

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

Officers

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

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Minutes of Meeting

Broderick vs. Terry Duel Site/Westlake Joe's

Thursday, October 24, 2013

DHSOS is a San Francisco-based literary society dedicated to camaraderie, good food, and strong drink, and influenced by the life and contributions of Dashiell Hammett.

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An Educational Evening

The PoV summoned the DHSOS to meet with intriguing note:

Gentlemen of the DHSOS:

Timing is everything. Timing is the difference between success and failure. So for Thursday night it is extremely important that we meet at the designated time. The designated time is set for 5:45 pm.

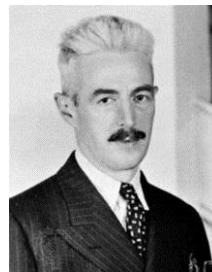
The location is also important. Very important. The location is the "upper" parking lot at Westlake Joe's in Daly City. You are all smart people. So you can get the directions from the internet. If you get lost, my cell number is 415-608-3595.

At precisely the designated time we will all get into my vehicle and I will drive us a short distance to a very special location where I can guarantee none of you have ever been. This is not a coat and tie event. You will need a jacket because we will have our first cocktail outdoors. There will be fresh air.

This will be an educational evening. While you are enjoying your first cocktail, I will be making a short, but highly intellectual presentation of great historical significance. It would be acceptable to bring notepads and pencil, but recording devices are not allowed because of legal restrictions regarding intellectual property rights.

After cocktails and presentation, we will retire to Westlake Joe's for dinner. Westlake Joe's meets all our standards, except one. Yes, it is old. Yes, it is a place where Dashiell would have dined. Yes, our wives would never set foot in this joint. But, Westlake Joe's does not take reservations. So we will need to go to their lounge and have another cocktail while we wait for a table. Plus, they only have a few tables that approximate "round". Hey, what can I say, life isn't perfect.

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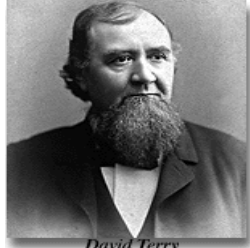
"I haven't any sort of plans for the future but I reckon things will work out in some sort of manner."

Dashiell Hammett

Broderick/Terry Duel



David Broderick



David Terry

The DHSOS started the evening at the site of the duel between United States Senator David Broderick and ex-Chief Justice David Terry, of the Supreme Court of California.

The site is in San Mateo County, at 1100 Lake Merced Blvd., Daly City, CA 94015, and very close to Westlake Joe's. There is a marker near the site that explains what happened that day, in September 1859, and there are two concrete obelisks at the spot of the duel that depict where each participant stood, with their names on the appropriate one.

As the PoV explained, the two men had been friends and political allies within the Democratic Party, but Broderick was an abolitionist and Terry was pro-slavery. Intense political disagreements over whether California should join the Union as a free or slave state had led to bitter resentments, which in turn led to a challenge to a duel.

Broderick had once said that Terry was the "only honest man on the Supreme Court bench," and Terry and Broderick had been friends. But that all changed after Terry failed to be re-elected. He believed that his loss occurred because of Broderick's antislavery campaign, and Broderick blamed Terry for trying to bring him down. Various accusations and counter-accusations followed, during which Terry publicly insulted Broderick and Broderick called Terry a "damned miserable ingrate," and took back his statement about Terry's

honesty. Terry reacted by challenging Broderick to a duel.

The first attempt to stage the duel (in San Francisco) failed because of police intervention. Both Terry and Broderick agreed to another attempt, and the location was moved to a secluded area near Lake Merced. The day was set for September 13. They flipped coins and Terry won, so he chose Belgian .58 caliber pistols. He was familiar with that model of pistol and he practiced before the duel, whereas Broderick was not and did not.

The PoV described how both pistols had hair triggers, but Broderick's was more delicately set than Terry's. And Broderick's seconds were inexperienced men.

When the appointed date arrived, the men met at the site with their seconds. A crowd of around 80 people were also there to witness the event. The men walked off 10 paces and then raised their weapons. The referee counted down and told the men to fire their weapons. Broderick used his left hand to help steady his pistol, which unfortunately caused him to square away toward Terry.



A depiction of the Broderick/Terry duel

Broderick's pistol discharged prematurely and fired into the ground. Then Terry fired and his bullet hit Broderick in the chest. Broderick fell to the ground. He was taken to Fort Mason where he fought for his life for three days. He died on September 16, 1859. Broderick was treated as a martyr and his funeral was one of the most

prominent demonstrations of public support the City of San Francisco had ever seen.

After an outcry by the public and in the San Francisco newspapers, a warrant was issued for the Terry's arrest for murder. The police were unable to arrest him, however, because he and several friends leveled shotguns at the police and told us that he would only surrender in Oakland, which he did. A trial was held and the case against Terry was dismissed. He was later indicted by a Grand Jury in San Mateo County, but that was also dismissed.

On August 14, 1889 Terry assaulted United States Supreme Court Justice Stephen J. Field, a former friend of Broderick's, at a train station near Stockton, California. Field's bodyguard shot and killed Terry.

That ended one of the saddest and most bizarre events in San Francisco history. More information on the duel is available at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Broderick-Terry_duel.

The DHSOS absorbed this remarkable story and sipped the drinks that had been kindly provided by the PoV. DUH PREZ (as Terry) and the Archivist of Knowledge (as Broderick) reenacted the duel, standing on the obelisks and using finger guns. Sure enough, the Archivist's gun went off prematurely and fired into the ground, while DUH PREZ's gun accurately fired into his opponent's chest.

