

SACRAMENTO BEE 31 OCT 70

## Louise Thoreson, Trial Near, Drops Plea Of Insanity

FRESNO (AP) — In a surprise move just three days before her murder trial is scheduled to start, Louise Thoresen dropped her plea of innocent by reason of insanity.

Mrs. Thoresen, 34, told Fresno Superior Court Judge Joseph L. Joy yesterday she had discussed the withdrawal of her insanity plea with her attorney and was aware of what she was doing.

The slender brunette is accused in the June 10 shooting death of her millionaire husband, gun-fancier William E. Thoresen III, in the couple's Fresno home.

She had pleaded innocent and innocent by reason of insanity at her arraignment. Her trial is scheduled to begin Monday.

In another move yesterday, Joy issued an order restricting comments by those involved with the trial concerning statements, evidence, witnesses, the effect of testimony or speculation on Mrs. Thoresen's guilt or innocence.

Joy said the order is necessary to protect the defendant's rights because of widespread publicity in the case.