

SROUFE HELD WITHOUT BAIL

Landlord Who Shot John McLaughlin at McHenry Was Bound Over.

Frank Sroufe, who shot and instantly killed John McLoughlin in the U. C. T. hotel at McHenry, on February 24, was held to the district court without bail. He was given a preliminary hearing before Police Magistrate Pryor in Carrington last Friday. The complaint charges first degree murder.

"Self defense will be the basis of the plea of Frank Sroufe," said Attorney W. O. Loudon of McHenry, who will defend Sroufe.

"Sroufe told a straight story to the coroner's jury," said Mr. Loudon. "McLoughlin's wife worked in the hotel and the two have been separated for some time. McLoughlin had made threats to get Sroufe and the latter was afraid of him. Things reached such a stage that Sroufe told Mrs. McLoughlin he could not employ her longer and she left Saturday for Jamestown taking her young daughter with her.

"McLoughlin became intoxicated and came into the hotel with his small son for supper. He was waited on and began cursing in the dining room and finding fault with his food, not eating a mouthful. He went to the office and paid for his meal and asked for a cigar. When Sroufe asked him what brand he smoked he said, with an oath, it didn't make any difference.

"Sroufe was reading a newspaper when McLoughlin asked him if he was running a first class hotel. Sroufe said he was when McLoughlin passed the lie punctuated with oaths. He was ordered out of the hotel and would not go. Sroufe phoned the marshal and told McLoughlin to leave the place. The latter said he would not move and could whip any man in McHenry.

"Sroufe picked up the revolver and McLoughlin started for the door.

He was pushed outside but crowded back in when Sroufe ran behind the desk and secured a piece of garden hose, changing the gun to his left hand. He struck McLoughlin with the hose and I am almost certain he did not intend to shoot because the gun was in his left hand. Sroufe was in a corner and McLoughlin was pressing him close as evidenced by the powder burns on his face. No one in McHenry believes Sroufe intended to shoot and believes he was justified in shooting.

"Mrs. McLoughlin came back to McHenry when she heard of the affair, and it is likely she will care for the little boy who was with McLoughlin at the time of the shooting. The boy and the dining room girl were the main witnesses at the coroner's inquest.

"McLoughlin and his wife came from South Dakota. He was a fine fellow when sober but when intoxicated he became ugly. He worked for the Halvorson Elevator company and has said there were two men in the town he wanted to 'get'. The foreman told him to be peaceful or call and get his time.

"Sroufe was afraid of him and tried to avoid all trouble."