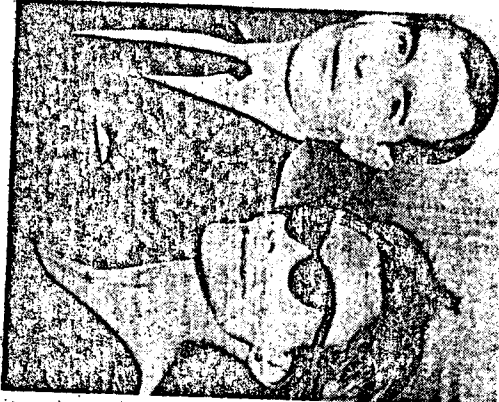


# Thoresen Murdered, Wife Held

June 10, 1970 Exam

## Collector Of Guns Was Shot

**SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER**  
**FRESNO**—William E. Thoresen III, the eccentric young millionaire who once stuffed his San Francisco mansion with tons of illegal weapons, was shot to death in his home here early today.



**STORMY CAREER ENDED IN MURDER**  
 William Thoresen is dead, wife held

His willowy wife, Louise Thoresen, was held for investigation. She was taken to St. Joseph Hospital here for what police termed "treatment of injuries."

Attendees at the hospital said the 32-year-old heir to a net fortune was dead on arrival at 8:40 a.m. from multiple chest wounds.

Police Capt. Alvin Bilbo said only that officers in his department received a call at 8:24 a.m. to investigate a homicide at the Thoresen home at 1033 East 17th Ave. near the Fresno State College campus.

It was learned, however, that Mrs. Thoresen had come from the home of W. J. McDeer, an attorney living in

Phoenia, and had been shot. Call an ambulance.

It also was learned police had recovered a .38 caliber pistol and that the slaying apparently had taken place in an upper floor bedroom of the two-story home.

Police indicated the slaying climaxed a family quarrel. They did not specify what triggered the quarrel. Mrs. Thoresen filed for

divorce in Phoenix, last October but the couple had been living together in the Fresno home while both pursued appeals from their convictions for illegal possession of firearms.

The fatal shooting occurred only a few hours after Thoresen had learned that the United States Court of Appeals in San Francisco had granted both him and his wife a partial victory in their appeal.

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 William Thoresen II, president of Great Western Steel Co. in Chicago. The senior Thoresen and his wife were reported enroute to Fresno to care for the grandson.

The slain man was reported to have inherited approximately \$70 million from his grandfather and a brother, Richard, 24, who was found shot to death under mysterious circumstances in a rented car in Chicago in 1965.

A coroner's jury was unable to establish a motive for the death but Thoresen always maintained his brother's death was suicide.

The Thoresens were married more than a decade ago in Chicago in what was described as a Cinderella wedding for the pretty, brunette bride.

**Steel Fortune Help**  
 The groom was the heir to a steel fortune accumulated by his father. The bride was a speech therapist who had been reared in one of Chicago's poorest-city neighborhoods.

Brushes with the law and spates of violence became familiar to the Thoresens before and during marriage. He was put on two years probation for stealing posters from a ferry terminal in Bar Harbor.

**Knifed in Quarrel**  
 In 1957, Thoresen was stabbed while quarreling with a parking lot attendant in Evanston, Ill., and in 1958, he was fined \$50 for shooting a Kenilworth, Ill., resident.

In 1964, he was arrested with a University of Arizona student for a series of bomb explosions near a Tucson radio station but charges were dropped.

In April, 1967, Thoresen and his wife made their biggest news when the seven tons of automatic firearms and ammunition were found in their mansion at 2801 Broadway in San Francisco's Pacific Heights.

**Tons of Guns, Ammo**  
 Federal officials recovered, in all, 28 tons of weapons and ammunition stored by the Thoresens in Bay Area warehouses.

At the time, Thoresen described himself as a dedicated gun collector.

Shortly before the raid on the Pacific Heights mansion, Mrs. Thoresen had been arrested for attempting to ship an automatic weapon via an airline.

She still faces trial on that charge.

In the first phase of prosecution on the gun charges, Thoresen was defended by Seattle attorney J. W. often short-tempered client and "a strange man."

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