

Gun 'Collector' Heir to Give Up

William Thoreson III, millionaire steel heir with a penchant for collecting big guns — and lots of them — was in San Francisco today, planning to surrender on a federal complaint late this afternoon.

A shadowy figure since a raid on his Broadway mansion last Friday disclosed a 17½-ton weapons cache, Thoreson apparently came here from the East Coast.

His wife, Louise, who was arrested in the raid and subsequently freed on bail, visit-

ed a bank today and made a substantial withdrawal.

It was presumed that she was preparing to post bail or bond for her husband. The total bail fixed by U.S. Commissioner Richard Goldsmith for Thoreson was \$5000, and another \$50,000 is set in a

warrant forwarded from New York.

Federal agents have had the Broadway mansion under constant surveillance since the raid.

It was learned that, although Thoreson was reported there last night, none of

the watchers had seen him.

Mrs. Thoreson, however, left the mansion yesterday afternoon and had not returned this morning.

Federal investigators, meanwhile, continued to scout other sub-arsenals

maintained by Thoreson in the Bay Area.

They were to remove more than 17 tons of ammunition and weapons from storage in a warehouse at the Coast Drayage Co., 1595 Eastshore Freeway, Berkeley, today.

This cache includes a .37

millimeter anti-tank gun, landmines, mortar barrels, ammunition, rifles and parts, some of Finnish make.

Another eight tons of weaponry, 174 crates in all, is scheduled for removal from

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a large van at the Ringsby Truck Lines Co., 949 Ferry St., Oakland.

John Richards, owner of Potomac Arms Corp., of Alexandria, Va., said Thoresen placed the order in person sometime in March. He said the shipment was made by truck after his firm had checked Thoresen's record with law enforcement authorities and "found absolutely nothing."

Richards said Thoresen, who made earlier purchases in Raleigh, N.C., had never

dealt before with Potomac Arms.

San Francisco police intelligence officers under Thomas Fitzpatrick first learned of the incoming arms shipments in December and notified the U.S. Alcohol Tax Unit, which has jurisdiction in the matter.

The search warrants were issued at the request of Carl E. Stone, senior investigator for the Federal agency.

Both Thoresen and his wife were charged with illegal possession of automatic arms. Thoresen, son of the president of the Great West-

ern Steel Co. of Chicago, faces a similar charge in New York.

There has been no explanation for Thoresen's collection of weapons, except for that advanced by his attorney, J. W. Ehrlich. He said the 30 year old steel heir has an uncontrollable urge to own them, "a fetish."