

Thoresen Case Mystery Man

Lewis Dale Stoddard, allegedly killed by William Thoresen III after he killed Thoresen's brother, was arrested here with the late gun czar in March, 1966, while fleeing from police in a Ferrari, records show.

And in mid-1966, it was learned, a missing person report on Stoddard was filed with San Jose police.

Louise Thoresen testified yesterday that her husband had killed Stoddard in mid-1966 after he came to the Thoresen's Pacific Heights home demanding more money for killing Richard Thoresen in Chicago in 1965.

Records here show that Stoddard and William Thoresen were arrested at 11:45 p.m. on March 11, 1966, as they tried to evade police called to investigate suspicious circumstances outside Val's Gun Shop on Columbus avenue.

CHARGES

The two originally were charged with a variety of offenses ranging from assault on an officer to possession of a blackjack. All charges except resisting arrest were later dropped and each was given a 90-day suspended sentence and fined \$56.

A third man in the Ferrari escaped and is listed only as John Doe.

Police here said yesterday that they had earlier checked out allegations that Thoresen murdered Stoddard and buried him in the basement of the Pacific Heights home. They found no body.

RECORDS

They said, however, that they knew nothing about the testimony in Fresno that Thoresen had dumped Stoddard's body in the Pacific Ocean.

"As far as we're concerned," an officer said,



LEWIS STODDARD
Arrest record here

"he's still alive."

Local records show that the 34-year-old Stoddard had a minor arrest record dating back to 1958 in Tacoma. In 1963, he was arrested in Tucson, although it was not known if he then knew Thoresen, who was arrested there the next year on dynamite charges.

In the 1966 arrest here, police said officer Ronald Gardner caught his arm in the Ferrari and was dragged along the street until he fired his pistol into the ground and forced Stoddard to stop.

And, they said, at one point Stoddard objected to officers handcuffing Thoresen and said, "Let him go or I'll bash your head in."

At that time, Stoddard gave his occupation as a trucker and said he lived with his wife in San Jose. Police there yesterday said they had turned all their files over to the Fresno district attorney, who is charging Mrs. Thoresen with murdering her husband.