

# THATCHER MAY RESIGN SCHOOL BOARD POST

## TORRANCE HERALD

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'MYSTERY GUN' . . . Clue to who shot high CIO Union leader led to closet of David Jacobs Jr. here.—Herald photo.

### Clue in Vic Reuther Attack Proves Dud

Following a 20-1 shot lead that the gun used to blast Victor Reuther, C. I. O. Auto Workers' Union official, was sold in Torrance, investigators this week ran into a dark alley—or more appropriately into a dark closet.

The one sold here was found in the closet of David Jacobs Jr. 25, of 1438 West 222nd street.

The one used in the attempted assassination of the high union official was found outside his home in Detroit.

The lead that the gun used in the Detroit shooting might have been purchased in Torrance fizzled out when Charles V. Jones, owner of the Torrance Hardware Co. discovered that Jacobs, a plumbing and heating worker, had purchased the gun bearing the same initials as those found on the assault weapon.

Jones, searched through 66,000 sales receipts before finding the slip which recorded the sale of the double barreled shotgun.

Jacobs, son of David Jacobs Sr., owner of a plumbing and heating firm for whom the younger Jacobs works, used the gun for hunting purposes.

The mystery of the shooting led to Torrance when investigators attempted to learn the disposition of each of 20 guns manufactured by the Stevens Arms Co. and which bore the makers initials "J. H." One such gun was sold to the American Hardware Co. in Long Beach, a distributor, and subsequently to the Torrance Hardware Company.

With this lead proving to be a dud, police investigators continued their nation-wide search for the remaining 18 guns in an attempt to establish who purchased the gun used in the attempted assassination of Victor Reuther.

Reuther was shot by an unknown assailant who shoved a gun through a window of his home and fired two blasts while he sat in his living room.

Doctors dug six pieces of lead from his body, removed his right eye and pumped four pints of blood into him while his brother, Walter Reuther, president of the U.A.W., stood by.

The attack came only 13 months after Walter was blasted by an unknown gunman, who likewise, wielding a shotgun fired through the window of his home. The redheaded leader of the U.A.W. is still crippled from the blast.

With the motive for the blasts largely a matter of conjecture, identity of the gunman or gunman as the case may be, has

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### 'Baloney,' Says Chief of Crime Group's Report



TOM WATSON  
Legion Commander in 1949-50

### TOM WATSON NEW LEGION COMMANDER

Tom Watson, pioneer plastering contractor, was elected commander of the Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170, the American Legion, at a meeting of the post in the new clubhouse Tuesday night.

Watson will take the reins of the post from present Commander Tom Babbitt during installation ceremonies Saturday night July 23.

Also to be installed in the ceremonies which will be conducted by the installing team from the Whittier Post are the supporting officers including:

Lyle Madsen, first vice commander; Vic Froberg, second vice commander; Lyle O'Hara, finance officer; Paddy Ryan, chaplain, and Eddie Chamberlain, service officer.

Those elected to the executive board included: Tom Watson, chairman; Bud Younker, Alex McPhail, Less Fix, Paul Findley, and Henry Grubb.

### J. H. HULL TO ADDRESS ROTARIANS

"The Torrance Point of View in Education" is the topic of an address to be given at the Torrance Rotary Club this evening by Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools. The program was arranged by John Steinbaugh, principal of Torrance High School and a member of Torrance Rotary.

Refuting last week's "dying swan" act of a special crime commission report that the Torrance jail lacked adequate security supervision and that inter-departmental jealousy hindered police routine, Chief John Stroth this week labeled the report as being "A lot of baloney."

The report, made on the basis of an investigation begun two years ago, was widely published in newspapers throughout the county and took local police somewhat by surprise inasmuch as Chief Stroth and 46 other police departments have not received a copy of the report, Stroth said.

In the commission's report to the County Board of Supervisors, Virgil J. O'Malley, associate warden of the State Department of Corrections, claimed that the inter-agency jealousy between the police departments of the South Bay hindered proper law enforcement.

Stroth vigorously denied this

stating that there could be no better cooperation than that which exists between police departments of the South Bay and Los Angeles—also criticized in the 600-page account.

O'Malley filed his report with the supervisors the day before the commission, on special appointment by Gov. Earl Warren, passed out of existence. In its crime study, the commission brought out the following "inadequacy" facts pertaining to the Torrance Jail:

"Jail lighting very poor during the day and night; security supervision not adequate to prevent escapes, suicides, assaults upon employees with the possibility of escape and is not adequate to prevent trusty prisoners from sneaking out for illicit purposes; no written rules for the guidance of prisoners in regard to discipline."

"Burned up by the report," Stroth said that no on-the-spot investigation had been made by any agency or commission during the last two years with the exception of a report tendered on the number of drunks handled by the local police, Stroth claimed.

