



BY THE WAY

Occasional Newsletters from The P G Wodehouse Society (UK)

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Wodehouse's Crooks – Part III

Continuing our series of Wodehouse characters who have committed offences of all sorts. The final part of this list will appear in the June 2017 By The Way.

Joe the Gorilla

He had been in Sing-Sing with Freddy Mullett (qv), and was originally from the same town as Officer Garroway.

(The Small Bachelor)

Kohn

A Detroit financier who, with his partner Mostyn, employed J. Bernard Hoke when they were working the A and C ramp, but was later accused of double-crossing Mostyn.

(Big Money)

'Lefty'

Buck MacGinnis's pistol-bearer.

(The Little Nugget)

MacGinnis, 'Buck'

A Chicago gangster specialising in kidnapping, who first tried for the Little Nugget in 1907. He realised that it was in his interest to work with Smooth Sam Fisher when trying again in England rather than against him, and he might have been a bit unlucky to have encountered Peter Burns at a time when he was in a fury reckless enough to break people's legs.

(The Little Nugget)

Malloy, Jack

The leader of the fictitious Malloy gang, based in Deptford, southeast London. Berry Conway was rounding them up when a bullet grazed his ear. At least, that was what he told Ann Moon when he jumped into her car, his imagination fired to the extent that he claimed the gang went in for arson.

(Big Money)

Marks, Sid

The youthful leader of the Frith Street Gang.

(‘Misunderstood’)

Marshall

A tall, muscular gentleman, expert in the arts of disguise and violence, becoming an early statistic as far as road casualties are concerned.

(The Luck Stone)

Mauleverer, Lord Jasper

A fictional bad lot, bribing the head lad in 'Pipped on the Post' to slip a cobra into Bonny Betsy's stable the night before the Derby.

(‘The Purity of the Turf’ in The Inimitable Jeeves)

McGee, 'Easy Pickings'

A friend of Dolly Molloy who had a business in Cicero, just outside Chicago, which involved sticking up filling-stations and drug stores. He decided to broaden his scope, and turned to banks.

(Ice in the Bedroom)

Meadowes

Jeeves's predecessor in the service of Bertie Wooster, he was dismissed for stealing his employer's silk socks.

(‘Jeeves Takes Charge’ in Carry On, Jeeves)

Moffatt, Ginger

A friend of Horace Appleby who had recently escaped from Dartmoor.

(Do Butlers Burgle Banks?)

Molloy, Dolly

Born in Chicago as Dora Gunn, she was a shoplifter who enjoyed a holiday experience at Holloway for a short while after being caught. Dolly generally regarded the day wasted when she had not administered a knock-out drop or two, and although she had become the wife of the older Soapy after a whirlwind ten days in London, she was not averse to passing herself off as his daughter. She instigated campaigns of violence, for instance in connection with the person of Jeff Miller in an attempt to force him to leave Shipley Hall, but even a combination of ormolu clocks, vases, bricks, watering-cans and stair-rods was unsuccessful.

(Several novels)

Molloy, Soapy

A man who resembled an American senator, he made his life's work the sale of interests in fully worked-out oil wells. He received inside information

from Edward Finglass concerning the location of some millions of dollars' worth of stolen bonds, but not even the combined resources of himself, Dolly, and Chimp Twist were successful in achieving their recovery. He briefly occupied Castlewood (successfully selling Silver River oil stock to Freddie Widgeon), and also managed to offload supplies of surplus shares to such diverse characters as Leila Yorke, Lord Blicester, and Oofy Prosser, though not to the miserly Lester Carmody.

(Several novels)

Montague-Todd, Mr

This well-known and streetwise financier was in the second year of a prison sentence from which Jeeves, his former employee, had either been unwilling or unable to save him.

(‘Bertie Changes His Mind’ in *Carry On, Jeeves*)

Moon, Elmer

His object in life was to steal bonds, and if to do so successfully he had to tie up intrusive Englishmen and escape down drainpipes, that was all right by him.

(*Indiscretions of Archie*)

Mortimer, Augustus

A Trustee of Bond's bank whose unprofessional activities carried a threat of confinement which he sought to assuage by arranging for a contract to be taken out on the Bank's new owner.

(*Do Butlers Burgle Banks?*)

Mostyn

A Detroit financier and partner of Kohn. They employed Hoke when they were working the ‘A and C ramp’, but later each accused the other of double-crossing. Mostyn was successful in hitting Kohn on the beazer.

(*Big Money*)

Mullett, Freddy

George Finch's valet, cook and man-of-all-work. An ex-con, he was recognised by Officer Garroway from the likeness to his photograph in the Rogues' Gallery which had been taken when he spent a year in prison for burglary. He swore he had gone straight, an oath with which his fiancée, Fanny Welch, was not wholly in sympathy.

(*The Small Bachelor*)

Murgatroyd, Ed

The Chicago bootlegger fiancé of Genevieve Bootle, and owner of a sawn-off shotgun, who looked like

the sort of fellow the police are always spreading dragnets for in connection with the recent robbery of Schoenstein's Bon Ton Delicatessen Store on Eighth Avenue.

(‘The Castaways’ in *Blandings Castle and Elsewhere*)

Otto the Sausage

A member of the Frith Street Gang, he assisted in the assaults on PC Keating.

(‘Misunderstood’)

Peavey, Aileen ‘Smooth Lizzie’

Once the partner in crime of Eddie Cootes, she bumped into him again at Blandings Castle, where, despite the authority claimed by one who had six volumes of her poems published (only one at her own expense), the pair were still unable to successfully get away with a diamond necklace.

(*Leave It to Psmith*)

Phipps, James

The English butler to Adela Cork, he had once worked as butler for an American gentleman, during the course of which duties he visited country houses and learned to blow safes. His criminal past in New York was known to Wilhelmina (‘Bill’) Shannon, for she had been a member of the jury which sent him down, but he was to double-cross her with his investigations in Adela Cork's bedroom.

(*The Old Reliable*)

Pilbeam, Albert Edward

He did seven days in Brixton Jail for failing to abate a smoky chimney and refusing to pay a fine.

(*Heavy Weather*)

Pilbeam, Percy Frobisher, FRZS

The former editor of the scandal sheet *Society Spice* was the proprietor of the highly dubious Argus Private Enquiry Agency, Beeston St, London SW, using its cover for a variety of nefarious activities such as the theft (‘recovery’, he would no doubt call it) of compromising letters from their rightful owner, administering Mickey Finns, attempting the theft of a manuscript, and numerous others.

(*Summer Lightning, Heavy Weather*, and four non-Blandings novels)

Porter, John

As he was about to enter church with a view to marrying Mrs Sigsbee Waddington's sister-in-law, he was arrested and charged with already having six wives.

(*The Small Bachelor*)