

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

PG&E + 245 MARKET STREET • SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94106 • (415) 781-4211 • TWX 910-372-6587

April 22, 1980

Local Union No. 1245
International Brotherhood of
Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO
P. O. Box 4790
Walnut Creek, California 94596

Attention Mr. Dean Cofer, Business Manager

Gentlemen:

Mr. Richard K. Lemos is a 57-year-old T&D Driver headquartered in Fort Bragg, North Bay Division. He was employed on October 13, 1948, and has approximately 31½ years' company service. In 1970 he fell from a tree, off the job, and injured his neck and as a result has lived with painful symptoms which have restricted certain physical activities. He has chronic headaches and severe limitations of motion of his cervical spine. A letter from Mr. Lemos' doctor is attached which details his medical condition.

Inasmuch as Mr. Lemos' symptoms are worsening, and the Division anticipates a Foreman's Clerk vacancy in Fort Bragg in August of this year, Company proposes to place Mr. Lemos in that position pursuant to Sections 205.19 and 206.12 of the Physical Labor Agreement.

Presently there are no prebids on file for the Foreman's Clerk job in Fort Bragg. Mr. Lemos has periodically and successfully relieved as a temporary Foreman's Clerk in Fort Bragg, and is well-qualified for the position.

This proposal has been discussed with Mr. R. W. Gibbs, IBEW Business Representative serving that area, and has his concurrence.

If you are in accord with the foregoing and agree thereto, please so indicate in the space provided below and return one executed copy of this letter to Company

Yours very truly,

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

By 
Manager of Industrial Relations

The Union is in accord with the foregoing and it agrees thereto as of the date hereof.

May 1, 1980

By


Business Manager

701 file

CARL E. ANDERSON, M. D.
R. DEE ROBBINS, M. D.
FREEMAN W. BORN, M. D.
JAMES H. BAUER, M. D.
MATTHEW B. ZWERLING, M. D.
A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY
1405 MONTGOMERY DRIVE
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95405
TELEPHONE (707) 546-1922

March 29, 1979

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Post Office Box 2669
San Rafael, California 94902

3

Re: Richard K. Lemos
Inj: December 1970

Attention: Jack V. Eitelgeorge

Dear Mr. Eitelgeorge:

At your request Mr. Lemos was examined 27 March, 1979.

Unfortunately, I must state at the outset that based on the history and my physical findings (the x-rays have not arrived as yet) I do not feel that I can give a specific evaluation or make appropriate comments regarding his problem. With that in mind, the following report is submitted for your information.

Mr. Lemos apparently fell from a tree in 1970, landing on his head and neck. He was comfortable for several hours at that time and had no immediate symptoms. Over the next several days he had some increasing discomfort in his neck and headaches which he considers similar to a "halo" around his head. These two symptoms, neck ache and headaches, persisted over the next several weeks into early 1971, and he was seen by his family doctor, Dr. Hahn in Fort Bragg. Over the next several months, because of persistent and somewhat increasing symptoms he underwent six physical therapy treatments in Fort Bragg including intermittent cervical traction, the therapy treatments leaving him no better. He was off work for approximately two weeks, and then returned. He has been seen by a local masseur by the name of Forester since then, varying from once to twice per week. Over the next several years Mr. Lemos states that he has "lived with it," and there were only a few times during that interval when he was without symptoms. He has given up golf, skin diving, rough-housing with his children, yard work, and activities about home. He has also decreased the amount of heavy work he has done because of increasing symptoms with heavy work.

March 29, 1979

-2-

Re: Richard K. Lemos

In 1976 he was involved in a head on automobile collision while on route to Santa Rosa. This produced a significant increase in his symptomatology and he was again seen by Dr. Hahn and had a total of 43 physical therapy treatments, again poorly tolerated and again with no specific effect. These treatments were in the latter part of 1976, and he continued to see Mr. Forester on a weekly basis. At the request of his family physician he was seen by Dr. Robert Kraft, an orthopaedist in Ukiah, who obtained x-rays. Dr. Kraft's report was somewhat skeptical regarding his return to work status and therefore he was seen by another orthopaedist at the request of the insurance company for the automobile carrier, a Dr. Terwilliger. A third set of x-rays were taken at that time. Prior to his jury trial for the results of the auto accident in June of 1978 he saw Dr. Kraft for the second and only other time. X-rays were again obtained. According to Mr. Lemos' history, Dr. Kraft spent 3 1/2 to 4 hours of testimony time during the trial. His recommendations were apparently that Mr. Lemos either change jobs to lighter work or retire. Mr. Lemos has done neither, deciding to continue doing his job. While he has not had to do as much heavy work over the last year or so as he had done previously, he is not happy with his present job description as a T and D driver.

