

“Emerald Jim” Calhoun - Fact Sheet

Based on:

“Diamond Jim” Brady, American financier

Short bio of Brady:

James Buchanan Brady, b. N.Y.C. After amassing a fortune selling railroad supplies, he collected diamonds and other jewels and became famous for his lavish life-style. He funded (1912) the Brady Urological Institute at Johns Hopkins Hospital (Baltimore). Amongst his “lady friends” were singer Lillian Russell. One of his famous quotes was, "You may have the best product in the world, but if you don't sell it, you still got it."

Other information about your character:

You’re an immensely wealthy land developer, and rumor has it that you sometimes acquire property by somewhat shady means. You somehow persuade reluctant tenants to sell their homes, and the prices you pay for land are often surprisingly low.

You’re acquainted with another guest: Thaddeus Lynch, a local banker. You and he arranged the purchase of a farm called Spindletop from a nearly-destitute widow a few years ago. You offered her a low price for the property, whilst Lynch deftly suppressed geological reports of the enormous oil reserves underneath. Both of you profited enormously from that deal.

You’re interested in purchasing the house where the party is being held; it sits in the center of a huge tract of land which you want to turn into a planned community. However, the Count and Countess are insisting on a price that’s much too high.

Helpful links:

<http://homer.louisville.edu/~kprayb01/1920s,Business.html>