

11 Tentative Thoresen Trial Jurors

Eleven jurors were tentatively seated yesterday in the trial of Louise Thoresen, charged in the shooting death of her millionaire gun-collecting husband. Attorneys for the prosecution and defense each retained ten peremptory challenges as the trial ended its second day.

William E. Thoresen III, a 32-year-old steel heir, was found June 10 nude in bed in his Fresno home with five .38 caliber bullets in the back.

Mrs. Thoresen, 34, is being tried on an open charge of murder, which allows the jury in its verdict to fix the degree of guilt. This precludes the death penalty, but allows the verdict to range from first degree murder to misdemeanor manslaughter.

One of the prosecutors, deputy district attorney Frank Wells, raised the prospect of a manslaughter during conviction during jury selection when he charged the defense with "not considering the possibility of instructions from the judge on a lesser crime (than murder)."

Defense co-counsel James Shepard asked several prospective jurors, "Could you put aside any personal feelings about the defendant if you disapproved of some aspects of her conduct apart from the shooting?"

Mrs. Thoresen, wearing a navy blue mini-dress, sometimes entered into animated conversation with her lawyers on whether to accept or reject jurors.

Last week she withdrew her initial plea of innocent by reason of insanity. She is now pleading self defense.

Our Correspondent