

NM Ranch Hand Says He Shot Pete Nalda In Self Defense

Carrizozo, N. M. (AP)—A Mexican ranch hand said Wednesday he shot a Southeastern New Mexico rancher in self defense when he was attacked with a knife.

Assistant District Attorney E. E. Chavez identified Valeriano Alaniz, 44, native of Old Mexico, as slayer of the rancher, Pierre (Pete) Nalda.

Alaniz pleaded guilty to first degree murder and was ordered held under \$50,000 bond for District Court trial next week.

His companion, Luis Campo, 30-year-old Lincoln County ranch hand, denied any connection with the shooting. He pleaded innocent on arraignment and also was held under \$50,000 bond.

Chavez said Alaniz signed a statement in which he told of stopping at the Nalda ranch to buy some gasoline. He said Nalda attacked him with a knife without provocation.

Nalda's nephew, Graziano Nalda, told officers Tuesday two men armed with a pistol and knife had held up his uncle and himself. Graziano said he and his uncle were forced to go to a spot about 100 yards from the ranch house. There they made a break when they heard one of the men say "this is the place to kill them."

DENIES HOLDUP ATTEMPT

Alaniz' statement denied there was any attempt at a holdup.

Legal sources generally agreed that a committing magistrate may accept Alaniz' guilty plea. But jurists added that without exception New Mexico judges have required a trial by jury before passing sentence.

Chavez said Alaniz has been

working at Lincoln County farms and ranches for about two years.

Officers — including a Border Patrolman — had conducted a wide-spread search for the men after Nalda's body was found on the Lewis and Sanders ranch 25 miles southwest of Vaughn Sunday.

Sheriff J. Wayne McComis of Otero County said he and State Police Chief Hubert Beasley and State Police Capt. C. A. White took the men into custody.

He said Alaniz ran to the front door when he saw White at the back door of the ranch house. Spotting the other officers, he turned and ran upstairs, dropping a pistol into a niche in the staircase on the way.

The men were jailed in Lincoln County.

Pierre's body was found with two bullet holes in it. Graziano made it safely to the nearby ranch home of Mike Nalda, another uncle.

Judge Orders Release Of Gambler

Las Vegas, Nev. (UP) — District Judge Frank McNamee Wednesday ordered the release of Gambler L. B. (Benny) Binion ruling that