

Thoresen Arrest With 'Killer' Told

Gun collector William Thoresen III, when arrested here in 1966 over a fracas with police, first gave his name as Richard, that of his brother who died six months before in Chicago of a gunshot wound, police files revealed today.

The man involved with him in the fracas was Lewis Dale Stoddard.

Yesterday in Fresno, where Mrs. Louise Thoresen is on trial charged with murdering her husband, she testified Thoresen hired Stoddard to kill Richard in 1965.

Suicide

Then, she said, when Stoddard came to their Pacific Heights home here in mid-1966 to demand more money for that killing Thoresen killed Stoddard with a hammer and gun and dumped his body in the Pacific Ocean. The body has never been found.



LEWIS STODDARD
Bizarre twist

Richard Thoresen was found shot in the head in a rented car in Chicago in September, 1965, a month after willing his million dollar estate to William. His death was listed as suicide.

At 11:45 p.m. on March 11, 1966, two policemen were checking Val's Gun Shop on Columbus Avenue because it twice had been burglarized in recent months.

Their report on stopping a Ferrari in the area listed two of the occupants as the driver, "Richard Thoresen," and Stoddard.

Scuffle

However, the rap sheet at police headquarters later identified the driver as William Thoresen III of 2801 Broadway.

The first report by Officers Ronald Gardner and Ronald Carson said "Richard Thoresen" refused to give his date of birth, asserted he had no driver's license and was threatening.

During a scuffle of the officers with Thoresen, Stoddard rushed up, saying, "Let him go or I'll bash your head in."

Stoddard took off in the car, dragging Officer Gardner, who was caught in the door. Gardner drew his gun, fired a shot into the ground. Stoddard then stopped and was placed under arrest.

The officers said Thoresen acted nervous, his eyes were dilated and there were "several pill-like objects on the (car) floor." The officers found a black leather black-jack 10 inches long in the glove compartment.

All charges against both men were dropped except for resisting arrest. Both were given suspended sentences, placed on probation and fined \$56.

A third man was in the car, but he fled.

No Body

Police here said with reference to Mrs. Thoresen's testimony yesterday of Stoddard's alleged killing in the Pacific Heights house that the basement was checked

for Stoddard's body, but it was not found.

"As far as we're concerned, he's still alive," one officer said.

Missing Person

A missing person report on Stoddard is on file in the San Jose Police Department. His wife, Katherine, turned it in on May 11, 1966.

She said her husband walked off his job with a trucking company April 29.

She said he came to their home at 2234 Dobern Ave., in San Jose, took his rifle and hand gun and drove off in a light blue 1961 Ford pickup truck with a four-wheel drive.

Mrs. Moore said he was very depressed and might be inclined to suicide. Her report singled out the March 11 incident in San Francisco and mentioned the possibility of him being in jail in San Francisco.