

Dateline: October 21, 1915

BANDITS AGAIN RAID NEW JERSEY TRAIN

Auto Gang Awaits Erie Freight at Glen Rock, Where Ally Applies Air Brakes.

ESCAPE AFTER PISTOL DUEL

Crew, Detectives, and Police Fire on Robbers, Who Reply as They Flee in Motor Car.

Chief of Police Martin Jensen of Glen Rock, N. J. at 11 o'clock last night sent out a general alarm for five men riding in a brown touring car who had held up an Erie freight train in a deserted spot in the outskirts of Glen Rock, had been fought off by railroad men and police after a pistol battle, and at last had escaped in the automobile, racing away in the direction of Paterson. Chief Jensen and all the police of other towns who received his message believed the bandits were the ones who held up two trains of the West Shore Railroad on Monday night.

Posses in automobiles set out at once from all towns in the neighborhood of Glen Rock, and every road over which an automobile could force its way was watched by armed men. Early this morning not a trace of the car had been found, but the roads still were watched and it was believed the men could not escape. Certainly they could not bring their car into any town without instant capture.

The hold-up was executed as boldly as any of the old Wild West days. The car arrived in Glen Rock about 10 o'clock last night and stopped in Rock Road about 500 feet from the railroad tracks where the Erie trains run over the Bergen County Short Cut on their way from Jersey City to Port Jervis, N. Y. Chief Jensen inquired why the car stood by the roadside. The occupants explained they had broken down and were busy repairing the engine, and the Chief passed on with a word of sympathy. He did not note how many men were in the car, but it is believed now that one of the five, and perhaps two, were elsewhere at that time.

This belief is based on the fact that an Erie freight train due in Glen Rock about 10:30 o'clock halted suddenly as it was opposite the crossing of Rock Road. The air brakes had been applied suddenly, and as they could be applied only by the breaking or cutting of the airhose or its connections, some one other than the crew must have been aboard the train to do this, and

it is thought now that one or more of the bandits boarded the train below Glen Rock, probably when it slowed down for a yard or crossing.

With the halting of their train the crew of four men and a railroad detective, who was riding in the caboose, where he had been stationed since the hold-ups of Monday night, jumped down and went along the train seeking the break in the air connections. As they passed one freight car, five men sprang out leveling pistols at their heads.

Three stood on guard while the others broke open the door of a car and jerked out three bales of silk. The attention of the guards wavered for an instant and it was long enough for the detective to begin firing his pistol. The crew joined in with their pistols, and the bandits, taken by Surprise, dropped their booty and ran for their automobile, firing over their shoulders as they fled.

The fusillade aroused the whole town. Chief Jenson and all of his men rushed for the railroad tracks. They were in time to join in the pistol battle, but although more than twenty shots were fired, none hit the bandits. They reached their car, jumped into it, and were off at full speed while their pursuers were still some yards behind. The detectives fired at the tires of the flying car, hoping to cripple it, but none of their shots hit, and the motor disappeared in the direction of Maple Avenue, the main automobile highway between Paterson and Suffern, N. Y.

The police caught the number of the car as 17,600 New York. This proved to be the license number of John H. Watkins of Mount Kisco, N. Y. Mr. Watkins could not be reached last night, but the police believe the number was originated by the thieves, and that Mr. Watkins's car, which might have been stolen from him, was not used, since the Glen Rock car was described as of different make from that registered under his name.