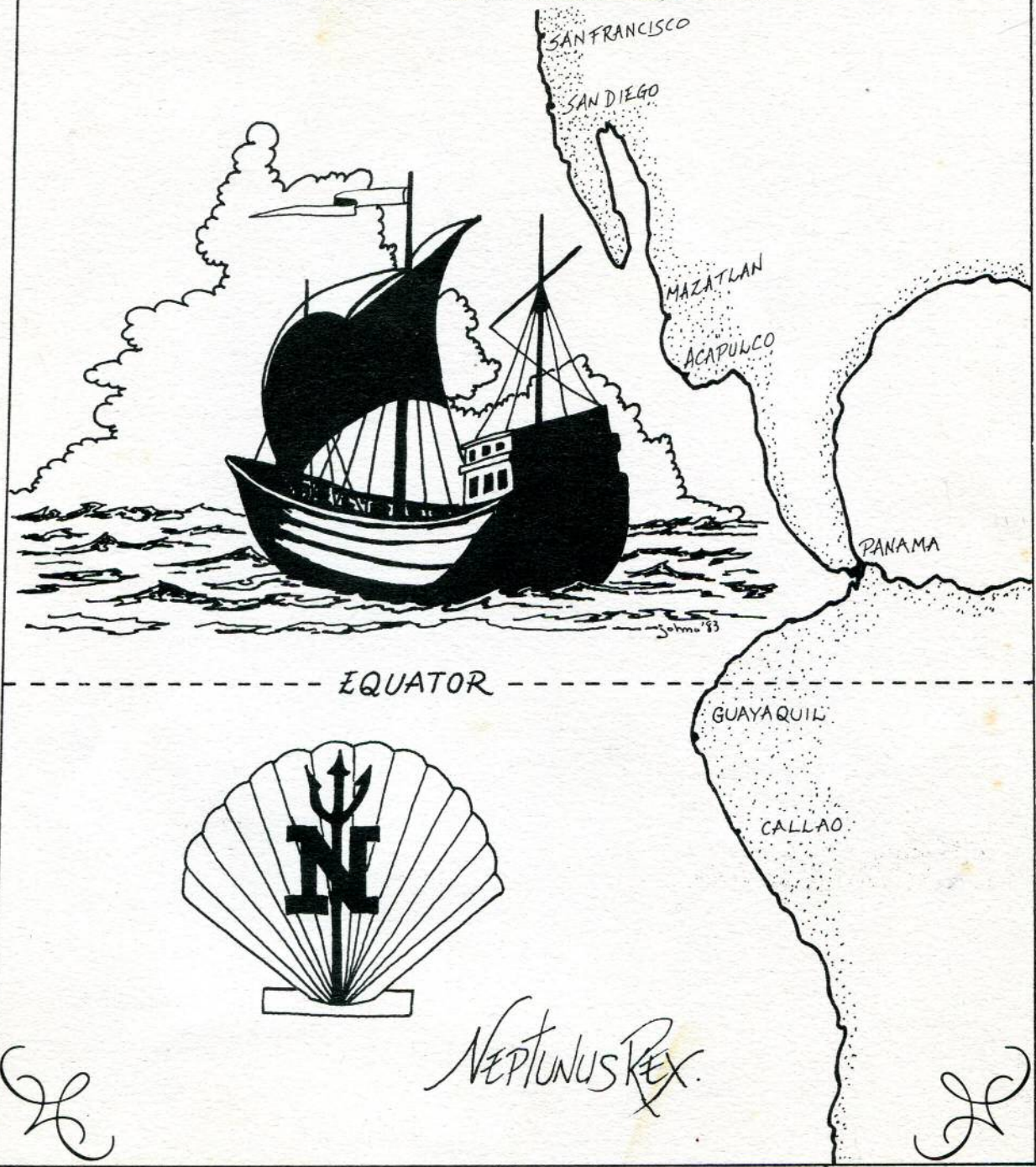


SAMPLOY 83



EQUATOR



NEPTUNUS REX.

