



Roaring 20's



A.A Milne by Ali Scherrman

Although most people don't know the name A. A. Milne, everyone has heard of the cuddly, kind character he created that has pleased kids and adults around the world. On January 18, 1882, Alan Alexander Milne was born in Hampstead, London. He attended the school, Henly House, that his father ran as headmaster, and continued his education at Westminster School earning a degree in Mathematics in 1903. However, he would never use this degree as his life took on a literary adventure.

In 1906, A.A. Milne started working for PUNCH magazine and got his first piece published in the humorous magazine. A few years later, in 1913, he married Dorothy de Selincourt, the chief editor's daughter. Milne's literary adventures were put on hold due to the break out of World War I. Milne joined the French army and served from February 1915 to February of 1919. He decided after his discharge that PUNCH magazine wasn't what he wanted to do anymore.

The beginning of Milne's professional writing career began as he started to focus on writing plays and poems. His first published poem, titled "Verspers," was published in 1923. The poem was written about his son, Christopher Robin. In 1924, he published a book of children's poems entitled "When We Were Young." This book included a poem about a "tubby teddy bear" that would later become famous. This book was an instant

success, selling 50,000 copies within the first eight weeks of publication.

Winnie the Pooh was officially born in 1925 when A.A. Milne created a bedtime story for his son. The story followed an adventure with a kind, cuddly, honey-loving, overweight teddy bear, Winnie the Pooh, and a young boy, Christopher Robin. Winnie the Pooh was not a character that appeared only in Milne's mind. The real bear was actually named Winnepeg and was housed in the London Zoo after a trek with the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade. The bear was on a long-term loan to the zoo when the bear was unable to travel with the army troop heading into the front lines of World War I. This bear was Milne's son, Christopher's, favorite animal at the zoo, and he often spent a lot of time with Winnepeg in his cage. Christopher named his own teddy bear Winnie after the loveable bear, giving his father the idea for his book.

A.A Milne created many characters, Winnie the Pooh and his friends, that still influences children and adults alike all around the world. Winnie the Pooh and friends, after Walt Disney's own daughter fell in love with the bear, started appearing in movies and has grown to a multi-million dollar idea for Milne. However, Milne resented that his fame all came from children's books instead of his plays or poems. Milne passed away on January 31, 1956 at the age of 74, and although his plays are only performed in amateur theaters, his creation of Winnie the Pooh will forever keep him famous.

Criminal Activity Increases in 1920s

by Mrs. Scherrman

Criminal activity increased drastically in the 1920s, although murders and burglary was not part of that increase. Prohibition was passed on January 16, 1920 making it illegal to produce, sell, or consume alcohol. This new law led to the creation of the speakeasy.

The speakeasy was the American population's way of still producing, selling, and consuming alcohol illegally, which in turn led to the increase of criminal activity. However, most people got away with this for many reasons. Some speakeasies were paying off the police officers to turn their backs. Other speakeasies found alarm systems that were set off if a raid occurred. Once this alarm was set off, the hidden cabinets of liquor would lock.

Speakeasies obtained their names well before prohibition started. In Pennsylvania, in 1888, a saloon license was raised from \$50 to \$500 making it unaffordable to keep most saloons open. Some of these saloons kept the doors open illegally. Kate Hester had one of the first "speakeasies" where she still sold liquor without a license. When the patrons of the bar would get loud, she would say, "Speak easy, boys! Speak easy," meaning quiet down so she didn't get busted by the police.

In the mid 1920s, there were supposedly 100,000 speakeasies in New York City alone. So although many American citizens weren't caught as doing anything illegal, the amount of criminal activity sure did increase during the "Roaring Twenties."

Work Cited

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