

# oulder . . . 1991



LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS from all over Minnesota, Wisconsin and Minnesota came to pay their last respects to Michael Mor-

row, a Pine County deputy who was killed in the line of duty.

# Pine Bluffs

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1992 • PINE CITY, MINNESOTA 55063 • 629-6771

50 CENTS

## Lange claims self-defense

by Diana Wilson

Prosecuting attorney John Carlson described the evidence he will present in the Scott Lange trial as, "much like a picture puzzle, small pieces of evidence presented like small pieces of a puzzle."

Lange, of Pine City, is on trial for first and second degree murder for allegedly beating Pine County deputy Michael Morrow to death when the officer stopped him for a traffic violation. Lange claims he killed Morrow in self-defense.

"There were only two people out there and one is dead," Carlson stated in his opening statement to the jury on March 18.

"You will be able to see from

the evidence that he (Morrow) was struck while on the ground, dragged and left to die."

Carlson described the prosecution's version of what happened in the early morning hours of Aug. 24. Officer Morrow, he said, called in to notify dispatcher Jane Mauer that he was stopping a vehicle with license number LCT208, 2-1/2 miles west of the freeway on County Road 14.

It was his last communication.

Officer Robert Veitch, the only other deputy on duty, was dispatched to Morrow's last known location when Mauer was unable to reach Morrow by radio.

Veitch said he found Morrow

on the shoulder of the road, behind his squad car. He was unconscious, lying face down in a pool of blood, his left arm outstretched, his right one under his body.

After calling in for assistance, Veitch administered first aid.

Turning toward the jury box he described those next minutes.

"I bandaged the cut on his forehead....It didn't stop the bleeding. I applied another bandage, it seemed to slow the flow of blood. I didn't want to move him too much for fear of his injuries."

Morrow, unresponsive and bleeding from the nose and mouth, with clear fluid from his ears, was transported to

Rush City Hospital. He was pronounced dead at 5:05 a.m.

An autopsy, performed by Dr. Posey, found a skull fracture from the top front to back base of his neck and extensive brain damage.

Carlson described Lange's injuries as two facial abrasions and a cut on his ear.

"So when you hear this talk of self-defense," he told the jury, "you can evaluate these injuries."

The prosecution's claim that Lange attempted to flee the arresting officers was not addressed by defense attorney Robert Malone.

"There is no question," Malone said, "that Mr. Lange caused the death of Officer Morrow. The question is

whether a crime was committed."

He described Lange as "not a choir boy," and said that Morrow knew him and had threatened him before. There was, he said, "bad blood" between them.

"The prosecution's theory that Mr. Lange was so desperate he would kill to get away," Malone said is just that, a theory.

Standing before the jury, hands in his pockets, Malone occasionally glanced at his client and described another version of the morning of Aug. 24.

"There was no chase, no skid marks. Mr. Lange pulled

See Trial, Page 12



# Trial continues in Chicago

Continued from Page 1

over appropriately when he saw the red lights."

Malone says the problem arose when Lange dropped his keys as he exited the car to perform a sobriety test. Lange fixated on the keys, Malone said, and told Morrow "I gotta get my keys." While "walking the line," which is part of the sobriety test, Lange turned to his car and went down to find the keys.

"Morrow hit him on the back of the head, shouted 'you're done for,' grabbed him by the hair, continued to kick and hit him with the flashlight. Lange spun around, grabbed the flashlight and hit the officer a number of times."

"It was a death match started by Mr. Morrow," Malone said. He contends that Lange pulled Morrow off the roadway so he wouldn't get hit, "showing he didn't intend for Morrow to die; he intended only to prevent an assault on himself."

Malone promised to introduce a witness to the incident. Heidi Gilbey, Lange's girlfriend, was allegedly with him when the fight occurred. Lange said he took her home before getting stuck in the ditch where his car was found.

Malone concluded, "you can't help but feel sympathy for Mike Morrow's family, natural dislike for Mr. Lange. Keep an open mind until all the evidence is presented, until testimony is complete. I will prove it was self-defense."

Gary Kaldun, crime scene team leader with the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, was called to the stand Friday morning. He described how the re-creation of the crime scene was drawn to scale, identified photos for accuracy and described the collection process of the various exhibits presented.

The only projectile blood spatter found at the scene, Kaldun said, was that of Off-

icer Morrow. It was found around a pool of his blood in the roadway and was determined to have been caused by an impact made as Morrow lay on the road. Kaldun estimated he was struck while he was a foot or less from the ground.

Malone argued that when misting rain began later that morning some blood evidence was distorted or washed away before deputies could completely cover the scene with tarps.

