

## **Joe “Big Fish” Pescado - Gossip**

There are rumors and gossip about each of the characters at the party. Some is true, some might not be. Below are all of the rumors about your character, plus one or two tidbits about others.

You're being told the rumors about you so that you won't be surprised when someone mentions them. You can decide whether the gossip is true or not (although others may believe it's true regardless); your decision will affect your reaction (you can indignantly deny it, stammer and change the subject, freely admit it...whatever you like).

During the course of the evening, you should try to mention the gossip you know about others. Try to work it casually into the conversation: Don't walk in the door and blurt out, "She's a diabetic, and he's addicted to morphine, and she's having an affair with a circus midget." Instead, you might notice that someone has refused dessert and ask if that's due to her diabetes, or mention an acquaintance of yours that you know is the other fellow's pusher (you're on your own with the circus midget).

Also, please try not to share your clues with others before the party. The puzzle is more fun if everyone has only a few pieces.

### **What Someone Knows About You:**

You claim to be a "businessman," but an awful lot of your business associates seem to have names like Sammy The Bull or Greasy Thumbs Guzik.

You left Chicago rather precipitously and spent a month overseas, claiming a "Continental Tour" for Ruth's act. However, you have studiously avoided Chicago since your return.

You own a small winery which supplies only sacramental wine to churches--which is legal during Prohibition--run by an obscure order of monks (The Brothers of Perpetual Gesticulation). A raid on a speakeasy in New York found a case of your sacramental wine, which tested at 180 proof.

### **What You Know About Others:**

"Emerald Jim" Calhoun - Rumor has it that he sometimes acquires property by somewhat shady means. He somehow persuades reluctant tenants to sell their homes, and the prices he pays for land are often surprisingly low. It isn't unusual for landowners who stubbornly refuse to sell to meet with calamity--livestock stolen or killed, wells poisoned, anonymous tips to the local authorities about past misdeeds.

Clarence Marrow - He was ruthless in his attack on Bryan in the Scopes case, making the well-respected (albeit religious) attorney look like a fool. Bryan never recovered from the experience, and died less than a week after the end of the trial.

Thaddeus Lynch - Some of his wealth has been gained by less-than-ethical means. He once told a local widow that the tarry deposits often plowed up in her fields made the land worthless for growing crops and thus almost valueless. After she sold it in a transaction Lynch brokered, the enormous oil reserves underneath rewarded him richly.

The Help - A few years ago, Worthington, the butler, was arrested for murdering a former employer. He was released for lack of evidence (they didn't find enough of the body to make a case), but no one would hire him after the trial.