"The commission's findings are a lot of generalizations," Stroth declared. "The fact that the same report was made for many of the 46 police organizations reported on indicates this," he averred.

Exception to the report and further denial of the alleged conditions at local jails is expected to be expressed at a meeting today of police officials from the South Bay area. The meeting is slated for the Mermaid Cafe in Hermosa Beach.

Commenting on the commission's claim that the local jail lacked protection against prisoners committing suicide Stroth revealed that no suicides had been committed in the local jail.

Among the other police agencies criticized by the lengthy report were the police departments of Redondo Beach, Hermosa, Manhattan Beach, and the jail at San Pedro.

### Factory Frolic 'Out' as C. of C. Drops Backing

There will be no Factory Frolic in Torrance this year.

The decision to withhold sponsorship of the community celebration, planned for September, was voted unanimously Tuesday by directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, after long discussions and extensive investigations.

The action, cancelling plans for the Frolic, was taken in response to widespread public sentiment, according to Blaine Walker, executive secretary of the Chamber. "It just didn't seem feasible this year," commented Walker, "so we have decided to devote our time and energy to other activities that probably will be of more permanent benefit to the community."

"However, your Chamber of Commerce wishes to express its gratitude to those firms and individuals who had promised to participate in the Factory Frolic had it been held," added Charles V. Jones, Chamber president, and "we'd like to take a rain check on their offers of assistance."

Issuance of a Chamber of Commerce bulletin to members, to be published "when the occasions warrant" six times a year was authorized by the board of directors.

### Local Guardsmen To Entrain Here For Camp

Approximately 30 guardsmen from Torrance and Lomita comprising Company A of the 57th Engineers will board trucks at 3 p.m. Saturday which will transport them to the Pacific Electric depot where they will entrain for San Luis Obispo for a two-week National Guard training period, July 10-24.

The unit will muster at the park at 4 p.m. and leave for the overnight trip from the depot at about 6 p.m., according to Lt. Jesse Ball, of 2122 Gramercy avenue, executive officer of the company.

Capt. A. Gibb is in command of the unit.

### RECENT GRADUATE

Among the 522 graduates of Santa Barbara College of the University of California who received their diplomas from President Robert G. Sproul during recent commencement exercises was Eliza A. Stanley, 2232 Andree avenue.



DR. HOWARD A. WOOD  
Reelected School Board President.



GEORGE THATCHER  
May resign from School Board.

### 'Plans Indefinite' Declares Trustee

George Thatcher, retiring vice-president of the Torrance Board of Education, informed the other members of the board at a meeting Friday

morning that he may be forced to tender his resignation within the next two months.

Thatcher, a sales engineer with the Linde Air Products Co., stated that a change in sales territory may force him to move from the school district.

The statement was made at the regular announced organizational meeting of the board held on July 1—the fiscal new year's day.

Dr. Howard A. Wood, incumbent president of the board, was elected to the vice-presidency on a nomination by Mrs. Grace Wright and seconded by Mrs. Evelyn Carr.

Steele was elected to the vice-presidency on a nomination by Mrs. Grace Wright and seconded by Mrs. Carr.

Though Thatcher said his plans still were rather indefinite he felt it unfair to accept an office on the board when he may be forced to resign in the near future.

If Thatcher leaves the district his position on the Torrance School Board will be filled by appointment from the other four members. The appointee would serve out Thatcher's unexpired term of office. He was elected last year to serve a four-year term.

### REZONING HEARING SLATED

Due for a hearing July 14 is a large portion of Torrance scheduled to be rezoned.

The area affected is bounded by Carson street on the south, a line just north of 203rd street on the north, Crenshaw boulevard on the east and Hawthorne boulevard on the west.

Residents for and against the proposed change in zoning, will be heard in the city council chambers on the night of July 14.

The change of zone is part of the plan to revamp the master city plan of zoning, now in effect, namely ordinance No. 316.

### Humane Society 'To Get Tough' On Loose Dogs

A "get tough policy" with violators of Torrance's dog "leash law" will be adopted, according to a warning which came this week from Mrs. Bernice Blom, director of the South Bay Humane Society.

"Stronger precautions must be taken" said Mrs. Blom, "due to the increased irritability of the animals during the warmer months, and the fact that more children are on the streets during summer vacation."

She warned that violation of the law which requires all dogs to be confined in a closed area or on a leash no longer than five feet, is punishable by a fine of not less than \$5 nor more than \$300.

### Governor Ok's Child Centers for One Year

By affixing his signature to a bill, Governor Earl Warren, prevented the closing of Torrance Child Care centers last Thursday.

The two local functions, the Nursery School and the Day Care Center would have closed officially at midnight June 30 for the lack of state aid. The legislation approved by Warren allotted \$5,848,500 for the continued support of the Child Care Centers throughout the state for the next year.

