OF THE BEST TECHNICAL QUALITY, AND THIS FACTOR MAKES THE FILMS MORE DIFFICULT TO INTERPRET.

ON ALL OF THE FILMS, THE HEART SHADOW IS QUITE LARGE BUT HAS NOT CHANGED IN SIZE OR CONFIGURATION BETWEEN APRIL AND SEPTEMBER, 1951. THIS APPARENT INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE CARDIAC SILHOUETTE IS PROBABLY DUE TO THE PATIENT'S OBESITY RATHER THAN ACTUAL CARDIAC HYPERTROPHY.

DR. J. RUSH SHULL OF CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, HAS A WIDE EXPERIENCE IN THE DIAGNOSIS OF ASBESTOSIS AND IT WOULD BE VALUABLE TO HAVE HIS OPINION OF THESE FILMS.

KINDEST REGARDS.

SINCERELY,

Allen Barker
ALLEN BARKER, M.D.