

MAN OF MYSTERY IS FOUND IN TORRANCE

Tattoos of Heart, 'Jean' Clues to Wanderer's Past

Today in the psychiatric ward of Los Angeles General Hospital is a man whose mind apparently is as blank as it was the day that he was born.

This man of mystery was found wandering near one of the Torrance markets Sunday and brought in to the police station for questioning.

The unidentified man is about 33 years of age, well-dressed, pleasant, and mentally alert except for the fact that he didn't know who he was, where he was, how he got to Torrance, or why he was here.

Clues to the mystery man's past include two tattoos—an eagle and a heart with the word "Jean" on his left forearm, the name "Gene" with a star on his right forearm.

The wanderer's hair is brown, his eyes are gray. He is five feet seven inches in height, and of medium build. Torrance police twice took the man of mystery for a ride in a police car through the area where he was found in particular.

There was no recognition in his eyes. It was though he was riding through streets that he had never known, or seen, before in his life.

Police suggested names, in the hope that one would pierce the veil that shrouds the man's mind, and light a flare of recognition.

The name "Hynes" in the phone book seemed to evoke some response from the unknown one. The name "Gene" tattooed on his arm suggests that his first name possibly might be Eugene. His facility in writing the letter "J" suggests perhaps his middle name might be John or James.

But, no one knows for sure whether those hints, or clues, contain any truth at all, and he was taken to Los Angeles County General

Hospital on Monday evening.

The mystery of identity is tightly locked in the man's mind, which today apparently is as blank as it was on the day that he was born.

State College Decision Due In Two Days

The choice between Torrance or the Palos Verdes peninsula as the home of the new four-year South Bay College may be made in the next two days.

The question is on the agenda of the board of trustees of the California State College, which opens its monthly two-day meeting tomorrow in San Jose.

A delegation from Torrance will be present. However, it is said that the matter of the future college site will be decided in an "executive" session, which means that the public is barred from attending.

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeier and Councilman George Vico already are on their way to San Jose.

Councilman Nicholas O. Deale and Rev. David O. Beales leave today by auto for San Jose.

Tomorrow, others, including Mayor Albert Isen, Councilmen Ross Sciarrotta Sr., J. A. Beasley, Ken Miller, and Mrs. K. E. Watts will fly north to attend the meeting.

The answer for sure will come in a couple of days.

READ IT FIRST IN THE PRESS

TORRANCE SOUTH BAY CARSON LOMITA HARBOR AREA

THE PRESS

3238 SEPULVEDA BLVD. — Phone DA 5-1515

VOLUME XIV, NUMBER 84

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1963

10c A COPY

Clip Coupon On Page A2 For Your Sabin Vaccine



DO YOU KNOW THIS MAN? Presently at Los Angeles General Hospital, the man shown above with Policewoman Maxine Hahn, of the Torrance police, was questioned in vain by local

officers in an effort to establish his identity. If you know him call the police or the Los Angeles General Hospital.

PRESS PHOTO

SCHOOL BOND ELECTION SET APRIL 16

The Board of Education of the Torrance Unified School District last Monday night voted to hold a school bond election on April 16. Approval will be sought for \$8 million in bonds.

Two members of the board also will be elected at that time.

Dr. Kurt Shery and William C. Boswell Jr. are the members whose terms expire.

The board also voted to offer for sale \$1 million in bonds which were authorized in the Oct. 14, 1958, election.

The money will be used to finance the addition to Torrance High School for physical education facilities and the Joseph Arnold School.

The board let the contract for the Torrance High work

to P&A Construction Co. in the amount of \$685,700.

The board members also approved plans for additional classrooms at West High, which is estimated to cost in the neighborhood of \$1 million.

Future building in the district hinges on the approval of the bond issue in April, it was said.

In other actions, the board voted against one proposed school site in the Marble Estates area and instructed the school administration to get together with the developers to work out the location of another site for the new school.