Joe's of Westlake



Joe's of Westlake is a landmark restaurant started in 1956 by Bruno Scatena. It is still family owned and operated, and they provide classic Italian-American cuisine in a comfortable environment. Blue-haired locals sit in the bar at Joe's, order their usual cocktails, and listen to live music played by men older than sin. They migrate to the dining room and order their usual meals, which are served in huge portions. A doggie bag is provided to take leftovers home for another meal. By 7:00 pm, they are home in their Barco loungers, watching *Jeopardy*.

We were at Joe's on a Thursday night. There were butts in every seat in the place and a huge crowd waiting to get in. It's incredibly popular, and we couldn't figure out the appeal until our meals are brought, and we discovered the secret -- huge portions! DUH PREZ ordered a "hamburger steak," for example, and they brought him a ground beef patty that was two inches thick and as large around as Jay Leno's head!



Servers wearing tuxedos bustle in and out of the kitchen along a long counter where cooks who wear white chef hats prepare sauté dishes, deep fried foods, steaks, burgers, and fish.

Joe's website says the atmosphere is likely to take you back in time 50 years. At least! And most of the people in the restaurant, at least that night, have been dining there for at least 50 years.

Da Burd

Our mascot, the jewel-encrusted gold sculpture from *The Maltese Falcon*, joined us for dinner. DUH PREZ wrestled him from his carrying case and perched him

majestically in the center of our table, where he quietly kept an eye on the proceedings.

Meet Frankie: An Aspiring Stud



A family was having dinner at the booth next to us, and one of their party, a boy of around seven, was curious about Da Burd and about us. We handed Da Burd to the boy, who told us his name was Frankie Alioto, and Frankie quickly created two sketches of it. He is both an aspiring artist and stud.

Over the years, the DHSOS has had many admirers. Typically, they have been super-hot babes or crusty old men who are envious of how cool the DHSOS is. But Frankie was our youngest admirer, and he was the only one who has said the magic words: "Someday I want to be a stud." And, as far as we know, he's the only one who has sketched Da Burd -- not once, but twice.

Frankie's photo is now on the DHSOS website at <http://dhsos.com/4.html>. It's a nice tribute to young Frankie, and a good reminder that we are indeed a group to be coveted.

Call to Order

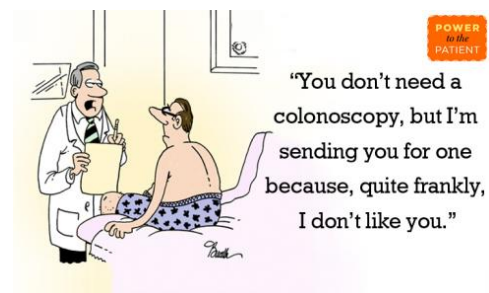
DUH PREZ rapped a knife on his wine glass and called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. He started the meeting by announcing that two days ago was the third anniversary of the "Wedding of the Decade" between the Perfect Child and the 3D Printer King. That occasioned yet another toast – this time to their happiness.

Thanks to the PoV, we had dinner reservations, we had the best booth in the place, and we had a nearly round table! We toasted the PoV for securing this idyllic spot, and for treating us to the history lesson at the site of the Broderick/Terry duel.

The AgendaMeister was ready, and he sprang into action. His topics had been careful prepared and thoroughly vetted.



Talking Colonoscopies



The meeting started with a discussion of colonoscopies. That's not a normal pre-dinner conversation, but two officers had recently experienced a procedure and it was on their minds. The Czar even had a little fun with his, telling us that just before his procedure he was asked by a nurse if he knew where he was and what he was there for. He told her he was in the maternity ward about to give birth to twins. They proceeded with his colonoscopy anyway.

And DUH PREZ recently had his third one, too, after which he casually went to work and sat in on a video conference call.

That conversation flowed into DUH PREZ's anecdote of the Presidential Son's dog, Warner, who left four symmetrically-placed brown piles on the white carpet in DUH PREZ's bedroom, where they were not well-received by the Presidential Wife. To his credit, the Presidential Son cleaned up the mess and once again all is good.

Travelling Studs

The DHSOS is an active group, and we reviewed our recent and upcoming trips.

The PoV, fresh back from a successful trip to Missouri, is planning a trip to Normandy next spring. The AgendaMeister, who recently returned from an excursion to Colorado, is putting together a trip to Europe next spring. The Archivist of Knowledge, just back from Oklahoma, will leave soon for a trip to India. The Czar and his wife are about to travel to Minnesota to spend time with the DHSOS daughter, Katharine. And DUH PREZ, recently home from Michigan, explained (at length) the logistics of an upcoming family trip to Hawaii. There ain't no grass grown' between our toes.

The Lowest Bidder

The PoV and DUH PREZ are in the process of having their houses painted, and the AgendaMeister is about to do his. The AgendaMeister had a question about how the rest of us handle the bidding process. Do we always get competitive bids, and if so, do we always accept the lowest bidder? It was a question we have all mulled.

We generally agreed that, for us, the ideal situation is to hire a painter that you have used before and trust. If that is the case, most of us don't feel the need to go through the process of getting competitive bids. If it's not the case, we agreed that at least three bids are necessary, and that the lowest bid "may" not be the best, and at a minimum should be thoroughly vetted.

On the internet, one painting contractor offers the following list of questions that should be answered before a homeowner accepts a painting bid:

1. How long have you been in business?
2. What kind of primer do you use?
3. How will you prep for painting?
4. What kind of paint do you use?
5. What kind of warranty do you offer?

Toasting the PoV

The DHSOS thoroughly enjoyed the evening's venues, and we once again toasted the PoV for researching, securing, and hosting them.

Adjournment

It had been a very special evening with a terrific lesson and an appropriate mix of good food, strong drinks, and noble friends.

We walked out into the foggy and windy Daly City evening, issued fist bumps all around, and made our way off to our warm and cheery homes.

That's it for now, man.

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