

# 'Unloaded' Gun Kills Boy, 18



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**HEROIC LINEMAN** J. E. Estes (left) describes how he and fellow workers aided two teen-age boys yesterday in homemade bomb explosion at one youth's home. Estes and companions

applied tourniquet, are credited with possibly saving the life of one victim. Other man is Torrance Police detective, Walter Nitz.

# Youths Escape Death from Homemade Bomb

## One-Mile Area Rocked by Blast

**TORRANCE** — A homemade bomb blast rocked a mile-square residential area late Tuesday, shattering the leg of one boy and seriously injuring his companion.

Police said the explosion occurred in the back yard of a residence at 3446 W. 171st St., where the boys had been making an experimental bomb with matchheads.

The blast hurled a 2-inch metal fragment into the leg of Ralph Nisson, 14, and sent another chunk of metal into a neighboring yard, where it narrowly missed two infants in a crib.

Nisson, who lives at 3448 W. 171st St., is in serious condition at Harbor General Hospital. His companion, identified as William Whitehead, 17, of 3446 W. 171st St. is in satisfactory condition with deep leg cuts.

### SISTER UNHURT

Young Nisson's sister, 3-year-old Colleen, was standing nearby when the blast occurred, but suffered only superficial injuries, police said.

Two linemen working nearby saw the blast and, armed with first aid kits, ran to the back yard. One worker, identified as J. E. Estes, applied a tourniquet to young Nisson's wounds, and was credited with preventing a possibly fatal loss of blood.

Interviewed by Police at Harbor General Hospital, Whitehead told officers he and Nisson had experimented with homemade explosives before, but that nothing serious ever had happened.

"I knew it would make an explosion," Whitehead said — "but nothing like it did."

Police could not obtain a statement from Nisson due to his condition, they said.

Police identified the man as William A. Mead, a Culver City resident.

Sgt. David Cook said he spotted Mead's car when it failed to halt for a boulevard stop sign at Artesia and Hawthorne Blvds. Cook gave chase on his police motorcycle, but finally called for help when he could not force Mead to stop.

Joined by other Torrance police units and sheriff's deputies, Cook pursued Mead's auto to Grant Ave. and Phelan Lane, where the suspect leaped from the car and fled on foot.

A sheriff's deputy tackled Mead and threw him to the ground, officers said.

Investigation showed Mead's car to be a Santa Monica stolen. A search uncovered more than two dozen pills which police said appeared to be narcotics.

Mead was booked for auto theft, narcotics violation and

### GO BANKRUPT?

## School Board Members OK Salary Schedule Change

**TORRANCE** — A five-column teachers' salary schedule was adopted Monday night by the Board of Education, despite one member's prediction the pay hike would lead the district to bankruptcy.

In revising the former three-column schedule to five, the board is attempting to provide financial recognition to teachers upon completion of each semester of graduate study.

Board members favoring the measure, predicted to cost the school district between \$55,000 and \$88,000, contended it will aid in recruiting good teachers, help to hold good teachers, and meet competition of the neighboring 19 districts, which all use four and five-column schedules.

Sole board member opposing the issue was Bert Lynn, who reminded the group the three-column structure already reflected a three per cent raise for all certificated employees of the district up to the assistant superintendent level.

"I cannot, in good conscience, lead this district into bankruptcy," he said. "If this salary structure change is approved, I am not about to go back to the taxpayers in a year or two to ask for more money through an override tax."

### 'BEST TEACHERS'

Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools, said, "The new five-column schedule will get and hold the best teachers for Torrance. Supplying our students with the best teachers possible is not a waste of money."

He added that the purpose of the Board of Education is more than merely saving money for money's sake. "It is the wise spending of money plus the hiring of quality teachers," he con-

tended as the purpose of the board.

