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"Many of the writers of the twentieth century have professed a deep admiration for the art of 'Plum,' as Wodehouse was known to his friends and family. T. S. Eliot, W. H. Auden, Bertrand Russell - all were enthusiasts of Wodehouse. Hilaire Belloc said that he was the greatest writer of the twentieth century, and Evelyn Waugh offered the following tribute to his genius: 'Mr. Wodehouse's idyllic world will continue to release future generations from captivity that may be more irksome than our own.'"

...John R. Griffin

Upon my Sam! It's a bit hard....sure as shootin', if OM tells the membership about someone having published a new book, he is suspected of being a shill for the publishing industry. If he pops up with an item about book-collecting, suspicious minds imply that sellers of rare books have purchased his persuasive talents to bolster their sales. So he has taken a mighty resolve to avoid mentioning that a new book, FORE! containing a dozen of the best FGW golf stories, selected by Don R. Bensen (who co-edited P. G. Wodehouse - 1881 - 1981 - a Centenary Celebration, Morgan Library/Oxford Univ. Press, 1981). Publishers of FORE! are Ticknor and Fields, Boston, 1983. Again, although Father James A. Carruth, TWS, is the author of several uncommonly interesting and beautiful books about Scotland, his native land, and although these books: Scotland the Brave, Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, Mary, Queen of Scots, and Bonnie Prince Charles Country may be purchased from Jarrold Colour Publications, Barrack Street, Norwich NR3 1TR, United Kingdom, at about two pounds each, plus another pound for postage and handling, OM feels that he should avoid releasing this type of information...even though the royalties from Father Jamie's books (if any) will be used to further the work of his seminary in Ziyabawe.

Jimmy Heineman, TWS, relays word that the P. G. Wodehouse Society of The Netherlands is planning two important contests: first, to find the fattest sow in all of Holland, its owner to be presented with the Empress of Blandings Award; second, the Jeeves Award is to be presented to the most perfect gentleman's personal gentleman in The Netherlands. This second contest may be somewhat hampered by the statistical revelation that the last Netherlandish valet died of old age only a few weeks ago....

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The Oldest Member

VALLEY FIELDS

Robert A. Hall, Jr., *Cornell University*

ABBREVIATIONS

BA = Bachelors Anonymous	IB = (The) Ice in the	SF = Something Fishy (Am.: The Butler Did It)
BM = Big Money	Bedroom	SS = Sam the Sudden (Am.: Sam in the Suburbs)
CM = Company for Henry (Am.: The Purloined Paperweight)	PF = Performing Flea	UD = Uncle Dynamite
DB = Do Butlers Burgle Banks?	PG = Pearls, Girls and Monty Bodkin (Am.: The Plot That Thickened)	UFFB = "Uncle Fred Flits By"
FA = Frozen Assets (Am.: Biffen's Millions)	PHW = Pigs Have Wings	UFITS = Uncle Fred in the Springtime
	PITC = Psmith In The City	
	SC = "The Story of Cedric"	

The action of P. G. Wodehouse's stories takes place in a wide variety of locales in England, and a rather more limited number of places in France and the United States. Among his English settings, however, three predominate, correlated with type of landscape and population: Blandings Castle, rustic and old-established aristocratic; the Drones Club, urban and youthful (often impecunious); and Valley Fields, suburban and middle-class. It is well known that the last mentioned is a sublimation of Wodehouse's memories of the real-life London suburb of West Dulwich,¹ very near Dulwich College, where he was a school-boy from 1894 to 1900.

From internal evidence in the stories, we know that Valley Fields is a Surrey-side suburb, in the S.E.21 postal district. It is beyond Brixton and Herne Hill, and near Tulse Hill. In SS (ch. 24), we learn that a train, after leaving Valley Fields station, grunts as it climbs the steep gradient of Sydenham Hill.

In this latter connection, there is a small but easily resolved problem concerning the location of Mitching Hill, the scene of Lord Ickenham's multiple impersonations in UFFB. In that story, there is no overt reference to Valley Fields, but in UFITS, Uncle Fred states three times (chs. 7, 8, 11) that he performed his exploits in Valley Fields. The difficulty disappears if we assume that Mitching Hill is a section of Valley Fields, probably Sydenham Hill, part of which is in the S.E.21 postal district, and corresponds in appearance and social level to Mitching Hill as shown in UFFB.

