

March 9, 1933.

Drs. Sayers, Russell, Lanza and Pancoast.

Gentlemen:

Re: Union Carbide Tunnel in West Virginia

Yesterday afternoon I had a telephone call from New York from a Mr. Davis who stated that he was connected with the tunnel job recently put through or still working, for Union Carbide in West Virginia. He stated that you gentlemen had recommended me as an authority on dust respirators, for which I am grateful, and further Sayers had told him there was no good practical respirator when the tunnel job started - 1930, I believe. With this I agreed and added that I knew of none now which would prevent, with certainty, silicosis. I told him that the Burrell mask of the Mine Safety Appliances Co., and the new one made by Willson Products were at present the best I knew of.

He wanted me to come down and testify to the above. I questioned if the plaintiff's counsel [illegible] and he said they had duly [illegible] but were following Pancoast's advice and would submit, as I understood, the films to Pancoast. I asked him if he was being registered and he said he certainly was but it was added since that was pretty hot stuff and that he was in a bad way and needed my help. This made no particular impression.

Somehow it sounded odd. I had never heard of him and couldn't recollect anything about this tunnel which he said was in a mixture of sandstone and shale. He said he would write and might ask me to come to New York to advise their attorney. I offered to swear to the respirator dates and give him the statement for nothing but he said it was useless for legal purposes.

Match came back this morning from a meeting in New York and recalls conversations to the effect that the company had considerable silicosis and had refused admittance to certain of us who wanted to see their drilling by the electric rock melting process. [illegible] I think I now recall conversations to the effect that they had had some silicosis [illegible].

[illegible] I don't get down as I friendly [illegible] about this. I dislike the [illegible] business (silicosis suit) and as no good at it anyway, but if the company has a sensible [illegible] for grievances, I will try to help them. If they misrepresented conditions to me they can look for their help elsewhere.

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I might add that I suggested to Davis that perhaps Matthew van Sicklen could help him. Van Sicklen was located by telephone, stated that he was not qualified for the respirator business, so Davis called me a second time.

You are all probably sick of these inquiries. I like to get them for the simple reason that they keep us abreast of the times and every so often we get an interesting problem.

Sincerely yours,

Philip Brinker.

PD.hl

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