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Millionaire Is Shot To Death on Coast; Wife Is in Custody

FRESNO, Calif., June 10—(UPI)—William E. Thoresen 3d, a shadowy millionaire once convicted for assembling a vast arsenal of military arms and ammunition, was shot to death today in a quarrel with his wife.

Mr. Thoresen, 32 years old, son of the president of the Great Western Steel Company, was pronounced dead at a hospital of "multiple chest wounds."

His wife, Louise, 32 years old, who filed suit for divorce last fall, was arrested after running to a neighbor's house shouting, "I shot Bill." Police Chief H. R. Morton said she

would be jailed on suspicion of murder.

Mrs. Thoresen filed for divorce in Tucson, Ariz., last Oct. 8. Although the proceeding was "dormant," court officials said it could have been pursued.

Mr. Thoresen was arrested in 1967 after the authorities raided his home in San Francisco and seized an array of weapons including machine guns, rifles, shotguns, two anti-aircraft guns, two cannons and a German bazooka.

He and his wife were convicted of violating Federal gun laws. Today, the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, sitting in San Francisco, sent the convictions back to the Federal District Court for further study.

The couple had been living in a modest Fresno home while appealing the conviction.

The discovery of the 77-ton

hoard of arms on April 21, 1967, caused a sensation and speculation as to its purpose. Mr. Thoresen said that he simply liked to collect guns.

His wife was arrested in the raid at their home in the Pacific Heights section of San Francisco. Mr. Thoresen surrendered at the United States marshal's office in San Francisco five days later after learning of his wife's arrest.

Mr. Thoresen had had other brushes with the law, including a conviction in Bar Harbor, Me., when he was 20 for stealing Canadian National Railway travel posters from the walls of a ferry terminal building.

Later in 1967, he was arrested at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas on charges of beating a 31-year-old blonde and trying to bribe two sheriff's deputies to hush it up.

Wife Pleads 'Not Guilty' In the Killing of Steel Heir

FRESNO, Calif., June 12 (UPI)—Mrs. Louise Thoresen, wife of William E. Thoresen 3d, the steel heir who turned their homes into arsenals, pleaded not guilty today to killing him with one of his own guns.

Calm and composed, the 33-year-old Mrs. Thoresen answered to charges of murder and marijuana possession. Judge George Hopper of the Municipal Court scheduled a preliminary hearing for June 30.

She was arrested after the body of her 32-year-old husband, shot repeatedly in the chest, was found Wednesday in an upstairs bedroom of their Fresno home. The police said the home was crammed with land mines, grenades, mortars, knives, guns of all descriptions, and 50 pounds of high-grade marijuana.