Among the Surrey-side suburbs, Valley Fields is a verdant oasis. Wodehouse repeatedly sings its praises, varying the description only slightly from one story to the next, in such terms as these (SS, ch. 2):

More seeds are sown each spring in Valley Fields, more lawn mowers pushed, more garden rollers borrowed, more snails destroyed, more green fly squirted with patent mixtures, than in any other suburb on the Surrey side of the river. Brixton may have its Bon Marché and Sydenham its Crystal Palace; but when it comes to pansies, roses, tulips, hollyhocks and nasturtiums, Valley Fields points with pride.

In later descriptions, the sad fate of the green fly is especially emphasized:

... more patent mixtures for squirting green fly purchased (SF, ch. 2)

... more green fly squirted with whale-oil solution (CH, ch. 1)

... more green-fly rendered eligible for the obituary column (BA, ch. 9).

To Lord Biskerton, Valley Fields "came as an agreeable surprise. ... Valley Fields, sunlit and picturesque, struck him as distinctly jolly. With its pleasant gardens and trees, it had something of the air of a village ... " (BM, ch. 5). At a later stage, in 1955, it acquired "soaring television antennas" (SF, ch. 2). (These latter were presumably only a temporary aberration, disappearing when cable-television came.)

The only fauna specifically mentioned are dogs, cats, swans, rabbits, and a guinea-pig. Among the canines, pride of place unquestionably goes to Amy, the "kind of canine cock-tail" with a blood-hound - Airedale father and a Great Dane - Labrador mother, which Hash Todhunter bought at the Blue Anchor pub in Tulse Hill, and which plays an important rôle in the courtship of Sam Shotter and Kay Derrick (SS). The chief activity of dogs in Valley Fields seems to be chasing cats. In three instances, a kitten is frightened up a tree by a dog (SS, ch. 16; CH, ch. 1; DB, ch. 4), and in a fourth Mrs. Amelia Bingham's dog Percy habitually chases Miss Jane Priestley's cats (BA, ch. 9). Gwendoline Gibbs' dog Champion Silverboon of Burrowsdene ("Towser") lives at her home in Valley Fields (FA, ch. 9). Mr. Walkinshaw of Balmoral was chased by his own dog (SS, ch. 28). Cats appear only as objects of the dogs' pursuit.

Of the other fauna, the swans Egbert and Percy, who reside on the ornamental strip of water in Mulberry Grove (BM, ch. 5, 9) furnish a sardonic counterpoint to the love-duet of Berry Conway and Ann Moon, with their sarcastic observations concerning young lovers. Mr. Cornelius, the house-agent (SS; BM; IB), keeps rabbits and feeds them their twice-daily ration of lettuce. Mr. Edwin Phillimore, of "The Firs," was once bitten by a guinea-pig (SS, ch. 28).

In England, individual houses frequently have names bestowed on them by their builders or owners.² Almost all the houses in Valley Fields mentioned by Wodehouse have names, and are assigned to specific house-holders. They are enumerated in the following list, together with their location, their occupants (where specified), and the stories in which they occur:

Balmoral, ³ Acacia Road; Mr. Walkinshaw (SS, ch. 28)	The Nook, ⁶ Mulberry Grove; J. B. Conway (BM); A. Keggs (SF, IB); P. Cornelius (IB)
Beau Rivage, ⁴ Burberry Road; Mrs. Bellamy-North (SS, ch. 29)	Peacehaven, ⁷ Mulberry Grove; Mr. Bolitho (BM, ch. 3); Lord Biskerton (renter) (BM); A. Keggs (owner) (SF, IB); Stanhope Twine (renter) (SF); F. & G. Widgeon (renters) (IB)
Castlewood, Mulberry Grove; Maj. Flood-Smith (BM); A. Keggs (SF); Mr. & Mrs. T. G. Molloy (renters) (IB); Leila Yorke (renter) (IB)	Pontresina, Burberry Road (SS, ch. 2)
Chatsworth (SF, ch. 3)	Restharrow, ⁸ Croxley Road; H. Appleby (DB)
The Firs, cor. Buller-st. & Myrtle Ave.; Edwin Phillimore (SS, ch. 28)	San Rafael, ⁵ Burberry Road; M. Wrenn (SS)
Mon Repos, ⁵ Burberry Road; Edw. Finglass (SS, ch. 13); S. P. Shotter (SS); "Bill" Hardy (CH).	Sans Souci, ⁴ Burberry Road (SS, ch. 29)
	7, Nasturtium Villas, Marigold Road; Mr. Watling (SC)

