

Phineas Smith: The Bristol Zoo Parking Lot Attendant -

- Phineas Smith was born in 1945 in Bristol England to his parents, Gregory Smith, and Mary Brown.
- He was born literally just months after World War 2 had ended
 - Phineas's early life was pretty uneventful
 - According to bristolpress.com
 - Bristol was the Real Life Happy Days during the 50's and 60's
 - When Phineas was around ten he was part of the Forest Boys Club
 - It's kind of like Boy Scouts.
 - Where he would regularly go on Camping Trips.
 - It was also here that he also met his best friend Billy Ettheton.
 - So apparently Phineas and Billy were pretty inseparable throughout most of their schooling the boy graduated in 1963.
 - It was at this time when Billy began running with a rougher crowd Phineas kind of just followed suit.
- In 1964 Phineas had gotten into multiple minor infractions with the local Bristol Law Enforcement.
 - Because of this his parents kicked him out of his home.
 - Seeing as they considered him too old to still be living at home if he wasn't going to go to University.
 - So when they kicked him out He and Billy decided to move to London.
- Billy and Phineas began running small scale scams throughout London and surrounding cities, but never long enough to be caught.
 - Every time they came close to being caught they would pick up steaks and move.
 - They would do things like get jobs as traveling salesmen and charge twice the amount for the product than they were supposed to.
 - They would literally pretend to be disabled and lay in the street to pan handle for tips.
 - Phineas even did that thing where you get an eye patch and pretend to be missing an eye!
 - At one point in the early 1970's Phineas and Billy, even swindled an old lady into leaving her entire estate to them.
 - Talk about a long con.
 - The real smacker is when she died, and they got their "inheritance" it turns out that the woman had in fact been pretty much completely broke, and they even had to sell her home to pay off her past debts.
- It was at this time that Billy and Phineas decided that maybe they should go their separate ways and go on the straight and narrow.
- Because of this Phineas decided to move back to Bristol to take care of his parents
 - Who were by now getting up there in age.
- Now for a long time Phineas seemed to be doing well and living an honest life.

- He worked in a local grocery store.
- He took his mother to her doctors appointments
- He even volunteered with the Forest Boy's Club.
- When Phineas was 30 he met 25 year old Christine Jones, in 1975
 - Christine Jones was a local school teacher
 - Christine actually worked in an experiments school system that was called
 - The anarchic experimental schools of the 1970s
 - Basically they were like montessori schools
 - No strict compulsory classes, no uniform, no hierarchy.
 - Teachers would be called by their first names.
 - The children would make up the rules and basically decide what they wanted to learn.
 - In addition: There'd be no fees, fixed hours, term times or holidays.
 - They were to be schools without walls
 - And pretty much open whenever the community wanted them.
- Phineas and Christine got married in 1978.
 - They continued to live in Bristol
 - They had a very modest life, seeing as Phineas was only a clerk and Christine was a teacher.
 - Unfortunately Because of these very modern and lacks rules the schools quickly folded in 1979
 - When the school folded this left Christine without a job.
- This put some strain on the young couple causing Phineas to be the sole provider for the home.
- Christine got work as a tutor at an after school center in 1980
 - But by now the couple was grasping at straws
 - And in the spring of 1981 they legally separated.
- This sent Phineas into a frenzy
 - Neighbors said he was pretty broken up about the whole ordeal and began drinking and gambling.
 - Lol, Once they even found him in their yard kicking their garden gnomes.
 - Once he was taken in because he kicked a pigeon in a nearby park.
- So after about a year of just mayhem, being a little cray cray...
 - Phineas procured a job as a parking lot attendant at the Bristol Zoo.
 - He would stand guard at the entrance to the Zoo Parking Lot and charge cars and buses to park.

- Cars - 1 Pound (\$1.40 American)
 - Buses - 5 Pounds (\$7 American)
- So the Parking Lot held about 150 cars, and coaches/buses
 - So in a day that would equal about 400 pounds a day (\$560 American) collected for parking.
- So Phineas did his job diligently for 25 years.
 - Everyday he would go to work in the parking lot and collect Parking Fees.
 - Everyday
 - 25 years
- Got it? Good.
- So one day Phineas Smith did not show up for work at the Bristol Zoo...
 - The manager and other workers at the zoo became worried because Phineas had never missed a day at work.
 - So they called the Bristol City Council to see if they had heard anything from their employee and asking for a replacement for the day.
 - The Bristol City Council did some research and answered the Bristol Zoo by responding
 - The Zoo Parking Lot is Zoo Property so you need to hire your own Parking Lot Attendant
 - Now obviously this surprised the Zoo because they believed Phineas to be a city employee this entire time because they never paid him, nor did they receive any of the funds collected from the Lot...
 - So... As it turns out Phineas had been scamming zoo goers for the past 25 years!
 - Every single pound he had collected went straight into his pocket.
 - 400 pounds A Day
 - If he did this 7 days a week?
 - That is a possibility he made over 3.6 Million Pounds
 - About \$7 Million Dollars American...
 - Over the 25 years.
 - So off in a villa in Spain, lie Phineas Smith the man who con'd thousands of people out of parking money. Retired and happy with his millions of dollars.

So... How do you feel?

- So... What if I told you
 - I made up Phineas Smith
 - And All of his Family
 - and background
 - Every single bit of back story
 - Except... the part about a man posing as a parking lot attendant
 - Charging that exact amount of money
 - And the fact the Bristol Zoo thought he was a Zo employee...
 - Lololololololol
 - I did research just to lie to you.

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