

Man Found Guilty in Shooting

By Forrest L. Black's

A Chester man testified at his trial last week that he accidentally killed his friend with a shotgun while showing him the weapon. On Wednesday, a Delaware County jury found Thomas Francis Emmertz, 23, of the 1300 block of Renshaw Road, guilty of involuntary manslaughter in the death of Carl Loden, 27, of the 1200 block of Pine Lane, Chester. Assistant District Attorney John A. Reilly Jr. said

The shooting occurred April 10 in Emmertz's apartment. The jury of two men and 10 women acquitted Emmertz of more serious offenses of first and third degree murder, defense lawyer A. Charles Peruto jr. said. Peruto, who said he would file motions for a new trial, contended that the jury believed the shooting was accidental. Reilly said the jury by its verdict found that Emmertz was "criminally reckless and grossly negligent in firing the shotgun"

Judge Charles C. Keeler deferred sentencing pending the appeal. On April 10, Chester Police Officer Robert Brockway found Emmertz bending over his friend's body and crying, Brockway testified during the three-day trial.

He quoted Emmertz as saying: "I didn't mean it. I didn't mean it. I shot him. I shot him." According to testimony, Emmertz also told a paramedic a short time later that he had been showing the gun to Loden when it discharged accidentally. Emmertz remained in jail pending.