In Mitching Hill, the scene of Lord Ickenham's impersonations (UFFB) is "The Cedars," a semidetached villa owned by a Mr. Roddis. In UD (ch. 6), we learn that it was located in Mafeking Road.

A few houses are referred to without mention of their name or (except in one case) location: Mrs. Amelia Bingham's (the other half of "The Laurels," in Burbage Road (BA, ch. 9); and the dwellings of Gwendoline Gibbs (FA, ch. 9), William Albert Pilbeam (FA, ch. 3), and Mrs. Maudie Stubbs (PHW, ch. 3).

Like any normal suburb, Valley Fields has its local business-enterprises. For the new-comer wishing to rent a house, the most important of these - mentioned repeatedly from SS to IB - is the firm of Matters and Cornelius, real-estate-agents in Ogilvy-street. The young man who has just taken a house wants to know the location of the nearest pub; Lord Biskerton finds one at the corner of Benjafield Road (BM, ch. 5). Other pubs mentioned by Wodehouse are the Green Lion (SF, ch. 2, 6, 7, 18) and the Green Man (CH, ch. 7), both in Rosendale Road. The local cinema is the Bijou Palace, at the corner

of Roxborough Road and Myrtle Avenue (BM, ch. 9), "one hundred percent talking" (a novel and important attraction in 1930). There is also an Oddfellows' Hall in Ogilvy-street, where concerts on behalf of the Policemen's Orphanage are given (SS, ch. 29).

There must be a church, of which the Rev. Aubrey Jerningham (SS, ch. 23) is the vicar, but its name and location are not specified. A College (Dulwich, of course, but not named as such in the Valley Fields stories) has a clock which chimes the quarters (SS, ch. 14) and is audible at "San Rafael."

The streets of whose existence we learn are the following:

Acacia Road (SS, ch. 28).

Benjafield Road (BM, ch. 23), with a pub at its corner.

Buller-street (SS, ch. 28).

Burbage Road (BA, ch. 9), probably a concealed reference to the real-life Alleyn Road, both named for Elizabethan actors.

Burberry Road (SS; CH, ch. 1). According to the latter reference, Burberry Road passes the railway station, and therefore should be equated with Thurlow Park Road; but see below, s.v. Croxley Road.

Croxleigh Road (BM, ch. 12) — probably identical with

Croxley Road (CH, ch. 7, 9, 12). Murphy (1981:93-96) is probably right in identifying this and the roads mentioned in the two previous entries with Croxted Road, despite the slight inconsistencies from one Wodehouse tale to the next. (There is a real place-name Croxley, to the north-west of London, on the Watford branch of the Metropolitan Railway.)

Marigold Road (SC).

Mulberry Grove (BM, SF, IB), described in BM (ch. 5) as "a fragrant backwater," "a tiny cul-de-sac, bright with lilac, almond, thorn, rowan, and laburnum trees," and containing only two buildings with three dwellings ("Castlewood," "The Nook," and "Peacehaven") The strip of ornamental water on the other side of the road, and the fact that the back gardens of the two buildings terminate in the verdant premises of the Valley Fields Lawn Tennis Club, give a pastoral charm to the place. Murphy (1981:97-99) is undoubtedly right in identifying Mulberry Grove with Acacia Grove, which indeed opens off Croxted Road and extends to the railway-embankment. Wodehouse confused matters slightly in a later book (SF, ch. 2) by repeating the sentence describing the cul-de-sac, but adding that it "lies off Rosendale Road" (q.v.).

Myrtle Avenue (SS, ch. 28; BM, ch. 9).

Ogilvy-street (SS, ch. 10, 11, 23), which contains the offices of Matters and Cornelius, house-agents, and the Oddfellows' Hall.

