

## Suicide Notes --Thoresen Trial Drama

### Fresno

The prosecution dramatically closed its murder case against Louise Thoresen here yesterday after reading six suicide notes she wrote before pumping five bullets into the back of her millionaire, gun-collecting husband.

Mrs. Thoresen, 34, remained impassive as Deputy District Attorney Frank Wells read the undated notes written sometime before she killed her 32-year-old husband here on June 10.

Two of the documents were addressed to her parents; two of her late husband, William E. Thoresen III, and two to a man identified only as "Joe," with whom she allegedly had had an affair.

The letters to "Joe" said that "after much soul-searching I have decided to end it all and go to sleep." She referred to her alleged involvement with "Joe" in the documents; said she had always been a good and faithful wife until he came along; that she had always been proud of herself but now neither she nor "William" was proud of her. "I hope you find success in whatever you attempt to do," the notes concluded.

The two letters to her late husband said: "I have decided we take the (sleeping) pills because I cannot face any more. Because of the problems that my death would raise in U.S. versus Thoresen her conviction on unlawful possession of munitions) before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, please conceal my remains until after some decision has been rendered."

Word of the decision — handing their conviction down to a lower court for review — was received by the Thoresens at 2 a.m. on June 10. By

noon of that day Thoresen was on the coroner's table.

"Please take care of Michael (their 8 - year - old son)" the notes concluded, "and I hope he will take care of you. Do not permit them to perform an autopsy on me because I once visited the Cook County Morgue (in Chicago) and watched an autopsy. I have been cut up enough already by life. I do not want my body to be cut up any more."

(Ents Mrs. Thoresen, nee Ban-

In her letters to her parents said: "Please do not blame William for what I am doing." She expressed a wish for cremation, adding she wished to have her ashes "scattered over the beautiful Arizona desert, because it was in Tucson that I found the only real happiness of my entire life."

It was also in Tucson, in the mid - 1960s that Thoresen was accused of bombing the transmitter of a radio station, a charge that was subsequently dropped for lack of evidence.

She added that newspaper publicity about her troubles had caused her parents grief, and apologized for it.

Mrs. Thoresen, in fact, received far less publicity than her husband, whose peccadilloes included several notorious sexual contretemps, fistfights, and numerous encounters with lawmen as he sought to satisfy his mysterious gun - collecting mania.

Mrs. Thoresen showed emotion earlier in the trial yesterday when a retired former sheriff's lieutenant described, as an expert witness, the path of the bullets after they left her .38-caliber revolver and entered the back of her sleeping husband.

Her shoulders twitched repeatedly as she sought to restrain herself from crying out, as she had during testimony on Thursday about the cause of her husband's death.

The defense is expected to begin presenting its case at 10 o'clock on Monday.

*Our Correspondent*