

F R INTER-COMPANY CORRESP NDENCE

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CARBIDE AND CARBON CHEMICALS CORPORATION

P. O. BOX 471, TEXAS CITY, TEXAS

To (Name) Dr. A. G. Kammer
Company South Charleston Plant
Location

Date November 21, 1949

Originating Dept.

Answering letter date

Copy to

Subject History - Robert E. Saunders

Dear Dolph:

Enclosed you will find a case history on Robert E. Saunders. Most of this history has been elicited now that the events have run their course. I was not aware of the symptom of repeated diarrhea which actually was not mentioned to me until August of this year. Frankly, I'm not sure that this case history has any significant whatsoever. The evidence mentioned may be coincidental. I pass it along merely as food for thought and with the idea perhaps that this may be of significance but we are missing the boat.

Very truly yours,

Carl.

CUD, M.D.
as

Dr. Kammer -

*Only one copy of this report came in.
I have not sent one to Dr. Hale.
eh*

RECEIVED

NOV 23 1949

A. G. KAMMER, M. D.

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HISTORY ROBERT E. SAUNDERS - Medical #1493 - Operator at Gas Separation.- Age 23.

This man reported to work at Carbide December 31, 1947. He was hired for operation activities in the Vinylite Area but was started at operating training in the Butanol unit. About the middle of June, 1948, he was transferred to his regular job in the Vinyl Chloride Stripping Unit. Within initial six months period this man gained weight from 168 lbs. to 192 lbs. inspite of employment on shift work. About two months after starting to work in the Vinyl Chloride unit he began to have episodes of diarrhea and about one week later he was admitted to the hospital for an appendectomy.

Symptoms of diarrhea persisted following the appendectomy and on September 20, he was allowed to return to work without having mentioned the existence of the loose stools.

*chronic colitis
would have
resulted this
early. (R. R. R.)
Also, the same
could have resulted
from chlorinated
hydrocarbon
plus alcohol
affect*

On October 6, the employee attended a fire squad dinner and consumed about twelve bottles of beer during the course of the evening. Early in the morning he awoke with severe diarrhea and repeated spells of emesis and was admitted to the hospital for observation on October 7, 1948. During his hospital stay he ran a fever between 104° and 106° for the first ten days. There was no jaundice, liver was slightly enlarged, and odorless liquid stools occurred at fifteen minute intervals day and night for the first three days. Bacteriological studies of the stools were negative for pathogenic studies including Amoebae. On October 28, he was discharged from the hospital with a diagnosis of liver abscess. In my opinion this is an unproved diagnosis. Following his discharge from the hospital and return to work, he continued to have abnormal stools in the form of unformed mushy evacuations sometimes as often as five to twelve times a day. After a ten day to two week period of such stools there would come a time interval of three to five days in which there would be no evacuations and then there would come another period of soft stools. His evacuations would be particularly soft when he was working on the mid-night shift. During the strike period from the latter part of January to the first part of March, there was considerable improvement in the number and character of bowel movements. Following the return to work in March, the frequently mushy stools reappeared and continued until July 28, 1949, at which time he was admitted to a hospital for

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diagnosis because of continuing diarrhea. Detailed studies including bacteriological examinations and x-ray studies revealed no significant abnormalities and he was discharged August 19, 1949 with diagnosis of an enlarged liver and irritable colon. Abnormal stools continued unabated inspite of repeated therapy. By this time the body weight had decreased from 192 lbs. to 155 lbs. Upon his return to work on August 19, the Medical Department decided that it would be unwise for this man to continue working in the Chlorinated hydrocarbons because of a history of enlargement of the liver. Accordingly on August 21, 1949, he was transferred to the Gas Separation Unit as an operator on shift work. Two and a half weeks later the patient reported the first appearance of normal stools since the strike period early in 1949. At the date of this writing, November 20, 1949, stools have remained normal and the employee has gained weight from 155 lbs. to 162 lbs. Examinations performed following absence from work never revealed any significant physical findings and the presence of continued diarrhea or unformed stools was not mentioned until August 19, 1949.

*Heffs & Ed - If this is a case of vinyl chloride
intoxication, chronic, it is something completely new to
me. Have you seen anything like this, or gained
partial impressions of such a thing?
Hold until I call you on Dec 16.
Dagm*

C. U. Darnehl, M. D.
November 21, 1949

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