

Ye Olde Plum News

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PRIVATE EYES

HENRY PIFIELD RICE

was really only a sort of detective, a species of sleuth ... at Stafford's International Investigation Bureau... He had never measured a foot-print in his life, and what he did not know about bloodstains would have filled a library. The sort of job they gave Henry was to stand outside a restaurant in the rain, and note what time some one inside left it. (Bill the Bloodhound, 1915)

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### DETECTIVES AT DREEVER CASTLE

Sir Thomas Blunt hired a private detective from Wragge's Detective Agency, to protect his wife's jewels. Mr. McEachern suspected burglary and also hired a detective, Mr. Galer, from Dodson's Private Inquiry Agency. The two detectives didn't know each other's identity. The Wragge man told: *"I kept near those jewels on and off all day, and presently, just as I had thought, along comes this fellow. He'd hardly got to the door when I was on him. ... Galer's the name he goes by here." "Galer!" ... "And do you know what he had the impudence, the gall, to tell me? That he was in my own line of business. A detective! He said you had sent for him to come here." ... "I've locked him in the coal-cellar," said the detective dismally. The jewels were not stolen. (A Gentleman of Leisure, 1910)*

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MISS TRIMBLE

"She is the smartest worker in my office... Miss Trimble knows more about jujutsu than the Japanese professor who taught her... She is an expert revolver shot. She was hired by Mrs. Pett to protect her son Ogden from being kidnapped. She stopped an attempt, which showed to be arranged by Ogden's father, Mr. Pett and she was very disappointed not being allowed to arrest anyone. "Guess I'll be beatin' it," she said, with a sombre frown. She was plainly in no sunny mood. "f all th' jobs I was ever on, this is th' bunkest. I'm told off t' watch a gang of crooks, and after I've lost a night's sleep doing it, it turns out it's a nice jolly fam'ly party" (Piccadilly Jim, 1924)

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### J. SHERINGHAM ADAIR

The real name of this unfortunate fellow was Chimp Twist. He ran Tilbury Detective Agency, mostly as a front for his, often unsuccessful, criminal actions.

*He was a small man with the face of an untrustworthy monkey, the sort of monkey other monkeys would have shrunk from allowing to come within arm's reach of their nut ration. (Money in the Bank, 1942)*

Chimp's search for Mr. Edward Finglass' millions, the swag from a bank robbery, was a failure. (Sam the Sudden, 1925)

His efforts to steal Lord Uffenham's diamonds were also unsuccessful and moreover, he was coshed unconscious by Dolly Molloy. (Money in the Bank, 1942)

Dolly Molloy had hidden some stolen jewels, and Chimp tried to steal them from her. To the disappointment of both the swag was found and returned to the righteous owner. (Ice in the Bedroom, 1961)

Chimp was hired by Mrs. Grayce Llewelyn to guard her very valuable pearl necklace. He stole it, but the necklace was a worthless fake. (Pearls, Girls and Monty Bodkin, 1972)

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PERCY FROBISHER PILBEAM

A disgusting person with a revolting moustache, void of moral compass. He didn't hesitate from stealing, black-mailing or from other criminal acts to make money.

Quite early in his career Pilbeam had seen where the big money lay, and he decided to go after it. As editor of that celebrated scandal-sheet, Society Spice, Percy Pilbeam had had exceptional opportunities of discovering in good time the true bent of his genius: with the result that, after three years of nosing out people's discreditable secrets on behalf of the Mammoth Publishing Company, his employers, he had come to the conclusion that a man of his gifts would be doing far better for himself nosing out such secrets on his own behalf. He started Argus Enquiry Agency.

Lord Emsworth hired him, to investigate the theft of his pig, the Empress of Blandings. Lord Parsloe also hired him, to steal the manuscript with Galahad Threepwood's Reminiscences. It contained stories from his youth which Lord Parsloe absolutely not wanted to be published. Lord Tilbury, on the other hand, owner of Mammoth Publishing Company, also wanted the manuscript, but in order to publish it and make another fortune. Lady Constance wanted the manuscript, but to destroy it. Pilbeam pinched the manuscript and hid it temporarily in an empty shed on the premises of Blandings, to sell it to whoever gave him the best price. However, he didn't know that the shed was intended to be the new sty for the Empress. She was moved into it, found the manuscript, and ate it! (Summer Lightning, 1929, Heavy Weather, 1933)

If Edmund Biffen Cristopher was not arrested before his thirtieth birthday, he would inherit ten millions, else, Lord Tilbury would be the heir. Tilbury hired Pilbeam to get Edmund drunk and arrested, but he failed. (Frozen Assets, 1964)

Roscoe Bunyan said about Pilbeam: *He'll get those letters for me. I gave him the same sort of job about a year ago, and he did it without a hitch. He's always doing that sort of thing. Of course, I won't break off the engagement till I've got them. (Something Fishy, 1957)*

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### ADRIAN MULLINER

*He had found his niche as a member of the firm of Widgery and Boon, Investigators... He looked like Sherlock Holmes. To cure his dyspepsia he was ordered by the doctor to smile as much as possible. Persons with bad conscience misinterpreted his sardonic smile and thought he knew their dark secrets, confessed to him and tried to make amends. (The Smile That Wins, 1933)*

*"Looking back over my years as a detective, I recall many problems the solution of which made me modestly proud, but I can think of none of my feats of ratiocination that gave me more pleasure than the unmasking of the man Sherlock Holmes, now better known as The Fiend Of Baker Street... Holmes was Professor Moriarty." (From a Detective's Notebook, 1959)*

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