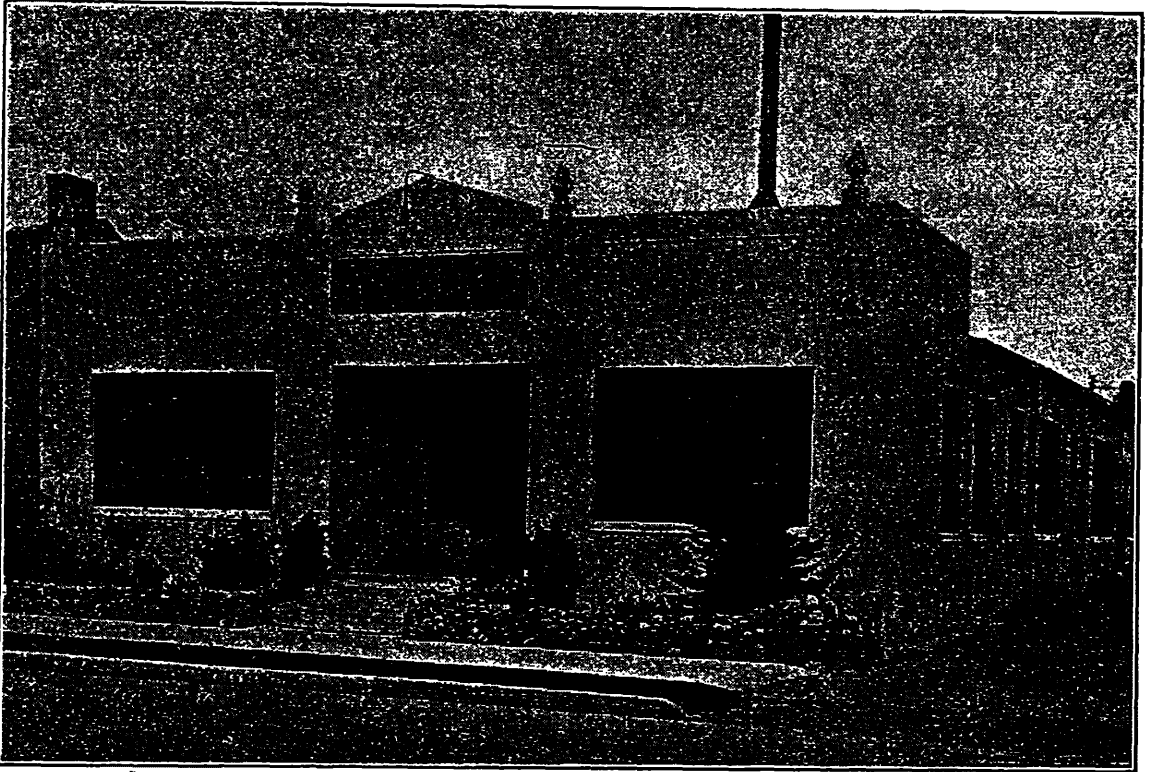


ians. Led by Mr. Brite, they moved toward the scene of the raid at a terrific rate of speed. They travelled the forty miles in nearly as many minutes.

When the rescuing party arrived on the scene, the bandits, about thirty in number, were making their getaway and were about two miles from the ranch, traveling up the mountains toward the pass in the rim rock toward Mexico. Mr. Brite, joined by Van Neill and Sheriff Ira Cline, led the party in pursuit, following a wood road up the mountain. When the outlaws saw the automobiles coming, they became excited and began rush-

driven away, so that the chase had to be given up until horses could be secured. The bandits were badly scattered and at the rim rock left more horses and loot, using every energy at their command to get away from the hot lead of the Americans.

Attention has been called to the bravery and devotion of the two Mexican women, who were at the Brite ranch. The older one, Cre-sencia Natividad, was especially daring and loyal. Whenever it was necessary for Mrs. Neill to pass from one room to another, this woman would walk on the danger side, shielding Mrs. Neill with her body. During the pro-



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ing their pack horses with such speed that some of the packs turned. When this occurred, the horse and pack were left behind.

Hodge Hunter, a brother-in-law of Van Neill's, who was to join the Christmas party, had come from toward Valentine but had been waved back by Pierre Guyon. He had hastily returned to Valentine and reached the ranch later with armed citizens about the time the party arrived from Marfa.

The men got within three quarters of a mile of the bandits and opened fire on them with high powered rifles. The bandits abandoned some of the horses and booty along the road side in order to further their flight. The posse followed and continued the fire but the country is very rough and the posse had no horses, as all those at the ranch had been

gress of the five hour seige of the ranch, Cre-sencia ventured out and called to the bandits, who were partly concealed behind the tank dam, imploring them to spare the Americans. They told her that they would throw bombs on the house and fired a shot at her as she re-entered the door.

Doubtless the bandits selected Christmas morning as the most stragetical time for the raid for the reason that the ranch boys usually attended some of the holiday entertainments at the neighboring towns. It so happened that the three or four men, employees of the ranch, who commonly stayed at the ranch at night, were off on this occasion. Their absence gave the bandits a tremendous advantage. A Mexican boy about 15 years old had come to the ranch three days prior