

**Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs (DHSOS)
San Francisco International Headquarters**

Officers

President (DUH PREZ)	Bill D_____
Communications Czar (Czar)	Geoff Noakes
AgendaMeister (ListMan)	Ken Monk
Archivist of Knowledge (Notes)	Dale Fehringer

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Minutes of Meeting

Specs' Twelve Adler/Devil's Acre

North Beach Restaurant

Thursday, January 25, 2018

A North Beach Evening



could tell, nothing had changed since then, but this time we were welcomed, accepted, and largely left alone. We mixed well with an assortment of rather eccentric people in a rather eccentric bar.

Call to Order

DUH PREZ called the meeting to order at 6:35 and we got down to business. It had been awhile, and we had a lot to cover.

Small Talk and Tall Talk



Martinis at Specs'

At the invitation of the AgendaMeister, the DHSOS convened at Specs' Bar for our initial business meeting of 2018. Our first two actions were to order martinis and toast our missing companion.

"Here's to you, Lee," the Communication Czar proclaimed, as we raised our glasses.

They were the largest martini pours we had seen in a while. The Communication Czar's glass overflowed into a shot glass. We had a full evening ahead of us.

We had been to Specs' before, many years ago. The last time we drank there, someone mistook us for the FBI, because we had shirts with collars. As far as we

Our usual routine is to warm up the meeting's business with a round or two of conversation about events taking place around us, which gives us a chance to demonstrate our knowledge (or lack thereof) of current affairs. Tonight didn't disappoint. We tried to figure out why San Francisco had just replaced its temporary interim mayor with another temporary interim mayor. It didn't make sense, and we collectively shrugged our shoulders.

Next, we reviewed the status of the Millennium Tower, which has sunk 17 inches and tilted 14 inches since it was completed in 2008. A recent segment of the TV program, *60 Minutes*, brought the Tower's troubles (and SF Supervisor Aaron Peskin's hairy body) to the attention of the nation. Residents say they're selling multimillion-dollar condos at a loss. Is there a solution? Will anyone (other than lawyers) benefit financially? This was also met by a collective shrugging of shoulders, followed by sips of our martinis.

New Jobs Status

We switched to a discussion of DUH PREZ's part-time work status and his employer's decision to outlaw private offices for its employees, in favor of an approach that substitutes cardboard boxes, backpacks, keyboards and shared workspaces for private offices. "I love it," he replied about his part-time status, "And I get paid for travel time now, so I'm getting in a lot of hours" Regarding the "agile" approach, he reported "The employees like it so far. They are experimenting; having fun with it."

The Communication Czar reported on his job status, too, which involves more trade shows and a lot more travel. "But I am really enjoying what I do," he added. "I just wish airplanes had more legroom."

Devil's Acre



The next stop was next door for a drink, at The Devil's Acre. DUH PREZ had given copies of the book titled *Drinking the Devil's Acre* to DHSOS officers two years ago. That

book talks about the Devil's Acre being a 3-block area of San Francisco, with one great bar after another, and cocktails that originated in San Francisco.

The pub called The Devil's Acre is new, but meant to look old, and they serve a variety of "healthy" libations. Their propaganda harkens back to old-time San Francisco.

"Don't be afraid to come join us at The Devil's Acre and step inside to sample a time when the difference between a saloon keeper and pharmacist wasn't much, and both were prone to prescribing a variety of alcohol based mixtures that were supposed to 'cure what ails you.'"

We ordered drinks and raised our glasses in another toast.

"Here's to you, Lee," DUH PREZ proclaimed, as we raised our glasses.

A Welcome Call

Shortly after being seated, the Communication Czar's phone rang. It was a call from George Tyree, the esteemed brother of the PoV, checking in from Kansas City. George sent his best regards to the DHSOS, wished us a good meeting, and hoped to see us soon. We were delighted to hear from him, gave him the honorary title of BPoV (Brother of the Procurer of Venues), and raised our glasses in a toast to him.