Rosendale Road (SF, ch. 2, 6, 7, 18, 22, 23; CH, ch. 7), containing the "Green Lion" and "Green Man" pubs and a chemist's shop. This is the only thoroughfare in Valley Fields whose name corresponds directly and completely to a real-life street. When he wrote SF, Wodehouse had been away from England for fifteen years, and may have introduced Rosendale Road as a touch of realism. From the preface to the 1972 edition of SS, we know that he kept up with developments in West Dulwich, e.g. the proposed erection of a block of flats in Croxted Road (an episode which he introduced into CH; cf. Murphy 1981: 95-96).

Roxborough Road (BM, ch. 9), with the Bijou Palace cinema at the corner of Myrtle Avenue.

In order to reach Valley Fields, one has a choice of modes of transport. If one is walking (like Sam Shotter [SS, ch. 16]) or driving (like Ann Moon [BM, ch. 9]), from the West End of London, the way leads via Sloane Square, Clapham, Brixton, and Herne Hill.

Omnibus no. 3, in 1924 as in 1983, would convey one to or from Piccadilly Circus (SS, ch. 2; BM, ch. 12). As for Mitching Hill, "one gets there by omnibuses and things" (IFFB).

Rail-transport is provided by train and tram. Trains run from Valley Fields to Victoria (SS, ch. 21, 22; BM, ch. 9; CH, ch. 7) and to the city (presumably Holborn Viaduct or St. Paul's [now Blackfriars⁹]; BM, ch. 4). Valley Fields station is located beyond Herne Hill (BM, ch. 4) and on the London side of Sydenham Hill (SS, ch. 26). This datum alone serves to identify it with the Dulwich station of the London, Chatham and Dover Railway (renamed West Dulwich by the Southern Railway after the "grouping" of 1923). The autumn of 1924 is established as the time of the action of SS by references to steam-trains in ch. 14 and 26, and confirmed by Wodehouse's letters to Townend in PF dated from September 23, 1924 to April 28, 1925. Even if Wodehouse went down to Dulwich by train to witness foot-ball- or cricket-matches while he was writing SS, it would have been by steam-train.¹⁰

Trams are mentioned twice. In SS (ch. 2), we are told "The Valley Fields of today is a mass of houses, and you may reach it not only by omnibus, but by train and even by tram." (Note the adverb *even*, indicative of the low esteem in which trams were held by many upper- and middle-class English people of the beginning of this century.¹¹) In actuality, Lordship Lane in East Dulwich and Norwood Road in Tulse Hill were the closest that the London County Council Tramways ever came to West Dulwich. Wodehouse modified his reference to trams in IB (ch. 22): "The journey from the metropolis to Valley Fields can be made by train, by omnibus, and even part of the way by tram." By 1960, however, when IB was being written, there had unfortunately been no trams at all in London for eight years.¹²

Among the persons mentioned as present at one time or another in Valley Fields, we must distinguish between inhabitants (owners or renters) and visitors. The former are almost all benign characters, even though they may on occasion have their eccentricities (as do, for instance, Major Flood-Smith of "Castlewood" or Miss Jane Priestley of "The Laurels"). The names of the house-holders and the visitors fall into the two following lists:

House-owners and -renters:

