

Minutes of Meeting
Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs
San Francisco International Headquarters

Buena Vista Restaurant
San Francisco, California
Thursday, June 3, 2004

The June meeting of the Dashiell Hammett Society of Studs was called to order at 6:11 PM by President Diefenbach. This landmark meeting involved two firsts: (1) inclusion of an apprentice (Beckster Dieffenbachia) and (2) dinner at the location that "invented" Irish coffee. After drinks at the bar, the meeting re-convened at a round table in the main dining room. The decision to assemble in the dining room vs. the back room was hotly debated by the Prez and Procurer of Venues, with the final choice based on the hope that the dining room would afford a better chance of attracting women. More about that later.

The Prez actually put together and brought an agenda for the meeting (a DHSOS first), and he attempted to use the agenda to control the conversation. That may have been an attempt to impress his offspring, or an attempt to appear organized, but whatever the reason, it didn't succeed, as the meeting did not run the way the Prez wanted it to. It was, however, one of the Society's more successful meetings, with plenty of booze and food to keep the more dissident members quiet, and enough beefy women to keep them entertained.

The first order of business was to order appetizers. The BV brought two orders of calamari, which consisted of a total of thirteen morsels between them. As is his way, the Procurer of Venues stood up for the Society by registering a complaint, which fell on deaf ears.

In the "old business" section of the meeting, Officers Tyree and Monk led a spirited, but largely unintelligible discussion about Limewire, a software program that enables music to be downloaded from the Internet. After much discussion, the conclusions were that (a) everyone thinks they understand the law on downloading music, (b) no one really understands it, and (c) Officer Tyree probably wasted his money by paying for the software.

At 6:40 PM, Prez Diefenbach again called the meeting to order. At this point, Officer Tyree interjected the little known fact that Jerry Jeff Walker has scars on the back of his head from falling backwards off bar stools.

The "Cross-Country Ups and Downs" trip report by Officer Tyree and Apprentice Diefenbach included summaries of their driving habits, eating routines, and encounters with women. Summary: fast, jerky, and one elderly Mormon. High points of the trip were no radio, profound man-to-man philosophical discussions, and crossing into California. Low points were the entire state of Kansas, every

gas station, and orange chicken that was colored orange. Best sights were Arrowhead stadium and the Convention Center in Kansas City; most “magnificent” sights were the University of Missouri campus and the Tyree Family Farm. Lessons learned during the trip were current dating terms (Tyree) and right-wing politics in a free-market economy (Beck). Officer Tyree concluded the report by indicating that Apprentice Diefenbach is “a delight to be with.”

A report on Mayview, Missouri (the birthplace of Officer Tyree) was delivered. It was reported that the population has increased from 234 to 254, though Officer Tyree thinks both numbers are exaggerated. Unfortunately, Beck and Tyree did not see the town’s center of higher education (high school), as it is boarded up, nor did they see the village idiot, since he left town in the 1960s (perhaps now living in San Francisco?).

Apprentice Diefenbach reviewed photographic highlights of his first year of college, featuring parties with red cups and pink panties. There was some talk about adding his “pink panty” photo to the DHSOS Web site. The quote of the night (from Apprentice Diefenbach) came during this section: “That’s what you get when you hang out with theater people – good-looking women.”

DHSOS officers again demonstrated their domination of domestic decision-making by selecting lodging during the upcoming trip to Drakesbad and other points north. Officer Noakes led the discussion and called for a vote; Officer Tyree seconded the motion. During the ensuing vote, Hat Creek was a unanimous choice over Chester.

Is it possible that the Prez really wanted member feedback on a DHSOS mission statement, or was he just humoring the officers? Whatever the motive, DHSOS officers were not shy about offering their opinions, and in the end the preferred choice was “Eat, drink and speak where Dashiell did or would have.” Somehow that doesn’t sound as good now as it did at the time, and it looks like the Society will be stuck with its current mission statement, which is no mission statement. The Prez volunteered to develop a series of strategy statements for review by the other officers, such as “I’ve never met a martini I didn’t like,” and so on.

At 8:00 PM, Officer Tyree noted a lack of female companionship, which changed shortly thereafter when two rather voluminous females camped out on nearby barstools, thereby obscuring the view, the tops of the barstools, and much of the floor as well.

Officer Noakes reported on a successful outing at the Mountain Play, and indicated that attendees had consumed the entire jug of Noakes Nature ‘Nebriation. A vote was taken on Sue Doyle’s new male companion, who received “thumbs up” from the Society. However, the DHSOS would like to see her continue her relationship with her previous companion as well, as he was helpful to DHSOS officers.

Despite disturbance from other members, Officer Fehringer gave an upbeat report on his Film Fantasy Future, indicating that he is continuing to produce high-quality documentaries about interesting topics, and will eventually give birth to a film summarizing the trip to Abaco. According to him, a six-month lag time is customary and acceptable.

Officer Monk recounted an “Incredibly Enlightening Golf Lesson” he had recently enjoyed, and indicated that resulting improvements to his game would enable him to humiliate Officer Tyree in a challenge match.

Officer Tyree reported that Ross successfully completed his secondary education and will be at Drakesbad this year. Ross and his parents are happy with both developments. The DHSOS is accepting donations to purchase sunscreen for young Ross’s feet.

The biological father of the Perfect Child gave a “Stina Graduation Report,” with photos and a “name that person in the photo” challenge. Correct answers were George, the man currently married to my mother, and Mrs. Aswell.

Apprentice Diefenbach updated his aviation progress. He now has 92 hours of flying time and a pilot’s license. He kept the Officers on the edge of their chairs (and patience) with an exaggerated report of two near misses while flying, which made the officers less eager to have him as their personal pilot.

Officer Noakes gave a very upbeat report on his recent 20th anniversary stay at the Post Ranch Inn. He highly recommended it to all officers, but refused to answer the “get any?” question.

On the other extreme, Officer Monk summarized his less-than-romantic anniversary sojourn to Monterrey, and he discouraged others from seeking sexual favors by booking special marital occasions at the Spindrift Inn.

President Diefenbach offered a toast to Wells Cunningham. No one can now remember why, but at the time it felt like the right thing to do. The Prez also gave a detailed report on the formula the BV uses to make Irish coffee. While the formula cannot be reported in these minutes (as the BV would likely sue the DHSOS), the Prez will gladly share it with members privately.

There being no further business or interesting topics of conversation, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM. Apprentice Diefenbach stuffed 900 pounds of DHSOS Officers into his convertible BMW and sped off into the darkness. He was later sighted by his father slipping into the house at 5:30 AM.