THE HISTORY BEHIND THE
"CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONY"

Way back in the enlightened days of the worlds history when the Greek civilization was in its prime.....when Romulus and Remus were nothing more than twinkles in their Fathers eyes and Britons were even less civilized than they are to-day.....there was a God, a Deity, called Poseidon. As the books have it "His domain was of Hercudes and he had some authority" - In other words he was "God of the seas" and the ancient Greek Matelots were accustomed to burning incense, and singing "Eternal Father" and other odds and ends to intercede for his good offices. In fact, the Greeks went even further than we do to-day, by erecting statues of Atlas at seaports and training specialist Priests to attend to the rites and rituals. It was an extremely highly organized business - unfortunately, history does not record whether or not Poseidon came through in the pinches.

Now Poseidon, by the simple expedient of turning on a storm now and then to frighten the poor Greeks, did quite well for himself for several centuries and would have lived happily ever after if it hadn't been for the Romans. The Romans were not up to much in the way of seamanship, but they had all taken leadership courses, and even in those days, this was what counted in the long run, for they finally succeeded in driving the Greeks from the seas. Even then, however, Poseidon continued to whip up the odd storm at sea, and the Romans, although not particularly frightened, decided it was only logical to do something about the situation. The answer was, of course, to obtain the services of a God who could effectively put Poseidon in the shade, and the Romans, having no spare Gods around Olympus at the time had to borrow one from the Etruscans (history does not relate if he was ever returned). His name was Nethune, or Nethunus depending on which part of Etruscia you came from. But the Romans called him Neptunus for short. Poor old Poseidon, of course was left far behind because the Romans were fairly rich, and could erect more alters, and sing more choruses of "Eternal Father" than the Greeks ever deemed necessary. In fact, to show you how Neptunus did go, Poseidon had a wife called Amphitrite, who was, incidently, the daughter of Oceanus, a very big wheel in the Greek system and he had gone to some trouble to marry

this woman.....she didn't particularly like the idea and had fled to Mount Atlas when she heard of it, but Poseidon had sent along one of his dolphins to collect her.....Neptunus actually adopted this woman, which made him Poseidon's Father-In-Law, and Poseidon, on hearing this, committed suicide by taking a deep six in his own ocean.

Well to make a long story short, while we know all about Neptunus' life and works, historians of a later date were not so close up as the Romans and Greeks, and they did not record how the "Crossing the Line Ceremony" came into being, so, present day scholars have to say that it's origin is wrapt (or shrouded) in mystery and that " we can only guess at its inception into the maritime services". Some fairly educated guesses have been made though, and the dates have been narrowed down to the half century between 1768 and 1818. One, Professor Callender, who's opinion we must admit, is rather biased in these matters, reckons that the custom was brought into being in the Royal Navy's East Indian Command during Nelsons Day. Since most of the navy's more Peculiar customs can be traced back to dear old Nelson one way or the other, this maybe considered not a bad guess.

Why the equator instead of the international date line or the Artic circle, is another point altogether and your guess is as good as Professor Callenders.

KING NEPTUNE AND HIS COURT

SAMPLOY '83

KING NEPTUNE-----C1 SWELINE
QUEEN AMPHRITRITE-----P2 JOHNSON
HERALD-----C1 MARTIN
JUDGE-----C2 JOHNSON
NEPTUNE'S DOCTORS-----MS DANIEL/AB THORNE
NEPTUNE'S BARBERS-----P1 LECLAIR/P2 HUMPHERY
DAVEY JONES-----LT FORNELLI
CHIEF OF POLICE-----C2 SCHOFIELD
ASS'T CHIEF OF POLICE-----P1 BOYLE
HEAD BEAR-----P1 LEASK
ASS'T HEAD BEAR-----LS LEGGETT
BUGLER-----OS SPONG
SCRIBE AND TRIDENT MARKER-----P1 DRAVES
NEPTUNE'S MERMAIDS-----OS ESTEY/ OS ESPENBERG
COURT RECORDER-----MS RUTHERFORD
QUEEN BEARERS-----P2 LABOUCANE, MS MURCHISON
OS PFOH, OS MARSHALL
MERMAID BEARERS-----MS NESBITT, OS TURPIN
LS BROOME, LS COTES
SECRETARY-----OS POLLARD
COURT WRITER AND COORDINATOR-----C1 MARTIN