He questioned the appearance of Lange in the photos presented as state's evidence, insinuating that Lange had been cleaned up before the photos were taken.

Kaldun acknowledged that blood was swabbed from three areas of Lange's face for analysis.

"And then you took the photographs, right?" Malone said. Kaldun retaliated, "There wasn't that much blood. It was cleaned up with a Q-tip."

Delores Schoenbauer, a BCA specialist in serology (the study of body fluids), identified the blood types found on various surfaces.

Only Lange's blood was found on Morrow's flashlight, which has been identified as the probable weapon.

Schoenbauer, under Carl-

son's questioning, explained to the jury the term "masking" in blood analysis. One blood type with a particular protein, she said, can conceal or "mask" another blood type. Lange's blood was identified as such a type. The prosecution says that in the minute quantities collected from the flashlight, Morrow's blood would not be identifiable.

The defense, in cross examination, exhibited a report filed by Schoenbauer on Sept. 13, 1991 in which she said nothing about masking.

On Monday, March 23 the jury heard testimony regarding Lange's appearance and behavior at the Pladium Bar in Brook Park on the night of Aug. 23.

One witness described him as in a "rowdy mood," drunk and in a shoving match with another bar patron.

Gary Lange, Scott's father, was called to the stand in the afternoon. Lange, Sr. testified that he and daughter, Jody, picked Scott up from the Connie Collins home the morning of Aug. 24 after Scott called them for help.

"I asked if he'd been listening to the radio," Gary Lange said, testifying that he then told Scott that Morrow was dead.

"Scott started crying, said the cop had been beating on him with a flashlight. He said he broke free and hit him a couple times using only his fists."

When asked by Carlson about his conversation with Scott preceding his arrest, the incident of the car keys came up.

Carlson presented Lange, Sr. with a copy of his testimony to the Grand Jury. At that time he has said that Scott wanted to get his keys out of the car, not pick them up off the ground.

The defense claims the keys were dropped outside of the car.

"I just assumed he wanted to get his keys from the car," Gary Lange said in response to Carlson's questioning.

According to Lange, Sr., Scott told him, "he thought the deputy was gonna get up and chase him. He took off in his car and run in the ditch."

He described his son as depressed and scared.

"I was shocked when I saw

him. He had some fresh blood running down his forehead, little bit, some dried blood on his face. He had what I call goose egg, one large one and couple smaller ones on his head.

"I wanted to take him to the hospital. Our intentions were to turn him in or have him turn himself in.

"Dad, he said, Pine County's gonna hang me."

It was as this conversation was taking place in the yard of his sister's home, Lange, Sr. said, that police cars pulled in. Scott started to run.

"I turned around and said 'stop, they got guns' and he stopped."

When presented with the pictures of his son, taken by BCA photographer Ann Gross, Gary Lange went over each one carefully. Under Carlson's questioning he admitted they accurately portray his son's appearance at the time of his arrest.

## Lange convicted on drug charge

A Pine City man imprisoned for murdering a deputy was recently convicted of trying to smuggle drugs into prison.

Scott Lange was found guilty in Washington County for conspiracy to introduce drugs into the Oak Park Heights Correctional Facility. He is serving a 20-year sentence for killing Pine County deputy Michael Morrow. He was given another year and one day on the drug charge.

Gary Lange, Scott's brother, and his sister, Jody Sanders,

See Lange, Page 2

*April 1, 1993*

*Pine City Pioneer*

## Lange

Continued from Page 1

were also sentenced for their part in the conspiracy. Gary Lange, who was on parole at the time of the incident, had his parole revoked and was returned to prison. Jody Sanders received a stay of imposition.

According to Assistant Washington County Attorney Greg Tavernier, a fourth person, a juvenile, was also charged in the conspiracy.

*Pine City Pioneer*

PIN

*June 4, 1992*

## Lange sentence June 15

Scott Arlen Lange, 26, Pine City, will be sentenced Monday, June 15.

Lange was found guilty of second degree murder in the beating death of Pine County deputy Michael Morrow last August.

A jury in Chisago County deliberated for just eight hours before returning the guilty verdict in late March.

Judge P. Hunter Anderson will handle the sentencing at 9 a.m. in Chisago City.

A jury will begin hearing testimony in Pine County Court Monday, July 13 in the Feb. 4 death of Patricia Jane Mallaney, 40, in Brook Park Township.

Mark Dwaine Brown, 23, Waseca, is accused of killing Mallaney at the Francis Brown residence southwest of Brook Park.

Judge James Clifford will preside over the trial, which begins at 9 a.m..