

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

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**IN MEMORIAM**

*Page Acree: 1919--2005*

*Frank Craig, Jr.: 1918--2005*

*Durwood "Woody" Facundus: 1934--2003*

*Charles Prosser: 1919--2005*

*Carter Wilkinson: 1947-2006*

*William E. "Bill" Fisher: 1937-2007*

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February 28, 2007

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**RE: GOOS BOOK CLUB MEETING OF January 25, 2007.**

Dragooned Goo — John Clifford

Selected Read — *"The Bridge of San Luis Rey"*

**NEXT MEETING: March 15, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at Dr. Scott  
Thurston's house located at 3335 Chapelwood Drive, Baton  
Rouge, LA 70816.**

**Newly Dragooned Goo — Gus Dalton**

**Selected Read — *"The End of the Affair,"* by Graham Greene**

Lads:

Our first meeting of 2007 was convened on Thursday, January 25, 2007 in our usual private room at Kivas' Restaurant.

**Present for duty were:**

Brian Luikart

Alan Carey

Bubber Currier

Louis Leggio

Herb Dyer

Jim Clary, Jr.

Gus Dalton

Wally Dunlap

Dr. Scott Thurston

Bob Thurston

Keith Richardson

Buzzy Anding

John Clifford

Clay Waggenpack

Jesse Gellrich

Fred Billings

At the outset, and since we had discussed attempting to meet at a member's home for our next gathering, Dr. Scott Thurston volunteered to serve another tour of duty as host. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at Scott's home which is located at 3335 Chapelwood Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70816. As the meeting date grows closer, I will e-mail everyone instructions regarding how to get to Scott's house, but we have been there before so it should not prove difficult. Just in case, I have attached a copy of a map to Scott's pad, which should answer questions about location and venue.

Thereafter, the floor was opened to discussions regarding enjoyable books recently read by the Goos and the following selections were noted:

Keith Richardson — "*The Middle East*," by Bernard Lewis. Keith described this book as an "definitive guide to the whole shebang" regarding Middle East politics from ancient times and brings us up through the present day.

Keith Richardson — "*I Married a Communist*," by Phillip Roth.

Wally Dunlap — "*The Crisis of Islam*," by Bernard Lewis. Another very insightful study of the Muslim plan to take over the world and run it on a religious bases, written by the same author of the book noted by Keith.

John Clifford — "*Exodus*," by Leon Uris.

Buzzy Anding — "*Heart of Darkness*," by Joseph Conrad.

Buzzy Anding — "*Case Histories*," by Kate Atkinson. This book revolves around three family tragedies.

Gus Dalton — "*Candide*," by Francois-Marie Arouet Voltaire.

Jesse Gellrich — "*The Anonymous Marie de France*," by Howard Block. A biography of the first french poetess.

Clay Waggenpack — "*Doubt*," by John Patrick Shanley. This is a Pulitzer Prize winning play and Clay enjoyed it very much.

Lou Leggio — "*I Shouldn't Even Be Doing This*," by Bob Newhart. Lou said this was a "laugh out loud" funny book.

Lou Leggio — “*The Dante Club*,” by Matthew Pearl. It is a murder mystery with historical characters and Lou said it was really good.

Bob Thurston — “*Marley and Me*,” by John Grogan. It is the story of a family and their German Shepard, which Bob said was truly enchanting. It is getting a lot of “buzz” among book aficionados, as well.

Scott Thurston — “*The Ides of March*,” by Thornton Wilder. Scott said he did not care for the “*The Bridge of San Luis Rey*,” so he additionally read the *Ides of March* — something he regarded as being a better effort from Wilder.

Once the hubbub surrounding our report on good recent reads subsided, we turned the meeting over to Dr. John Clifford, who spoke with us about his “take” on Wilder’s novel. Wilder won the Pulitzer Prize for “*The Bridge of San Luis Rey*,” and — as we read it now — many Goos echoed John’s sentiments about how this particular book could have been deemed worthy of the Pulitzer “back in the day.” (On this point, many Goos reported the book as being slightly less inspiring than they remembered it... and, frankly, this is being kind.)

However, John suggested that we had to look at the time in which the book was published. At that time, this book was remarkably different from anything that had yet been written. Or, this is how it was perceived at the time.

In addition, the book is listed on at least two of the “100 Best Books Ever Written” lists... which left some of us to speculate if we were missing something.

Jesse Gellrich viewed the book as a philosophical romance, medieval in structure. Thus, it felt very familiar to him. And, what else is going on at or near the time this book was written? “*Ulysses*” by James Joyce is being written. T.S. Elliot is publishing his poems, which were very complex. But, Wilder’s novel is written as popular fiction, not as “cutting edge” fiction. Nonetheless, it reflected the type of “New Age” work being accomplished at the time.

Keith Richardson thought the book was an attempt to answer the old bumper sticker question: “*Why do bad things happen to good people?*”

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In the end, most of the Goos seemed to believe that Thornton Wilder would be better remembered for some of his other works, particularly the magnificent play, "*Our Town*."

Once the Goos' discussion waned, and while we awaited the check for our meals, Dr. Clifford began to cast about for the next member to be pressed into service. His eyes flickered briefly across the kindly countenance of Bubba Currier but — in the end — set upon the inimitable Gus Dalton, who accepted the duty without complaint and immediately named our next read as: "*The End of the Affair*," by Graham Greene.

It was good to see brother Wally Dunlap at the meeting, chipper, engaged and feeling better. We all wish him the very best in his continued recovery. We all thanked Dr. Scott Thurston for offering to host our next meeting, which — as noted at the outset of this letter — will be on Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

As noted in an earlier e-mail, one of our Founding Goos, Dr. Bill Fisher, died 2 weeks ago. Unfortunately, some of the newer GOOS Members won't recall Bill because he hasn't visited with us in awhile. However, for those of us who have been around since "back in the day," we will always remember The Big Guy.

Tall, Stolid, gruff and deep-voiced.... when Bill talked, even if he was tryin' to whisper, you could hear him clearly across a crowded room. Early on, he selected "*A World Lit Only By Fire*" and "*All the Pretty Horses*," one of Cormac Macarthy's works. His favorite book was McMurtry's "*Lonesome Dove*." He was singular and respected and we shall miss him.

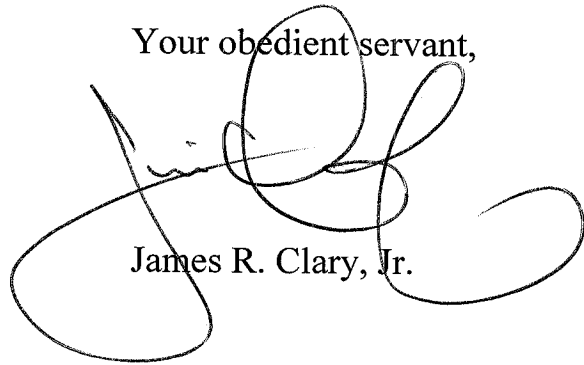
**Finally, your president wishes to tantalize the membership with the following assertion, meant to be vague and ambiguous: There will be an important announcement made at the next meeting at Dr. Scott Thurston's home regarding the future of this Group. At this time, the news must remain "close to the vest." As Churchill said: "*The truth is so precious it must be used sparingly and should always be accompanied by a bodyguard of lies.*"**

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Looking forward to seeing everybody at Dr. Scott Thurston's house on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, I remain — as ever

Your obedient servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James R. Clary, Jr.', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

James R. Clary, Jr.

JRCjr/jlw

# DIRECTIONS TO THURSTON'S

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