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

John's Grill

Thursday, September 4, 2014

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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John's Grill

It was a restrained group of DHSOS officers that met at historic John's Grill on September 4. Well, restrained isn't quite right (this group isn't restrained), but we were quieter than usual. We had been together a lot recently; at Ashland, at Drakesbad, at Dry Creek, and at a pre-wedding party, and we had talked out most of the weighty issues.

Another dampening effect was the location – we were at the DHSOS mecca, the mother lode. This place is a legend, and it requires a little reverence. Dashiell drank and ate here, as have most of the people who have made San Francisco special, and we were respectful

Today, John's Grill is filled with a variety of folks: well-heeled techies treating clients, hoards of tourists checking it off their travel lists, and a few old-timers like us. We commanded an ideal location (just inside the front door) and a good deal of respect.

It was nice of John's Grill to put the Society's name on the awning over the main entrance. Very welcoming! The cute young lady who seated and waited on us was also welcoming; and she was patient and persevered enough to get us watered and fed.

All officers were present and accounted for. DUH PREZ called the meeting to order at 6:12 PM, and we raised our glasses to being together and to the PoV for choosing John's Grill.

Da Burd

For a third consecutive meeting Da Burd was absent. This time DUH PREZ had a different excuse – he said it was out "reproducing."

Joan Rivers

Stand-up comedian Joan Rivers died this day, at age 81. Notes recited a couple of her jokes:

"I've had so much plastic surgery, when I die they will donate my body to Tupperware."

"I hate housework! You make the beds, you do the dishes, and six months later you have to start all over again."

Miss K

The Czar reported that Miss K, daughter of the DHSOS, now has her "boot" off (following foot surgery), and while her ankle still has some stiffness and numbness, she is walking on it. She is working and will continue to do so until January when she will start cooking school. She also has some business trips upcoming, which she is excited about.

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"She grinned at me. 'You got types?' 'Only you darling - lanky brunettes with wicked jaws."

— Dashiell Hammett, *The Thin Man*

Drakesbad Follow-up

The annual DHSOS sojourn to Drakesbad is usually followed by executive action by the DHSOS to improve things there. This year, Drakesbad management changed while most of us were present, and that caused quite a stir. But the talk tonight was about getting a bridge built across the creek that runs through the meadow – and about the National Park Service's decision to stop draining the meadow.

Previously, the PoV contacted Park Superintendent, Darlene Koons, who promised to look into and have the bridge built. Though the supplies have been delivered, no work has started. So the Czar contacted Darlene again, and she replied that the bridge slipped her mind and she will look into it.

The PoV's and Czar's efforts were applauded, but Darlene's most recent reply was received skeptically. Darlene has misled us before.

The decision to stop draining the meadow was also discussed. Most officers agreed that it has worked so far -- the meadow grass is taller and more attractive, and (so far) it has not attracted mosquitos.

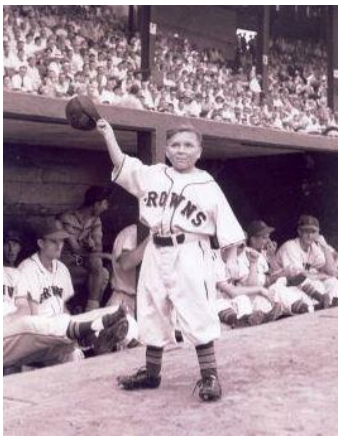
Memory Lane

ListMan took us for a stroll down memory lane; starting by reporting that tonight was the DHSOS's 8th visit to John's Grill (seven for food). We raised our glasses in a toast!

We revisited other topics from that last meeting at John's Grill; including shirt sizes (still the same for all officers), furnace flues, Walter's crawl space, and the Giants vs. the Dodgers (another huge series in this ancient rivalry was approaching). It was interesting to see what was on our minds then and to re-visit the topics

On This Date

As an adjunct to the Memory Lane section, ListMan introduced a new agenda topic he called "On this Date." Tonight he brought up three baseball-related events:

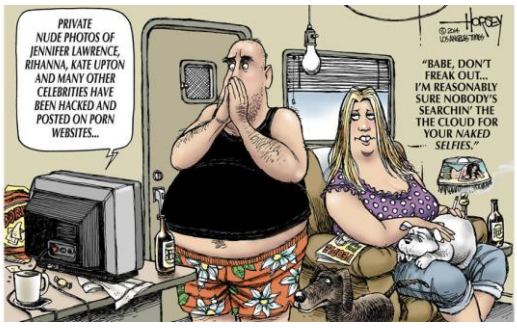


- Eddie Gaedel (above) became the shortest player in the history of the Major Leagues on August 19, 1951, when he came to bat in the second game of a St. Louis Browns doubleheader. Weighing 65 pounds and standing 3 feet 7 inches tall, Eddie made a single plate appearance and was walked on four consecutive balls before being replaced by a pinch-runner at first base. Gaedel's jersey, bearing the uniform number "⅛", is displayed in the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum.

