

Arsenal Found

Thoresen Was Collecting Again

Fresno

Mystery millionaire William Ernest Thoresen III—shot to death two days ago in his posh home here—had been amassing a new arsenal, homicide detectives revealed yesterday.

And while Federal agents took inventory of the wierd assortment of weapons—including land mines, mortars and machineguns—33-year-old Louise Thoresen was formally charged with the murder of her husband.

She had been held in custody since Wednesday morning when Thoresen's nude corpse was discovered sprawled across a bed. He had been shot four times in the chest.

At the foot of the bed was a small traveling bag which police said was filled with sticks of dynamite.

SEARCH

Fearful more explosives might be cached in the home on Cambridge avenue in Fresno's most fashionable residential district, detectives made a thorough search of the premises and turned up the weaponry and narcotics as well.

Most of the arms—77 individual weapons, police said—were discovered in sealed crates and cartons in the living room.

Detective Jess Ortiz said the weapons included "several land mines, hand grenades, Japanese and Belgian mortars, machine guns of various calibers, tommy guns, Russian, French and Spanish rifles, a sawed-off shotgun, and automatic pistols."

MONEY

The weapons were collected by Treasury agent William Bertolani and impounded in the Federal Building here. Bertolani said he had no idea—yet—where Thoresen had acquired the arms, but presumed "they must have come from the black market" where "money talks."

Weapons were Thoresen's hobby, and they were also responsible for troubles with the law. In a raid on his San Francisco home and several warehouses in the Bay Area

three years ago, Federal agents confiscated a whopping 77 tons of weapons.

Thoresen, 32, heir to a Midwest steel fortune, and his wife, a speech therapist until she married, were convicted on Federal charges of illegally transporting munitions across State lines.

They appealed the conviction, and an appeals court on Monday ruled there was sufficient question about the legality of search and seizure of Thoresen's property to warrant a new hearing on whether such evidence should be suppressed.

Neighbors reported the Thoresens had been living together in the Fresno residence for several weeks and, as one put it, "seemed a very happy couple . . . pleasant to chat with on the sidewalk when you happened onto them. They didn't talk much about themselves, though."

It was to a neighbor's home that Mrs. Thoresen ran Wednesday morning.

"I shot Bill," police said she told the neighbor. "Telephone for an ambulance." Thoresen was dead when a doctor reached the scene.

INJURIES

Detectives would not comment on injuries Mrs. Thoresen somehow suffered. Hospital records show she was treated Wednesday afternoon for a ruptured eardrum, a puncture wound on her left thigh, and multiple abrasions on her body.

Mrs. Thoresen has refused to talk with reporters, and police either don't know or won't say whether the injuries were related to the incident that led to Thoresen's death.

Federal and State narcotics investigators teamed up with Fresno detectives to try and trace the source of 25 kilos of "top-grade" marijuana found neatly packed into canisters. By its color and texture, they determined it to be of Middle East origin.

The couple's 8-year-old son, Michael, is being cared for by a neighbor. Thoresen's father arrived here yesterday morning but declined to be interviewed.

Our Correspondent