

SFE EXAMINER

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A Thoresen 'Hint' On Panther Guns

By Mary Crawford

Gun collector William E. Thoresen III, shot to death by his wife in his Fresno home last Wednesday, said recently that he had been asked to buy guns for the Black Panthers.

But he did not say whether he had agreed to buy guns for the black militant organization, which is under investigation by the federal grand jury here.

And Federal Bureau of Investigation agents here said "no comment" yesterday when asked if they had found any connection between Thoresen and the Black Panthers.

On Monday Treasury agents, with permission of Mrs. Thoresen's Fresno attorney, Kenneth DeVaney, searched the Thoresen mansion at 2801 Broadway and found 17 miscellaneous firearms, including rifles, shotguns, pistols, as well as 70 sticks of dynamite and fuses for hand grenades.

Last Wednesday after Mrs. Thoresen was arrested for shooting her husband in the bedroom of their sparsely furnished Fresno home, po-

lice, narcotics agents, and Treasury agents found a collection of weapons including machine guns, land mines, pistols, rifles and live hand grenades.

In 1967 the Thoresens were arrested after Treasury agents found 77 tons of weapons and ammunition in their unfurnished Broadway mansion.

After Thoresen's 1967 arrest for guns here and also during his Fresno trial on charges resulting from that arrest, Thoresen insisted publicly and privately that he and his wife collected guns because they planned to open a gun museum and shop in San Francisco.

They even had architects draw plans for the museum.

And Thoresen and his wife consistently denied rumors that they were buying guns for revolutionaries, in Cuba, Africa, South America — any place.

Thoresen had been interested in guns since childhood, was an expert on guns and knew gun collectors all over the United States.