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U.S. DELAY SCORED IN COAST GUN CASE

Judge Prods Prosecutors
of 2 Weapons Collectors

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SAN FRANCISCO, June 20 —Federal investigative agencies are baffled in trying to explain why a wealthy young couple bought hundreds of guns and thousands of rounds of ammunition.

A Federal judge urged the prosecutors today to act on their two-month-old complaints on gun law violations by William E.

Thoresen 3d, and his wife, Lou, both 37 years old.

Mr. Thorsen is the son of the president of the Great Western Steel Corporation. He is free on \$57,500 bond on three charges. His wife is free on \$7,500 bond on four.

Their rented house in the exclusive Pacific Heights section of San Francisco was raided on April 21 by Federal agents who took possession of guns and ammunition in a wide variety of sizes and types.

Arms in Trailer Trucks

Later, large consignments of armaments were seized in trailer trucks at freight yards in Oakland and Berkeley, Calif.

Mrs. Thoresen, the mother of a 5-year-old son, was charged again on May 1 when she attempted to take delivery at the Railway Express agency of a package containing cartridges

and guns, including a German machine gun.

The Thoresens came to the attention of Federal authorities in April. An affidavit on file in Federal court here states that they bought "a quantity" of Thompson submachine guns from J. E. Lavelle, warden of the state penitentiary in Auburn, N. Y., and resold them to the Ed Agramonte, Inc., Arms Sales Company in Yonkers on April 17 and 18.

The affidavit was signed by John P. Rowley, special investigator for the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Unit of the Internal Revenue Service in New York.

A warrant was issued in New York charging the Thoresens with selling the submachine guns to the Agramonte company without registering them and fulfilling Federal requirements on transfer.

In his affidavit, Mr. Rowley

said he was told the transaction was carried out in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Because of this, and of other information from undisclosed sources, Federal agents began to watch the Thoresen house.

The agents have seized a large amount of armaments. There are 25 submachine guns, hand grenades, rockets, many Browning .05-caliber machine guns, bolt action rifles, anti-tank guns (one mounted on rubber wheels), and even a "cane gun," a hollow walking stick with a barrel and mechanism to fire a .410-gauge shotgun shell.

There are also more than 700,000 rounds of ammunition. One observer described it as "a wild combination." Most of it does not fit the machine guns. The guns were made in Germany, United States, Japan and Italy.

The Thoresens have not offered an explanation of why they gathered the guns. Their attorney, J. W. Ehrlich, a San Francisco criminal lawyer, said today:

"This fellow was making a collection. He had been around to various army posts, and found nobody was doing anything. They just stacked up the stuff. He thought the Marines did the best job, but he wanted to do something better.

"He was going to make a museum. That was what he was going to do, and he was going to present it to San Francisco, incidentally."

The investigation is being done by the Alcohol Tax Unit, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Internal Revenue Service, and the Interstate Commerce Commission. They have no explanation that goes beyond that offered by Mr. Ehrlich.