Appleby, Horace, burglar; of "Restharrow," Croxley Road (DB)	occupies (whether as renter or owner is not indicated) "The Nook" (SS, BM, IB)
Bellamy-North, Mrs.; of "Beau Rivage" (SS, ch. 29)	Derrick, Kay, niece of Matthew Wrenn; of "San Rafael," Burberry Road (SS)
Benedick (?), George — see Uffenham, Lord	"Ferdie the Fly," burglar and cook for Horace Appleby; of "Restharrow," Croxley Road (DB, ch. 4)
Benedick, Jane, niece of Lord Uffenham, later fiancée of Wm. Q. Hollister (SF)	Finbow, Police Constable, later Sergeant and fiancé of Mrs. Hannah Wisdom (BM, ch. 7, 9)
Bingham, Mrs. Amelia, widowed nurse, later fiancée of Ephraim Trout; of other half of "The Laurels," Burbage Road (BA, ch. 9)	Finglass, Edward ("Finky"), master criminal, erstwhile occupant of "Mon Repos," Burberry Road (SS, ch. 11, 15)
Binns, Elizabeth ("Bessie") — see Yorke, L.	Flood-Smith, Major Edward, uncle of K. Valentine and author of (unpublished) letter to <i>South London Argus</i> ; of "Castlewood," Mulberry Grove (BM, ch. 5, 6; letter quoted again in SF, ch. 2, 7)
Biskerton, Lord Godfrey ("The Biscuit"); takes "Peacehaven" under pseudonym of "Mr. Smith" (BM)	Foster, Sally, secretary to Leila Yorke, whom she accompanies to "Castlewood" (IB)
Bolitho, Mr.; rents "Peacehaven" to Lord Biskerton (BM)	Gibbs, Gwendoline, secretary to Lord Tilbury; residence unspecified (FA)
Brent, Godfrey Edward Winstanley — see Biskerton, Lord	"Gladys-at-Castlewood," house-servant of Major Flood-Smith (BM, ch. 3)
Conway, John Beresford ("Berry"), secretary; of "The Nook" (BM)	
Cornelius, Percy, house-agent and author of a history of Valley Fields; in IB,	

Hardy, Thomas ("Bill"), writer of detective-stories under pseudonym "Adela Bristow", finally fiancé of Jane Martyn (CH)

Jerningham, Rev. Aubrey, vicar and author of *Is There A Hell?*; residence and church unspecified (SS, ch. 12, 23)

Keggs, Augustus, retired butler; in SF, owner of "Castlewood," "Peacehaven" and "The Nook"; in IB, absent on world-cruise

Lippett, Claire (Clara), personal maid to Kay Derrick of "San Rafael" (SS)

Molloy, Dora Gunn ("Dolly") and Thomas G. ("Soapy"), shop-lifter and con-man respectively; unfortunately qualify as householders, having rented "Castlewood", otherwise, would qualify only as visitors (SS, IB)

"Muriel-at-Peacehaven," house-servant to Mr. Bolitho (BM, ch. 3)

Perkins, Montgomery, architect (BM, ch. 5)

Phillimore, Edwin, solicitors' employee, bitten by guinea-pig; of "The Firs" (SS, ch. 28; IB, ch. 25)

Pilbeam, William Albert ("Willie"), waiter at Barribault's Hotel; father of Percy Pilbeam, uncle of Gwendoline Gibbs; residence unspecified (FA, ch. 3)

Roddis, Mr. [?] and Mrs. Laura, of "The Cedars," Mafeking Road, Mitching Hill (UFFF)

Shotter, Samuel Pynsent, on editorial staff of *Pyke's Home Companion*; of "Mon Repos," Burberry Road (SS)

Stubbs, Mrs. Maudie, detective; of unspecified dwelling (PHW, ch. 3)

Iodhunter, Clarence, cook to S. P. Shotter and fiancé of Claire Lippett; of "Mon Repos," Burberry Road (SS)

Iwine, Stanhope, sculptor and initially fiancé of Jane Benedick; renter of "Peacehaven" from Augustus Keggs (SF)

Twist, Alexander ("Chimp"), owner of detective-agency with trade-name "J. Sheringham Adair"; handy-man to S. P. Shotter, of "Mon Repos," Burberry Road (SS)

Uffenham, Lord George (Benedick?); residing at "Castlewood," Mulberry Grove (FA)

Valentine, Katherine ("Kitchie"), niece of Major Flood-Smith of "Castlewood," Mulberry Grove (BM)

Walkinshaw, Mr., chased by his own dog; of "Balmoral," Acacia Road (SS, ch. 28; IB, ch. 25)

Watling, Mr., father of Myrtle Watling; of 7, Nasturtium Villas, Marigold Road (SC)

Watling, Myrtle, secretary to Cedric Mulliner and daughter of Mr. Watling; of 7, Nasturtium Villas, Marigold Road (SC)

Widgeon, Frederick Fotheringay, assistant in solicitor's office of John Shoesmith; of "Peacehaven," Mulberry Grove (rented from A. Keggs, IB)

Widgeon (?), George, policeman, cousin of F. F. Widgeon; of "Peacehaven," Mulberry Grove (IB)

