



Eddie Meehan: As mentioned previously this gang was populated with men who should be considered hardened criminals, in other words people who were automatically labeled “armed and dangerous”. Eddie Meehan was no exception to this rule. Meehan was also known by several aliases. In connection with the jail break at the Lucas County Jail in 1919 he is called D. W., D. H. or D. E. West in various news articles. When arrested in Wisconsin in September of 1920 he used the name Edward Rogers, and the name Eddie Grant is also referenced as another alias for Meehan in news articles.



Meehan was reported to be 30 years old in 1919, and therefore was approximately the same age as Chapman, McGahan, Albert Johnson, and Cowboy Hill. At the time of his arrest in 1919, news reports stated that police records indicated Meehan's first arrest was in 1911 when he was apprehended for blowing a safe in a Paulding, Ohio, post office. At that time he used the name Thomas Mehan. For this offense he received a sentence of 11 ½ years in federal prison. Meehan was sent to Leavenworth and in 1913 President Taft commuted this sentence to three years. Shortly after his release he was arrested in St Louis as a pickpocket.

At the time of the Lucas County Jail raid on December 25, 1919, Meehan was awaiting a decision on his manslaughter sentence regarding the shooting death of James Manion in September of 1919. Meehan had originally been arrested on a charge of murder, but this charge was apparently reduced to manslaughter nevertheless he was sentenced to 20 years imprisonment.



During the late summer and early fall of 1920, Meehan and his group were conducting robberies in Wisconsin. There are even reports that this group ventured into Minnesota and that they went as far west as Nebraska. After being apprehended in Wisconsin in late September, they were imprisoned in that state.

The trial of the three men in the group, Edward Rogers (Meehan), James King, and Charles Turner, took place in Milwaukee, in January of 1921. All three men received 30-year sentences. News reports indicate that by 1931 Meehan (referred to as Edward Rogers), was seeking a pardon after serving 11 years in prison. A newspaper editorial indicates that there was strong opposition to this action. The editorial references threats by the prisoner against law enforcement officials as a good reason for not granting a pardon.



Meehan was not granted a pardon in 1931 but was released on May 7, 1937, after 16 years of imprisonment in Wisconsin. No reason was given for his release at that time, but it was merely a technicality because Meehan was immediately taken into custody by two deputies from James O'Reilly's office in Toledo. In 1937 O'Reilly was the Lucas County Sheriff and may have arranged the release of Meehan so that he could be brought back to Ohio to serve out his 20-year sentence for the killing of James Manion in September of 1919.

Beyond this transfer there is no information that indicates exactly what happened to Eddie Meehan. There is, however, a man by the name of J. D. West in the Ohio State Penitentiary in 1940. The best clue as to this man's true identity is the fact that in 1935 he was living in Waupun, Wisconsin, the site of the Wisconsin State Penitentiary.