

ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING

Detective's Gun Kills Long Beach Newsman

FRI APR 24 1964
A police reporter for the Long Beach Independent was accidentally shot and killed at his desk early Thursday by a detective who was one of his close friends.

William B. Hunter, 35, was struck in the heart by a 38-caliber slug from the gun of Det. Creighton Wiggins Jr., 29, as he sat with his feet propped on his desk in the press room of the police station.

Wiggins at first believed he had shot himself until he looked up and saw Hunter, a surprised expression on his face, slump over in his chair.

Police said Wiggins' gun fell to the floor as he was taking off his coat and the snub-nosed revolver discharged when he picked it up.

The accident was witnessed by Wiggins' partner, Det. Errol Greenleaf, 32.

The two officers had gone to the press room to give Hunter details on a crime story.

Hunter, of 3503 Centralia Ave., Lakewood, had been night police reporter for the Independent for five years.

Last year he won the California Newspaper Ass'n. award for a special series, "Three Days in Dallas," which he wrote following the assassination of President Kennedy.

He also won the California-Nevada Associated Press

Award last June for a story about an auto which plunged from the Terminal Island Bridge.

A native of Dallas, Hunter returned to that city to cover the trial of Jack Ruby, convicted killer of accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald.

Following an autopsy, Hunter's body will be taken to the Dilday Mortuary 1250 Pacific Ave., Long Beach, and then to Dallas for burial.

The newsman leaves his wife, Leela, and three children, Cynthia, Brad and Laurie.



William B. Hunter