

# Rube Babbitt

## Out of Season Venison

*from Glen Eberly*

Many stories exist about this famous guide and Conservation Officer, but this relatively unknown tale gives us a glimpse into his creative and empathetic nature.

A young boy of 13 was seriously ill and in the Grayling hospital. He would not eat. The doctors told the family that if they could not get the boy to eat, he would eventually die of starvation.

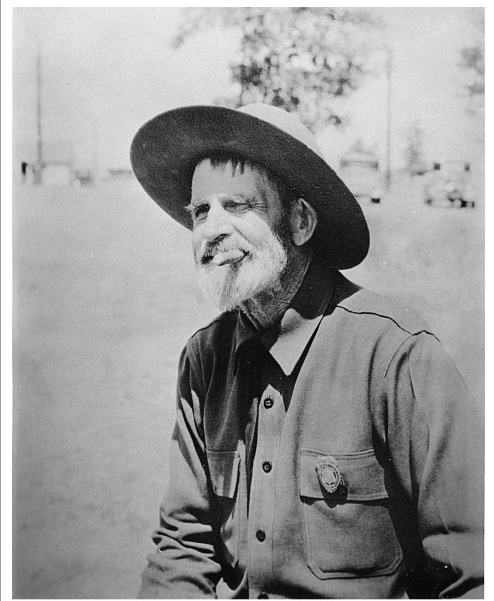
One afternoon, during a visit to see his son, the attending doctor told the father, "Your son said 'venison' this morning. If you can get some venison, we might be able to get him to eat and save his life."

Delighted, the father tracked down Rube Babbitt, the current game warden for Crawford county, and told him the good news. The father then asked Rube, "Rube, can you give me a note to shoot a deer?"

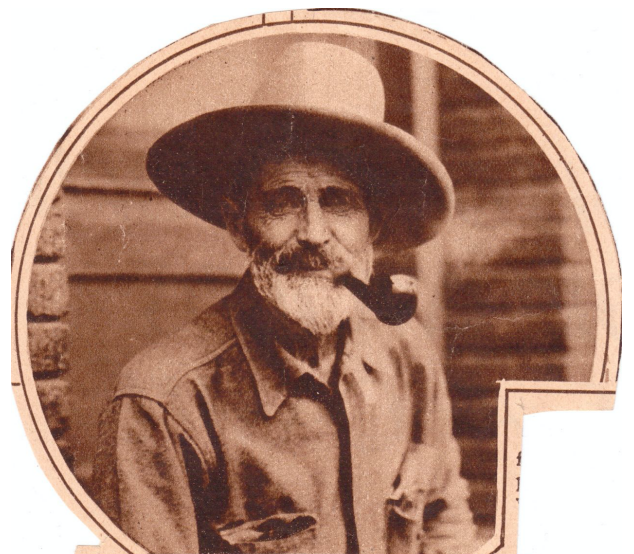
Rube responded, "Charlie, this is June, I am the game warden, it is illegal to shoot a deer in June. I can't give you a note to let you shoot a deer."

Charlie responded with understood despair, "Rube what am I going to do?"

Rube responded, "Charlie, I don't know what you're going to do, but tomorrow morning, I am going to leave for Gaylord at about 6am and I won't get back to Grayling until about 8pm. Now don't let me catch you with a deer!"



Rube Babbitt - Conservation Officer



Ruben Babbitt, a veteran of Crawford County, considered one of the greatest woodsmen of the north.