

# City Again Shrouded By Smog

Now it's a layer  
Of smoggy inversion  
That provides another  
Weather diversion.  
—Sneezer

Smog covered Tucson again today, the third consecutive day for the heavy pall, but the atmosphere is expected to clear tonight.

Weather experts say there is an unusually strong inversion layer—a mass of warm air which prevents normal circulation — hovering about 500 feet above the city. The layer traps dust, smoke and fumes, combining with moisture in the atmosphere, to produce the eye-stinging and sneeze-inducing situation.

**THE INVERSION** layer is expected to dissipate tonight as a low-pressure area from the West Coast moves eastward. There is a chance of light showers on higher mountains tonight but no general rains are expected.

Observers at the Kitt Peak National Observatory reported today seeing a heavy mass of "guck" hanging over the valleys of this entire area.

It is possible from Kitt Peak Mountain, 45 miles southwest of Tucson where the Observatory has a number of telescopes, to see a hundred miles in all directions. But yesterday the country was "socked in" in all directions.

The astronomers, however, were above the haze so that their view of the stars was not impeded.

Dr. James E. McDonald, senior physicist at the University of Arizona Institute of Atmospheric Physics, pointed out that the weather condition called "inversion" which causes haze is more common in winter.

Inversion occurs at this time because the air close to the ground cools off as the ground radiates heat to the nighttime sky. And then a higher level of relatively warmer air acts as a stable lid to trap the smog below.

"Inversion persists into the middle of the morning now, whereas in summer it is burnt off by morning traffic time," McDonald said.

**"AS A RESULT,** we are going to work at a time when the inversion is still capping the contaminated level in the lowest 500 to 600 feet."

Skies will be only partly cloudy tomorrow but slightly warmer ground daytime temperatures are expected to push the inversion mass to higher altitudes, allowing the smog to dissipate. It was cooler today but the mercury is expected to get up to 73 tomorrow, the same as yesterday's high. The 2 p.m. temperature was 69 and the humidity 20. Tonight's low will be about 51, the same as last night's coolest.

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