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

Notes' Man Cave/Horner's Corner

Thursday, June 25, 2015

A Noe Valley Kind of Night

The PoV summoned the DHSOS to the meeting with this missive:

Hello Studs – It is unlike me to make such an early announcement on the venue for our Thursday night meeting, but DUH PREZ has been very inquisitive and pushy, trying to help me with my work.

So here is the plan. We are going to venture into new territory, specifically, Noe Valley, and honor one of our most esteemed members. Dale Fehringer, officially known to us as Notes, has repeatedly invited us to visit his day time hangout he calls his office. It is actually a spare bedroom that he rents from some joker, similar to airbnb, but in this case, it is airoffice. It is near Dale's home, and it is located at 3879 26th Street, at Church Street, across from the Fire Station on 26th. It is a house, not an office building.

That is where we are going to meet at 6pm for our first martini of the evening. With this visit to Dale's hideout, coupled with our visit to Chappell, we will have completed the task of familiarizing ourselves with Dale's life as he knows it.

After our first martini and the tour of Dale's office, which won't take long, we will venture north on Church Street to the corner of 24th Street where we will find Horner's Corner, 1199 Church Street. This is a dive bar with food, kind of like a low down sports bar. The menu is limited, but the short ribs are damn good. The Thursday night special is lamb shoulder, which has good recommendations. But, you may be asking yourself, why this place? The answers are simple. First, one of our perquisites is that we eat in the same neighborhood that we drink in. Second, Dale's neighborhood is an upscale neighborhood with many upscale restaurants that have upscale menus featuring upscale food, which is not "manly". Our wives would love all of those places. Horner's Corner has manly food and is the only place in the neighborhood that our wives would never set foot in unless they were starving.

Quite a Departure!

Although the DHSOS is flexible and willing to try new things, Noe Valley is quite a departure! This is a bedroom section of San Francisco, a former blue-collar neighborhood that has transformed into a no-collar enclave for young, well-heeled

techies. There is history here, but it's not the hard-boiled chronicle of Dashiell Hammett and Sam Spade, but rather the soft-boiled saga of families, children, and night-time stories.

Noe Valley was named after Jose Noe, the last Mexican mayor of Yerba Buena, who once owned the land. He sold it to John Horner, a Mormon immigrant in 1854, and Horner developed much of it into residential tracts, originally called Horner's Addition.

Noe Valley was spared during the 1906 earthquake and fire when a fireplug at 20th and Church kept pumping water, and firemen stopped the fire from advancing into the area. After the earthquake it was developed into a working-class neighborhood. In those days, many of the residents were Irish, Italian, Scandinavian and German immigrants, dairy farmers, longshoremen, and teachers. They scrabbled out lives in the sunny, family-oriented regions just east of Twin Peaks. It's still a working-class neighborhood today, but much of the working-class now earns a lot of money and drives nice cars. As the evening went on, we watched the parade of BMWs, Teslas, and Google buses pass our restaurant. The preponderance of children in the hood has prompted the nickname "Stroller Valley", and the astronomical increase in housing prices and extravagant lifestyles of some residents have prompted the nickname "Narcissist Valley."

Notes' Office

As instructed, we met at Notes' office for a drink. This is a man cave, a place to hide out, a place to call your own. It is a bedroom, as the PoV so bluntly put it, but a bedroom transformed into a sanctuary. The bookshelves are filled with stories meaningful to the dweller: Steinbeck, London, Hemingway, and Twain -- and sports memorabilia, books about U.S. Presidents, family photos, and a college diploma line the walls. The large bay windows look out on a fire station, and fire engines occasionally head out with sirens screaming. The J-Church train rumbles past, taking San Franciscans to and from work and home. It's a comfortable place.

