

Fun and Death at The Police Station

Long Beach

It was "cops and robbers" horseplay with loaded guns by two detectives that led to the accidental death of a police reporter, Chief W. J. Mooney disclosed yesterday.

William B. Hunter, 35, reporter for the Long Beach Independent Press-Telegram, was shot early Thursday in the police station press room.

The preliminary statement given police said Detective Creighton Wiggins Jr., son of a Long Beach police inspector, had dropped

his gun and it went off as he was picking it up.

Statements

But Mooney said yesterday that both Wiggins, 29, and a fellow officer, Errol F. Greenleaf, 30, signed statements giving a substantially different account of what happened.

Both men have been relieved of their duties pending an inquest, and will undergo lie detector tests Monday.

The district attorney is investigating the case.

Mooney's account of what happened, was published in the after-

noon Press-Telegram:

"As they came down the long hall leading to the press room, Wiggins was chasing his partner, Greenleaf, with a revolver in his hand.

Revolver

"Greenleaf ran into the press room, drew his revolver and peered around the corner with his revolver drawn while Wiggins approached the door. Greenleaf then turned around, holstered his gun and walked to the rear of the press room when Wiggins ran into the room with revolver in hand.

Accident

"Wiggins said he started to drop his gun, grabbed it and accidentally fired the shot that killed Hunter," said Mooney.

Black confirmed generally the account of what had happened.

Hunter was night police reporter for the Independent Press-Telegram for the past five years. His body will be flown to Dallas for funeral service and burial today.

Black said Wiggins joined the force seven years ago, shortly before Greenleaf.

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