It was felt by many that the Child Care Centers, a product of the war years, filled a definite peacetime social need here and elsewhere throughout California. The two local organizations are maintained on the grounds of the Torrance Elementary School. The centers are used largely by widowed mothers and others who find it necessary to work during the day.

Presently enrolled in the two schools are approximately 25 children in the Day Care Center and approximately twice that number in the Nursery School.

The project is entirely supported by State funds with the school district furnishing the building and location.

### Sand, Gravel Firm Added to Chamber Commerce Rolls

L. H. Chandler's Palos Verdes Sand and Gravel Co., 25311 Narbonne, avenue this week became a member of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, announced Blaine Walker, executive secretary.

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## Bride Prays For Lovers' Lane Hero

### DOCTORS TO PROBE FOR BULLET IN MATE'S NECK

The prayers of a new bride, 16-year-old Betty Bowen Ivers, a cashier at the Ideal Ranch Market on Torrance boulevard, are helping her husband gain strength for an operation to remove a bullet from his neck.

The young bride's husband, Alwyn "Sonny" Ivers, 19,

was shot in the neck as he wrestled with a gunman who was killed in a lover's lane holdup last Friday in the Baldwin Hills was scheduled to go to surgery late yesterday.

The youthful bride, stepdaughter of Gust Drake, operator of the vegetable department in the Ideal Ranch Market, 2067 Torrance boulevard, was married to Ivers in the corridor of the Los Angeles General Hospital last Sunday.

The couple, who planned a church wedding for Sunday, were married less than 40 hours after they said they had fought and killed a young masked desperado in the Baldwin Hills.

As the couple sat in Ivers' parked car on the hillside "lovers lane" about a half mile west of Rodeo Road and Jefferson boulevard, a young man, his face covered with a bandana handkerchief, approached their car with a revolver in his hand.

The young sweethearts told police Brock first asked them for money and after he had emptied Ivers' wallet motioned the youth away from the car saying, "I want your girl."

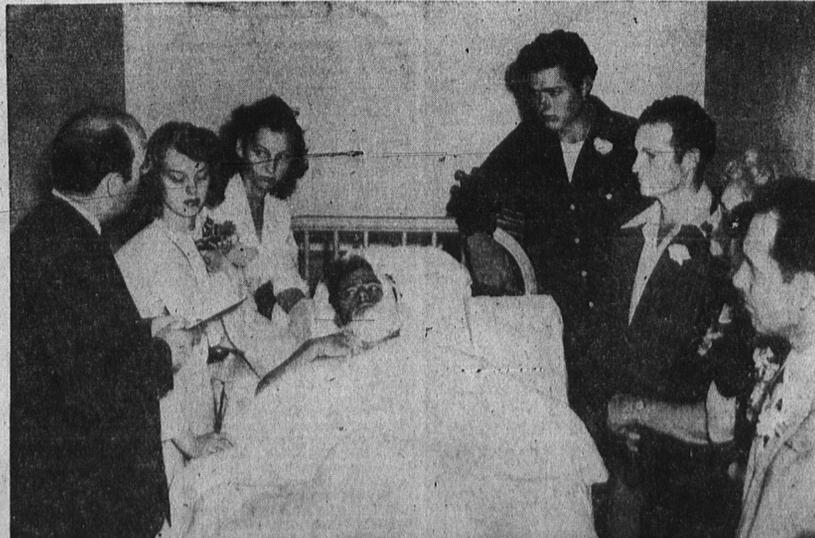
Ivers sprang on him. In the 10-minute fight that ensued, the Oklahoma lad was shot twice before he wrestled the revolver from the gunman. His girl picked the revolver up and beat the bandit over the head with it, trying to free her wounded fiancé.

Finally, Ivers said he took the gun from the girl and fired four shots at the marauder, one of which found its mark.

Drake's stepdaughter, who had never driven an automobile before, guided Ivers' car down the twisting hillside road to a gasoline station. The attendant called police. They found Brock dead.

The attacker was later identified at the County Morgue by his father as William Brock, 15, 5228 Fay avenue, Los Angeles.

The dead man's father, Ewart F. Brock, told police he believed his son had staged the holdup to pay for a boat. Brock is to be buried today after 3 p.m. services in the Chapel of the Chimes, Inglewood Park Cemetery.



NUPTIAL SETTING . . . Gust Drake (extreme right), operator of the vegetable department at the Ideal Market, witnesses the wedding of his stepdaughter, Betty Bowen, to Alwyn Ivers, shooting victim, at Los Angeles General Hospital. Others at the

strange ceremony are, left to right, the Rev. Walter A. Pegg, the bride, her sister Norma Bowen, the groom, Arthur Cranfield, best man, Leslie Ivers, Alwyn's brother and mother, and Mr. and Mrs. Drake.—Los Angeles Times Photo.