

**GOOS BOOK CLUB
850 NORTH BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70802**

IN MEMORIAM

Page Acree: 1919--2005

Frank Craig, Jr.: 1918--2005

Durwood "Woody" Facundus: 1934--2003

Charles Prosser: 1919--2005

June 6, 2006

RE: **GOOS BOOK CLUB MEETING OF May 4, 2006.** (Dragooned Goo, Clay Waggenpack Selected Read: "*Dubliners*" by James Joyce.

**QUICK TURN AROUND FOR NEXT MEETING: THURSDAY,
JUNE 29, 2006 AT 7:00 P.M. AT KIVA'S RESTAURANT**

Lads:

The Goos Book Club met in our usual raucous assembly on Thursday, May 4, 2006 at the upscale digs of Frank McArthur, whose crib is located in the Country Club of Louisiana. Once present, Frank treated us to barbequed venison, various wild game sausages and dove appetizers cooked on the pit which put the ritziest New Orleans restaurant to *shame*. Your president again joins the chorus of the regiment in thanking Frank for his thoughtful and generous hospitality.

Present for duty were:

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| James R. Clary, Jr. | Charles Kahao |
| John Clifford | Bob Thurston |
| Alan Carey | Frank McArthur |
| Bubba Currier | Jesse Gellrich |
| Wally Dunlap | Herman Moyse |
| Buzzy Anding | Jerry Dale (a neighbor and guest of Frank's, who assisted with the cooking) |
| Clay Waggenpack | |
| Keith Richardson | Herb Dyer |

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Dragooned Goo, Clay Waggenpack Selected Read: “*Dubliners*”¹, by James Joyce.

Prior to the discussion of *Dubliners*, the group first discussed new books recently read which might be of interest to the regiment. Those were as follows:

- 1) Alan Carey: *Snobs*, by Julian Fellows. This is a book about a Englishman who pokes fun of Great Britain’s upper crust. Allen recommended it highly.
- 2) Buzzy Anding: *One Bullet Away*, by Nathaniel Fick. A Dartmouth graduate enlists in the Marines and serves in Afghanistan and Iraq. Buzzy said it was a riveting read about this country’s involvement in those two war venues.
- 3) Buzzy Anding: *The Great Influenza*, by John Barry. The author of *Rising Tide* recounts the great influenza epidemic of 1918. While not as good as *Rising Tide*, Buzzy reported it was a fascinating work and he recommended it highly.
- 4) John Clifford: *Night*, by Elie Weisel. A new translation is now available for Weisel’s classic work. John recommended it very highly.
- 5) John Clifford: *Man’s Search for Meaning*, by Victor Frankel — another classic worth a reread.
- 6) John Clifford: *Christ the Lord Out of Egypt*, by Ann Rice. Ms. Rice recounts Christ’s life from the age of 5 through 7. The story of Jesus’ childhood is an interesting read, in John’s view.
- 5) Herb Dyer: *Only in America*, by Harry Golden.

¹ Your president has previously referred to this work as *The Dubliners*, which is incorrect. The article “the” is not present in the title. A thousand pardons are sought from Brother Waggenpack.

- 6) Keith Richardson: *From The Holy Mountain*, by William Dalrymple. The author visited the monasteries where Christianity originated and found that religion now dead where it was originally born. A great read.
- 7) Keith Richardson: *Winesberg, Ohio*, by Sherwood Anderson. This collection of short stories recounts life in small town America, much as James Joyce did for Ireland in *Dubliners*.

After having discussed some of the other works enjoyed by our members, we then turned the meeting over to Clay, who first provided a biography of James Joyce's early short story work in *Dubliners* preceded his later more fulsome efforts in *Ulysses*, *Finnegan's Wake* and *Portrait of the Artist*. We learned that Joyce had been born in a suburb of Dublin in 1882 and was thereafter educated at various Jesuit schools in Ireland. Apparently, Joyce was dissatisfied with the intellectual atmosphere of Dublin and left Ireland in 1902, spending the remainder of his life roaming, chiefly in Trieste, Zurich and Paris. Joyce's best known work, *Ulysses*, was published in Paris in 1922 and the author died during surgery for a perforated ulcer in 1941.

In discussing Joyce's work, your president learned that knowledgeable Joyce aficionados refer to *Ulysses* as "The Big One." Most members of the group exposed to Joyce's effort in *Finnegan's Wake*, agreed that the novel was "unreadable." Many had started it but never finished it.

Insofar as *Dubliners* was concerned, though, the author got generally good reviews. Clay reported that Joyce's story, "*The Dead*" is generally acclaimed as the moment where the author's talent started to show through. Jesse Gellrich agreed that this story was a magnificent effort and stood as one of his favorite short stories, ever.

On the other hand, Clay reported — and several members agreed — that the most enduring image left in one's heart following the reading of *Dubliners* is the ending scene in *Counterparts* where the drunken father is beating his young son, while the son begs to be spared in exchange for his promise to provide a Hail

Mary.

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The discussion engendered among the regiment by this work led to the question of whether these stories should be read as timeless — thus, relevant today — or, must they be read within the context of what was happening in Ireland back in those days? This question was discussed and, as with most questions directed to our assemblage, no resolution was reached. In the end, the consensus seemed to be that there was some of both.

Wally Dunlap wondered why some works stayed within his mind long after they were completed and some did not? Why can he read and remember the pertinent details of Dan Brown's *DaVinci Code* but have difficulty remembering any of the details of Joyce's short stories in *Dubliners*? In response, Clay Waggenpack observed that he had the opposite problem. Why is it he can not recall any of the details in the "summer beach novels" he has read, but can **never** forget the description of Madam Bovary's breasts being "apple heavy?"

In the end, the discussion of this issue lead your president to quietly reflect on the fact that he can generally not remember his middle name or anything that happened more than 38 minutes in the past. However, owing to the gravity of the issues under discussion, this peculiar failing was left unmentioned.

Our convivial after-dinner discussion lasted past 9:00 owing to the comfort of our pleasant surroundings at Frank McArthur's home. However, as the hour wore on, the time came for the Dragooning of the next Goo. After asking for and receiving various volunteers of service, the duty next fell upon Keith Richardson, who suggested that we read *Winesberg, Ohio*, by Sherwood Anderson. As Keith explained, *Winesberg, Ohio* is a collection of American short stories by an American author and would be an interesting read as a counter-point to *Dubliners*. It bears upon life in small town America at a point in time not too distantly removed from the setting in *Dubliners*. So, this will be an interesting experiment and — perhaps, when we meet again — we can discuss the similarities and differences.

The next meeting shall be held on Thursday, June 29, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at Kiva's Restaurant, where we shall return to our private room. Please note that the

meeting will start a little bit later than is usual because of a scheduling conflict on Your President's calendar, which will occupy him until 7:00 p.m.

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So, as we plan to see each other again on the 29th of June at Kivas, let us hope that there will be no snow. No snow generally falling all over Louisiana. No snow falling on every part of the dark central plain, on the treeless hills, falling softly upon Devil's Swamp and, farther westward, softly falling into the dark mute waves of the Mississippi... falling upon every part of the lonely church yard on the hill where General Middleton lays buried... no snow falling faintly through the universe and faintly falling, like the descent of their last end, upon all the living and the dead.

Looking forward to seeing all of you on 6/29/06, I am — as always

Your obedient servant,

James R. Clary, Jr.

JRCjr/jlw