

Inquest Verdict Clears Policeman in Shooting

Jury Told of Tragedy That Struck Family Gathering in Auto Theft Pursuit

Tony Carrillo deftly rolled one of his homemade cigarillos, stuck one of the twisted ends into his mouth and reached for a match, all the time proudly eyeing his pretty bride of six months, Concepcion.

James C. Solis, Carrillo's broin-

while Castle fired two. The fleeing driver turned the corner and escaped.

According to inquest testimony, it was one of Woolley's bullets which traveled the 650 feet from his firing position to the rear of the Solis home, front-



WIDOWED—Concepcion Carrillo, widowed by police shot.

in-law, at the piano in the living room of the modest dwelling at 1101 Effie St., paused in his music.

It was the opportunity Carrillo had been waiting for.

"Si, Madre," he said, addressing Mrs. Jesusita Solis, his mother-in-law, "vamos a tener un nino!" ("We are going to have a baby.")

Solis, at the piano, grinned as he struck a triumphant chord with both hands. "Bueno," he exclaimed, "a baby, huh."

Carrillo opened his mouth to speak

A heavy-caliber bullet zipped through a screened window in the kitchen, plucked at a drape at the living-room door, ricocheted off the corner of a table and buried itself in Carrillo's heart.

He slumped over his bride's lap on the sofa they had been occupying, his lifeblood staining her new summer frock—the dress she had chosen to wear when they divulged their secret to her mother.

PRONOUNCED DEAD

A policeman stepped up on the porch, then pushed his way into the setting of grief and confusion. A few minutes later two ambulance men in their white uniforms came.

"He's dead," one of them said.

Yesterday, the young widow, dressed in black, sat in a courtroom in the Hall of Justice while Deputy Coroner Frank Monfort

ing on 1101 Effie St., and killed Carrillo instantly.

Grace Avila, 13, of 1814 Paducah St., hobbled to the stand to testify that she was struck on the ankle by a bullet. She was at play on the sidewalk at the time of the shooting.

RECORD REQUESTED

Attorney Frederick Dockweiler, representing the bereaved family, requested Woolley's marksmanship record.

"Yes, sir," the officer replied, "it's sharpshooter—that means getting from 340 to 380 out of a possible 400."

Of Officer Castle Dockweiler asked the same question. Castle, of 5124 Allen St., replied that he was shooting about 85 out of a possible 100 score. After Deputy Coroner Monfort asked Castle, "Have you anything to add to the testimony?" the officer replied:

"That's about all—that's the story."

Before the jury retired to consider this story, a jurymen asked the officers: "How many hits out of your five shots were registered on the car?" Castle replied that the car, later recovered, had been struck once.

The verdict was that Carrillo's death was an excusable homicide by Woolley in performance of his duty, and that Carrillo "was an innocent victim."

Legal redress for the widow's loss is doubtful. Dockweiler and Attorney Luis R. Polo, who rep-



WOUNDED—Grace Avila, struck by bullet.

conducted an inquest into the shooting last Thursday night.

After Solis, the brother-in-law, had made the identification of the victim, Monfort called Officer George L. Woolley, 6312 Crescent St., to the witness stand.

OFFICER TESTIFIES

"We were part of a crew concentrating on an auto theft gang in that neighborhood, where we have recovered 93 stolen cars since the first of the year," Woolley said. "We encountered a suspicious car and drove alongside and told the occupants to halt."

The officer, who said he had been on the force nearly two years, then related how he and his partner, Officer Robert M. Castle, pursued the vehicle for another block, forced it to the curb and got out of their patrol car to question the occupants—two Mexicans.

One of their quarry fled on foot between two houses and the other suddenly started the car and drove down Paducah St. at high speed.

Woolley stood in the middle of the street and fired three shots

resent the family, said. In 1923 the Legislature amended the law to make cities responsible for damages caused by their vehicles, but they cannot be sued for damages in such cases as that of Carrillo, Dockweiler said.

"Perhaps the only solace left the young widow, who is 22, was represented in the presence of Father Thomas of Santo Nino Catholic Church, where the couple were married. Father Thomas accompanied the little group away from the building when the inquest was over.

Council Takes Steps for Investigation

The City Council yesterday took steps to investigate the shooting affray of last week when police officers, pursuing a suspected automobile thief, shot and killed Anthony Carrillo, young businessman seated in a home, and wounded Grace Avila, a child walking on the street.

Councilman G. Vernon Bennett proposed the action, submitting a resolution which was referred to the Police and Fire Committee.