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Mrs. Thoresen's Aborted Child Stirs Court Battle

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FRESNO — A major battle developed in Louise Thoresen's murder trial today when the prosecution introduced a physician's affidavit

saying she underwent a therapeutic abortion in San Francisco last Feb. 7.

The state's move was designed to impeach Mrs. Thoresen's statement that she had not been sexually intimate with Joe Hinojosa, a former Green Beret who was a friend of herself and her husband, William.

She had testified she stayed at Hinojosa's San Francisco home from mid-November to Dec. 30 last year while "hiding out" from Thoresen, whom she is ac-

cused of murdering at their Fresno home last June 10.

The abortion affidavit, by Dr. William K. Graves, a gynecologist, said the fetus was "10 to 11 weeks in size." That could time the conception during the time Louise was at Hinojosa's.

However the defendant herself flatly denied that the friend was the father. She said the child was Thoresen's, with whom, she said, she had intercourse two or

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three times just before she moved in with Hinojosa.

The defense strenuously opposed the introduction of the affidavit, arguing that Mrs. Thoresen had no witnesses to show how long she had actually been pregnant before the pregnancy was interrupted.

However Superior Judge Joseph Joy allowed the affidavit to be placed in evidence.

Despite Contraceptive

Dr. Graves' report, coupled with another statement by Mrs. Thoresen today, appeared to show that she became pregnant though she was wearing an intra-uterine contraceptive device.

He said he removed the loop at the time of the abortion. Mrs. Thoresen said it had been put in place by a doctor in Phoenix about a year earlier because she did not desire to have any more children.

Her denial that the child was Hinojosa's was firm and flat.

"Was this William Thoresen's baby you were carrying, Mrs. Thoresen?" asked defense attorney Kenneth De Vaney.

"Yes, it was," she said.

"Was this Joe Hinojosa's baby you were carrying?"

Very strongly, she answered "no, it was not, because I had never been intimate with Joe."

Earlier in today's session, Mrs. Thoresen stuck to her contention that Thoresen was awake and was threatening her just before she shot him to death.

First Question

But the prosecution, taking over on cross-examination, kept driving at her in an effort to bolster the State claim that the wealthy gun collector was sound asleep.

Wells' first question to the

34 year old defendant was:

"In the brief moments before you shot William, did he physically attack you?"

"No, just with words," she replied.

She conceded that he was in bed, but said she didn't think he had taken any sleeping medicine the night before.

Mrs. Thoresen has testified that her husband told her he was going to kill her because he had let her share a guilty secret — that he had had his own brother killed five years ago and then killed the killer himself.

Could Show Love

She conceded in a final few answers under direct examination this morning that William was "capable of showing love and affection."

"But there were patterns of violence that increased over the years," she added.

Her parents, John, 57, and Jessie Banich, 56, of Chicago, sat quietly in the front row of the spectators' section as their daughter went under cross examination.

Mrs. Thoresen said yesterday that it was in a moment of terror that she shot William, moments after she packed lunch for their 8 year old son Michael and sent him off to school.

Only the night before she

told a neighbor who dropped in, attorney William McDermott, that she wanted to have her husband committed, that "the last few days have been hell."

"I had promised William long ago I would never commit him. I think that is one of the reasons he married me," she told the jury of eight men and four women yesterday.

"I had decided it was necessary for me to begin proceedings to commit him."

She broke off in tears, then continued:

"I realized that he was insane, that he would kill all of us, including Michael."

Went to Bed

After McDermott left, they went to bed.

But she was awakened minutes later with two blows on the head and a demand for unnatural sex. She recalled:

"The next thing I knew he was choking me. I couldn't move.

"I saw my hands fall, and then everything went black.

Jumped Up

"After I woke up he was just sitting there.

"He jumped up, then came back and said, 'Louise, either you're going to take the second or I'm going to shoot you.'

"I was terrified."

She told him he ought to see a psychiatrist.

Dark Secret

But he told her that was impossible, "because if they use any truth drugs on me, they'll never get me out."

It was then that he revealed his dark, 5 year old secret, hiring a man to kill his brother.

It was this:

Thoresen had always been jealous of his brother, Richard, the favored child of their steel magnate father, William II, of Chicago, and his mother.

Mrs. Thoresen recalled her husband's chilling tale told on the morning of June 10, a few hours before she shot him.

'Dale Stoddard'

"He said he had talked to Dale Stoddard.

"He would pay him if he'd kill Richard . . .

"It was Dale who killed Richard.

"Richard had not taken . . ."

Breaking off in a sob . . .

"Richard had not taken his life as we all thought for so many years."

Found Dead

Richard was found shot in the head in a rented car September 21, 1965, a month after willing his million dollar estate to his only brother.

"William said Richard would have given the money to him gladly.

"He said he killed the wrong people . . ." and crying she quoted him as saying he should have killed his parents, not his brother.

"He said, 'I have nothing now . . . no friends . . . no money.'

"He said he paid Dale.

An Argument

"The following spring Dale came to our house in San Francisco. He said he and Dale had an argument . . .

"He said 'I remembered this was the man who killed my brother.'

"William said he hit Dale on the head with a hammer. "Michael was upstairs asleep.

Went for Gun

"William said there was blood all over the kitchen. He said he finally went to get a gun to put him out of his misery.

"God, Oh, my God, oh, my God." she sobbed.

It was because he told her this Cain and Abel story that morning, she testified, that he felt he had to kill her that very day, June 10.