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BEARS

P2 KILBY
P2 THOMAS
AB MELBOURNE
AB MCCORMICK
AB MORGAN
LS WILKIE
OS RITCHIE
LS HAIGHT
C2 BLAIR
MS DEVLEIGER
OS PAASILA
AB ALEXANDER
OS BOUCHARD
P1 DORKEN
OS MACGREGOR

POLICE

AB BENNETT
P1 BENS
MS LEGARE
AB HIGENELL
LS ELLIOTT
OS GREENE
OS LEGROULX
LT LONG
ABSW SMITH
AB MACBURNIE
P2 SNOW
MS QUIGLEY
P1 MACMULLEN
LS KALTAINEN
OS JENSEN
MS FOURNIER

CROSSING THE LINE CEREMONY

ACT 1:

Scene 1:

The Bridge. As if by mistake the whole scene is enacted over the Main Broadcast.

Time

Around 2000 the night before crossing the line.

O.O.W.

(Over Main Broadcast) Object bearing right ahead Sir. Looks like some sort of fish - (short pause) Appears to be surfacing Sir.

CAPTAIN

Very good. That will be King Neptune's Herald. We are closing the Equator rapidly. First Lieutenant Pipe clear lower decks to the forecastle, Pipe Deck Officer muster the Honour Guard. Officer of the watch, stand by to (Captain is interrupted by the lookout.)

LOOKOUT

Green one zero, Sir, a light, near.

CAPTAIN

Very good, alter course towards it, Officer of the Watch.

(The ship will close the alleged light for about five minutes with no further patter in order to allow the ship's company to assemble on the Forecastle.)

Scene 11:

(Both Herald and the Captain speak through loud hailers - the Captain on the Bridge and the Herald on the Forecastle.)

HERALD

(From behind the fog spray) SHIP AHOY!

CAPTAIN

Ship's Name

HERALD

I've heard your ship's around,
Now tell me, whither bound.

CAPTAIN

We're sailing to Callao, Peru a city of style,
We've steamed for many a mile,
Now I've got a lot to do,
So tell me, who are you?

HERALD

I am the Herald of the court,
Of his Oceanic Majesty;
King Neptune ordered me aboard
And I'll commit no travesty.

CAPTAIN

For you I'll stop my ship.
Come forth, and no more lip.

(Herald accompanied by Davey Jones the Royal Scribe,
A Mermaid, 6 Bears and a Bugler, advance through the
spray whilst the Bugler sounds the alert)

Look sharp then sire, if you please
by what right have you to challenge us on the high
seas?

HERALD

By the custom of powers invested right
In King Neptune and Queen Amphritite
Who sent us to your mighty ship
To check and see if you are fit
We cannot take you across our line.

HERALD

(Herald draws his sword, and the bears growl
Mermaid titters - - -)

CAPTAIN

It is of course without disdain
That I will accept your word,
We're crossing into your domain
So sheath that mighty sword. (Sword of course,
is a ridiculous looking affair)

HERALD

King Neptune will be glad I'm sure
to have you cross his border.
If you're a shellback let us hope
Your papers are in order.

CAPTAIN

I've always been a Shellback
and will not have to pay the price
For some of my men
It won't be very nice.
For if you think some are not hard,
Have Davey Jones inspect my guard.

HERALD

I'll do your will
So sound the still. (To Piping Party)

Piping Party complies, and as he does so Davey Jones
steps through the spray. Meanwhile, the guard has
been marched to the front, and Davey Jones inspects
it with a lot of slapstick...e.g. points out haircuts
with a dead fish he carried under his arm like a
telescope.)

DAVEY JONES

A froustier guard I've never seen,
They look like Hell and smell unclean.

(Bears commence shoutine "UNCLEAN UNCLEAN"
at the top of their lungs.)

HERALD

Keep silence in the Bears. (Then addressing the crew)

Before this mighty ship of war
Had slipped from her home port
A spy of mine had come aboard
Her complement to sort.
He's scanned the names of every one...
Come forward now, your work is done.

