

## North Charleston Air Pollution

# 'It's Contamination,' Resident Says

(Last of a Series)

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They wash their windows but the panes don't come clean.

Their washed clothes get dirty drying on the line.

Their automobiles have dull finishes.

Their children cough a lot.

For the residents of Daniel Jenkins housing project, just off King Street extension, part of life is trying to stay one step ahead of industrial emissions which settle steadily about them.

Mrs. Brunelle Dayson has

been living at 406-C Daniel Jenkins Homes for 13 years. She says the condition of the air has worsened in the last few years.

"It's getting worse each day. It's strictly against your health to breathe that air. If I could afford it and could find another place to stay, I'd move out tomorrow."

Mrs. Dayson said she often has an upset stomach and she's convinced that the smell and substance of the air she inhales is the cause.

"The doctor told me that the stone floors in this place and that bad air is causing my bad stomach and all that coughing. Somebody ought to do something

about it before it gets us all."

Mrs. Dayson said that she's just about quit trying to clean her windows. "I rub my finger to the bone and they still won't come clean."

She says that most of the residents in the project are concerned about the condition of the air they have to breathe.

"I hear all the children coughing and I wonder what's gonna become of them. When that smell comes through this project, you just can't stand it. It smells worse than onions.

"And when you have company, the people come in your house and turn up their nose at the smell. They think it's your house that's smelling and

when you tell them it's all these mills around here, they're ready to leave."

A resident who lives near the project office said he doesn't notice the smell until he goes and visits his daughter in the country.

"When I get out of town, everything smells funny," he said. He has been living in the project for 17 years.

Mrs. Matilda Wigfall has also been living in the project for 17 years. She says that washing clothes is an impossible job for project residents.

"I put them on the line and all this 'stink' just settles down

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on them. If it's too bad, I have to wash them over again."

Mrs. Wigfall said her three children often cough and the air frequently aggravates her hay fever.

"Sometimes its so thick you can feel it. You can reach out and rub it between your fingers. I wish people would quit talking about doing something and do something. I'd move today if my husband would agree and we could find another place."

Mrs. Wigfall said her husband's relatively new car now has a dull finish and "he's thinking about having a new paint job. But I told him not to because that stuff in the air would just ruin it again."

She said she once used steel wool pads and razor blades to try to clean her windows.

"I finally got them almost clean," she said. "But the time I came in the house, a big wind blew and the windows were dirty again."

Mrs. Wigfall said she is concerned for her children because, "If that stuff settles on the car, it must settle on their insides when they breathe it."

She said her family tries to have frequent chest X-rays.

Less than one-half mile south of the project is a County Health Department air sampling station. On Jan. 2, 1969 the station recorded a reading of 496 micrograms of suspended particulate per cubic meter of air.

The reading is 371 micrograms above the acceptable pollution standard for an industrial area in South Carolina.

"They call it pollution," Mrs. Dayson said. "They ought to start calling it contamination; that's what my doctor said."

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