Over the last six to nine months he has thought more about retirement but does not want to retire on long term disability, he states that he wants to work, and yet will not continue going out on his truck. He has been working in a local equipment yard for your company in the Fort Bragg area, more or less since September, 90% of his work being in the yard and only 10% being out on the truck.

PAST MEDICAL HISTORY: Prior to 1970 Mr. Lemos apparently has not had any neck symptoms requiring medical or chiropractic attention. His general health is otherwise excellent.

PRESENT COMPLAINTS: The patient's primary complaints are chronic neck aches, "halo" headaches which worsen as the day progresses, and inability to either look up or to either side. He states that on occasion his headaches are so severe that he feels as if his head "wants to explode." Over the past three to five years he has had questionable paresthesias and tingling in both the arms and legs, although prior to 1978 when Dr. Kraft mentioned this symptomatology, he was not really concerned with its presence. He states he is unable to lift without pain, having a feeling of a red hot poker sticking in the lower cervical and upper thoracic area. He wears a cervical collar at work and at home, as well as driving. This helps somewhat. For a short term after his therapy he was doing minimal isometrics to the posterior cervical musculature but has since discontinued this due to lack of interest. He awakens several times

March 29, 1979

-3-

Re: Richard K. Lemos

during the night but does not feel that this has any relationship between his neck or headache symptoms. He takes occasional Soma Compound, and occasional Empirin with Codeine for pain relief. He states he "can put up with the yard work" but he would like to work for another six years if possible without retiring or going out on disability. He does not feel that he has any significant weakness, specifically related to the strength of his arms or forearms, but as noted above does feel increased pain with heavy work and lifting.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION: The patient is alert, extremely talkative, quite open and friendly, and in no acute distress. Erect stance demonstrates symmetric height of the shoulders and scapular wings. He has no asymmetry in the A-P or lateral plane to inspect the carriage of the head or trunk. No curvature of the spine is noted. There is no palpable muscle spasm of the cervical muscles, the levator or trapezius muscles, nor the rhomboids. He has no localized tenderness of the cervical or parascapular muscles and there is no apparent atrophy of the shoulder girdle, arm or forearm. There is mild tenderness approximately C-5 level over the spinous process. Forward flexion is performed quite slowly and with complaints of discomfort, the chin reaching three finger breadths from the sternum. Recovery to a neutral position is slow but without hesitation. He has absolutely no cervical extension, stating this is as far as he wants to go. He has five degrees only of right and left lateral rotation, and I did not test lateral bending. He has no tightening of the cervical musculature during any of these maneuvers, such that I would anticipate the presence of cervical muscle spasm. He has no tenderness, swelling or lymphadenopathy in the supraclavicular or cervical region. He has full and symmetric overhead flexion and abduction of the shoulder girdles, symmetric circumference of the arms and forearms, and normal sensory and reflex evaluation. Grip strength with a Jamar dynamometer is 135 pounds right, 100 pounds left, slightly diminished on the left side but probably within normal limits. He has symmetric deep tendon reflexes about the elbow.

X-RAYS: Presently not available but they will be reviewed and a supplemental report forwarded to you.

IMPRESSION: Chronic subjective cervical pain, headaches and limitation of motion.

DISCUSSION: In my experience I have never seen any patient, whether acute or chronic, with as much limitation of cervical spine motion as Mr. Lemos. Because of this, I cannot specifically evaluate him and obtain valid information which I feel can produce a specific or informed comment as to his capacity to work, or need for restriction of duty or even disability retirement. As noted above, even patients with acute cervical spine injuries from auto accidents, falls, or

March 29, 1979

-4-

Re: Richard K. Lemos

even just inflammation have more mobility, more muscle spasm and definite clinical findings to go along with this than Mr. Lemos demonstrates, nearly 2 1/2 years following his last accident and nine years following his first accident. While I do not feel that Mr. Lemos is willfully manufacturing these complaints, nor that I dispute his clinical subjective symptoms of pain and headaches, he does not have any specific objective findings at this time which I feel validate those complaints.

My only recommendation for treatment would be a very strenuous, rigorous and well directed physical therapy exercise program, emphasizing cervical range of motion and isometric exercises. I do not feel that his weekly massage treatments which are now nine years in duration, on a weekly or twice monthly basis are doing him any benefit other than psychologic.

I cannot make valid comments as to his capacity to work, either on the truck or in the yard, although I do feel that if he is unwilling to return to truck driving there is no alternative but to keep him from that job description.

As noted above I will submit a supplemental report to you about the x-rays when I have reviewed them.

Yours truly,



Matthew B. Zwerling, M.D.

MBZ:clb

cc- Donald P. Hahn, M.D.