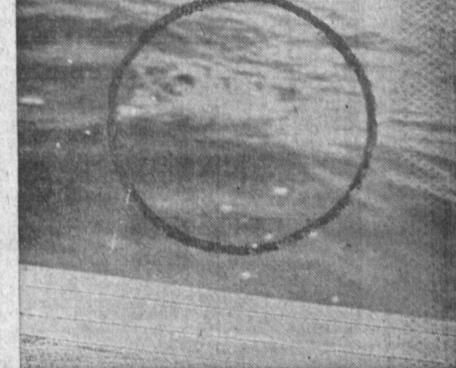
The previous schedule required a year or more (approximately 30 units) of graduate study to progress from one column to the next. With the five-column schedule, a teacher may progress to the second column after completion of 15 units of graduate work.

Persons completing 30 graduate units or their M.A. degree will be placed on schedule C. Schedule D requires an M. A. degree plus 18 units or a B.A. degree plus 56 units and schedule E requires an M.A. degree plus 36 units or a B.A. plus 72 units.

Salaries for the various schedules are as follows: A, \$5502 to \$7718 after 12 years; B, \$5418 to \$7875; C, \$5633 to \$8552; D, \$5989 to \$9171 after 13 years; and E, \$6344 to \$9825.

In other special business, the board unanimously approved a two per cent night pay differential for custodial employees working from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m.

The board considered establishment of a district-paid health program for all employees of the district. However, it voted to table the matter until a later meeting.



**UNDERWATER TRAVELER** drifts near Baywatch II, county lifeguard rescue boat off Torrance Beach. Jellyfish which have plagued swimmers, surfers during past week probably will stay around South Bay beaches for next two weeks.



## Friends See Youth, 18, Shoot Self

**CARSON** — A teen-ager accidentally shot himself to death Monday night before the horrified eyes of his brother and three friends.

Sheriff's homicide detectives theorized the shooting may have climaxed a game of Russian roulette, but thus far have listed the death as accidental.

Pronounced dead on arrival at Harbor General Hospital was Jimmy Lee Smith, 18, of 21716 S. Figueroa St.

Detectives said the youth and his brother, Jay 22, were with three friends in a service station at 21702 S. Figueroa St. shortly before midnight.

**'FOR PROTECTION'**  
The youngest Smith was to be employed at the station on a midnight to 8 a.m. shift, detectives said, and had brought a .25 caliber pistol with him for protection.

One witness said Smith jokingly placed the weapon against his head and pulled the trigger, as if in a game of Russian roulette. The gun misfired, however, and Smith aimed a second time.

**KILLED INSTANTLY**  
A single bullet struck Smith in the right temple, killing him instantly.

Det. Mac Wrona of the sheriff's homicide detail said subsequent investigation indicates Smith died after the gun discharged against a doorway.

The case still is under investigation.

## Police Halt Fleeing Auto After Pursuit

**TORRANCE** — A 90-mile-an-hour chase last night has netted police a 24-year-old auto thief and narcotics suspect.

Police identified the man as William A. Mead, a Culver City resident.

Sgt. David Cook said he spotted Mead's car when it failed to halt for a boulevard stop sign at Artesia and Hawthorne Blvds. Cook gave chase on his police motorcycle, but finally called for help when he could not force Mead to stop.

Joined by other Torrance police units and sheriff's deputies, Cook pursued Mead's auto to Grant Ave. and Phelan Lane, where the suspect leaped from the car and fled on foot.

A sheriff's deputy tackled Mead and threw him to the ground, officers said.

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## Rafferty Sets WALTERIA Talk

**WALTERIA** — Dr. Max Rafferty, candidate for state superintendent of instruction, will address the South Bay Young Republican Club tomorrow night at the Fish Shanty Restaurant.

Don Mehlig, club president, says, "Dr. Rafferty is running for perhaps the most important post in the coming November elections — one of guiding the future education of all our children in California."

"We feel very honored to have Dr. Rafferty with us, and I encourage everyone who has a personal interest in the education of his children to attend."

Admission is free, and the 8 p.m. meeting will be preceded by a social hour.

### Later Trash Schedule

**TORRANCE** — Rubbish collection will be provided one day later next week because of the Labor Day holiday.

### TOP SPEAKERS

## Torrance to Host Intercity Meeting

**TORRANCE** — Lt. Gov. Glenn Anderson and other dignitaries will greet 300 delegates to the second annual Independent Cities Seminar here Sept. 28.