ROYAL SCRIBE

The nominal list I've closely scanned
To learn by whom this ship is manned:
Two hundred persons more or less
Who by their conscience must confess
They have not joined our Royal Mess.
They must be made to tast the salt
Of my Monarch's Royal Main.
And choke upon our pills and soap
Where they can cross again.

(Bears once more start shouting "UNCLEAN UNCLEAN")

HERALD

Later, oh, come what may,
His Majesty, will hold sway
And by the ancient laws laid down
By custom will ordain
That all you tadpoles, young and old
Be initiated in our name.

ROYAL SCRIBE

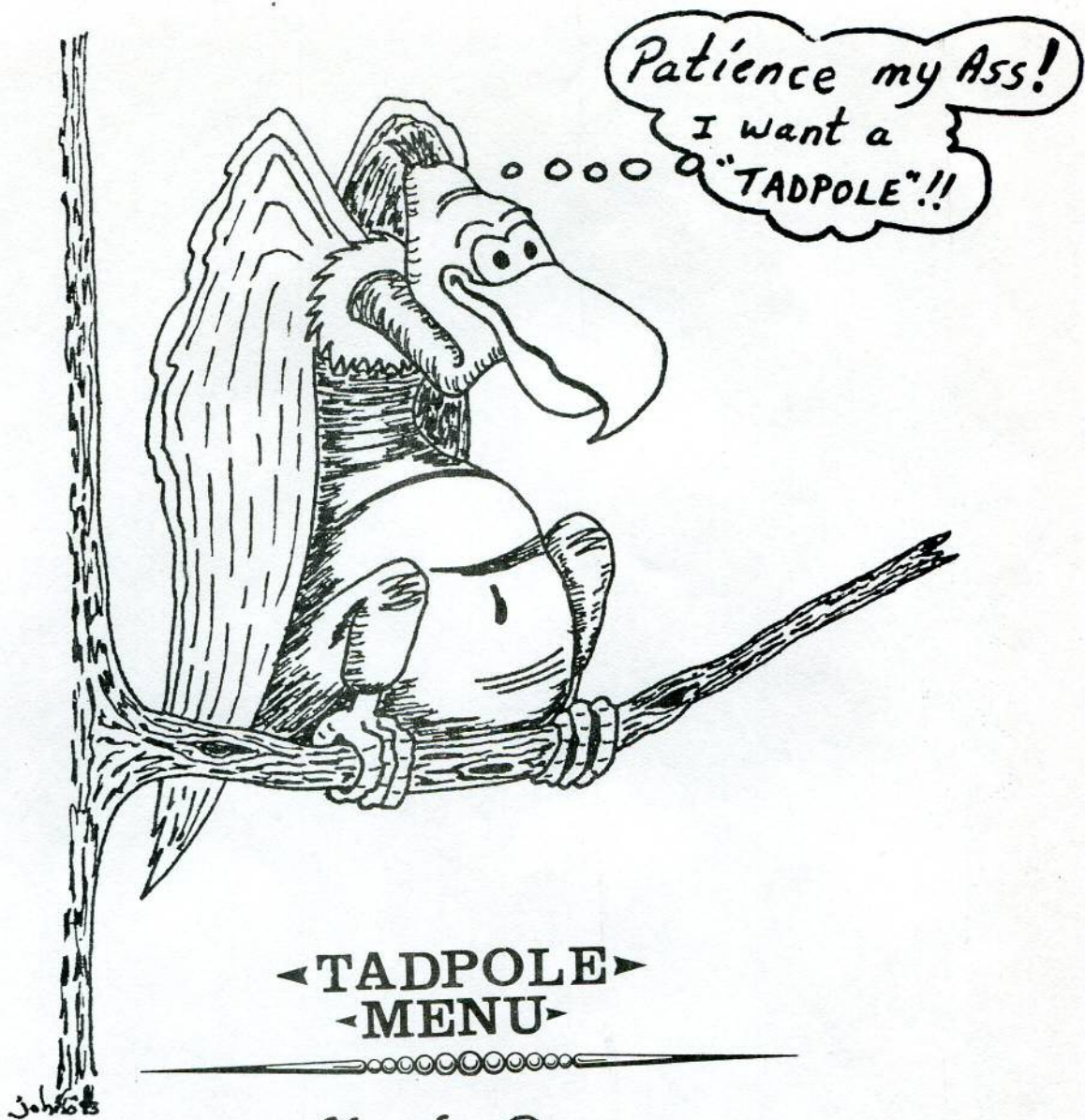
All hail, King Neptune!

