

June 5, 1931

Mr. A. E. Mittnacht.

Dear Mr. Mittnacht:

I have your letter of June 2 concerning an alledged case of lead poisoning from the exhaust of a lawn mower near Boston. Following your telephone conversation, I talked with Dr. Jenkins over the telephone and found that he had rather fixed opinions on the subject. The case was of course a rather bizarre one, and as tactfully as I could I stated my position in the matter based on our evidence. Dr. Schradin left that night, interviewed Dr. Jenkins, and saw the patient. I am enclosing herewith a copy of his report made to me, in which it is quite clear that whatever sickness the man may have had was in no way related to lead absorption. His illness was not characteristic of lead, his exposure in my opinion was negligible, and the speed of his recovery makes it quite certain that lead had nothing to do with his illness. I believe that Dr. Schradin's discussion with Dr. Jenkins convinced Dr. Jenkins that the facts as I have stated them above are correct. As a consequence, I do not believe there will be any difficulty in this case, though I have no doubt that the spread of the information in the town will have some influence upon the immediate sales of Ethyl Gasoline.

If there is any further action which you wish me to take in the matter, or if you wish me to provide the Gulf people with a copy of this report, I shall be pleased to do so. However, I regard the case as a finished one, and unless I receive further advice from you will not take any further action.

Very truly yours,

RAK:EJ

Re:

Toppsfield, Mass.

May 30, 1931

Seen at home May 30, 1931, where he is employed by Major Patton of U. S. Army as assistant foreman of country home.

On May 18 patient mowed a large lawn with a power mower using Gulf No-Nox Ethyl for fuel. He began about ten o'clock in morning and mowed for approximately a total of six hours. At noon however, after about two hours work, he began to feel badly. Had a headache and was nauseated. He continued working after eating and that evening had a headache and severe pain in his lower left chest and epigastrium. He was nauseated and vomited some thick mucous. He vomited again once or twice in next two days - a total of four or five times. No diarrhoea or pain in lower abdomen. Had no desire for food. He continued to grow worse during next two days and early on morning May 21st he called Dr. Jenkins for pain in chest and abdomen. His temperature then was 99+ and it gradually rose to 103° in the next two days, after which it gradually subsided to normal during next two days and has remained so. With subsiding temperature patient has likewise improved. From the onset patient has noticed his vision is affected but it also is about back to normal. At no time has he had a diarrhoea. Headache mostly at onset. Nauseated. No cerebral disturbance excepting vision. No anaesthesia, numbness, or paralysis of any extremities. The pain at first was sharp and stab-like, mostly in upper epigastrium and lower left chest. Some pain left shoulder. No cough at any time. Deep breathing very painful. Genito-urinary tract normal. Tongue heavily coated. Patient states he became very hot and perspired profusely while working. Did not have a chill at any time.

In the past has been healthy excepting occasional colds. Only history of importance is fact that he once had a sun-stroke when young and since that time is very susceptible to direct rays of sun which cause headache, dizziness and weakness. Last summer was last time he experienced any effect from sun.

He has used same mower in same work for past four seasons using Gulf No-Nox without ill effect.

Leslie J. Schradin, M. D.