

The Standard Oil Company
(An Ohio Corporation)

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING

BRYAN HOUSTON
MANAGER
I. S. PAYTON
PERSONNEL MANAGER
DR. W. P. EDMUNDS
COMPANY PHYSICIAN
N. S. LLOYD
CLAIM AGENT
GRADY B. BELL
EDITOR PUBLICATIONS

Cleveland, O.

June 14, 1933

Dr. Robert A. Kehoe,
University of Cincinnati,
College of Medicine,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear Doctor Kehoe:

On June 2, 1933, [REDACTED] one of our service station
salesmen (located at New Lexington, Ohio) died in Grant
Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, from an undetermined cause, but
temporarily diagnosed as sleeping sickness and inflammation
of the brain.

This employee had been in our service since December 11, 1929
and was taken suddenly ill May 30, 1933, which date he was
taken to the Grant Hospital by the attending physician. Inas-
much as a report has reached us to the effect that the relatives
of this employee contemplate action against the company on
grounds of lead poisoning, which has been supported by Dr. Warren,
the attending physician, Columbus, Ohio, we are referring all
facts in the case to you for your information.

Attached you will find a copy of the death certificate, together
with a letter from our Zanesville Division Manager which are
self-explanatory. At this writing we do not have any data
pertaining to the post mortem examination but will be glad to
advise you fully of any further developments.

Very truly yours,

I. S. Payton
I. S. PAYTON

ISP:EB
Encl:-2

KE 0021965

COPY

No. 445

BOARD OF HEALTH
Columbus, O.

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

1. Place of Death

County Franklin Registration District No. 392 File No. _____
 Township _____ Primary Registration District 8187 Registered No. 1912
 or Village _____ No. Grant Hospital St., _____ Ward _____
 or City of Columbus

Length of residence in city or town where death occurred _____ Yrs. _____ Mos. _____ Days
 How long in U.S., if of foreign birth? _____ Yrs. _____ Mos. _____ Days

2. Full Name _____ Did deceased serve in U.S.

(a) Residence New Lexington, Ohio Navy or Army? _____

JOHN W. KEEGAN

Registrar

PERSONAL & STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3. Sex Male 4. Color or Race White 5. Single, Married, Widowed, Divorced Married

5a. If married, widowed, or divorced HUSBAND (or) WIFE of Verna

6. Date of birth (month, day, and year) April 27, 1904

7. AGE Years 29 Months 1 Days 5

8. Trade, profession, or particular kind of work done, as spinner, lawyer, etc. Attendant - filling station

9. Industry or business in which work was done as saw mill, bank, etc. Standard Oil Co.

10. Date deceased last worked at this occupation (month and year) May 30, 1933

11. Total time (years) spent in this occupation _____

12. BIRTHPLACE New Lexington Ohio

13. Name Charles K.

14. Birthplace New Lexington Ohio

15. Maiden Name Alice Larimer

16. Birthplace New Lexington Ohio

17. The signature of informant Carl

AND address Dayton, Ohio

18. Burial, cremation or removal place New Lexington Date June 2, 1933

19. Undertaker The Edward E. Fisher Co. Address Columbus, Ohio

19a. Was body embalmed yes Embalmer's No. 2492 A.

20. Filed 6-3 1933 J.W. Keegan Registrar

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

21. Date of Death June 2 1933
 Month, day, and year.

22. I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from May 30 1933 to June 2 1933, death is said to have occurred on the date stated above at 11 a. m.

The PRINCIPAL CAUSE OF DEATH and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows: _____ Date of Onset _____

Encephalitis May 30
(cause undetermined)
Analysis being made.

CONTRIBUTORY CAUSES of importance not related to principal cause: _____

Bronchial pneumonia

Name of operation _____ Date of _____
 What test confirmed diagnosis? _____
 Was there an autopsy? yes

23. If death was due to external causes (violence) fill in also the following: Accident, suicide, or homicide? Accident
 Date of injury _____ Where did injury occur? New Lexington, Ohio
 Specify whether injury occurred in home, or in public place. May be case of lead poisoning
 Manner of injury _____
 Nature of injury _____

24. Was disease or injury in any way related to occupation of deceased? yes
 If so, specify Lead poisoning
 (Signed) James N. Warren, M.
 (Address) 318 E. State St.

N 24375.01

KE 0021966

This is a correct copy of the death return of _____

Now on file in this office

Attest: J.W. Keegan

Registrar

Mother _____
 Father _____

C O P Y

Mr. I. S. Payton

June 8, 1933

Mr. R. P. Erwin

[REDACTED]
New Lexington, Ohio

Dear Sir:

Further to our letter of June 3, under the above subject, we attach hereto newspaper clipping taken from the Zanesville Signal issue of Saturday, June 3rd, regarding [REDACTED] death. We also attach hereto certified copy of the death certificate which we have just received from the Fisher Service Company of Columbus, Ohio, undertakers who took care of the embalming.

You will notice on the medical certificate of death side that Enciphalitis is shown as the principal cause of death, but below this in Parenthesis they show "Cause undetermined, analysis being made". Under clause 23 you will note they have shown this death due to an accident, further showing that it may be a case of lead poisoning. Under clause 24 they show that there is a possibility of lead poisoning.

It came to us through a round-about way when we were securing the proof of death forms regarding this death, last Friday, in the form of a rumor that Emerson Wagner, a brother who is at the present time City Solicitor in the city of New Lexington, was the instigator of an investigation to determine whether or not this death was due to lead poisoning. It seems that there has been two deaths of other filling station attendants in New Lexington, during the past winter, which various people have made the statement were due to lead poisoning.

We put this up to [REDACTED] in talking to him last Friday in an indirect manner, trying to have him definitely say to us whether he was of the opinion that a lead poisoning could have caused this death, but he would not make any mention of the fact at that time, so naturally it was carried as only a rumor. To be definitely sure of our position we requested him to get us a certified copy of the death certificate at that time, which we have just received this morning from the Fisher Service Company of Columbus, Ohio.

Nothing definite has been obtained from this analysis matter to date that we have heard from, but we will follow this matter very closely in case [REDACTED] should decide to bring action against the Standard Oil Company, either directly or indirectly, regarding this point. If there is anything further you wish us to advise you on regarding this, please let us know and we will attempt to do so at once.

In this connection, Mrs. [REDACTED] the widow, has not as yet decided how she wants to receive the insurance money and for that reason we are unable to advise you regarding that point as yet. We will keep you informed of any further developments.

Yours very truly,

R. P. ERWIN

Per R. H. Cross

KE 0021967

N 24375.02