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Gun Fancier Found Shot Dead in Home



—AP WIREPHOTO.
WILLIAM THORESEN III, WIFE LOUISE
at Federal Court in 1967.

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) — William E. Thoresen III, wealthy gun collector whose conviction for illegally shipping firearms was reversed this week, was shot to death in his Fresno home today.

THORESEN DIED at St. Agnes Hospital at 8:50 a.m.

Only yesterday, the U.S. Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco reversed the conviction of Thoresen and his wife, Louise, for illegal interstate shipment of firearms.

Thoresen, 32, was convicted in March 1969 and fined \$4,000 and sentenced to six months in prison. His wife was fined \$4,000.

THE THORESENS, who formerly lived in Phoenix, Ariz., and San Francisco, were indicted in 1967 after federal agents found huge caches of arms and ammunition at their San Francisco mansion and in warehouses in the East Bay area. An anti-tank gun was included.

Heir to an Illinois steel fortune, Thoresen said he had paid about \$500,000 for the collection. He claimed to be merely a collector who did not know he was acting illegally.

Thoresen had a history of difficulties. In 1957 he was stabbed in an Evanston, Ill., parking lot in a quarrel with an attendant.

In 1959 he was placed on two-year probation for stealing six colored posters from a ferry terminal in Bar Harbor, Me.

Panelist