

September 23, 1929

Dr. Graham Edgar,
Ethyl Gasoline Laboratory,
320 Yonkers Ave.,
Yonkers, N. Y.

Dear Edgar:

After conference with Leake in Washington on the 18th I am able to make fairly definite plans for the conduct of this year's investigation of field conditions in the matter of Ethyl Gasoline. In order to do this properly I am in need of some information which I dare say you will be able to give me or get for me. Perhaps you will wish to refer the matter to someone else but I want to make clear to you what it is I need. We expect to examine a fairly large number of garage mechanics all over the United States. It will be obviously impossible to obtain suitable controls on Ethyl Gasoline exposure and we are safe in assuming, I believe, that most garage mechanics are having some degree of exposure to whatever hazards arise from work upon cars using Ethyl Gasoline. We shall look into the amount of this exposure as well as we can and will probably classify the cases into groups on the basis of their exposure. It will be of some consequence therefore to know for the various parts of the country approximately the amount of gasoline used, the period over which it has been used, and the concentration of lead over the period of time of its use. What this really comes down to is the concentration, so to speak, of filling stations in various parts of the country, the amounts of gasoline sold in particular areas, and the lead concentration in the gasoline of these areas. For the first of these I think it would be of great advantage to us to have in our report a photograph of the map in the New York office showing the location of filling stations, provided this map were reasonably up to date. I do not know off hand just what data is available on the amount of gasoline used in different localities though I believe this can probably be obtained from the mixing records. As to the concentrations of lead used, I am quite sure that you have all the information I will need along this line.

I refer the matter to you because I should like to make this coming report as complete as possible as to the whole history of the spreading

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distribution of Ethyl Gasoline. There are some reasons for believing that this present investigation might be the last of its kind, and if it were possible to clean up the job in one sweep I should like to make sure that we have shown beyond all doubt and from fairly carefully collected figures that we have definitely examined into the worst possible situations in the country. I would appreciate very much any information along the line I have requested or along any other line that occurs to you as being important in the problem of exposure.

I am just beginning now the experiments on iron carbonyl. I have devised a chamber in which to work which will hold a number of animals. As result I will use somewhat more iron carbonyl than I did on my other experiments and I would be very grateful to you if you would have some of your assistants and associates prepare me a supply so that I will not have to disturb you with it every week. I should say that a quantity of 500 c.c. should last me for several weeks.

Accept my thanks for your kindness in looking after these things for me when you find it convenient. My kindest regards to yourself, Mrs. Edgar and the little one.

Sincerely,

RAK:EJ