Da Burd

Our mascot, the jewel-encrusted sculpture from *The Maltese Falcon*, was unable to join us for dinner. Instead, his offspring, the Maltese Eyass, took his place. The Eyass is not jewel-encrusted, but rather plastic, and he was created using a Type A 3D printer. He sat in the center of the table throughout the dinner where he was insulted by the bartender (a friend of the PoV), dismissed by passers-by, and ignored by the DHSOS. It must be hard to be the offspring of such a famous burd!

Call to Order

DUH PREZ, finding nothing to rap against his martini glass, verbally called the meeting to order at 6:23 PM. The DHSOS gratefully sipped their perfect martinis, courtesy of the PoV.

The AgendaMeister was ready, and he sprang into action.

Miss K's Externship

The daughter of the Czar recently completed an "externship" at a local SF eatery, which she found enlightening, and she is now job-searching. During her job, Katie (as her co-workers called her), learned some Spanish, including caliente (hot) and behind you (detras). She has one job offer in the food industry and is seeking more. Meanwhile, she and two college buddies are staying with the Czar until they move into the apartment they rented. It's an exciting time in the lives of the Czar, the Czarina, and the Czardine.

Playboy Club

Some of the martini glasses supplied by the PoV had Playboy emblems on them, which prompted the question: How many of the DHSOS have been to a Playboy Club? Just two: the Czar (Los Angeles, for his 21st birthday) and the PoV (Kansas City, Denver, and Los Angeles). DUH PREZ came close, when his spousal unit's college roommate worked three summers as a Playboy bunny.

Noting the absence of wall hangings on Note's office walls, the DHSOS voted unanimously to buy him a 7' x 4' Vargas painting to adorn his man cave. Notes has selected his favorite and is awaiting purchase and delivery.

Horner's Corner

The PoV did a good job selecting a suitable restaurant for our dinner, and it wasn't on him that the place was closing. As he pointed out, Horner's Corner is a dive bar, and he warned us about the limited menu and identified the short ribs as the best item on it. It wasn't his fault that the night we ate there was the second-to-last night the joint would be open (having recently sold), and all they had left to eat was the short ribs. The lamb shoulder? Sorry, we don't have it tonight. A salad? Sorry. Oh, and we don't have any beans to serve with the ribs, so you just get ribs and mashed potatoes.

Fortunately, the PoV was right -- the short ribs were damn good. Ashley, our waitress, occasionally paid attention to us, and when she did she was reasonably respectful.

Panama

The Czar told about his recent journey to Panama for a business meeting. His flight from San Francisco to Houston to Panama City was uneventful, but as the plane approached Panama City he could clearly see the disparity between the high-rise office buildings and hotels, versus the slums. The weather was hot and humid and there were more than 100 ships waiting to go through the Canal. Much of his week was spent in meetings, although he did get to go to the Canal and see ships going through, which he deemed damn impressive!

DUH PREZ's Mega Wallet

DUH PREZ putting his money where his mouth is.

This subject has come up before, and for some reason we continue to give time and attention to DUH PREZ's choice of wallet. He has recently abandoned his "work week" wallet, ditched the 413 plastic cards in it, and gone to a slimmer, sleeker full-time version. That's his new wallet in the Presidential Mouth (above). As a comparison, the rest of the DHSOS offered their wallets, and all appeared to be well-organized and reasonably sleek.

Drakesbad

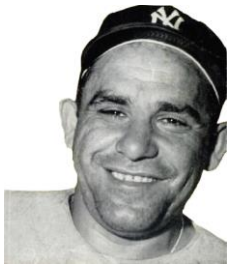
Photo courtesy of Beck Diefenbach

This annual subject arose at the suggestion of DUH PREZ, who is in charge of organizing alcohol for the yearly sojourn to our adult summer camp. Since drink night assignments have already been made, we discussed our arrival dates and plans. It turns out that ListMan will not attend this year, due to a family obligation in Iowa. A vote was taken and ListMan was given an advance sanction for non-attendance at a required DHSOS event.

