

Stepfather Shot in Family Row

**Boy, 14, and Cousin
Held as Man Wounded
in Scuffle With Wife**

During a family scuffle, a 14-year-old boy last night assertedly shot and critically wounded his stepfather.

Frank Lane, 40, a hotel engineer of 1122 Maple Ave., was taken to Georgia Street Receiving Hospital, where he was given emergency treatment for shotgun wounds in the back.

Charles Cornett, the stepson, and his cousin, Lloyd Cottrell Jr., 16, of 1234 Rowan Ave. were held for questioning at Highland Park Police Station.

GOES TO HOME

Detective Lieutenants J. C. McDearmon and William Zarsky pieced the story together after questioning the boys and Mrs. Mary Lois Lane, mother of Cornett.

Police said the Lanes, married in 1934, had separated several months ago, but that Lane went to the Cornett home at 2225½ Pasadena Ave. last night.

He attempted to order Cottrell from the house, it was said, and a row ensued. Without a word, police said, the Cornett boy went to the bedroom, seized a .410-gauge shotgun and fired while Lane, Mrs. Lane and Cottrell were still scuffling.

PUZZLED BY NOTE

Police were puzzled by a note found in Lane's clothing at the hospital. Mrs. Lane denied its authorship and Lane was too seriously injured to be questioned. It read:

"Daddy, the second drink in this bottle will be poison, so stop at one, please. Remember, you are my baby, so be sweet. Sugar."

Officers said the Cottrell boy had powder marks on his arm, indicating he was probably struggling with Lane at the time the shot was fired.

Mrs. Lane told officers her estranged husband had been drinking wine while she was absent from the house for a short time.