The day the ship crosses the Equator, a canvas bath of suitable size is rigged. Above one side of the bath, a ducking stool and the two royal thrones are rigged. To commence the ceremony, the royal bugler/piping party sounds clear lower deck and orders all of the ship's company to the vicinity of the bath — Dress of the day to be bathing suits. When all are assembled, the royal court makes their stately procession from the royal robing room to the bath. The members of the court shall go to excessive extremes in the designing of their costumes. While great latitude in costumes is customary, Neptunus Rex must have a bushy grey or black beard, crown and trident. Upon the arrival of the royal family, the personal flag of King Neptune ("The Jolly Rodger") is broken, and attention is sounded by the bugler/Piping party.

At this point, in regal and flowery language, His Majesty King Neptune I (by the grace of mythology lord of the waters, sovereign of all oceans, governor and lord high admiral of the bath - to give his traditional titles) will address the novices as to their impending fate, warning them that none shall be overlooked, and that all "shall be initiated into the mystic-rites of the freedom of the seas, according to the ancient customs of our watery kingdom".

The Royal Scribe will then call each candidate forward, and they will be presented individually to King Neptune by the Royal Herald. However, each novice must first be prepared by the Royal Physicians and Barbers. The treatment consists of an enormous pill and/or potion obviously not toxic but certainly laxative. The chiefs and petty officers with the assistance of the galley and sickbay, should be charged with the preparation of this medicine. In addition, the Royal Physicians may use unlikely medical tools to complete a physical examination of each novice to ensure that they are up to the ordeal they face. The Royal Barbers now step in and lather the faces of the novices with something other than shaving cream. This will then be removed with a large wooden straight razor.

Now deemed sufficiently worthy, the novice is presented before King Neptune, and the charges against him are read out by the Royal Herald. After due consideration is given each case by the Royal Family King Neptune pronounces the appropriate sentence, and charges the bears to carry out punishment forthwith. From time to time, should the police report that some novices are hiding, the King may interrupt the proceedings to make public announcement of the offence, and order his police to arrest the offenders and bring them before him.



<TADPOLE
<MENU>

Shark Roe
Eel Strips
Dolphin Dinks
Whale Ovaries in Squid Sauce
Pollywogs in Seal Sauce
‡
Various cold exotic drinks of the deep.

ACT 11:

Scene 1:

The Quarterdeck: Lower Deck will be cleared to the Quarterdeck and King Neptunes Court will assemble in the Weapons Workshop. Bears and Police having cleared a path in a traditional fashion, the court itself arrives.

HERALD

(On entrance) Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Make way for his most glorious oceanic majesty Neptune Rex Ruler of all who sail upon the sea upon their lawful occasion hear ye! hear ye!
(On arrival of Neptune and Queen Amphritite
All hail King Neptune!)

BEARS AND POLICE

All hail King Neptune!

CAPTAIN

On humblest duty, Sire, I bring to you the ocean's King
All here on board submit today to your most just and dreadful sway.

NEPTUNE

Good afternoon (Ship's Name) at the start I must say I have waited months for this glorious day
I am honoured indeed, that you now cross my path
And hope and believe you'll recieve a nice bath.
My barbers are good, and of course renowned
Their razors as sharp as have ever been ground,
Their lather you'll like - and as for their pills,
They are better than Beecham's and cure every ill.

CAPTAIN

Ere you punish our crimes with terrible fork,
I present for your favour my crew to your court.

