

GIRL'S LOW-VOICED

TALE ACQUITS YOUTH

Testifies Jealous Attack by Spurned Suitor Preceded Villano Killing

Margaret Hastings, 23-year-old divorcee and former cabaret singer, took the witness stand yesterday before Judge Barnett in Quarter Sessions Court and described in a low, scarcely audible tone the events which led up to the killing, in her room at 1025 Walnut street, of John Villano, fruit-stand vendor, whose jealousy for her affection cost him his life last January.

After a trial lasting only one day the jury arrived in eight minutes at a verdict acquitting 20-year-old Frank M. Doris, known as "Tenderloin Frankie," of the slaying of Villano. Testimony showed that the bullet which killed Villano came from his own revolver, which was discharged as he and Doris grappled with each other when the fruit vendor obtained admittance to Margaret Hastings' room.

The girl, attired neatly in a black dress with a white collar, silk stockings and low pumps, showed plainly that the tragedy in which she had been a central figure had affected her deeply. Assistant District Attorney Maurer, who prosecuted the case, and John R. K. Scott, attorney for Doris, several times requested that she speak louder, but the girl pleaded that she was "a bundle of nerves" and unable to raise her voice. She was attacked by Villano with the butt-end of his revolver but a moment before he engaged in the struggle with Doris which ended in his death, and the girl appeared at the Coroner's inquest with a badly discolored eye. Yesterday she said that the force of Villano's blow had been so great that it had been necessary to take several stitches in the flesh above her eye.