

The Lucas County Jail break
was preceded by:



*A Night on
The Town*

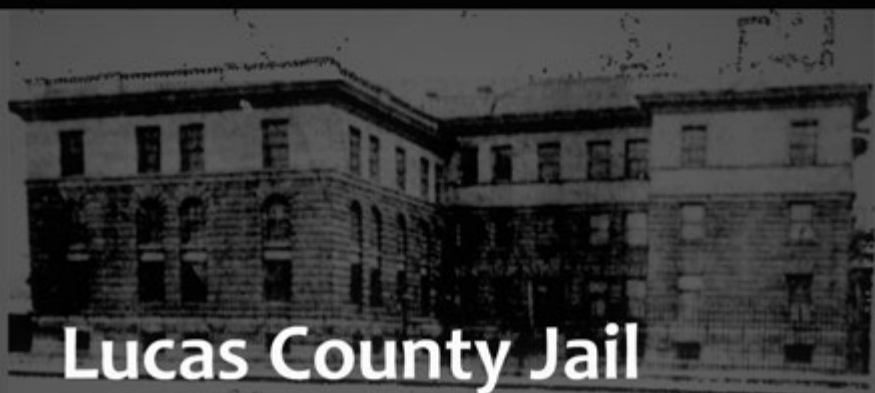
November 19, 1919



Late on the night of November 19, 1919, Albert Johnson (using the alias Frank Howard), Archie Dennison, Joe Snyder, and Joe Murphy were in a celebratory mood and were out on the town in Toledo. In all there were six men and five women involved in a wild party that ended in the death of one of the women, Dolly Angus (actual name Mary Ruede) and the wounding of Joe Snyder.

The other two men, in the group, were Charles Warren and a former policeman by the name of Dan Loveland. Neither of these two can be directly linked to the Cowboy Hill gang, but because of what happened about month later, Johnson, Snyder, and Murphy can.

The party became raucous and unmanageable at Goldstein's cabaret and several shots were fired into the ceiling before the group mercifully left the premises. The next stop was at another cabaret called Herman's and once again their behavior warranted eviction, and at that point the police were called.



The group was intercepted at a place known as a brothel but was officially considered a rooming house, operated by a woman named Alice Walsh. Two detectives, Frank DeLora and William Herman, apprehended Joe Murphy on the porch, but as soon as they entered the house they were threatened by someone inside. The resulting gunfire exchange left Dolly Angus mortally wounded and Joe Snyder severally injured.

Responsibility for the death of Dolly Angus was never placed on any individual, although it was reported that the bullet that struck her came from one of the policeman's guns. It is also likely that she saved the life of Archie Dennison, because she was sitting on his lap at the time of the shooting.

Although nine people were arrested, only Albert Johnson was held for further possible prosecution and he was transferred to the Lucas County jail on November 28, 1919. At that time there were three other associates of Cowboy Hill in the county jail, Leo Mitchell, Eddie Meehan (aka D. W. West), and Albert Loesch.

Mitchell was there as a parole violator, from Auburn Prison in New York, Loesch had recently been arrested for the theft of a large quantity of silk, and Meehan was being held on a murder charge.

Jail Break



“Release Of Men From Jail Well Planned By Gunmen”



Lucas County Jail in Toledo, Ohio, December 25, 1919

Will Fisher, Joe Snyder, and Joe Murphy, along with a man identified as Al Conway, invaded the jail early in the morning of December 25, 1919, to rescue Albert Johnson, Leo Mitchell, Albert Loesch, and Eddie Meehan.



Both Snyder and Murphy were apprehended later in the day but the other six men escaped. Reports indicate that they first drove to Point Place, at that time a suburb north of Toledo and not yet officially in the jurisdiction of Toledo authorities. From there they abandoned their original car and escaped via another car across frozen portions of Maumee Bay into Michigan. It was speculated in the articles about this escape that their ultimate destination was Monroe, Michigan.

William Fisher aka “Little Willie”, James Allison, Fred Manifeck or Manifex: On November 17, 1919, Fisher was a participant in the Randolph, Massachusetts, bank robbery. The group that committed this robbery consisted of Fisher, Red McGahan, Gerald Chapman, and a man named Frank Adams (aka Frank or Charles Appleby), who was killed during an attempt to hold up a card game in Toledo on February 29, 1920.

William “Little Willie” Fisher was the apparent leader of the four gunmen involved in the raid of the Lucas County jail on Christmas Day 1919. He also served a term in the Indiana State Prison at Michigan City under the name of James Allison. The last piece of information about Fisher comes from The Detroit Free Press in February of 1925. He and three other men were arrested in northern Indiana after a bank robbery in Michigan.