

**Vision USA, No. 52, 1976**

Narrator: The United States is a nation of many stories. These are but a few of them.

Los Angeles is a city of several million people with thousands of its homes in mountains surrounding the downtown area. Southern California receives nearly all of its annual rainfall during the winter, leaving a long dry summer season. The thick brush cover on the mountains becomes a fire hazard multiplied by the drying effect of a warm southern wind called the Santa Ana. The men of the Los Angeles fire department are on special alert during the dry summer season. Ed Blair has been fighting fires for over 22 years. He now serves as a battalion chief in charge of 200 men in six fire stations.