

# HARRY THAW ESCAPES ASYLUM AT MATTEAWAN

Slayer In Sensational Dash For Liberty.

ALLEGE CONSPIRACY After Felling Guard Thaw Jumps In Waiting Auto.

ONE ATTENDANT IS ARRESTED

Thrilling Chase by Armed Posse In Commandeered Motorcars, but Fugitive Is Not Overtaken—Said to Be Immune From Extradition In Connecticut.

Matteawan, N. Y., Aug. 18.—Harry Kendall Thaw escaped yesterday from the Matteawan State Asylum For the Criminal Insane in an automobile, which carried him at a speed of eighty miles an hour to the Connecticut state line, where he is immune from arrest.

Hurling Howard Barnum, an asylum guard, aside when Barnum opened a gate to admit a milkman, Thaw ran to a waiting automobile, leaped in and was driven alongside a six cylinder Packard machine a quarter of a mile down the road, where he leaped into the speedier car and got away.

Pressing into service the fastest automobiles procurable in the town, armed guards and attendants gave chase, but the best speed they could make was sixty miles an hour. They followed, hoping that a blow-out or a wreck might halt Thaw. The big Packard was last seen at Stormville, N. Y., fourteen miles from the asylum, where a constable reported it went through the village like a projectile from a gun.

Say Escape Was Result of Plot, Asserting that the escape was the

HARRY THAW.  
Slayer of Stanford White,  
Who Escaped From Asylum.



by American Press Association.

development of a well laid plot in which relatives of Thaw were the chief conspirators and that several of the guards and attendants of the institution were accessories, Dr. Raymond Francis Charles Kleb, the new asylum superintendent, ordered the arrest of Barnum and an investigation.

Dr. Kleb received information a few hours after the escape which induced him to believe, he said, that the machine was carrying Thaw to a seaport town in Connecticut and that a yacht is waiting off shore there to take him away.

Once over the state line and into Connecticut Thaw is immune from arrest so far as the Stanford White murder is concerned. Should the authorities arrest him there on some pretext he could not be extradited. Legal experts assert that there is no clause in the extradition law which is applicable to the Thaw case.

Six Men Involved.

Evidence that six men were involved in the plot to liberate Thaw was made by the discovery that four of them have been stopping at the Holland hotel here since Friday night, and that a fifth, said to be the chauffeur of the fast Packard automobile, stayed over Saturday night. The sixth was the operator of the landaulet, the smaller car.

After Thaw abandoned the landaulet for the big and speedy Packard, the former followed, evidently for the purpose of blocking any machine that might follow and to pick up Thaw and his party in the event of a wreck.

Car Waited Long For Thaw.

Thirty minutes before Thaw hurried Barnum aside the landaulet drew up outside of the gate and awaited the coming of the prisoner. The engine was kept running all the while. The machine contained two men beside the chauffeur. Thaw had but to run fifteen feet to get into it once he was through the gate.

"There is no doubt in my mind that employees of this institution are involved in this plot," said Dr. Kleb. "It was executed with amazing rapidity and smoothness. There are many circumstances involved which make me certain beyond even the shadow of a doubt that Thaw received assistance from the inside as well as the outside. The guilt, I am certain, will be fastened on a few men. I do not know who the outsiders are, but I must assume they are relatives of Thaw. The state will take steps to expose and prosecute them."

A bell and time punch in the office of the asylum shows that Thaw made his escape at 7:45 o'clock. Every time the gate through which he ran to the machine is opened a bell in the office rings and the hour and minute is punched on a card.

On Way to Chapel Exercises.

Thaw, who was known in the prison as No. 3011, arose yesterday at the minute of 6 o'clock. He had breakfast thirty minutes later. Then, with six

teen other patients, he went into what is known as the north court. Thaw and the others exercise there Sundays before going to the chapel service.

Barnum was on duty at the gates. There are three of these. All are fitted by the one key, which was in the possession of Barnum. George Mulhall was on duty in the yard with Barnum. He was some distance away from the gate when Barnum opened it.

From the moment he entered the courtyard Thaw spent most of his time near the gate through which he escaped, but, according to all accounts, he was not at any time in communication with the men who were waiting with the automobile outside.

Every morning shortly before 8 o'clock men who supply the institution with milk drive through the gate through which Thaw escaped. At 7:45 yesterday one signaled that he wished to get in. Thaw at that time was close to Barnum. Barnum, after inserting the key, swung the big door open.

Thaw acted quickly. Seizing the keeper, he hurled him to one side and rushed to the waiting automobile.

Cannot Be Extradited.

Assistant District Attorney Frank Moss said yesterday that Thaw had been acquitted of the crime of murder on the ground of insanity and that therefore there was no charge remaining against him.

"He cannot be extradited as far as I can see," said Mr. Moss. "He was placed in Matteawan because his mental condition made him a public danger. And you cannot extradite because of a disease a man has. This case was an acquittal, and I know of no example of extradition in such a case where no new crime has been committed. I have never heard, either, of the extradition of a criminally insane person."

Assistant District Attorney Embree gave it as his own belief that Thaw had been committed to Matteawan pending his sanity and that if he recovered from insanity he would be brought back to the court in which he was tried for the final disposition of his case. He said he had been acquitted of the charge of murder, but that he had not been dismissed, and for that reason was not so sure but that Thaw might be extraditable.

IN THE ORPHANS' COURT OF WAYNE COUNTY, Estate of Lawrence Shermer.

In the matter of the application for the granting of letters of administration upon the estate of Lawrence Shermer, late of Texas township, Wayne county, Pennsylvania, an absentee, who by reason of his absence and being unheard from for thirty years last past is supposed to

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be dead. Certified to this Court by the Register of Wills of Wayne county.

At a session of the said Court held on the 11th day of August A. D. 1913, upon hearing the evidence offered in the premises, the Court decreed (inter alia) that the legal presumption of the death of the said Lawrence Shermer was made out and established; that notice of the proceedings and decree be forthwith inserted for two successive weeks in The Citizen and Wayne Independent, two newspapers published in Wayne county, requiring the said Lawrence Shermer, if alive, or any other person for him, to produce to the Court within twelve weeks from the date of its last insertion satisfactory evidence of his continuance in life; and that if within the said period of twelve weeks such evidence be not forthcoming, administration of his estate be granted to the person entitled thereto. Certified from the Record.

W. J. BARNES, Clerk.

(L. S.)  
To the above named Lawrence Shermer, (if still continuing in life). You are required to produce the evidence specified in the foregoing order within twelve weeks from the 25th day of August A. D. 1913 and default thereof administration upon your estate will be granted in conformity with the statute in such case made and provided.

KIMBLE & HANLAN,  
Attorneys for Applicant.  
66 & 67.  
—The Citizen has the news.

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