

Owned by Marin Wife

The gun that cut down Senator Kennedy passed through at least three innocent hands before it wound up in the fist of the would-be assassin.

Fast and thorough police work — and the help of a Marin County housewife — traced the gun and led to the identification of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan as the man who shot down the young senator.

Mrs. Dana Westlake of Woodacre said the gun was given to her by her father, Albert Hertz of Alhambra, who bought the weapon in 1965 after the Watts riot.

GIFT TO YOUTH

She in turn gave the gun to the son of a former neighbor in Pasadena — 13 year old Charles (Chick) Erhard.

Mrs. Westlake said she talked to young Erhard this morning by telephone and he told her that he had sold the gun "to a guy." He apparently did not know the name of the buyer.

But it is believed that he was Sirhan.

The biography of the gun was put together bit by bit by Los Angeles police working with other law enforcement agencies, including the Marin County sheriff's office.

NINE SHOT

The weapon is a snub-nosed nine shot .22 caliber Ivor-Johnson Cadet.

Los Angeles police, using the serial number, began the trace.

At 4:25 a.m. today, the Ma-

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rin sheriff's office received a telephoned request from a Los Angeles detective to question Mrs. Westlake, a legal secretary who lives in Woodacre.

A deputy was immediately dispatched to talk to Mrs. Westlake, she told the story, and the information was relayed back to Southern California.

There, apparently, young Erhard was questioned, and this led to the identification of the suspect.

FROM PARENTS

Mrs. Westlake said her parents gave her the gun while she was still living in Pasadena. She gave it to Erhard sometime last fall, probably in October.

"I have two small boys and I didn't want the gun in the house," she said. "So I finally gave it to the son of my nextdoor neighbors in Pasadena."

The Westlakes moved to Woodacre last February. She said that at that time, young Erhard still had the gun.

She said that when the deputy arrived to question her she was unaware Senator Kennedy had been shot. "They just asked about a gun I used to own," she recalled.

She said when the deputy informed her that the gun had been used to shoot Senator Kennedy, "I just gasped."