Wisdom, Mrs. Hannah, house-keeper of J. B. Conway, eventually fiancée of Sgt. Finbow; of "The Nook," Mulberry Grove (BM)

Wrenn, Matthew, editor on staff of Mammoth Publishing Company and chess-partner of Mr. Percy Cornelius; of "San Rafael," Burberry Road (SS)

Yorke, Leila (pseudonym of Elizabeth ["Bessie"] Binns = Mrs. Joseph Bishop), authoress; renter of "Castlewood" (IB)

Yost, Charlie, safe-blower, in entourage of Horace Appleby; of "Restharrow", Croxley Road (DB)

Priestley, Miss Jane, of "The Laurels," Burbage Road (BA, ch. 9)

There are, further, various unnamed inhabitants: a policeman (SS, ch. 23, 29); a chemist, with shop in Rosendale Road (SF, ch. 22, 23); a veterinarian (SF, ch. 20); and a boy who shoots with a catapult at Mr. Cornelius' rabbits (IB, ch. 22).

The list of visitors to Valley Fields — some benign, others malign — includes:

Bayliss, Mortimer, art-expert (SF)

Bishop, Joseph, unemployed actor, husband of Leila Yorke (IB, ch. 21-26)

Braddock, Willoughby, over-night guest of Mr. Wrenn at "Mon Repos," tea-time guest of Kay Derrick (SS)

- Bunyan, Roscoe, rich heir of American tycoon (SF)
- Evans, Llewellyn ("Basher"), safe-blower, calls on H. Appleby at "Restharrow" (DB)
- Fitch, Sarah ("Sally"), former charge of Miss Jane Priestley (BA, ch. 9)
- Hoddesdon, Earl of (George Brent), father of Lord Biskerton (BM)
- Hoke, J. B., on-hanger of T. P. Frisby (financier) (BM)
- Hollister, William Quackenbush, artist, later fiancé of Jane Benedick (SF)
- Ickenham, Earl of (Frederick Altamont Cornwallis Twistleton), impersonates a veterinarian, and Mr. Roddis of "The Cedars" (Mitching Hill), and a Mr. J. B. Bulstrode (UFFB)
- Kelly, Captain, a Chicago gangster (BM)
- Mace, Lady Vera, sister of Lord Hoddesdon and aunt of Lord Biskerton (BM)
- Martyn, Algernon ("Algy"), guest of Thomas ("Bill") Hardy, at "Mon Repos," Burberry Road (CH)
- Martyn, Jane, sister of Algy Martin, eventually fiancée of "Bill Hardy" (CH)
- Moon, Ann Margaret, débutante, later fiancée of J. B. Conway (BM)
- Parker, Claude, father of Julia Parker (UFFB)
- Parker, Constance ("Connie"), mother of Julia Parker and sister of Laura Roddis (UFFB)
- Parker, Julia, fiancée of Wilberforce Robinson and niece of Laura Roddis (UFFB)
- Pickering, Joseph, playwright, later fiancé of Sally Fitch (BA)
- Pilbeam, Percy, detective (SF, ch. 19 ff.; FA, ch. 9)
- Pyke, George — see Tilbury, Lord
- Robbins, Mr., lawyer (BM)
- Robinson, Wilberforce ("Wilby"), eel-jellier, fiancé of Julia Parker (UFFB)
- Tilbury, Lord (George Pyke, news-paper-magnate (SS)
- Trout, Ephraim, California lawyer, bitten by Percy (Mrs. Amelia Bingham's dog), later fiancé of Mrs. Bingham (BA, ch. 9)
- Twistleton, Frederick Altamont Cornwallis — see Ickenham, Lord
- Twistleton, Reginald ("Pongo"), nephew of Lord Ickenham, impersonates a veterinarian's assistant (and anaesthesiologist), and Douglas Roddis, and Percy Frenshaw (in lard- and imported-butter-business) (UFFB)

Two unnamed intruders (perhaps from Tulse Hill, Brixton, or Bottleton East) are the brat who knocks off Lord Hoddesdon's topper, and his aggressive, beery Bolshie father (BM, ch. 6).

