

# Officer Shoots Safe Cracker Fleeing From Robbery Attempt

## TOURISTS HIT CAR, POLICE SPOIL TRIP

*Three Chicago Negro Bellboys, in \$25 Auto,  
Come to Grief at Westfield—Pistol in  
Vehicle Adds to Their Embarrassment.*

Special to the Journal.

WESTFIELD, March 3.—An automobile tour of three colored bellboys from Chicago to New York in a \$25 automobile was halted early yesterday when the machine in which they were riding crashed into another driven by Archie Darroch, of 313 Spruce avenue, Garwood, and Patrolman Frederick Gill found an automatic pistol in the bellboys' car and discovered that the license plates did not agree with the serial number of the machine.

The colored men gave their names as: Marion Byrd, of 380 Cottage Grove avenue, Chicago; Robert Friason, of 541 Alden Square, Chicago, and John L. Saunders, of 3728 Langley avenue, Chicago. They were placed in cells and will be arraigned to-night before Recorder A. C. Nash on charges of carrying concealed weapons and operating an unregistered machine.

According to the police, the negroes decided they would leave Chicago several days ago and would resume operations as bellboys in New York. The men said they went to a Chicago garage and bought the automobile for \$25 and

drove it well into Pennsylvania before they were stopped and it was discovered that they had been driving with 1929 plates on the machine. In Pennsylvania, they told police, a garage man had been obliging enough to supply them with New York plates of the 1930 series.

The men told police that they had no further trouble until they reached Westfield and crumpled the fenders of Archie Darroch's machine. Then Patrolman Gill asked a lot of embarrassing questions as to the ownership and the registration of the machine, and, later, the ownership of the pistol.

Friason admitted owning the pistol, police say. On the way to police headquarters, he threw several cartridges away and Gill had to get out and recover them.

Police, checking the ownership of the car, found that it belonged to Percy White, of Summers, Wis., and had been left in Chicago, where the colored men bought it. It was not determined whether White had abandoned the machine or whether it had been stolen from him. Police, judging by the condition of the machine, inclined to the opinion that White had abandoned the car.

## Patrolman Gill Surprises Men at Work in Service Station. Three Alleged Confederates Caught. Held for Grand Jury

One man was shot and three others were captured early yesterday morning following an attempt to crack a safe in the Tydol Oil Station on North avenue, east, when Police Officer Frederick Gill who was doing duty on beat surprised the men at work on a safe in the station. Gill singlehanded, routed the robbers, shooting one, Gus Iannacone, of 121 Cacciola place, above the right knee, as the men dashed away. The remainder of the gang were rounded up a few hours later by other members of the police force.

Those, who were arrested were William Reilly of 831 Grandview avenue; Alexander Stephens of 348 East South avenue, and James DeLong of 19 East Milton street, Rahway. Iannacone was taken to the Muhlenberg hospital in Plainfield.

Officer Gill was covering his beat in North avenue at 2.45 yesterday morning, when he heard a muffled hammering. He stopped and listened, thinking at first that the sound was coming from the Central Railroad tracks but discovered that it came from the gasolene station.

Gill drew his gun and went toward the building, as four men rushed from the building and ran away. Gill fired five shots at the men as they scampered away into the darkness and succeeded in hitting one of them. With only one shot left in his revolver Gill approached the man lying in the street. Finding that the man was badly hurt Gill carried him to the police call box where he rang headquarters for assistance.

Sergeant Edward Miller, who was on the desk at the police station dispatched a taxi from Schoonover's Taxi Service located and notified Chief of Police John C. Rosecrans and Captain Edward Nelson who arrived on the scene in a few minutes. Gill was sent to Muhlenberg with the man he shot. Chief Rosecrans obtained a statement from Iannacone, giving the names of those who were with him. Iannacone's statement corresponded with information furnished by Officer John Schrieber who had seen the four men about 1.30.

Captain Nelson, assisted by Patrolmen Morton, Nead, Schrieber, Montross and Burke, set out to locate the three men said to have been with Iannacone. Rahway police were notified, and were waiting to arrest DeLong when he returned to his home. He was married five months ago and was employed at another oil station in Westfield. He offered no resistance.