

ALBERT W. VAN SICKLE, M. D.
CHESTER, NEW JERSEY

November 13, 1940

Dr. Willard Machle,
University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Dear doctor Machle,

Please pardon my delay in answering your letter of October 25th, however circumstances made it impossible to write at that time.

Mr. [REDACTED] has owned his own gas station for twelve years and during this time he has sold only Standard of New Jersey products which include Esso and Essolene gas. When lead was placed in these gasolines he was one of the first to sell it. His only other contact with lead has been painting on his own station which has been very insignificant. During the past twelve years it has been common practice for Mr. [REDACTED] to wash his hands frequently in gasoline taken directly from the pump, a procedure which roughly averaged two to five times a day. Also it has been common practice to take a rag and soak it with tank gas to use in cleaning about the station and the pumps.

Mr. [REDACTED] is 62 years old has lived in this neighborhood all his life and was in the hardware business before his present occupation. He has never had any serious illnesses until four years ago. He is known to take considerable of alcoholic beverages even to the point of over-indulgence but seems to get over these bouts very well. It has been a couple years since he has been on one of these escapades. Four years ago he consulted a Dr. Rudolph Rabe who has since retired from active practice and lives in Basking Ridge, N.J. for loss of sensation in his little finger of the right hand. (He is normally left handed) I do not know what treatment was used but this loss of sensation progressed to all the fingers of the hand and forearm as well. There has been no return of function nor has there been any extension since that time. He complains of loss of sensation and loss of power in the hand and arm but there is no wrist drop.

My first professional contact with Mr. [REDACTED] was October 7th of this year when he collapsed while giving gasoline to a customer. He said he had a severe pain in the pit of his stomach, everything went black and he fell backward. He was only unconscious about a minute was able to pick himself up go to the station and ask his partner to continue serving the customer. He had had a similar attack the day previous, and after being in bed that night, he had two more though very mild. They all followed the same pattern. He gives no other history of colic, and bowel movements are regular without catharsis, about once daily and soft consistency. After the attack mentioned above his pulse was 80/min, B.P. 130/80, heart sounds of good quality and no gross neurological changes except his right arm. His teeth are very bad and dirty and finding a lead line would be difficult. A blood smear taken that night

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and examined at Morristown (N.J.) Memorial Hospital showed no stippeling whatever. Further blood work was not done. Routine urinalysis was normal.

While Mr. [REDACTED] is interrested about the whole thing, as long as he feels well at the moment he is very reluctant to do any more about it. I know he would not spend any more for tests or laboratory work. Any further information that either of us can give, we will be glad to, also if you wish to contact Dr. Rabe, I know he will be glad to cooperate.

Trusting this answers your inquiry, I am

Yours very truly,

Albert W. Van Sickle, M.D.

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