The site that was voted

down lies south of W. 229th St. and west of the railroad tracks in land that is zoned for industrial use, but which is said not to be desirable for industry because of being "landlocked."

The site to be explored lies in an area east of the railroad which presently is zoned R-3.

Discussion also centered on enlarging the present Hickory School to accommodate 1200 students of the 1838 anticipated in the area.

To do this would require eight more classrooms than Anza school, the largest in the district.

To gain the land necessary for the expansion of Hickory School, it was suggested that a joint use agreement be arranged with the city for five acres earmarked for park purposes.

Inside the Press
Classified C12-D4
Entertainment C7
Food and Family C1
Women C2

300 Years of Coins To Be Shown Tomorrow

The new Lomita-Torrance branch of the Bank of America holds its open house tomorrow, Thursday, Feb. 7, showing the "300 years of American Coin" collection of Cyrus H. Phillips.

In the Space Satellite contest, visitors may win prizes of savings accounts from \$15 to \$50. The new building is located at 25435 Crenshaw Blvd., in the Airport Plaza Shopping Center.

Little League Tryouts Set at Garrett Field

The North Torrance Little League East has announced that tryouts and final registrations will be held Saturday, Feb. 9, starting at 9:00 in the morning.

Boys 8 through 12 can sign up and try out at Garrett Field, West 190th St. and Arlington Ave. The annual bake sale will be held at the same time. The money raised will help to buy equipment for the league.

Carrier Boys Wanted
DA 5-1515

Part Two:

A Story of Courage . . .

On Sept. 5, 1959, the day after his 15th birthday, Charles Schmitt was floating helplessly unconscious in the surf, his neck broken.

Almost three weeks later, Charles awoke in a hospital.

"A strong light was in my eyes. A strange hissing sound filled my ears. I tried to move, and couldn't. Then, the memory of what had happened came back to my mind," is the way that Charles remembers that instant when his eyes opened.

The hissing was the sound of oxygen being fed directly into his trachea through an incision in the throat.

"I was in the water so long," said Charles, "that the supply of oxygen in my body had become depleted."

Active and strongly-muscled until smashed by the rolling sea, Charles was frightened when he couldn't move, but "I wasn't fully aware what was wrong with me, and what my chances really were for the normal life that I once knew."

He paused, shifted in his wheel chair, lost for a second in reverie of that bygone day. "You never believe that things are as bad as they are — or, at least, you hold a hope that they aren't."

Later, came the bitter reality of a lifetime of paralysis. "It wasn't," he said, "until I fully realized what had happened that I began to go downhill."

It was from that valley of despair that Charles began his long, hard, and troubled way back to the life that he knows today.

To being an honor student . . . to driving a car . . . to the editorship of his school paper . . . to the presidency of the student body



CHARLES AND HIS MOTHER, Mrs. Bess Cooney, of 2324 1/2 W. 250th St., Lomita, have gone through a lot together and yet, today, they can smile about it. Charles is wearing de-

vice which helped to develop wrist flex and enable him to pick up things despite the paralysis of his fingers.

—PRESS photo

at Joseph Pomeroy Widney High School . . . to graduation from high school only a semester behind the class with which he started, healthy, strong and active.

