

Law Probes Gun Death of Ernest Lombard

Authorities today were continuing a probe into the gunshot death of Ernest A. (Jack) Lombard, 31, 561 Fillmore, a used car dealer, whose short but stormy life was ended violently by a .22 bullet in the chest yesterday afternoon.

His wife, Helen, told police she was pointing a pistol at him after a scuffle for the gun in their car when it discharged.

She told police she thought the gun was empty.

Chief A. L. Oliver said he thinks the shooting was accidental.

Mrs. Lombard, the former Helen Archibald Williams, became hysterical after the shooting and was placed under doctor's care. Police questioned her for a short while yesterday afternoon and planned to resume the questioning today if her doctor permits.

Coroner Jack Henderson directed an autopsy on the body this morning. An inquest may be called.

Lombard was struck in the right chest by the bullet which caused hemorrhages at the wound and from the nose and mouth.

He and his wife were on West

Fremont en route to the home of his business partner, Harry W. Blackwell on Skyline drive, when the shooting occurred about 1:20 p.m.

Mrs. Lombard said she did not realize he was struck until he stopped the car, cut off the ignition and slumped against her. Unable to move his body to get at the wheel she ran to the nearby home of Mrs. Priscilla Smith, Mrs. Charles J. Hall, who lives across the street from Mrs. Smith and was visiting there, called police.

Officers found Mrs. Lombard kneeling on the ground beside the car and crying. Her husband's body was sprawled on the car seat with his feet touching the ground. An empty .22 revolver lay nearby.

Another pistol, a .22 fully loaded except for one empty cartridge case, lay on the floor of the car.

Mrs. Lombard, in a hysterical condition, was taken to the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leu Archibald, 556 Jefferson.

Later she told Detective E. G.

Boyce and Police Identification Officer Y. D. Black that her husband had been playfully pointing one of the pistols at her, clicking the trig-



ERNEST LOMBARD Shot Proves Fatal

ger, while driving to the Blackwell home.

He also was handling the other gun which lay on the seat between them. Mrs. Lombard placed the gun on the car floor. She told officers that her husband reached for it as they were going up the Fremont hill. She got it first and pointed it at him, she told police, saying:

"Let's see how you like a gun pointed at you."

The gun went off.

Mrs. Lombard, whose first husband, Grant Williams, drowned four years ago in the Salmon river, told officers she did not know how the gun went off, that she thought it not loaded.

They were going to the Blackwells' for coffee and later Blackwell and Lombard planned to go hunting together.

Lombard, who with Blackwell operated the Long Trader's used car lot at 422 North Main, had \$365.52 cash in his pockets and a bank money order for \$100 made out to him which he had purchased.

Lombard, who served in naval aviation during World War II, was exonerated last year on an arson charge arising out of a fire in the Clayton Hale building on Yellowstone which housed an auto agency run by Lombard.

He has also operated a sound truck business but halted operation after the city commission passed its "squawk box" ordinance.

Lombard married Mrs. Williams in March, 1951. He and his first wife were divorced.

Survivors include his wife, two stepchildren, Jeffery and Brent, a son, Jay, by his first wife, who now live in Alaska; and his mother, Mrs. Flora Gibson, Pocatello. Lombard's father, Ernest A. Lombard, is deceased as is his stepfather, Charles Gibson, former superintendent of the Pacific Fruit Express Co.

The victim was born March 27, 1923, at Glens Ferry. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Alameda Kiwanis club.

Funeral services will be announced by Manning Funeral home.