

**Lucas on Fire Science Group At Harbor JC**

Torrance Fire Chief Robert Lucas, a member of the Harbor College Fire Science Advisory committee, a group of civic leaders who two years ago initiated the Fire Science curriculum at the local college, recently attended the committee's third annual meeting. The group reviewed and evaluated the fire science program and provided for its future improvement and expansion.

The first comprehensive practical Fire Science curriculum to be started in the nation, the 16-course pattern developed at Harbor, has been adopted by many other California junior colleges and has gained national recognition. It includes subjects ranging from laws, codes, and ordinances to fire fighting and rescue practices and is designed

to meet the needs of firefighting trainees, firemen interested in self-improvement, and men in industry who are concerned with industrial hazards and fire-fighting problems. The fact that over 800 students have enrolled in the Fire Science program since its inception makes it the fastest growing of the many curricula offered by Harbor college. Advisory committee members agreed upon the worth of courses offered and the continuing interest shown by enrollees.

**Firm Completes 500th Home on 3rd Anniversary**

Completion of 500 homes since their firm's inception three years ago, was announced this week by Noel W. Frederick, president-construction manager, and Ray F. Hartzell, secretary-treasurer and general manager of Treasure Homes, Inc., 10215 Prairie ave. The 500th house, a 2-bedroom stucco with attached garage was built for owners Mr. and Mrs. Gus Gross, 1309 W. 102nd st. "We specialize in building small homes and duplexes that make ideal rental units," Mr. Frederick stated in explanation of his firm's phenomenal success. "The demand for such units is steadily increasing throughout the South Bay area, due to population growth, rising property taxes, and desire for future security."

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**Tryouts Slated For 'Rainmaker'**

Open readings for all roles in "The Rainmaker," next production of the San Pedro Theatre Arts, will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, December 3 and 4, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Pacific Playhouse, 501 S. Carbrillo ave. The play, a comedy drama in three acts, is the story of a charlatan rainmaker who comes to a drought stricken community and is soon completely in-

involved in the lives of the people he meets. Director of the production is Nancy Andrews, 2465 W. 250th st., Lomita, who has just completed directorial duties with the Palos Verdes Players' production of "Laura." Miss Andrews, a member of Equity, national actors union, has appeared with summer stock in Manistee, Michigan, and is known in this area for her children's productions for the Philharmonic peninsula committee, including "Snow White" and "The Emperor's New Clothes."

**Predict Rate Rise in Auto Insurance**

"Motorists in California face higher charges for automobile liability insurance in 1958." This view of the outlook for automobile insurance rates was given this week by the National Bureau of Casualty Underwriters, a rating organization with a membership of 122 stock companies writing casualty insurance.

"The outlook is based not on opinion but on stern economic facts," the bureau stated. "Reluctant as the insurance carriers are to seek higher rates, there is no alternative. As inflationary pressures continue to push up the costs of settling accident claims incurred by insured motorists, rate revisions during 1958 will undoubtedly involve increases."

"During 1956, member companies of the bureau suffered a countrywide underwriting loss of 7.9 per cent on automobile liability insurance. This means that automobile liability claim costs and expenses amounted to \$107.90 for every \$100 for premiums earned, or an aggregate underwriting loss of more than \$64,000,000. Their automobile physical damage insurance business—collision, comprehensive, fire, theft, etc.—was also unprofitable. Other stock companies and mutual companies also sustained serious underwriting losses during 1956. Experience in the western states is no better than the national trend, with California particularly bad."

"Reports for the first six months of this year indicate the prospect of an even worse underwriting loss situation for the year 1957. The underwriting loss, for example, for all lines for one company jumped from \$528,000 in the first half of 1956 to \$6,635,000 in the comparable period of 1957; for another from \$2,839,000 to \$11,800,000; for another from \$154,000 to \$5,379,000; and for still another from \$3,500,000 to \$6,881,000."

**COSTLIER CLAIMS**  
"Inflation has forced up average claim costs for both bodily injury and property damage liability. In addition, the adverse effect of inflation on property damage claims has been aggravated by continually climbing repair costs resulting from car design, the new wrap-around windshields, for example. "The rise in automobile insurance rates will not be halted until the present trend of average claim costs and claim frequency is reversed. Motorists cannot exercise any control over the inflationary forces that have gripped our economy. But motorists collectively have it within their power to control the number and severity of automobile accidents; unfortunately it is a power that has largely gone unused."



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**Clean-Up Program**

The Carson Civic Betterment ass'n, at its last meeting, initiated a clean-up program for the Carson area. Since Carson is all county territory, rules of the Board of Supervisors govern the collection of rubbish. Mr. Colfelt, District Sanitation Officer, has reported that rubbish to be collected must be in proper containers. Papers and other rubbish must not be allowed to blow out, or be scattered and should not be allowed to accumulate in back yards for over two weeks. Annual election of officers will be held at the next meeting of the Association on Tuesday, December 10, 8 p.m. at White Jr. High school.

**Play Charity Grid Game Dec. 1**

A football game will be played at Daniel Field in San Pedro on Sunday, December 1, at 2 p.m., between the San Pedro Longshoremen's Athletic club and the Eagle Rock Athletic club, with proceeds going to the Harbor Area Exceptional Children's Foundation. The funds will be used for maintaining the training center, according to the foundation's president, Don C. Smith.

**TORRANCE PRESS**

119  
Published each Thursday and Monday at Torrance, California

Office  
1408 Cravens Avenue  
Torrance, California  
Telephone FA. 8-2513

W. E. Zappas, publisher  
W. E. King, general mgr.  
Melvin Fiske, managing editor

Subscription Rates  
Carrier Delivery . . . 45¢ per month  
Local and Out-of-town . . . \$12.00 per year  
(Payable in advance)

All manuscripts are submitted at owner's risk. The Torrance Press can accept no responsibility for their return.

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