

Smog Needs Control at Source, Experts Claim

Bob Hope once called Los Angeles' smog, "A nasty rumor spread by tourists who insist on breathing."

Smog is not a joking matter, however, to the millions of residents in the Los Angeles Basin who breathe the air they breathe when the air they breathe becomes murky and stings eyes and damages lungs.

To understand why smog continues to plague the basin, it is necessary to know what it is, they say. Smog is a product peculiar to this area of another large city in the world has the unique weather conditions responsible for our smog.

If it were simply smoke, it could be an easy problem to solve. However, it's a combination of over 50 pollutants suspended in our atmosphere of smoke particles, as just research reports show.

Smog Removed
The County Air Pollution Control District has been successful in engineering the removal of 350 tons daily of sulfur dioxide from the basin's air and a minimum of 15 tons of lead fumes and other fine particles of solid and liquid material.

Another 560 tons of hydrocarbons are captured daily in oil refining operations. Hydrocarbons—a mouthful—is simply a recent chemical term for gasoline vapors, the fumes you see coming out of your gas tank while it's being filled.

Those vapors are what make your eyes and nose burn. Actually it's not until the vapors have combined with oxides or oxides of nitrogen—more chemical terms—in the presence of sunlight that eye irritants are formed.

Fumes Found
About 190 tons of hydrocarbons drift into the air daily from refinery operations, another 240 tons are emitted in the central Los Angeles area from auto exhausts, roughly 30 tons in the rest of the county from exhausts and an estimated 145 tons from gasoline marketing operations in the county for a grand total of 555 tons daily.

Major types of pollutants which cause Los Angeles smog, chemist state, are the already-mentioned aerosols, sulfur dioxide, hydrocarbons, ozone and nitrogen dioxide plus aldehydes, organic acids and the familiar carbon monoxide.

They come from literally thousands of burning and combustion processes as well as manufacturing and processing activities carried on daily in the basin from smoking a cigarette to making steel.

It was to force all known sources of air pollution to clean up their aerial discharges that the County Air Pollution Control District was formed on Oct. 14, 1947, by the County Board of Supervisors.

In the Los Angeles Basin exists a unique condition composed of three factors responsible for smog. Of primary importance is the well-known temperature inversion. Other cities have it also, but at higher altitudes and the pollutants trapped beneath it are easily dispersed each day with strong winds.

Air Gets Warm
Ordinarily, the air becomes cooler the higher it rises. In this area, during inversion periods, the air actually becomes warmer as the altitude increases.

Air sampling stations in the San Francisco Bay area report sufficient atmospheric pollution to affect persons with sensitive nasal and throat membranes.

Other West Coast cities, seeing what has taken place in Los Angeles and realizing that continued growth in their own area might result in similar smog conditions, are already taking steps to form air pollution control districts.

Local officials, cognizant of the attraction Los Angeles holds for tourists, little realized the implications of the tremendous population and industrial boom that followed World War II.

As population was lured by aircraft manufacturing and new industry, so likewise was new industry lured by the population boom.

Population Jumps
Population jumped one million from 1940 to 1950 and has continued to increase by nearly 2,000,000 persons yearly since.

One of the main attractions for industry and residents was Southern California's bright sunshine, the third partner in the triple smog alliance. The sunshine is responsible for what scientists term a photochemical reaction between various pollutants in the air which results in a literal manufacturing of smog.

Today, Los Angeles County houses the third largest concentration of population, the third largest concentration of industry in the nation and no signs of slackening off have yet been indicated.

Everybody Has Idea
New industries, businesses, automobiles, service stations and backyard incinerators rapidly multiplied in numbers; and as they grew, our smog problem increased in equal ratio until air pollution became a menacing monster that threatened to over shadow and eventually destroy the climatic features that made the City of Angels a desirable place to live.

Nearly everyone developed ideas on how to combat the problem. Some were sensible, but many were impractical. Some suggested creating the atmosphere as a remedy to wash pollution from the sky. Others

recommended boring holes through the mountains surrounding us to create exits for the air-borne contamination.

Result: The temperature is turned upside down. The cooler air, loaded with tons of air pollutants, remains trapped beneath the warmer upper layer of air, clamped like an invisible ceiling over the entire Los Angeles Basin.

In New York, Detroit, Pittsburgh, Chicago, and scores of smaller cities elsewhere in the nation, temperature inversions also exist, but usually at such heights above the community as not to bother the city's inhabitants.

Then, too, winds of much greater velocity than those locally disperse each day's accumulation of smog across the countryside. When all these assists from nature fail to occur, they too, have their troubles.

New York's recent "smog" (haze and smoke) attacks were evidence of this.

Inversion Layer
Inversion conditions begin anywhere from the earth's surface to an altitude of 4500 feet or more. The thickness of the inversion may be several hundred or thousands of feet. What has all this to do with smog?

When the temperature inversion drops to 1500 feet or less and does not dissipate until late in the day—or not at all—the air becomes saturated with contaminants causing the eye-irritating, throat-rasping air pollution pall that we have misnamed smog.

In Los Angeles County, with the largest concentration of population and industry located in a sub-tropical region anywhere in the world, there is a temperature inversion of some type about 270 days a year.

The second factor affecting our smog problem are winds. **Los Angeles Lacks Wind**
While in other large cities, winds readily disperse accumulated contaminant-saturated air, in Los Angeles it doesn't work that easily.

Located as we are in a sub-tropical area, pressure gradients creating wind movement are very small. Consequently, air here moves lazily back and forth across the County, often going nowhere during the day and usually stagnating completely during the night after a daytime siege of smog.

