

ARNOLD O. BECKMAN RESEARCHES THE SOURCE OF THE SMOG



“...I have a deep personal interest, for many reasons, in doing everything possible to accelerate the elimination of air pollution.”

Dr. Arnold O. Beckman
January 25, 1956



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ORANGE COUNTY A.P.C.D.

MOBILE SAMPLING UNIT

The Air Pollution Control District was Established

Dr. Beckman was asked by the LA Chamber of Commerce to lead a science committee to investigate potential causes of the smog.



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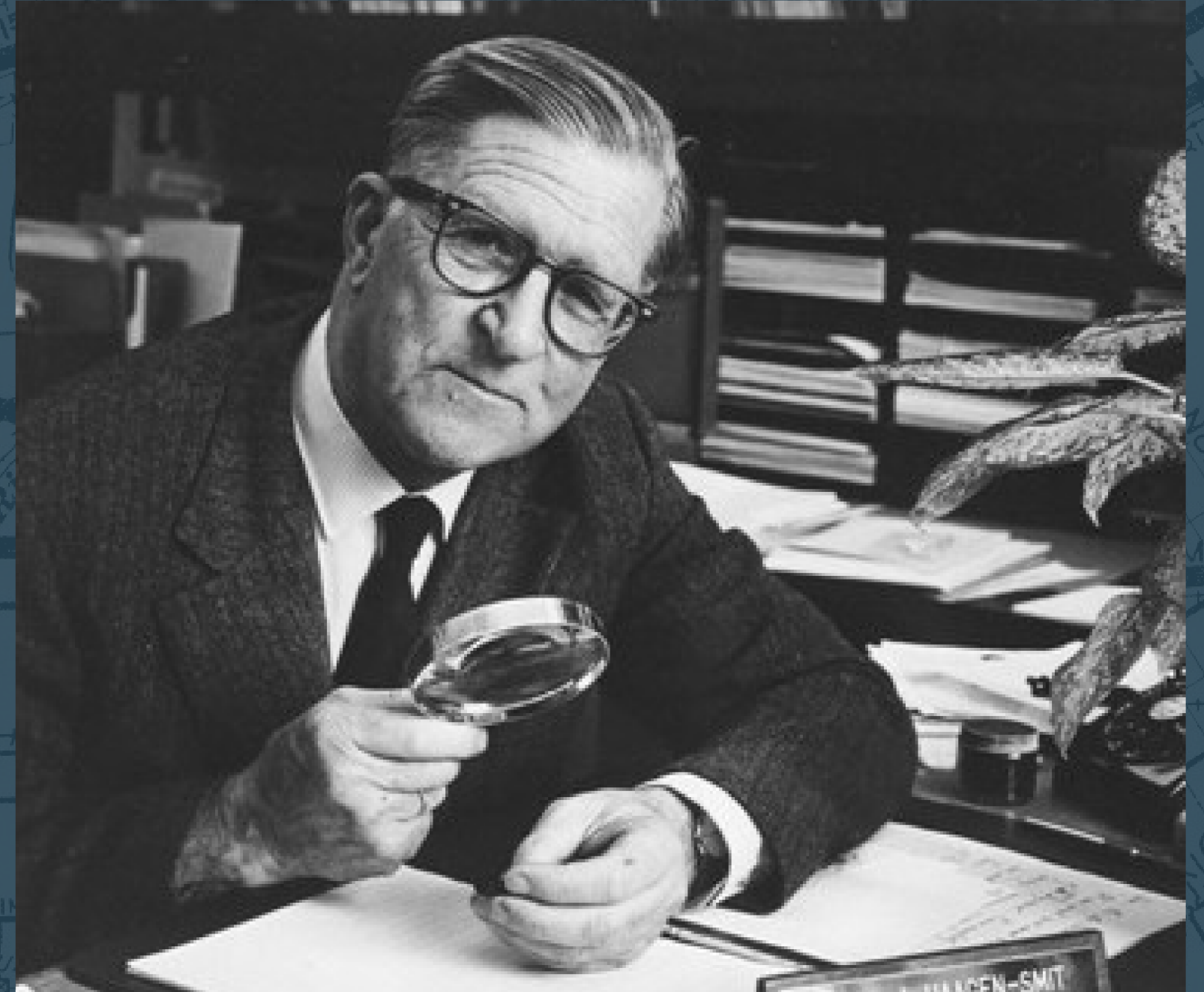




Dr. Beckman began by organizing research studies to characterize the chemical composition of smog as a first step to understanding the sources of the pollution.



He enlisted the help of Caltech scientist Arie Haagen-Smit, who specialized in the measurement of odors given off by foods and plants by separating the chemical components of air samples.



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The results of their research studies showed the cause of smog was largely due to uncombusted hydrocarbons combined with oxygen radicals in the atmosphere, and the primary source of these hydrocarbons was car exhaust fumes.



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