

Ye Olde Plum News

No 80 May 2026

SOME MABELS

FICKLE WAITRESS

Bingo Little confided in Bertie. *'Isay, Bertie, ' he said, after a pause of about an hour and a quarter. 'Hallo!' 'Do you like the name Mabel?' 'No.' 'No?' 'No.' 'You don't think there's a kind of music in the word, like the wind rustling gently through the tree-tops?' 'No.' He seemed disappointed for a moment; then he cheered up. 'Of course, you wouldn't. You always were a fatheaded worm without any soul, weren't you?' 'Just as you say. Who is she? Tell me all.' Mabel discarded Bingo and married his rich uncle. (Jeeves Exerts the Old Cerebellum, 1921)*

Bingo however soon forgot her and fell in love again. *'He is in love. For about the fifty-third time. I ask you, Jeeves, as man to man, did you ever see such a chap?' 'Mr Little is certainly warm-hearted, sir.' (Bingo and the Little Woman, 1922)*

~~~~~\*~~~~~

### CRIMINAL MIND

*'Listen, Ikey,' said Mabel Spence, for all the world as if she was talking about the weather or discussing the blue sea and yellow sand which had excited Monty Bodkins admiration. 'We've got a job for you. Grayce has bought a peach of pearl necklace in Paris, and she wants you, when you sail for home next week, to take it along and smuggle it through the Customs.' ... 'When I bring the necklace on board at Cherbourg, I am going to sew it in your hat.' Ikey is Ivor Llewellyn, President of the Superba-Llewellyn Motion Picture Corporation in Hollywood, Grayce is his wife and Mabel is her sister. Ikey doesn't know which is most frightening alternative: to disobey his wife and her sister or getting caught for smuggling and imprisoned. (The Luck of the Bodkins, 1935)*

~~~~~\*~~~~~

SECRETARY WITH AMBITION

Wilmot Mulliner worked for Mr Schnellenhamer at Perfecto-Zizzbaum Pictures in Hollywood. Mabel was Mr Schnellenhamer's private secretary and Wilmot was one of the Nodders. He fell in love with her. *But when at length Wilmot, emboldened, asked her to be his wife, she shook her head. 'No,' she said. 'I like you, Wilmot. Sometimes I even think that I love you. But I can never marry a mere serf.' 'A what was that?' 'A serf. A peon. A man who earns his living by*

nodding his head at Mr Schnellenhamer. A Yes-man would be bad enough, but a Nodder!' She paused, and Wilmot, from sheer force of habit, nodded. 'I am ambitious,' proceeded Mabel. 'The man I marry must be a king among men ... well, what I mean, at least a supervisor. Rather than wed a Nodder, I would starve in the gutter.'

Instead of his usual nodding, Wilmot once daringly defended Mabel and opposed Mr Schnellenhamer. This unexpected opposition made him fear that Wilmot could reveal corporate secrets. Wilmot's silence must be bought so he offered him a position as an executive. *Wilmot Mulliner drew himself up. It was his moment. His head was still aching, and he would have been the last person to claim that he knew what all this was about; but this he did know – that Mabel was nestling in his arms and his future was secure. 'I...' The words failed him, and he nodded. (The Nodder, 1933)*

~~~~~\*~~~~~

### STAR IN SILENT MOVIE?

An infatuated producer had given Mabel Hobson a main part in a Broadway production. But she was no actor. *There is only one part in the play. I allude to the one being murdered by Miss Mabel Hobson. ... Miss Mabel Hobson had practically every personal advantage which nature can bestow with the exception of a musical voice. Her figure was perfect, her face beautiful, and her hair a mass of spun gold; but her voice in moments of emotion was the voice of a peacock. (The Adventures of Sally, 1921)*

~~~~~\*~~~~~

RECEPTIONIST

The premises of Scrope, Ashby and Pemberton were bright, airy and tastefully furnished, and their waiting-room was rendered additionally attractive by the presence of a receptionist with an hour-glass figure and a good deal of golden hair. She reminded the caller who had just crossed the threshold of barmaids he had known in his youth, when barmaids had entered rather largely into his life.

For the greater part of the day Mabel sat at her desk thinking of absolutely nothing, coming out of her coma only when some caller arrived and it was necessary to ask his name. (The Girl in Blue, 1970)

~~~~~\*~~~~~

### COURTED BY UKRIDGE

Frederick, a pal of Ukridge worked as chauffeur and drove a Daimler. He invited Ukridge and Corky on a short tour. *Just as we came in sight of the Common, a fool of a girl loomed up right before our front wheels. She had been crossing the road, and now, after the manner of her species, she lost her head. She was a large, silly-looking girl, and she darted to and fro like a lunatic hen; and as Ukridge and I rose simultaneously from our seats, clutching each other in agony, she tripped over her feet and fell. But Frederick, master of his craft, had the situation well in hand. He made an inspired swerve, and when we stopped a moment later, the girl was picking herself up, dusty, but in one piece. Ukridge insisted on giving the girl, Mabel Price, a ride home and soon he was a regular guest in the Price family. They thought him to be rich and that Frederick was in his service. Ukridge did nothing to correct them. Soon he and Mabel were engaged. A rival revealed that Ukridge was a fraud. Mr Price turned to his daughter. 'Mabel,' he said, 'this engagement of yours is broken. Broken, do you understand? I forbid you ever to see this scoundrel again. You hear me?' 'All right, pa,' said miss Price. (No Wedding Bells for Him, 1923)*

Ukridge courted another Mabel, daughter of a man who run an immensely profitable business in Singapore. His rival was a baronet. They were all going to Ascot. Ukridges trouble was, as usual, lack of money. His landlady demanded him to pay the rent for his room or she wouldn't give him his coat and top-hat. He could not possibly go to Ascot without correct dress. His friend George Tupper refused to lend him money. But George knew a man who maybe would employ Ukridge and he would send him to Ukridge. When the well-dressed man appeared Ukridge saw that his coat and hat would fit him, so he robbed him and disappeared for Ascot. But the plundered man was not the awaited employer, but Mabel's father, unexpectedly arrived from Singapore and sent by Mabel to pick Ukridge up. Mabel married the baronet. (A Bit of Luck for Mabel, 1925)

~~~~~\*~~~~~

SISTER OF LORD EMSWORTH?

Lord Emsworth asked Colonel Wedge if he had seen Mabel, when in London. *'Mabel?' 'I mean Dora. I forgot her name for the moment. My sister Dora.' (Full Moon 1947)*

~~~~~\*~~~~~