

Uris--

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were happier than any couple I knew," but conceded he had talked with his attorney the day of the shooting about a divorce.

Assistant Dist. Atty. John Wendt asked if he was serious about the divorce. "Not really," Uris replied. "It was kind of a bluff."

He said it was starting to snow when his wife walked out the door. "She had an anguished look on her face," he said. "She hesitated as though she didn't know where she was going or if she wanted to come back into the house.

"It was a test of wills, I guess," Uris said.

HE SAID THEN he heard three shots.

He said he thought Mrs. Uris was firing at the house "to show me she was good and mad."

He said he kept guns in the house "because there had been a threat on my life after I wrote 'Topaz.'" That novel dealt with international intrigue involving France and the United States. He said the threat was made "by agents from a foreign country who arrived in Aspen."

THE AUTOPSY showed one .38-caliber bullet caused a superficial wound in Mrs. Uris' cheek and another entered her mouth and penetrated the brain. A third bullet struck her purse, found lying by the body.

Uris said he spent that night "endlessly calling" his wife's friends. Her body was found the following morning in the fresh-fallen snow about 75 yards from the house.

Uris said he knew his wife "had a father image toward me." But, he said "I was absolutely and totally in love with this girl. I was pleased that no one else could turn me on even slightly . . ."

"SHE WAS A rosebud when I met her and during our marriage and courtship, she just bloomed."

Uris never thought Marge would do herself in," he said.

Author's Wife Died By Own Hand--Jury

ASPEN, Colo. (AP) — The beautiful bride of author Leon Uris died by her own hand, a six-member coroner's jury ruled here today.

After hearing a full day of testimony yesterday, the panel deliberated about 20 minutes before finding that 26-year-old Mrs. Margery Uris, whose body was found Feb. 19, died of a self inflicted bullet wound.

The decision confirmed ear-

lier investigators' reports that the death was an apparent suicide.

URIS TESTIFIED yesterday he and his wife of six months had quarreled and that he told her, "We're through," shortly before she died.

THERE HAD been earlier spats since their marriage last September, Uris testified, but added they always had been settled quickly.

In the last dispute, he said he told her, "We're through. Go sleep downstairs."

But, he said, "what really got me" was Mrs. Uris' reply to his order. "I've made other plans," he quoted her as saying.

"SHE WAS calling my bluff," said the 44-year-old author of such successful novels as "Exodus," "Topaz," "Battle Cry" and "Mila 18."

"When she walked by me she said 'Goodbye. Enjoy the presents.'" He said his last words were: "Marge, if you don't tell me where you're going, it's the worst mistake of your life."

The reference to presents involved presents she had given Uris and his son earlier in the day.

Mrs. Uris — model, artist, silversmith — had been described as "one of the beautiful" of this Rocky Mountain ski resort. Their fashionable home overlooked the town.

URIS TOLD the panel, "We See URIS— Page

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