

Pair Identified By P.P.C. Committed For Trial

A packed court room witnessed the preliminary hearing of the two suspects in the Bank of Commerce hold-up, held here on Tuesday morning before Magistrate G. R. Foster, with Crown Attorney W.M. Thompson prosecuting and Norman Borins as defence lawyer.

A scene unfamiliar in Bradford accompanied the arrival of the suspects, moved here from Barrie gaol, hand-cuffed, in a police wagon, and accompanied by four police cruisers.

Local residents attending as witnesses were accountant King and teller Mrs. June Catania, of the bank staff, Provincial Constable Reg. Wilson, who saw the hold-up men before they entered the bank and who exchanged shots with them; Corporal Adair; Murray Huntley and Doug. Carter, to identify money which they had deposited just before the hold-up.

Constable Wilson, who saw them without masks on the day of the robbery, positively identified the pair, Frank Watson and Leonard Jackson, who were arrested in Toronto on July 30. The search continues for another man.

Constable Wilson said he was off duty in civilian clothes when he noticed two men near the Bank of Commerce. Both wore bulging jackets as though carrying something beneath. As he drew near, they turned away from him and faced a store window until he passed. Then they turned back toward the bank and entered the front door.

Suspicious, the constable went back to the bank window but the blind was closed. Just then a black car pulled around the corner and stopped in front of the bank. "I ran back to my apartment door," Constable Wilson told the magistrate, "closed the door and pulled the curtain back."

"I saw a third man get out and go to the bank door," he said. "I ran upstairs for my revolver. As I came out I saw three men heading for the car. Two were wearing masks. As they were entering the car I fired a shot at them. One turned and fired a shot at the bank entrance. I fired another shot and this time they spotted me.

"One fired back at me and I backed into my doorway. As I did

so two or three shots were fired at me. By this time the car was in motion and one of the three was leaning out the front window firing his pistol. I fired one more shot as the car passed me."

Jackson. Constable Wilson said, was the man who drove the car up in front of the bank, and Watson was one of the pair he had seen just before on the sidewalk.

Cross examined by Norman Borins he was asked if his shots had hit anybody, he replied, "I don't think so, but I sure tried to."

Mr. Borins asked him about a two-inch scar over Jackson's left eye and asked if it could have been caused by a shot.

"I don't know," replied Wilson. "I was sure aiming there."

Constable Wilson denied having seen Watson on July 30 at Toronto police headquarters before the line-up was held.

"Well, he saw you there," declared Mr. Borins. "Watson has called it to my attention that he was in a position where you could see him. Is that true?"

"I didn't see him," was the answer. The officer admitted that to his knowledge none of the bank employees or customers had been able to identify the two accused in the police lineup.

"Did anyone else in the lineup have an injury such as Jackson's?"

"I couldn't say."

"Was Jackson the only one in the lineup with an amputated foot?"

"I couldn't say."

Cpl. David Adair was called by Mr. Borins and stated that Watson had been kept in a separate room from where Constable Wilson was in the Toronto headquarters.

Two bundles of bills totalling \$1,500 had been brought in by Det-

Sgt. Edmund Tong and several of the bills were identified by Mrs. June Catania, the bank cashier, through pencilled numbers she had made, Cpl. Adair testified.

The pair were committed for trial at the next court of criminal jurisdiction.