

March 15, 1937

Mr. T. L. Ronan,

Dear Tom:

As you requested, I checked into the situation at Hugo, Oklahoma as reported by Mr. Dean Walker of the Dean Walker Motor Company in his letter to The Texas Company.

The following parties were contacted either on Thursday afternoon or Friday morning: Mr. Dean Walker, Dr. E. A. Johnson, Dr. H. W. Kenaga, Mr. Haskell Caldwell and Mr. Bruce Mathis.

I do not feel that there is any cause for alarm as none of the cases of supposedly poisoning have occurred recently but all of those with which Mr. Walker was familiar have been spread over a period of a year or two. Mr. Walker is not particularly alarmed but rather curious as to the exact type of poisoning which has been occurring, since it appears that while somewhat ignorant on the subject, he, nevertheless, makes a hobby of medicine.

Individual cases investigated were as follows:

[redacted] mechanic, lost a finger approximately a year ago and Mr. Walker indicated that he believed this was due to lead poisoning. Dr. Kenaga, who treated Castleberry, indicated that he personally diagnosed the case as a low grade of infection. He stated that [redacted] drank a lot and his resistance was low. He definitely did not feel that it was lead poisoning but seemed to be of the opinion that lead might have been partially responsible for the infection. I was unable to locate Mr. [redacted]

[redacted] had several infections on his hands about six months ago. Dr. Johnson, who treated him, stated that he felt the lead in the gasoline was causing congestion of the part, leaving it open to infection. He did not diagnose the trouble as lead poisoning. He treated by cauterizing, using silver nitrate.

[redacted] had an infection on his hand about two years ago. He was treated by a doctor who is no longer in Hugo. Mathis felt that ETHYL Gasoline might have been responsible but indicated that his doctor had made no such assertion.

Mr. [redacted] himself, has had several infections on his hands the

last about six months ago. He has been treated by Dr. Johnson, whose opinion has already been given.

None of the men effected are devoting either their entire or even the greater part of their time repairing or handling carburetors. All of them do general mechanical work and their work with carburetors seldom exceeds more than one every other day. It does not seem to me that such possible exposures to lead compounds is sufficient to give any trouble from that source.

After my contacts with these parties, with the exception of the two doctors, I do not feel that any of them attribute their difficulty to lead poisoning. I did not attempt to discuss the cases with the doctors other than to obtain their opinions and their diagnosis. Both doctors expressed a willingness to have Dr. Kehoe correspond with them on the matter.

Yours very truly,

*L. L. Huxtable*

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