HERALD

"Sire, if your Majesty finds it convient,
We've had time to be lenient.
It's just about time for that big tank of brine
To make new Shellbacks for "crossing the line."
(King Neptune stands, Bugler sounds the 'Alert'
and the Herald calls for silence.)

HERALD

"Silence! Silence!

NEPTUNE

"I, King Neptune, Lord of the Sea
Welcome you all who e'er you be
I am Lord of the oceans wide
Lord of the rivers...Lord of the Tide

NEPTUNE

My laws are strict, but do not fear
If you will only perservere
to keep the freedom of the seas
As recognized by our decrees
Here are the Bears, the suds, the bath
They are the only certain path
for all who wish to cross the line
And be enrolled as sons of mine
In order then as we command
Before us let each Tadpole stand
Who has his freedom yet to win
Enough! My trusty men, begin...

HERALD

"If you will see defaulters first,
We'll save till last the best...and worst.

NEPTUNE

"So be it!"

HERALD

"Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!"

The local Shellback Court of his Oceanic Majesty,
Neptunus Rex is now in session. Judge Samuel T.
Seaweed presiding."

JUDGE

(rapping gavel) "First Case"

ROYAL SCRIBE

OS FARRELL

This O.D. with a hairy face
Was heard cursing Neptune and all his race
For this dasterly deed of one so young,
how do you command respect of the growing scum.

JUDGE

Today our realm is full of these young
They rant and rave and spew forth scum.
So into the pool with this mouthy bum,
Six dunks in the tank should come.

ROYAL SCRIBE

OS Roelants Van Baronaigien

Hang down your head Steward,
Hang it with shame.
For not even the great Neptune
can pronounce your name.
A penalty indeed you will suffer,
more fierce than handed down by the buffer.
You cast your shadow in the midst of this King,
so from this dias your penalty shall ring.
To the pool and the barber on we pass,
but now you will be known as RV Bass

JUDGE

Walk softly RVB twenty-one for Neptune
you shall create some fun.
You'd better be nice to the shell backs my son.
For there will be no place to run.
Five dunks in the pool to cleanse this scum.

ROYAL SCRIBE

JULIEN AND KELLY CHARGED WITH SQUATTING TO PEE

Here stand two tadpoles small and short,
about to face King Neptunes court.
It has been observed by one and all,
that in the heads they have a ball.
The bowls are way up above their knees
causing them to sit when taking a pee.

JUDGE

With this charge we have to agree
for only the Airforce may squat to pee.
Guilty as charged you tadpole scrub
now you'll be cleansed in the Royal tub.

ROYAL SCRIBE

NEXT CASE P.O. HALLORAN CHARGED WITH COMPLAINING
OF THE HEAT OF THE SEA

Standing before you looking beat,
constantly complaining of boiler room heat.
Too much time on the sweepers they say,
now here he kneels before you this day.

JUDGE

The lowest form we've had yet,
but soon this wimp will be wet.
Three double doses in my Royal Pool,
will help this Red haired one keep cool

ROYAL SCRIBE

PO FETTERLY

Before your court stands this tadpole named Fetterly.
Who, for 21 years has evaded your ministries.
Reaping perverse pleasure by crossing your domain,
was many times over his claim to fame.
What, say I, shall we do with him.
Two dunks in the pool to cleans him of sin.

JUDGE

Twenty-one years we waited this time,
when your wretched soul would be crossing the line,
Two dunks in the brine will not be for him,
but ten dunks shall cleans him of sin.

ROYAL SCRIBE

PO WALTON

A tadpole, A tadpole for all to see
This Barrack Stantion from F.M.G.
When told of his fate, to cross the line
He pined and whined, for more shore time.

JUDGE

A salty sailor he may be,
But it's hard to tell from what I see
For his fate on this I must dwell. (Pause)
The salt water must be his great fear
So into this tub that is so near
Thrice under he must go
To cure this tad of his sailing woe's.

ROYAL SCRIBE

PO DUVALL

He made a shellback work in the gruelling heat,
And overtime at that
But it's our turn now to get him off his feet,
And make him swim the Vat.

