

THURSDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 5, 1959

LOCAL LAYER ALSO FOUND

Tucson Believed Getting Smog From Los Angeles

Tucson may be getting smog from Los Angeles.

There are indications Los Angeles smog is being blown over Arizona and parts of northwestern Mexico, Dr. James McDonald of the University of Arizona Institute of Atmospheric Physics told a luncheon meeting of the Young Democrats yesterday.

Also, Tucson has atmospheric conditions leading to a good smog potential all of its own, he warned.

McDonald has been studying smog conditions here the last two years. There is a definite Tucson pall, that hugs the ground and is generated by conditions here.

In addition, there is what he calls a regional haze which passes over the city at high altitude. This is the LA smog and it's too high to do any real harm to Tucson.

Here's the story on the local condition, according to McDonald: After the sun goes down and the ground cools off, Tucson has

what is known as an inversion layer. This means, simply that the air for 500 to 700 feet up from the ground is warmer than the ground temperature—just the opposite from the usual daytime condition when the warmest air is near the ground.

This condition stills the air flow. The layer just seems to lie quietly as a thick blanket over the city.

It stays through the night and any particles of smoke or dust that rise from the city are held in it. After the sun is up the inversion layer is gradually dispersed as ground temperature goes up.

The condition is most prevalent in the winter season.

It is aggravated because Tucson has rather poor air circulation as far as strong and constant air currents are concerned. McDonald describes the city as being in the backwash of the state's air circulation system.

Together, these factors spell smog to McDonald.

He observed that most mornings there is a thick pall over the southwest section of the city.

"You don't notice it when you are just driving to work in the morning. It isn't thick enough to be noticeable. But go up on top of one of the high buildings some morning and you can see it clearly," McDonald said.

Nobody is quite sure what is in it. It might be dust or smoke, or a combination of many things. It has a slightly yellowish color.

There is also a theory that Redington Pass (between the Catalinas and Rincons) acts as a sort of vacuum cleaner to pull polluted air out of the Tucson area.

This just isn't the case, according to McDonald. In fact, on some days the smoke from the San Manuel smelter seems to be drawn through Redington Pass into the Santa Cruz Valley.

The Tucson pall will probably get worse because of more homes and cars as the population grows.

McDonald recommends that the community recognize the serious smog potential and do everything possible to keep from adding particles of any kind to the air.

The smog McDonald thinks blows into the area from Los Angeles is too high to do any harm except to put a sun-filtering haze over the area.

It does not come down to mingle with the local smog condition, he says.

Some airplane pilots have long held the theory that LA smog blows this way and McDonald bases his conclusion on aerial observations. When the wind is from the northwest, long fingers of haze can be seen stretching across California and Nevada into this area.

They stretch as far as Guaymas. This makes researchers sure they blow in from a great distance because there is no local industry to create them in northwestern Mexico.

East Germany's Flags Won't Fly In West Berlin

BERLIN—(AP)—East Germany's Communist regime announced today that its flags will not be raised over West Berlin elevated railway stations this weekend. The retreat eliminates the danger of another clash between Communist railway workers and West Berlin police.

The new flags, which have the East German Communist hammer and compass superimposed on the black, red and gold of the West German flag, touched off violence when they appeared on the West Berlin stations Oct. 6.

The East Germans, who control Berlin's entire elevated network, raised the flags over their stations in honor of East Germany's Red regime. West Berlin police tore several down, and in ensuing battles five officers were injured.

display of the Communist flag in West Germany would be "a breach of constitutional order and therefore also of public order." The government said "authorities will intervene against display of the flag in all cases when necessary."

Apparently the words "when necessary" exempted such displays of the flag as aboard East German ships. Maritime law requires all ships to fly a flag indicating their origin.