Leslie D. Fredericks

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Two Agrue Over Pistol, One Is Slain

An argument between two friends over a gun ended early yesterday in the death of one and arrest of the other on a homicide charge, police reported.

They said Leslie Fredericks, 41, of 950 Southern ave. se., died at 5:20 a.m. at Cafritz Memorial Hospital of a bullet wound in the neck. They charged Sidney W. Hardin, 31, of St. Louis, with the slaying of Fredericks.

Hardin and his wife and three children were staying temporarily with Fredericks at the Southern Avenue address where Fredericks was resident manager, according to homicide detectives.

They said the two men visited a nearby tavern Friday night and got into an argument about a .38-caliber revolver that Harding had purchased earlier in the night.

The quarrel continued when the two men started home around 2 a.m., detectives said. Hardin got out of the car and walked to the Southern Avenue address.

Fredericks who was waiting for Hardin when he arrived, ordered Hardin to leave with his family, according to detectives. They said that after Hardin's wife accused Fredericks of swearing at her, the two men started fighting and Hardin got the gun from a bedroom. The gun misfired twice but the third time a bullet was discharged and struck Fredericks, detectives said.