

Minutes of Meeting
Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs

Schroeder's Café
San Francisco, California
Thursday, September 9, 2004

President Diefenbach called the September meeting of the Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs to order at 6:42 PM, during cocktail hour. Typically, these meetings do not start at the bar, but on this night there was an elongated agenda and an overpowering sense of urgency. This Society is all business.

All permanent Society members were present and looking spiffy. THE PREZ was especially flamboyant and Dashiell-like in his business suit and bowtie. THE PREZ believes it is his duty to set a high standard in all things.

Schroeder's Café turned out to be an appropriate meeting place, as it has mediocre food, a Macho atmosphere, and would in general be appalling to Society spouses. That could be why Vicki did not join the Society for a cocktail before the meeting, despite being invited and working just a couple of minutes away. It certainly wasn't because she didn't want to share the company of such an illustrious group.

The first order of business was a Drakesbad debriefing. Sanctions were threatened against Officer Tyree for forgetting his waterwheel-making tools. Lucky for him, THE PREZ offset the sanctions with "blessings of St. William," by bringing a back up set of tools. Apprentice Becker Diefenbachia was given the award for "comeback of the trip" for continuously repeating Officer Tyree's line of a 50% chance of waterwheel success. Officer Tyree summarized a recent letter to Marilyn Paris in which he praised her de-beavering efforts and offered to serve on a committee to evaluate the long-term master plan for Warner Valley. He promised the Society he would send a follow-up letter to her including information on the DHSOS.

A squabble ensued when Officer Monk expressed distain for the idea of renting a houseboat on Lake Shasta next year. At one point, he muttered, "You're like brothers, but enough is enough." Fisticuffs were avoided, and everyone calmed down when a second round of drinks arrived. Officer Monk then put forth a "compelling case" why his recent trip to Utah was as satisfying as Drakesbad: (1) Three days of golf at beautiful mountain courses, (2) Lodging in a gorgeous cabin in the mountains, and (3) Spending time with successful, good-looking women. That silenced his critics.

THE PREZ led a lackluster discussion of a conflict between St. Luke's church and a neighboring Buddhist temple. Since few officers had any knowledge of or interest in the topic, the discussion shifted to Ken's fantasy football league. It was moved and seconded that further discussion of fantasy football be avoided.

A round table was procured, and the Society was seated. The World's Worst Waitress descended on the table, and quickly established her reputation by displaying her lack of knowledge of food and drink items. She was sent off to find out what the pork chops were stuffed with. Officer Tyree issued a commendation on the polka music and ordered the pork chops despite not knowing what they were stuffed with.

Officer Fehringer delivered a “neighborhood” report of a naked intruder in Noe Valley, which was confusing and largely ignored.

Officer Noakes reported on alternative IRA investments, including real estate, which was of great interest to the group. Comments included skepticism by Officer Tyree, who said he has “tried every kind of investment over the years,” and “real estate has never worked for me.” He was ignored, as usual.

Officers Tyree and THE PREZ led a discussion of Lake Tyree and the proposed pavilion, accompanied by dozens of photos of Lake Tyree, Tree Tyree, Dock Tyree, Monument Tyree, and several architectural sketches. The other Society members could scarcely contain their excitement, and Officer Noakes was seen yawning. Officer Monk again tried to raise the subject of his fantasy football league.

THE PREZ gave a trip report on his recent sojourn to Illinois with Apprentice Diefenbachia. Photos revealed little of interest from Nevada to Iowa, which he deemed the prettiest state east of Reno. His report included a stop in Chappell to see Officer Fehringer’s parents, a near stop in Carroll, Iowa, crossing the Mississippi River, and the U of Illinois campus.

Officer Fehringer reported on the dissolution of Chappell High School, and was one-upped by Officer Tyree’s statement that his high school has been boarded up and turned into grain storage.

It is at this point that the meeting turned serious. The World’s Worst Waitress brought Officer Monk a stein of beer that was shorter than Officer Tyree’s, and a heated discussion ensued, which included principles of mathematics and geometry. Did Lee’s tall, thin beer mug really hold more beer than Ken’s short, squatty one, or was it an illusion? Unfortunately both drained their glasses before a scientific test could be conducted.

Officer Tyree reported on his plan to spend October 9 (during Fleet Week) aboard the Jeremiah O’Brien, and in his usual generous way, invited the rest of the Society to join him at no cost. He also gave his “Good Samaritan” report on his efforts to help a friend who has fallen on hard times.

THE PREZ indicated that his birthday party at Stinson Beach included no Studs but lots of traffic and beautiful, warm weather. He and Mrs. PREZ stayed until 7:00 PM, and he reported that the rest of the Society “missed a good day of bikini chick viewing.”

Officer Monk’s upcoming birthday plans were discussed, including dinner at Town Hall, which Officer Tyree described as filled with “young babes with firm legs.”

A brief discussion of the Giants ensued, during which Officer Tyree stated they have “no chance to make it to the playoffs!” He said there are few players he cares about, although he was curious about the cost of Barry Bond’s pants.

Officer Fehringer reported on a recent filming episode that included stays under THE PREZ’s house, in THE PREZ’s basement, and in Officer Tyree’s office building.

The Procurer of Venues closed the meeting by reporting that the next DHSOS meeting will take place at Caesar's (at Bay and Powell), at a date to be determined.

There being no further items to discuss, and the lights being turned off and chairs turned upside down on tabletops; another successful DHSOS meeting was adjourned at 9:38PM. Members of the Society slogged out the door and down the street toward their homes.