



Wolf Lake Cemetery

Wolf Lake, IN

Marvin Kuhns

Local Criminal with Robin-Hood-like Reputation



Whether he was stealing horses, breaking out of jails & prisons, or dining with a judge while on the run, Noble County's most famous Desperado, Kuhns, was also one of it's most endearing characters. He was born in 1867 and his first crime was stealing a suit of clothes from Perry Gray's store in Wolf Lake at age 16, thus began a string of escapades. As a horse thief, he broke out of the Noble County Jail three times, twice deserted the U.S. Army, once fled the Ohio State Penitentiary and several times fought gun battles with area authorities.

Though crime is no laughing matter, Kuhns had a certain comic flair that set him apart from the common horse thief. He was almost always welcome in his hometown where he sought refuge from the authorities. Aware of his presence, few neighbors would rarely inform the police. Kuhns would show up at a local restaurant for breakfast, while on the run. He would walk nonchalantly into the local newspaper office and compliment the editor on his unbiased coverage of Kuhns' crimes.

Kuhns was well known for his charitable nature, a tendency that earned him a Robin Hood-like reputation. When a blind, elderly woman was in dire need, Kuhns sent her money anonymously through friends. While in the Ohio State Penitentiary, he sent money (again, anonymously) when he heard some former neighbors from Noble County had lost everything in a fire. All in all, Kuhns spent 16 of his 40 years behind bars.