North Beach Restaurant

We paid our first visit to North Beach Restaurant, which for nearly 50 years has been a gathering place for families, politicians, tourists – and now the DHSOS.

We didn't score a round table, but we did get a square table in the middle of a quiet dining room, and we were assigned a waiter who served us and then left us alone. The portions were large and the quality adequate.

DHSOS Going Forward

We talked about how the DHSOS will operate going forward – who will participate, and how we will re-allocate the PoV's responsibilities.

We decided to:

1. Have three or four meetings per year, approximately one per quarter.
2. Take turns picking a venue, sending an invitation, and “hosting” meetings. DUH PREZ offered to assume those responsibilities for the next meeting.
3. The officer in charge of the meeting “may” invite a guest to attend, at his discretion.
4. The officer in charge of the meeting will also be responsible for settling up the check after the dinner.

Flu Season

This year's flu season is a bad one -- more intense than any since the 2009 swine flu pandemic. It has attacked relatives and friends of the DHSOS, and the Czar and PREZ were suffering from lingering illnesses. Accordingly, hand shaking, long a tradition of the DHSOS was foregone and replaced by fist bumps. The AgendaMeister was seen frequently applying hand sanitizer.

Moves the Giants Have Made



The San Francisco Giants lost 98 games last season and finished last in their division. That was a tough pill for the DHSOS to swallow, and we are expecting an improvement this year. During the off-season, the team traded away starting pitcher Matt Moore, and they added three experienced players (Evan Longoria at 3rd base, and Andrew McCutchen

and Austin Jackson in the outfield). They now have a solid, though older, roster that still needs help in the bullpen. We will hold our breaths and hope for the best when spring training begins.

Baseball Road Trip

It is a tradition for the DHSOS to plan (and occasionally take) a road trip to explore a U.S. city and to see the Giants play. There was interest in a road trip this year, to Los Angeles (travelling by train in one direction). DUH PREZ and Archivist of Knowledge agreed to research dates and report back to the group.

Mrs. AgendaMeister Has a Birthday

The bride of the AgendaMeister recently celebrated a major birthday, through the assistance of the AgendaMeister and her sister. It was a very successful occasion from all reports, and things are happy around their house.

The Dark Web



In our technology segment we discussed the raft of Internet schemes, in which scoundrels cause data breaches (i.e., the Equifax credit bureau breach last September), when 143 million American consumers sensitive personal information was exposed. The Czar explained that the intent is to get information through data breaches, or by getting unsuspecting surfers to click on a link and reveal sensitive information. He talked a bit about hackers and the “dark web;” a part of the Internet that requires special software to access. It is often used by internet trolls, who do not want to be detected, and who try to obtain confidential information for nefarious purposes.

Home Repairs and Projects

DHSOS officers live in older houses, and each is planning a sizeable home improvement project this year.

- The AgendaMeister is scheming on a major interior painting job.
- DUH PREZ will remodel a bathroom.
- The Archivist of Knowledge will erect a conservatory in his garden.
- The largest project is underway at the house of the Communication Czar, who will undergo a major roof repair and exterior paint project.

There were audible groans from the table as he described the mess (and the cost) that awaits him.

Blast from the DHSOS Past

(from DHSOS minutes June 14, 2007).

Lee's Golfing Win

Being a generally shy and bashful person, it was all we could do to coax the story out of Lee, who had just finished first in his flight during a three-day golf tournament in Monterrey.

Lee's comment on his win: "Every now and then even a blind hog finds an acorn."

Adjournment

It had been a special evening with an appropriate mix of manly food, stimulating conversation, and noble friends.

There was a huge absence throughout the evening, which hung over the gathering. We will continue to celebrate Dashiell Hammett and our mutual friendship, but we will always miss our pal and his oversized presence.

We paid our check, assembled on the historic North Beach sidewalk, issued a round of hearty fist bumps, and walked off into the foggy San Francisco night.

That's it for now, man.

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