Valley Fields, although a distinctly idealized and idyllic version of West Dulwich, has, as Murphy points out (1981:90-101), a firm base in (often, only very slightly disguised) local reality. Its name, too, reflects the fact that West Dulwich and the College grounds are in a broad valley. The name *Valley Fields* may have been suggested by that of a not too far distant locality, Hilly Fields, between Brockley and Lewisham, partly in the S.E.4 postal district and partly in S.E.13.

Valley Fields is definitely not a dwelling-place for the proletariat. As Murphy (1981:92-93) observes, they may dwell in East Dulwich, named as such, "but if you are a Wodehouse hero or heroine, then you are allowed to live in Valley Fields." Wodehouse did introduce (West) Dulwich into his stories under its own name, but only twice, once in a very early tale and once in a very late one. In each of these episodes, West Dulwich is not idealized at all. Mike Jackson (PITC, ch. 3) goes to Dulwich and finds a bed-sitting room in a highly unattractive house in Acacia Road with an unpleasant landlady. Its only advantage is that it is near the College, where "he might get a game of fives sometimes, he thought, on a Saturday afternoon, and, in the summer, occasional cricket." Psmith "rescues" Mike in Chapter 7. In PGMB (ch. 9, 11), the unsympathetic J. B. Butterwick and his bossy daughter Gertrude are given the address of 11, Croxted Road, with the real name of the street in the real suburb of West Dulwich.

Valley Fields (as distinct from West Dulwich) remains, however, the ideal London suburb. Osborne remarks at the end of his Chapter 8 (1961 [1976²]:168) "If the Spirit of Wodehouse has a single address, it is The Drones Club, Dover Street, London, W.1." Personally, I am more inclined to wish that the Spirit of Wodehouse might be regarded as not uni-, but trilocal, with three co-equal manifestations and local habitations: Spiritus Rusticus, at Blandings Castle; Spiritus Urbanus, at the Drones Club; and, last but by no means least, Spiritus Suburbanus, in Valley Fields.

NOTES

1. For general discussion of the relation of Wodehouse's Valley Fields to the real-life suburb of West Dulwich, cf. Osborne 1961 (1976²): 38, 153-155; Osborne 1981; and especially Murphy 1981: ch. 9.
2. These names are on occasion changed by new purchasers: a classic example is that of Sir Edward Elgar's renaming his Hampstead mansion "Severn House" (cf. Kennedy 1968:199, or any other biography of Elgar).
3. In SF, ch. 2, it is in an adjoining road to Mulberry Grove and has a loud television-set.
4. At first a detached house, "Beau Rivage," and later converted into two semi-detached houses, "Beau Rivage" and "Sans Souci." This seems to have been a not infrequent practice in the West Dulwich of Wodehouse's youth.
5. Originally a detached house, later converted into two semi-detached houses, "Mon Repos" and "San Rafael" (SS, ch. 29). Name pronounced "Monn Ree-poss" by Claire Lippett (SS, ch. 29). For identification with real-life house at 62, Croxted Road, West Dulwich, see Murphy 1981:94.
6. Semi-detached, on left of "Peacehaven" (BM).
7. In BM, semi-detached and between "Castlewood" on the right and "The Nook" on the left. In later stories, it is not clear whether "Peacehaven" and "The Nook" are separate houses or not. In BM, ch. 5, "Peacehaven" is described as "a two-storey edifice in the Neo-Suburbo-Gothic style of architecture constructed of bricks which appeared to be making a slow recovery from a recent attack of jaundice," and with two stucco sphinxes on either side of the steps leading to the front door, which "showed what Montgomery Perkins, the local architect, could do when he put his mind to it." (For detailed identification of the specific house, cf. Murphy 1981:99-100, with illustration on plate 5 [between pp. 122 and 123].)
8. In DB (ch. 4), this is described as "a semidetached residence going by the rather frightful name of Restharrow." The adjectival phrase *rather frightful* is justified if we take the element *harrow* as referring to that agricultural implement under whose wheels or spikes the unfortunate toad occasionally finds itself. However, there is another word *harrow*, an archaic term referring to a (pagan) sanctuary (from Old English *hearg*), preserved in such place-names as *Harrow-on-the-Hill*. If taken in this sense, therefore, the house-name *Restharrow* means 'sanctuary of rest'; and is decidedly pleasant.
9. Berry's journey to the City is described as passing through Herne Hill and Brixton (presumably only the eastern edge of the latter; the line from Herne Hill to Blackfriars passes through Loughborough Junction, not far from the former East Brixton station). The St. Paul's station was renamed Blackfriars on February 1, 1937 (Jackson 1969:197).
10. Electric traction from Victoria and Holborn Viaduct to Herne Hill and Orpington was inaugurated in 1925, with training runs beginning on April 1 and regular public services on July 12 (cf. Dendy-Marshall 1936:529; Moody 1957 [1968⁴]:28).

