

City Hunting for Source of 'Gas Attack'

Thousands Left With Sore Eyes and Throats by Irritating Fumes

Illustrated on Page B

With the entire downtown area engulfed by a low-hanging cloud of acrid smoke yesterday morning, city health and police authorities began investigations to determine the source of the latest "gas attack" that left thousands of Angelenos with irritated eyes, noses and throats.

Yesterday's annoyance was at least the fourth such "attack" of recent date, and by far the worst.

Visibility was cut to less than three blocks in some sections of the business district. Office workers found the noxious fumes almost unbearable. One municipal judge threatened to adjourn court this morning if the condition persists.

Gets Unanimous Consent

Warning that Los Angeles soon would become a "Deserted Village" unless the nuisance were abated, Councilman Carl Rasmussen demanded that the Health Commission make a report on what could be done about it. His suggestion received the unanimous consent of the Council.

Chemists and engineers of the City Health Department announced after a preliminary investigation that irritating fumes are emanating from a new synthetic rubber plant and that steps are being taken by the plant to eliminate this condition as soon as priorities and war necessities will permit.

"A spot check of all industrial establishments capable of producing irritating gases and smokes is being made by health department inspectors," said Dr. George M. Uhl, city health officer. "The Police Department is also co-operating by reporting any unusual concentrations or sources of these fumes."

Gas Accumulation

"This condition is caused by an accumulation of gases and fumes from industrial stacks and vehicle traffic. Until these gases have been isolated and identified, specific control measures cannot be initiated. However, no permanent or serious injury may be expected, and the investigation will be continued until all sources of the gases and their identity have been established," Dr. Uhl declared.

The Board of Public Works requested City Engineer Lloyd Aldrich to have several engineers in his department who are considered expert on gases to study the problem in an effort to find a remedy.

Although thousands of persons coughed, cried and sneezed, attaches of the Georgia Street Receiving Hospital said nobody applied there for relief.

By noon the fumes had been virtually dissipated.

AS MANY WILL VERIFY, IT WAS 93 ON SUNDAY

Angelenos sweltered in a maximum temperature of 93 degrees on Sunday, the Weather Bureau disclosed yesterday.

It was the hottest day since Oct. 21, 1942, when the maximum was 95, the bureau said.

Sunday's heat was believed to have caused the death by prostration of Della De La Rosa, 8, of 431 Temple St., according to physicians in General Hospital.

Elsewhere in the Southland, Sunday brought a top temperature of 124 degrees in Imperial Valley, the highest there since 1914; Riverside reported 107, while San Gabriel and Burbank recorded 101 maximums.

Jury Indicts 30 in Coal Strikes Under New Law

PITTSBURGH, July 26. (AP)—

In the first action under the newly enacted anti-strike law, a Federal grand jury today indicted 30 persons on charges of conspiracy and fomenting strikes in connection with recent unauthorized work stoppages in Southwestern Pennsylvania coal fields.

The indictments followed nearly two weeks of investigation by the grand jury, called July 14 while more than 12,000 miners were idle and after steel production had dropped because of a lack of coal to fire blast furnaces.

Officials of Unions

Of the 30 persons indicted five were presidents of local unions of the United Mine Workers, one a local ex-president, one a local vice-president, one a checkweighman, 10 local committeemen and one local recording secretary. Others were members.

Five indictments, embracing a total of 32 counts, charged 28 persons specifically with "combining, conspiring and confederating together to interfere by strike and other interruptions with the operations" of mines operated by the government. The other two were miners and were charged with coercing miners to absent themselves from work.

Knowledge Imputed

The indictment said those named "well knew" the mines were in possession of the United States and that continuous operation was necessary "for successful prosecution of the present war."

The grand jury was convened after agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation had gone into the coal fields to determine causes of the walkouts which continued after the United Mine Workers' policy committee and President John L. Lewis had ordered the men back to work. The mines returned to almost normal operation almost simultaneously with start of the investigation.

The jurors heard 99 witnesses, including a number of U.M.W. district officers and F.B.I. agents. Besides those indicted, the jury linked "divers other persons whose names are unknown" to the alleged conspiracy.