

COPY

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Work History
Early Symptoms

(Secured from Mr. [REDACTED] at the University Hospital,
Columbus, Ohio, May 22, 1935).

After leaving high school in the second year, February, 1917, on account of father's death, he took positions as follows:

- (1) The Goodyear Rubber Company, Akron, March to autumn, 1917, as tire finisher. The benzine fumes seemed to affect his throat and voice so that he quit this work. Was otherwise O.K.
- (2) Pennsylvania Railroad at Midland, Pennsylvania, for several months, 1917-18, as night yardmaster and clerk.
- (3) The Goodyear Rubber Company, Akron, machine shop. Worked on lathe, 1918-1920. During this time took 3 - 4 months training at Machinist's School conducted by the Company.
- (4) East Liverpool Clothing Store, 1921, as clerk in charge of shirt department - about 5 months.
- (5) Ford Automobile Agency, winter of 1921-22, sales agent.
- (6) An East Liverpool bakery company, during the depression of 1921-22, as solicitor for orders. Worked on dairy farm belonging to his family when out of jobs.
- (7) Hercules Motor Company, Canton, 1922, 2 - 3 months, as machinist hand on automatic shaver.
- (8) Y.M.C.A., N. Canton, 1923-24, Secretary of Boys' Department.
- (9) Timken Roller Bearing Company, Canton, spring of 1924 to early part of 1925: (a) main tool room on machine work - lathes, shavers, drills, pressers. Two months. (b) Traveled on road for some Company (by railroad) servicing mine car bearings, chiefly as inspector, day or so at a place. Only occasionally did any repair work himself. Eleven months.

- (10) May Company, Cleveland, 1925, mercantile store, floorman for 2 - 3 months. Had influenza badly in July, 1925, laid up for 7 or 8 weeks in bed, and convalescing for 2 - 3 weeks longer. Involved nose and sinuses especially - not much in chest.
- (11) Parisian Ladies' Ready-To-Wear at Canton, 1925, 2 months.
- (12) Timken Roller Bearing Company, Canton, from December, 1925, to April, 1928 - 2 years, 4 months; (a) Worked in small tool room which was a former washroom in the corner of main factory building, with open drain pipes from old lavatory fixtures still present. This room was about 10' x 20' and very poorly ventilated. In the winter he had no heat. He tried a stove, but the draft would not work because the stove pipe passed up through a slanting roof alongside a taller Texas roof of main building. Also, just outside the door was a furnace building where 8 foot bars, 6" x 6" in diameter, were heated by fuel gas, and much heat, fumes and gases passed from this furnace building into his own room, especially noticeable in summer time. His work here was on a small drill press where he tested tube steel by boring through a smear of white-lead paste ~~used to reduce friction~~. He was required to watch this work closely with his face only about a foot from the process. The drill and tube steel got hot with each boring, the lead paste dried, and visible fumes arose. He took no precautions against breathing these, nor had he any instructions otherwise. He continued this work until October, 1928 (approximately 10 months). He noticed early in 1926 weakness and pain in the lower limbs, first about ankles and arches of his feet. He stood up at his work all the time. Within a short time small ulcers also appeared upon his ankles and lower parts of his legs. He also did not feel well. (b) Upon his complaint of poor ventilation conditions, he was transferred to the Experimental Shop, but to similar work upon a drill press, lathe and shaver. Here, white-lead paste was used (as a cutting compound) in greater quantities than on the previous job, while the parts worked upon became hot enough to smoke. He developed "drop foot" here. He did this work ten hours per day, from 6:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (one-half hour for lunch), 55 hours per week. He remained with this job until the first of April, 1928, or a period of about 18 months, during parts of which time, however, he was off three or four times for a period of four to six weeks each time, because of constitutional symptoms and trouble with his legs. The symptoms consisted of obstinate constipation, with attacks of diarrhea, nausea, cramps in the abdomen and legs, and numbness and weakness of his hands and arms so that it interfered with his work and had to lay off. The leg symptoms consisted of foot-drop, with coldness, itching and ulcers on left ankle, and numbness in both legs from the knees down. After laying off for three or four weeks, the constitutional symptoms would disappear and the ulcers would heal up, but both

return again after a few weeks at work.

He finally quit all work and went to Henry Ford Hospital, April 2-8, 1928.

Another young man, Mr. Ralph Rennie, also had exposure to lead, but was diagnosed as something else. He developed paralysis, and was forced to quit in 1928. He later died. A communication from Dr. C. N. Clark, Canton, Ohio, July 13, 1935, states that "The cause of Mr. Rennie's condition was chronic auto-intoxication, and not to my knowledge or belief was lead poisoning a cause or factor". The coincidence is significant, however.

The following is copied from a letter from Dr. D. D. Hurst, Ass't Neuro Psychiatrist, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Michigan, under date of June 21st, 1928, addressed to Dr. John D. O'Brien, Renkert Bldg., Canton, Ohio:

"Laboratory findings: Blood Wassermann Kolmer and Kahn test negative; blood chemistry N.P.N. 31.6, urea nitrogen 14, sugar 74; Blood count R.B.C. 5,480,000 Hb. 95% W.B.C. 8,600; Differential count satisfactory; spinal fluid sugar 68, Kolmer negative, Kahn negative, Lange and Mastig negative. also Urine routine analysis negative throughout. several STOOL specimens were positive for lead.

"I omitted to give you the resume in the history of his occupation. On questioning the patient, it was found that he was employed at the Timken Roller Bearing Company, Canton, Ohio, as a machinist, and that his work necessitated the use of white lead daily, very frequently getting it on his fingers. It was also stated that he used white lead in centering the dies. He also stated that the room in which he was working was very ill ventilated.

"Our diagnoses were:

- "1. Peripheral Neuritis left anterior tibial
- "2. Chronic lead poisoning
- "3. Chronic constipation
- "4. Ametropia
- "5. Moderate nasal septum deflection

"The patient was advised a change of employment and keeping in the open air.

"In our out patient department he was treated with Galvanic and Faradic current and diathermy. He was given potassium iodide and calcium lactate by mouth and small doses of luminal. He showed progress, as intimated.

"We wrote to the Company in an effort to secure some compensation for Mr. [REDACTED] and I believe that he will succeed in securing same."

This case was reported to the Ohio Department of Health as of September 28, 1928, on regulation form, by Dr. Thomas J. Heldt, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, as a follow-up on report already made to the Industrial Commission which notice the Health Department received a few days prior to August 2, 1928. The following is excerpted from this Report: "Lead Poisoning - peripheral neuritis, left anterior tibial. Urinalysis and stools positive for lead. Date first symptoms appeared, summer 1927, complications - ametropia, deflection of nasal septum. Diagnosed April 7, 1928."

The following is excerpted from a letter from Drs. Thos. J. Heldt and D. D. Hurst, Division of Neuropsychiatry, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, April 30, 1935, addressed to Mr. [REDACTED] 1006 Third St., N.W., Canton, Ohio:

"May I say next that much correspondence was written regarding your case as requested back in 1929, and on from that date. We are only too glad to comply with your request. In accordance with your request, letter was written on January 5th, 1929, to Dr. W. E. Obetz, Division of Safety and Hygiene, Industrial Commission of Ohio, Columbus, Ohio in which diagnosis and laboratory data was given as follows:

"Peripheral neuritis, left anterior tibial. Laboratory tests corroborated the etiology as being that of lead poisoning. Urine and stool were found positive for lead. Blood Wasserman negative 4-2-28 with Kolmer and cholestrinizes ice box antigens. Spinal fluid Wassermann also negative."

SIGNED _____

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