- In 1974, the Oakland A's won their third consecutive World Championship, led by players like Catfish Hunter, Sal Bando, Vida Blue, Bert Campaneris, Reggie Jackson, ace reliever Rollie Fingers, and colorful owner Charlie O. Finley.

- Also in 1974, the Oakland A's signed a new announcer, Jon Miller (above). Miller had graduated from Hayward High less than five years earlier and he was broadcasting College of San Mateo baseball games when he got his big break with the A's. 1974 was also Miller's last year with the A's, because at the end of the season he was abruptly fired by A's owner Charles O. Finley. Miller now calls play-by-play for the Giants.

Current Events



Nude photos of Jennifer Lawrence and Kate Upton, among others, were hacked and posted to online websites, which sparked controversy in the press and interest among the DHSOS. Why would anyone pose for nude photos, someone asked? Surely they have been removed by now, another suggested. But our research indicated they are still on the internet, having been re-posted by bloggers. One website re-posted several photos and justified it by stating: "These

photos prove once and for all that **t**here is a God, and he loves blondes."

A chef in China, preparing a dish from cobra flesh, died when the snake's head bit him - 20 minutes AFTER it was cut off. Victim Peng Fan had been preparing a dish made from a cobra. But when he went to throw the serpent's severed head into the trash, it bit him - injecting him with its venom. Customers said they could hear him screaming, and police say Peng died before he could be given life-saving anti-venom.

ListMan noticed that USC did not use huddles in its recent football game with Stanford, and he asked if that is becoming common. Yes, the DHSOS agreed, more college teams are using it. It began in the 1980's, and several coaches (or their supporters) claim to have started it; including Gary Pinkel (Missouri); Rich Rodriquez (Glenville State), Sam Wyche (Indiana), Tommy Bowden (Clemson), Joe Tiller (Purdue), and Gus Malzahn (at a high school in Arkansas and later at Auburn). Malzahn has written a book about it and even applied for a patent on it. The PoV mentioned that Gary Pinkel used the offense in his very first year of coaching at Mizzou in 2001, and the PoV believes Missouri was the first school in the Big 12 and one of the few in the NCAA to run it. Now, he reported, more than 50% of the football programs in the NCAA run it, or some version of it.

Playoff Bound?

As the Giants and A's make their run for the playoffs, the DHSOS asked Notes to revisit an earlier meeting agenda item in which we were asked to guess this season's Giants win/loss record – and to name the five Giants players who need to have a better season for the Giants to make it to the playoffs.

Following are our predictions:

Wins/Losses/Standings

	Wins	Losses	Final Standing
DUH PREZ	96	66	1
Notes	90	72	2
Czar	86	76	2
ListMan	88	74	2
PoV	90	72	2

Which Giants Must Do Better?

Which five Giants players must exceed last year's season for the Giants to succeed? Here is what we came up with:

	5	4	3	2	1
DUH PREZ	Posey	Cain	Lincecum	Sandoval	Pence
Notes	Vogelsong	Hudson	Lincecum	Cain	Pagan
Czar	Arias	Sandoval	Posey	Lincecum	Vogelsong
ListMan	Pagan	Affelt	Sandoval	Lincecum	Cain
PoV	Sandoval	Belt	Cain	Lincecum	Vogelsong

Road Trip

The DHSOS re-visited our quest for a Giants road trip, inspired by our outing last season in San Diego and by Bert and Le Anne Steinberg's effort to attend all 81 away Giants games this season. BTW, Bert and Le Anne are still on target to make their goal. If you're wondering, Bert is 93; Le Anne is 56).

Electric Cars

ListMan stirred up another discussion by asking the DHSOS how we feel about the future of electric cars. "Do you think we will drive electric cars in our lifetime," he asked?

The response was mixed. Some of us do believe electric cars will be prevalent and think that "most" of the DHSOS will own one in our lifetimes. Others cited problems with cost, range, appeal, ability to re-charge, and reliability, and they expressed doubt they will own an electric car in their lifetime.

Most agreed that the future of electric cars will depend on cost (car and battery), reliability, ability to re-charge, and whether China forces the issue.

Attaboys

DUH PREZ was in a good mood, and he handed out attaboys like a short order cook slings hash. Five attaboys to ListMan for the Memory Lane section of the meeting; seven to the Czar for contacting the National Park Service about the Drakesbad bridge, 17 to the AoK and PoV for helping host a pre-wedding party for the Presidential Son, and 22 to the PoV's bride for helping with the Presidential Wife during the DHSOS meeting. Since the meeting, he has also awarded the Czar three attaboys for conducting a venue survey. Way to go, PREZ. Attaboy!

Adjournment

It had been a terrific evening with an appropriate mix of good food, strong drinks, and noble friends. We walked out into the beautiful Indian summer evening, issued firm handshakes all around, and made our way to our cozy homes.

That's it for now, man.