

## 4-YEAR EFFORT FAILURE?

# Outraged L.A. Citizens Still Suffer From Smog

*(Editor's Note: Today the Associated Press begins a series of six stories on a major California problem, smog. More than a score of experts were consulted to find what is being done about the choking fumes that for 10 years have made millions miserable. We believe it is the most complete picture of the smog problem yet offered California newspaper readers.)*

By JACK QUIGG

Smog, as a major California problem, is 10 autumns old this year.

Ever since the eye-blearing fall of 1943 when it first developed bite enough to outrage a defenseless citizenry, smog has been like a blight on the land, dimming the sunshine, dirtying the orange blossom.

Many believe it's getting worse. Some say the smog fighters are holding the line. A few see some improvement. No one denies it's still a misery.

Smog is still with us despite:

Four and a half years of effort by a Los Angeles county-wide air pollution control district with full powers of enforcement.

A million and a half dollars for research.

Twelve million for industrial control devices.

Newspaper crusades and the efforts of scores of committees, both governmental and private.

Protests from farmers, helpless while their crops wither in the night.

The tears, coughs and cuss words of the millions who suffer under its blanket.

This fall Southern California experienced its most prolonged air

pollution siege—five straight weeks. Washed from their Los Angeles breeding ground by vagrant winds, acrid yellow fumes drifted north to Ventura, south to San Diego, inland to San Bernardino.

Public anger, held to a simmer by relatively mild smog seasons in 1950 and 1951, shot back to the boiling point. Smog hit the front pages again. And once again public officials squirmed at demands for action, fast.

After a decade, what have we learned of the stuff that makes so many so miserable? Do we know its ingredients. Its sources? What are we doing about it? Can it be licked?

The Associated Press plans to present answers—by experts—to these and other questions in a series of stories starting today. Some answers will be incomplete, tentative. The experts have much to learn.

But though they disagree on some points, they are unanimous on this:

Failure to control smog can result in incalculable damage to Southern California's most prized assets . . .

As possibilities they envision—beside the ruination of its famed climate-health and psychological problems, wider agricultural damage, a waning tourist trade, and a checking of industrial expansion and the population influx.

Before looking at the smog picture of today, let's go back a bit.

As old time residents know, the stuff didn't arrive overnight. The area has always had seasonal fogs. In 1542 Juan Cabrillo dubbed the

harbor "Bahia de los Fumos"—Bay of Smokes. Reports of eye irritation date back to the early days of the century.

But not until the vast industrial and population expansion of World War II did smog get dense enough and linger long enough to arouse the public masses.

It was in 1943 that smog became a civic issue. Headlines that year proclaimed the populace was being subjected to "gas attacks." Everyone was sure the offender was the Southern California Gas Company's butadiene synthetic rubber plant.

The county grand jury, alarmed  
—Turn to Page 2, Column 4

## Suspect in 3 Girl Attack Cases Nabbed

One of three victims of a man who has terrorized Hollywood women in a recent outbreak of criminal attack and robbery was responsible for the arrest early today of a suspect, Hollywood police reported.

Police identified the suspect as Charles Dario Martinez, 32, of 4243 Gateway Ave.

Martinez, who claims to be a movie extra, was nabbed at 1:30 a.m. in a bar at the corner of Sunset Blvd. and Virgil Ave.

He denied everything, even though the 21-year-old attack victim, who happened to be in the bar, too, told police she thought she recognized him as the masked