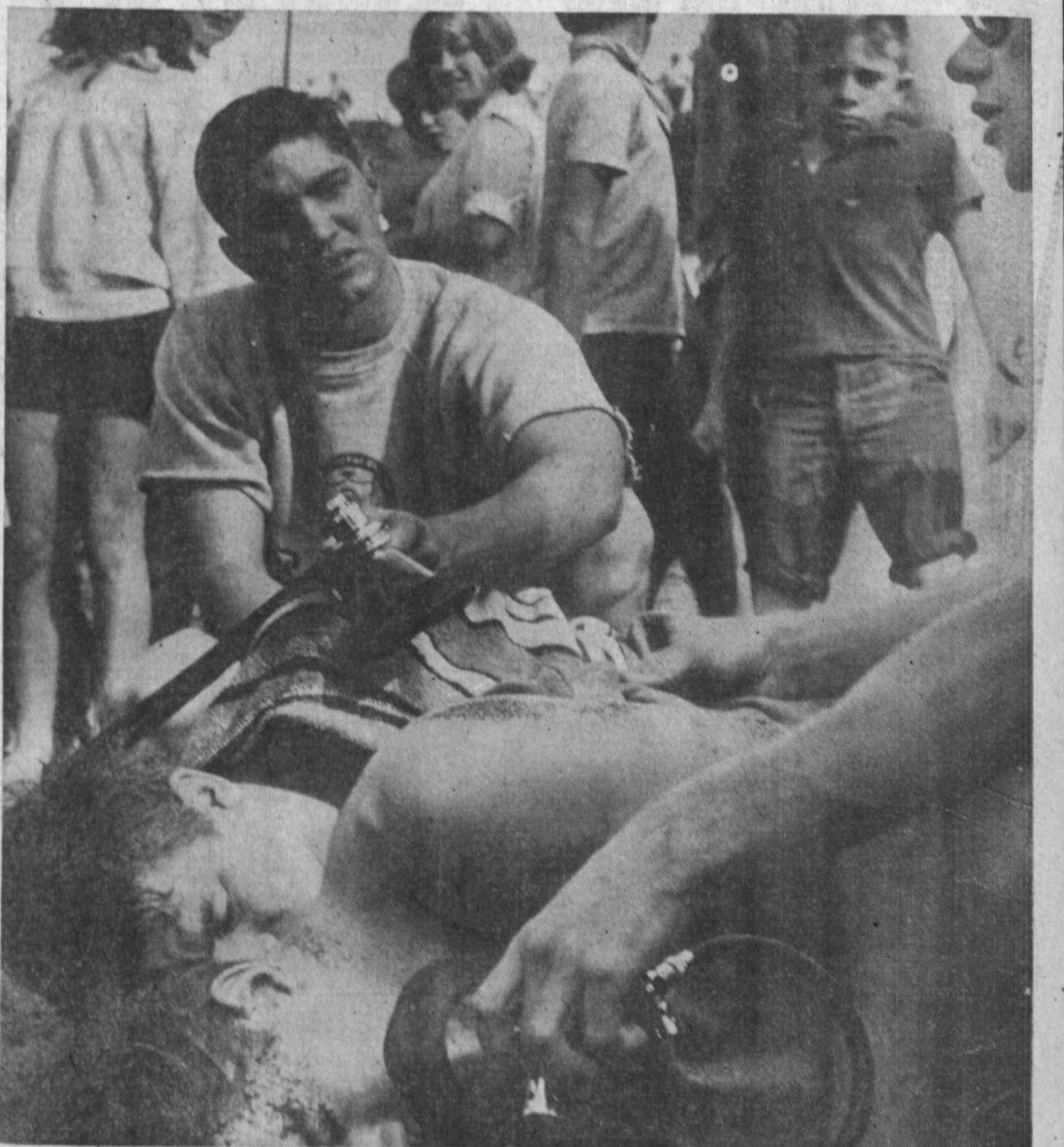
It all has been done in a wheelchair, but it began on

his stomach. "All I could see was the bare floor," said Charles. He couldn't move. Lying in the same place brought sores to his body. He was placed in isolation because those sores were open, festering, and draining. "It was a horrifying experience," said Charles.

Constantly looking at the bare floor deepened the valley of despair.

His mother, Mrs. Bess

(Continued on page A-3)



A DRAMATIC RESCUE from the sea took place last Sunday when Walter Hetz, a physical education teacher at North High Torrance, saved the two boys shown above. Nearest the camera with respirator mask near his face is Dean H. Anderson, 18, of 24138 Censor St.,

Harbor City, and Dean Rader, Jr., 18, of 22908 Van Deene St., Torrance. Hetz also pulled three others from the strong surf current Sunday. Story, additional pictures, Page A-10.

PRESS PHOTO By Gordon Akers.