And even though the high pressure inversion, swept in over the Pacific Ocean, extends over the entire Pacific coast, no other coastal city compares to Los Angeles County in the amount of pollution emitted daily.

But that the problem is beginning to spread to other cities on the Pacific Coast was indicated here last May when San Francisco underwent a smog attack, during a similar period here, that lasted for eight days.



BASIC TRAINEE . . . James V. Cordes, graduate of Torrance High School is receiving 51 days of basic training at Parks Air Force Base.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Wesley G. Cordes, of 3338 Newton St., he joined the Air Force on June 21.



AT PARKS BASE . . . Donald F. Rood, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Pitts, of 1028 W. 29th St., is currently enrolled in basic military training at Parks Air Force Base.

He enlisted in the Air Force on June 30.

Local Concern Reports Loss of Copper Wire
The Beaton Corp. reported the loss of 350 feet of copper wire from a storage house at 23859 Ocean Ave., to local authorities Tuesday.

Superintendent Charles Lagutaris said the loss of the wire amounted to \$350. He said the wire was taken sometime Monday night or early Tuesday morning.

Public Notice
TORRANCE HERALD-292
NOTICE OF INTENDED SALE
I, HENRY G. GAGNER, hereby give notice that I am conducting a cafe business at 23870 Hawthorne Boulevard, City of Torrance, County of Los Angeles, State of California, and that said firm is composed of the following persons, whose names and addresses are as follows, to-wit:

HARRY GAGNER, 1930 Kalsman Drive, Los Angeles 16, Calif.
Dorothy Gagerman, 3630 Kalsman Drive, Los Angeles 16, Calif.
WITNESS my hand this 18 day of August, 1955.

TORRANCE HERALD-278
CERTIFICATE OF BUSINESS FICTITIOUS FIRM NAME
I, HARRY GAGNER, hereby certify that I am conducting a cafe business at 23870 Hawthorne Boulevard, City of Torrance, County of Los Angeles, State of California, and that said firm is composed of the following persons, whose names and addresses are as follows, to-wit:

HARRY GAGNER, 1930 Kalsman Drive, Los Angeles 16, Calif.
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WITNESS my hand this 18 day of August, 1955.

TORRANCE HERALD-286
CERTIFICATE OF BUSINESS FICTITIOUS FIRM NAME
I, HARRY GAGNER, hereby certify that I am conducting a service station business at 18200 Hawthorne Avenue, City of Torrance, County of Los Angeles, State of California, and that said firm is composed of the following persons, whose names and addresses are as follows, to-wit:

FLOYD L. HOW, 1106 E. Palmer Avenue, Compton, Calif.
WITNESS my hand this 24th day of August, 1955.

TORRANCE HERALD-288
CERTIFICATE OF BUSINESS FICTITIOUS FIRM NAME
I, HARRY GAGNER, hereby certify that I am conducting a service station business at 18200 Hawthorne Avenue, City of Torrance, County of Los Angeles, State of California, and that said firm is composed of the following persons, whose names and addresses are as follows, to-wit:

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WITNESS my hand this 24th day of August, 1955.

Socket Set Taken
A socket set valued at \$30 was stolen from his garage, Carl H. Johnson, of 1831 W. 25th Pl., told sheriff's deputies last week.

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LOST—Blue Parakeet—in vicinity of 240th and Normandie. Answers to "Biddy". Reward. Davenport 6-7983.

SPECIAL NOTICES
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EMPLOYMENT Offered 38 Men and or Women
COUPLE to live in home, 2311 S. Vermont. Answer phone 23 hours a day. Help in Veterinary hospital and kennel. Man could keep outside job. Home free plus \$100 month. Call FAirfax 8-0380.
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QUEEN CANDIDATES . . . Finalists in the Fiesta del Rancho San Antonio queen contests are (front) Pat Drullner, North Hollywood; Barbara Shimmel, Anaheim; Marilyn Revell, Torrance; Diane Eccleston, Montebello; Patricia Graff, Downey; (second row) Margie Patterson, Granada Hills; Zoe Stiffer, Van Nuys; Florence Gonsalves, Bellflower; Sall Welch, Manchester Heights; (back) Catherine Ragen, San Gabriel; Pat Hogan, Los Angeles, and Elaine Tremblay, Glendale.

Miss Revell Is Finalist In Contest
Marilyn Revell, 16, of 1121 W. 204th St., has been named one of 13 finalists in the Fiesta del Rancho San Antonio queen contest, sponsored by the Southern California chapter of the Knights of Columbus.

She is sponsored by the Los Crusados chapter, which meets Redondo Beach.
Winners in the queen contest will be announced at an annual barbecue and fiesta to be held on the grounds of Rancho San Antonio, "the boys' Town of the West, on Sept. 18, is located in Chatsworth.

Westhaver New Columbia Veep
Alden G. Roach, president of United States Steel's Columbia Geneva Steel Division, Friday announced the appointment of Loren J. Westhaver as vice president—operations, for the division's operations. In January, 1954, Westhaver was transferred to the division's San Francisco headquarters as general manager of operations.

Under the organizational change, J. D. McCall, assistant general manager of operations, succeeds Westhaver as general manager.
Westhaver was vice president and manager of operations for Geneva Steel Company, Utah, and retained that position when Geneva Steel and Columbia Steel Company were combined on Jan. 1, 1952, into a single operating division—the Columbia-Geneva Steel Division, Dahl,

who became vice president of Columbia's operations on Aug. 1, 1949, took charge of the new division's operations. In January, 1954, Westhaver was transferred to the division's San Francisco headquarters as general manager of operations.