

Wife Says She Killed Mate Through Fear of Beating

Mrs. Costello Declares Tragedy Caused by Husband's Drinking With Friend

"He had neglected and abused me for years. He came up the stairs muttering threats. He struck me. I took the gun from under my pillow and shot him. I shot in self-defense. I wouldn't intentionally hurt anyone."

Thus yesterday was the Thurs-

day climax. Mrs. Costello told the officers, her husband muttered, "I'll kill that woman," and started up the stairs.

"I was frightened," the wife said. "He had beaten me before—and I thought he was going to beat me again. When he came



SELF-DEFENSE HER PLEA—Katherine Costello, in jail cell, yesterday told story of abuse and said she shot husband in self-defense as he threatened beating.

Times photo

day-night slaying of Gabriel E. Costello, 32, a foundry worker, explained in the words of his 32-year-old wife Catherine, who police say shot and killed her husband following a quarrel over his asserted continuous drinking with a friend.

INQUEST MONDAY

Mrs. Costello is being held on suspicion of murder at Lincoln Heights Jail pending a Coroner's inquest at 9:30 a.m. Monday.

Police reported they found Costello's body in an upstairs bedroom when they arrived at the Costello home, 868 E. 54th St., to investigate a shooting call.

With him and attempting to dress his wounds was Harold West, 31, of 2639 E. 111th Place.

SOBS OUT STORY

"I shot him myself," Mrs. Costello sobbed, according to police. "It was because of that man. He's always with him."

Radio Officers F. J. Collins and C. S. Hendricks later learned that Costello and West had assertedly been drinking wine during the early part of the evening. Upstairs Mrs. Costello was trying to get her two sons, Frankie, 11, and Gilbert, 8, to sleep. She asked her husband to be quiet. Then the quarrel started, the officers reported.

As the argument neared its

near me he struck me on the side of the head. I couldn't stand it, I ran into the bedroom and took the gun from under my pillow—I always kept it there for protection. I fired twice. Gabriel fell to the floor."

LIKE SHADOWS

Mrs. Costello told the officers that her husband and West had been close companions for several months.

"They were like each other's shadows—always together and always drinking," said the wife and mother. "And Gabriel and myself were always quarreling."

"But I didn't mean to kill him," she added.

Funeral Planned for Officer's Son Today

Funeral services will be conducted at 11:30 a.m. today in the Wee Kirk o' the Heather for Charles Whitehead, 19, son of Detective Lieutenant Joseph Whitehead, who died Thursday as the result of injuries incurred in a motorcycle-automobile collision in West Los Angeles. Interment will be in Forest Lawn Memorial Park. The family resides at 3221 Griffith Park Ave.