11. Cf. Barker and Robbins 1974:31-32 for discussion of upper-class hostility to electric trams because of the cheap fares charged on the trams and resultant fear of invasion by the lower classes into formerly "exclusive" suburbs.
12. The last car to run on Route 58 in Lordship Lane, East Dulwich, was operated on October 7, 1951, and the last one on Route 33 in Norwood Road, Tulse Hill, on April 6, 1952. (Cf. Willoughby and Oakley 1972:66, 67.)

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PS- I see that I have omitted mention of cultural activities in Valley Fields. In addition to the concerts given at the Oddfellows' Hall in Ogilvy-street (SS, ch. 29; IB, ch. 10, 13), there is a local literary society, to speak at one of whose biweekly meetings Mr. Cornelius unsuccessfully invites Leila Yorke (IB, ch. 7).

REPORT:

THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE WODEHOUSE SOCIETY was held in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., on October 15th, 1983, to celebrate the 102d Anniversary of Plum's birth.

Society business was deliberated during a luncheon at Doylestown Inn. Game Four of the World Series (i.e., baseball) had somewhat thoughtlessly been scheduled at the same time as our luncheon; but our hardy band of conventioners, faced with their duties as loyal Plumies, were undeterred from their responsibilities.

The agenda touched on a possible constitutional amendment, vis and to wit: finding a recipient more closely associated with Plum as our designated beneficiary in the improbable event of our dissolution than that now shown in the constitution. No changes were made, pending further studies.

Conventions are to be held every two years rather than annually. Membership policies and dues remain unchanged.

Dr. Robert (Bob) A. Hall, Jr., Cornell University, was elected President for a two-year term, and Mr. James (Jim) Rodenbach, Bank executive with Mellon Banks, was elected Vice-President for a like term.

Dinner at Missy's Inn was given over to the enjoyment of fine food and even finer company. Flowers had been sent to Ethel, Lady Wodehouse, to arrive on the day of the celebration, and an appropriate greeting card was signed by the diners.

A letter of greeting from Lady Ethel was read:

"On this happy occasion for the celebration of dear Plummy's birthday, I know I should be there with you all, but I have to excuse myself! My health is not up to the trip nor to the excitement incurred.

"However, I shall be with you in spirit...May your memories of this day be as happy as mine have been these many years...."

Jim Rodenbach read Edward Cazalet's An Appreciation of P. G. Wodehouse; a Round Table Reading of short excerpts from Plum's stories was enjoyed, if laughter is a gauge of enjoyment; Florence Cunningham told of a trip to Rensselaer, and of her Wodehouse talks in the Seattle area. Bob Hall, a veritable fountainhead of Wodehouseana, talked of Plum's stories and received, in consideration of his new status within the Society, the Big Cheese Award. To round out the evening, Ann Byerly, editor and publisher of The Red Herring, a periodical of Sherlockian interest, accompanied the gathering on her well-tempered flute as they sang "Till the Clouds Roll By," and...of course..."Bill."

Lady Wodehouse has sent this letter of thanks:

"What a wonderful surprise it was to receive that beautiful basket of flowers on Plummy's birthday. I went to visit the cemetery that day and left them there. They were so colorful and looked so lovely.

"I am so happy the convention was such a success. My congratulations to Bob Hall and James Rodenbach.

"I enjoyed seeing the program and many thanks for the lovely card signed by you all. My thoughts were with you, and you know if my health had permitted it I would have joined you. It seems as if a wonderful time was had, and my spirit was there.

"With deepest gratitude and love for you all,

Ethel Wodehouse...."