Woman Doll Merchant Indicted; Accused of Aiding Japs by Code

By the Associated Press.

NEW YORK, May 5.—Mrs. Velvalee Dickinson, 50-year-old doll shop operator, was indicted by a Federal grand jury today on a charge of acting as a spy in the interest of Japan.

Mrs. Dickinson pleaded innocent and bail was fixed at $25,000 by Judge William Bondy, who set June 5 for trial.

The maximum penalty under the four-count indictment, one alleging conspiracy with Jap agents, is death. A prison sentence of up to 30 years may be substituted at the discretion of the court.

The American-born defendant on February 11 had pleaded innocent to a previous Federal court indictment charging she used "a code and device to conceal from the Office of Censorship" the contents of a letter addressed to a correspondent in the Argentine.

Described Warship Moves.

"We now charge," said United States Attorney James B. M. McNally, "that she sent a number of letters to Argentina, some of them containing information about the movement and repairs of battleships after Pearl Harbor and that she sent this information in code to a mail drop in South America. We

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Spy Case

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charge that she did this for money received from Japanese agents."

Mr. McNally said he knows of no other case during this war in which a woman faces a possible death sentence.

Mrs. Dickinson's attorney, Maurice L. Shaine, said the Government has "deprived" her of all her property and that "if the court fixed bail at $1,000 she could not make it."

Kicked FBI Agents.

The 95-pound woman, 5 feet 1 inch tall, kicked and cratched FBI agents when they arrested her January 21. She has been in custody since that time, unable to post $25,000 bond.

Her attorney has been attempting to obtain permission of the court for her to confer with her brother, Oswald Blucher, but Mr. McNally told the court that this was refused after FBI agents, at one such conference, heard Blucher tell Mrs. Dickinson to chew and swallow a piece of paper if any one attempted to take it from her.

Blucher was sentenced last March 31 to 10 days in the House of Detention for contempt of court for refusing to answer questions before the grand jury.

Mrs. Dickinson was educated at the University of California and Leland Stanford. Her late husband, Lee T. Dickinson, was the owner of a California produce company for which she worked.

The company's offices, Mr. McNally said, were in the same San Francisco building which housed the German and Japanese Consulates.