Schedule of events for the one-day seminar, first time held in Torrance, includes panel discussions, general discussions and deliveries of points of view from men prominent in city and state government.

Keynote address of the event, to be held in the recreation building at Civic Center, will be delivered by Jim Nicklen, city attorney of El Monte and Arcadia. His topic will be "Independent Cities — Fact or Fantasy?"

Topics of Lt. Gov. Anderson and George Christopher, mayor of San Francisco, will be "The Impact of State Legislation on Home Rule." Pros and cons to the ques-

tion, "To what degree should cities accept 'handout' programs from higher jurisdictions (county, state and federal government)?" will be studied at a panel discussion.

Taking the positive stand for aid will be Joe Quinn, assistant to Sam Yorty, Los Angeles mayor. Speaking against aid will be Frederick W. Sharp, chief administrative officer of Pomona.

A panel on "Home Rule Responsiveness" will consist of William Probert, chief administrative officer of San Gabriel, moderator; John Sailors, city manager of El Segundo; Frances E. Hopkins, Redondo Beach city manager; B. B. Nicholson, editor of "Your Town" of Gardena; Elton Phillips, Arcadia councilman; and T. William Heidner, Pasadena fire chief.

## Park Projects Get Go-Ahead

**ALONDRA PARK** — A new rest room, paved parking for 84 cars and development of an amphitheater are among improvements authorized here by county supervisors.

Plans for the development project were approved Tuesday, with bids called for at the same time.

Included in the job will be grading and site preparation on approximately 10 acres, installation of new benches, development of a play area,

addition of an automatic sprinkler system and parking lot lighting.

The contract is expected to be awarded within the next two to three weeks, according to Supervisor Kenneth Hahn. Construction time is estimated to be 140 days.

Said Hahn:

"This improvement at Alondra Park is part of a continuing program to bring the best recreational facilities to the people in the Second Supervisorial District."

### New Tax Office

**TORRANCE** — A new Internal Revenue Service office, serving Torrance and surrounding communities, opens this week at 20355 S. Hawthorne Blvd.

The office will include revenue agents, revenue officers, tax auditors and examiners, as well as clerical and supervisory personnel, according to Robert Riddell, district director.

Offices may be reached by calling 370-3611.

### Inside the Press

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Church News \_\_\_\_\_ C6  
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# Hey, Mr. Jellyfish! Go Away! (Don't Come Back Another Day)

**TORRANCE** — Those slippery, slimy, toe-stinging jellyfish that plagued beachgoers this weekend are here to stay — for two weeks, anyway.

The creepy creatures drifted into Southern California waters late last week with a Japanese current, county lifeguards say. What's worse, they probably won't leave until the currents do, an estimated 15 days off.

"It's the worst outbreak of jellyfish we've had in a

good six years," says John Fitch, research director for the local Department of Fish and Game.

According to Fitch, the long-legged beasts are a-kin to the ferocious Portuguese Man O' War, which inhabits South Seas waters. Fortunately, they're far less dangerous and considerably easier to cope with, Fitch says.

Although the jellyfish's sting can conceivably be fatal, it generally causes only severe skin irritation. The

sting, Fitch says, is caused by a million microscopic barbs which automatically bristle with contact.

The sting is treated, according to lifeguard Lt. Don St. Hill, with a two-part first aid procedure. First step is to apply sand to the sting, followed immediately thereafter with a dab of ammonia.

If treated promptly, St. Hill says, the sting should disappear within 15 minutes.

The tentacles are the only portion capable of stinging,

as they are the only part of the jellyfish's body used in obtaining food. The tentacles contain a venom strong enough to kill the plankton and small fishes on which the jellyfish thrives.

There's one optimistic note: one of Nature's most unique phenomena may put the jellyfish to heel before its scheduled 15-day visit is up.

Which phenomenon? The slippery, slimy, smelly Red Tide. You just can't win.



**QUICK TREATMENT** for jellyfish sting is described by county lifeguard Lt. Don St. Hill. First step shown Robert Smith is application of sand, followed immediately by ammonia solu-

tion. First aid measures help lessen seriousness of sting, lifeguards say. Jellyfish (arrow) is seen in foreground. (Press Photos by Pat Neese)