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# Threats Told at Hearing

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FRESNO — Slender, long-haired Louise Thoresen said her millionaire, gun-collector husband tried to kill her the night before she shot him to death, a prosecution witness testified here today.

William J. McDermott, Fresno attorney and a friend and neighbor of Louise and William E. Thoresen III, gave his vivid account at a preliminary hearing in Municipal Court.

It was to him, a friend of two years' standing, that Mrs. Thoresen came running shortly after 8 o'clock on the morning of June 10 to shout:

"I just shot William!"

'Very Upset'

McDermott, the second of four scheduled prosecution witnesses, testified that she told him she didn't know whether Thoresen, 33, was dead. He said he asked what had happened.

"She was very upset," McDermott related. "She was crying. She said:

"He tried to kill me last night. He tried to choke me. He tried to force me to swallow a bottle of Seconol." She said, 'I can't stand it any longer.'"

McDermott related that he called an ambulance and police, and that he told the police officer who arrived with a holstered gun on his belt:

"Be ready with that! He's upstairs."

Court Victory

Thoresen's background, the witness told the court was one of violence, according to the accounts of other attorneys, friends and Thoresen himself. Once, he said, he gun enthusiast told of having hit his wife.

He had gone to the sparsely furnished Thoresen home the preceding afternoon, McDermott said, to congratulate them on their having won an appellate court reversal of their conviction on a weapons charge.

Mrs. Thoresen, he said whispered that she wanted to

Louise Thoresen as she entered court in Fresno today for murder hearing.

—AP Photo

—From Page 1 speak to him alone, and when she did she told him:

"The last two days have been a living hell."

She displayed a swollen arm, which she said she could hardly move, and said she felt as though she had three broken ribs, the attorney testified. Holding her head, she moaned: "My head! It hurts so."

The attorney told the court he asked whether Thoresen had been "working you over again."

"She said, 'Bill, you have no idea!'" he continued. "That's why I want to talk to you."

McDermott added that he had reason to believe Mrs. Thoresen had been beaten by her husband before, because

she had told him and his wife about the incidents.

Doctor Testifies

Defense attorneys won supporting testimony from Dr. John Miller, who performed the autopsy on Thoresen. Under cross-examination, he testified that he had found contusions on both the right and left hands of the dead man.

These, he admitted, could have been caused by striking blows.

Mrs. Thoresen was hospitalized after the shooting for a punctured eardrum, rib injuries and bruises which she refused to discuss with news men.

The defense attorneys,

Kenneth DeVaney and James Sheppard of Fresno, also drew from Dr. Miller statements that he found marks such as might be made by a hypodermic needle on Thoresen's right arm near the elbow.

Thoresen was killed, he said, by five bullets that entered the upper back chest. There were only two exit wounds.

Pleads Innocent

Mrs. Thoresen, 34, daubed at her eyes occasionally with a white handkerchief, staring straight ahead as the witnesses testified.

She wore a sleeveless, high-necked black shift, and low-heeled black patent

leather shoes. No jewelry adorned her costume.

Her hair, parted on the left side, curved down over her right eye so that she could not see the people jammed into the small, modern courtroom.

The preliminary hearing, before Municipal Judge James Walton, was called for the purpose of determining whether there is sufficient reason to hold her for trial without a grand jury indictment. She entered pleas of innocence to both the murder charge and one possession of marijuana. Agents searching the Thoresen home after the shooting reported they found cases of weapons and ammunition as well as marijuana.

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