

Charged With Murder



Mrs. Karen Olsen Nelson, 26-year-old American woman from Utica, Mich., was called to trial at Santiago, Cuba., where she is charged with murder in the pistol-death of her cane planter husband, on Dec. 11, 1949. She is pictured just before the start of her trial. (AP Wirephoto)

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Widow's Innocence Plea Upheld by Police Testimony

SANTIAGO, CUBA, Jan. 25—(AP)—A Cuban policeman says his investigation of the death of sugar planter Alvar Nelson did not unearth "one single fact that might cast the slightest suspicion" on the young American widow, now on trial here for murder.

The witness, Jacinto Nodarse of the judicial police, yesterday assailed the murder charges against 26-year-old Mrs. Karen Olsen Nelson and two plantation employes as "nothing more or less than a fabrication of lies."

The prosecution is attempting to show that Mrs. Nelson, formerly of Utica, Mich., and the two employes were linked with the death of Nelson on Dec. 11, 1949.

Mrs. Nelson has told the court her husband was killed accidentally when his pistol fell from his belt and discharged in the pump-house of their home.

Yesterday's testimony centered over whether the bullet that killed Nelson struck his heart.

Dr. Manuel Bush, who was called to attend Nelson, said the bullet passed over the edge of the heart and that he could have lived only "eight or 10 heartbeats" after the wound was received.

The court's autopsy surgeon, Dr. Manuel Prieto, has testified the bullet did not touch Nelson's heart and he could have lived for some time afterward.