JUDGE

And now PO welcome to the court,
We'll watch you swim and bob like a cork
For your dasterdly deed,
Although you may plead,
It's 7 times down after your feed.

ROYAL SCRIBE

OS GODIN

There rides on this vessel a scamp of small size
Tormenting the Cox'n, in doubt that he's wise
He speaks without reverence, to all that approach
Treating our shellbacks like landlubber goats
His language is earthy, not seaworthy and pure
So we gather asunder to effect him a cure
Bring forth this foul one, to the court of just cause
Bend him before us, serve up Neptunes great laws.

JUDGE

Frenchy thou foul one, you give me such pain
Clerkings your business, why cause you distain?
Learn from your elders, be patient and proud
Contain your vast ego, be not boisterous and loud
(continued)

Oh Godin you shame me, bring tears to my eyes
The heartache you cause, as told by my spies
And now for the sentence, a harsh one I'm sure
Two pills to effect him, and shave him quite close
Twelve dunkings I tell you, shall clean up his dose
Take him oh doctor, and feed him his hell
Shave him my barber, bears wash him full well.

"ENOUGH MY TRUSTY MEN BEGIN!!!"

And the Tadpoles were then initiated, with *DIGNITY*.
but not necessarily in this order

OSSW ANDRUSKIEVICZ
ABBN BISSON
A/SLT COULTER
A/SLT GREEN
P2S/C MCCAW
OSWU PROVOST
OSWS TINKER
ABRM BRENNAN
CAPT WENTZELL
ABSN DINEL
ABSG BLANCHETTE
P2PW DRYDEN
P2ER HALLORAN
MSER MCCALL
OSRM SHERRING
OSST WHITEHEAD
LSSG EVANS
A/SLT MARR
OSWS BOISVERT
P2RT DUVALL
OSER JULIEN
OSSN MCFADYEN
OSRM ROBERTSON
LSHT VANDENBERG
OSEW SIMON
A/SLT MCCALLUM
LS CALLAGHAN (PERI)

OSSW ROELANTS VAN BARONAIGIEN
ABER BRETON
LT(N) ELDRIDGE
OSRM JULIEN
LSCK MCRAE
OSFC SCHWENKER
PIFC WALTON
LSCK BAKER
A/SLT BAKER
A/SLT DEWAR
A/SLT BRENNER
OSET FARRELL
OSER KELLY
P2S/C MIYOSHI
LSSG STRUCK
LSBN NAIRNE
ABSN TAYLOR
A/SLT SMITH
A/SLT BRYSKI
PIHT FETTERLY
OSWS LAURIAULT
LSRM MULLINS
OSRM SMITH
MSBN ROSSYAN
A/SLT O'RIELLY
A/SLT WAITS
A/SLT BUELL

LS(PERI) CALLAGHAN
OSCK BUSH
SLT FULTON
ABST MONDOR
MSSW MUTCH
LSER SMITH
MIDN (RAN) WOODS
LSMA CUE
A/SLT LANAISE
OSNWT AUDY
OSHT CARROLL
OSCK GENDRE
OSRP LEVAC
A/SLT READ
OSRP TRUSCOTT
LSRM MYLER
A/SLT COFFEY
LT(N) BARKMAN
OSFC CONNORS
OSAW GODIN
OSRM LOWE
ABHT POWER
SLT SULLIVAN
LSSG MERCER
A/SLT EVANS

When all Tadpoles have been initiated, the Herald calls for attention
for King Neptune' farewell special:-

NEPTUNE

"King Neptune, I Lord of the brine,
Welcome you all, new subjects of mine.
I am the Lord of the Oceans wide,
Lord of the Rivers ... Lord of the Tide.
My laws are strict, but do not fear,
If you will but persevere;
To keep the freedom of the seas,
as recognized by our decrees."
"I command you...go now, your many,
Take what you have learned to future days;
Teach others, the mysteries of the Deep,
I go now...below..my vigil to keep."
"FAREWELL SASKATCHEWAN'S!"

(As the King and his Court depart, the way is cleared by the
Court Police and the Herald.)

HERALD

"Make Way...Make Way for His Oceanic Majesty....
Make Way!"

