

13-12-73

Dear Bob & Lucile,

Time flies the faster the older one gets and I've just realised that I'm not sure of your San Francisco address and think the best plan is to send this to the Kettering Laboratory with a request for it to be forwarded to you. We are having a first real taste of summer heat and are finding it a little trying. I hope in 'Frisco the winter is being kind to you.

There has been very little political interest here re Pb in petrol until just recently when a meeting of State Premiers & Commonwealth P.M. according to the newspapers have decided to reduce lead in petrol in two steps to 0.4 & 5. I think this was possibly influenced by a newspaper report of work done on the lead in the blood of 105 children in Hobart, Tasmania, by the Professor of Chemistry when he found that ~~there were~~ a number of children with levels of Pb of 25 $\mu\text{g}/100\text{ml}$, probably due to lead in paint used on old houses (the Queensland story). He considered this too high a basic level and also stated that leaded petrol was a considerable danger to children with this content of Pb in their blood because the chief source of Pb in the body was by absorption via the lungs!! He talked about subclinical lead poisoning giving one reference "Hernberg & Nilkanen - Enzyme inhibition by lead under normal urban conditions" The Lancet, January 10, 1970 pp 63-64, where they purport to show a relationship between ALA dehydrogenase and blood lead at levels below 15 $\mu\text{g}/100\text{ml}$. Dr. Allen Christophers is preparing a report for the Minister of Health for Victoria about these claims. He thinks the dittozyme method of estimating lead in blood is not accurate enough to allow them to operate in this region. He wondered if you would agree with his conclusions. You will possibly remember Allen Christophers is the Chief Industrial Hygiene Officer for Victoria.

I'm sorry to bring a problem of work into a letter meant to be one of Christmas - New Year greetings, good wishes & happy memories. Eileen and I both hope that you have both been in good health and that you are enjoying your semi-retirement where you don't have the pressures of work of the past to cope with, tho' I have no doubt you have found that you never want to give up entirely what has been your life's work.

You probably knew Ken Lloyd, a very delightful person who was in New Zealand.

KE 0015889

N21212

Time flies the faster the older one gets and we just realised that I'm not sure of your San Francisco address and think the best plan is to send this to the Kettering Laboratory with a request for it to be forwarded to you. We are having a first real taste of summer heat and are finding it a little trying. I hope in 'Frisco the winter is being kind to you.

There has been very little political interest here re Pb in petrol until just recently when a meeting of State Premiers + Commonwealth P.M. according to the newspapers have decided to reduce lead in petrol in two stages to 0.4 & 5. I think this was possibly influenced by a newspaper report of work done on the lead in the blood of 105 children in Hobart, Tasmania, by the Professor of Chemistry when he found ~~there were~~ a number of children with levels of Pb of 25 $\mu\text{g}/100\text{ml}$, probably due to lead in paint used on old houses (the Queensland story). He considered this to be high a basic level and also stated that leaded petrol was a considerable danger to children with this content of Pb in their blood because the chief source of Pb in the body was by absorption via the lungs!!

He talked about subclinical lead poisoning giving one reference ^{Adamsberg + Nilkanen} "Enzyme inhibition by lead under normal urban conditions" The Lancet, January 10, 1970 pp 63-64. where they purport to show a relationship between ALA dehydrogenase and blood lead at levels below 15 $\mu\text{g}/100\text{ml}$. Dr. Allen Christophers is preparing a report for the Minister of Health for Victoria about these claims. He thinks the dithione method of estimating lead in blood is not accurate enough to allow them to operate in this region. He wondered if you would agree with his conclusion. You will possibly remember Allen Christophers is the Chief Industrial Hygiene Officer for Victoria.

Sincerely to bring a problem of work into a letter meant to be one of Christmas - New Year greetings, good wishes + happy memories. Eileen and I both hope that you have both been in good health and that you are enjoying your semi-retirement where you don't have the pressures of work of the past to cope with, tho' I have no doubt you have found that you never want to give up entirely what has been your life's work.

You probably knew Ken Lloyd, a very delightful person who was in New Zealand as a representative of Associated Ethyl (+ Caltex). Pat Barry wrote recently to tell me he had died from a Carcinoma of the Thyroid; it was one of the very undifferentiated growths which progress rapidly. Years ago John Batchelor + I had a very enjoyable work with him in New Zealand when I was over to choose a local optician in Auckland to represent the company in N.Z.

We are very sorry to hear of all the troubles you have in U.S.A. at present. The Watergate problems, the Arabs with their restrictions of oil, the devaluation

KE 0015390

of the currency are all very worrying. Poor old England is having an even worse time apparently with coal miners and railway men striking and a very considerable deficit in the balance of payments. Everywhere there seems to be trouble. We are having very considerable inflation with a Labour Government running wild trying to put their theories into practice and a Prime Minister with a vastly swollen head who opens his mouth too widely to give unsolicited advice to far more experienced and wiser political leaders in other countries whose peoples were friends & allies. But enough of moaning. Here we have fewer troubles than most other countries.

We often recall with the greatest pleasure the very happy days we were fortunate and lucky enough to have spent in your company over 2½ years ago. They left us vivid memories so that it seems more like 2½ months ago since we said good-bye.

We do both wish you both a very happy Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year. At our Xmas dinner will be drinking to you both with our toast of 'Absent Friends'. I hope this will reach you before Xmas. Am sorry I had to send it to be forwarded to you.

Very sincerely, Keith & Eileen.

FOLD FLAPS BEFORE MOISTENING GUM. FOR
MAXIMUM ADHESION, PRESS DOWN FOR A FEW SECONDS.
IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED OR ANY TAPE OR STICKER ATTACHED,
THIS FORM MUST BEAR POSTAGE AT THE RATE FOR AIR MAIL LETTERS.

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS

Keith & Eileen

62155 Kite Road

Malvern

Worcestershire

POSTCODE

3006

COUNTRY OF DESTINATION

U.S.A.

Ohio

Cincinnati 45219

C/O Edna and Barbara Brown

Kettering Laboratory, City of Medicine

D: R. R. KEOE

AEROGRAMME
BY AIR MAIL * PAR AVION

Christmas 1973



KE 0015391