Travels

Tis the summer vacation season, and ListMan asked where we intend to go this year. The PoV said he has already had his summer trip, which involved driving his father-in-law from Louisiana to Indiana and back. Notes intends to travel to France and Greece in September (if Greece is still solvent and safe). The Czar and family recently spent time in Pt. Reyes. DUH PREZ has lined up a series of weekend get-aways in the wine country, including a 9-night stay with family and friends in Dry Creek Valley. And ListMan will drive to Utah and Iowa in August, and then travel to Northern Spain and Portugal in September.

Johnny, Lefty, and Yogi



Johnny Miller and Lefty O'Doul (1960); Yogi Berra.

ListMan listened to Johnny Miller announce the 2015 World Golf Championships at San Francisco's Harding Park, and he was impressed by Miller's insights, his golfing skills, and by the fact that he grew up in San Francisco. He recounted a story of Miller playing in a tournament with Lefty O'Doul, another San Francisco great athlete, and he reminded us that O'Doul was an excellent golfer and a fantastic baseball player (pitcher and hitter), and yet he has not been elected to the Hall of Fame. That brought to mind another baseball legend, Yogi Berra, whose baseball career was interrupted by World War II, during which he served in the U.S. Navy as a gunner's mate during the D-Day invasion of France.

Buster, a Flop?

It was perhaps bad timing that ListMan brought up this subject when he did, since Buster has been on a tear lately. For the month of June, Buster Posey, the Giants' All-Star catcher, batted .316 with four home runs (including two grand slams), eight doubles, and 28 RBI. Not a bad month!

But, ListMan continued – is Buster as good as you thought he would be? "Yes!" Most of us replied. "No!" said the other two. Buster has got to be thinking to himself – "Jeez! What do I have to do to impress those guys?"

Baseball, All-Star Voting, etc.

Continuing the baseball conversation, ListMan asked about All-Star voting, now done by the fans. That subject fell flat, and it turns out he is the only Stud who votes. Why don't you vote, he asked the others? There were several excuses provided, but in the end it came down to apathy. ListMan appeared to be a little dismayed and astounded by the ignorance displayed by the rest of the DHSOS.

1997 Giants

Still ListMan tried to get a baseball conversation going. Did you read about the recent death of Darryl Hamilton, who was killed by his girlfriend? Of course, we replied. Do you remember the 1997 San Francisco Giants? Not really, was the response. Well, Hamilton was part of that team. Remember Brian Johnson, he prompted, and J.T. Snow? Now, he had our attention, so he named the rest of the team:

Position	Starter
Catcher	Brian Johnson
First Base	J.T. Snow
Second Base	Jeff Kent
Shortstop	Jose Vizcaino
Third Base	Bill Mueller
Left Field	Barry Bonds
Center Field	Darryl Hamilton
Right Field	Glenallen Hill
Starting Pitchers	Shawn Estes, Kirk Reuter, Mark Gardner, William Van Landingham.

That year, the Giants finished in first place in the National League West with a record of 90 wins and 72 losses. They lost the National League Division Series in three games to the Florida Marlins.

Baseball Road Trips

The DHSOS regaled each other with tales of our recent baseball road trip to Denver, relating favorite events and activities. We discussed possible trips for next year. Possible locations include Seattle, Kansas City, Chicago, Phoenix (for Spring Training), and Sacramento.

Labor Day Party

ListMan typically hosts a Labor Day party for the DHSOS – sometimes at his house, and sometimes tied into DUH PREZ's wine country rentals. This year the timing would indicate the party should be at his house; however, BART will not be running that weekend, which means the traffic could be even worse than usual. So, he wanted to know – would we still be up for a party at his house? The answer was a resounding "YES! We'll brave the traffic," the DHSOS said in unison.

Adjournment

It had been an excellent evening with an appropriate mix of good food, strong drinks, and noble friends.

We issued hearty handshakes all around, hopped into our various vehicles, and sped off into the warm and sultry evening.

That's it for now, man.