

Neptunus Rex

By Paul Lazzaro

JET BLAST Editor

King Neptune and his Royal Court have left the Bennington but their impressions are firmly imbedded on almost 2,000 ex-pollywog posteriors.

From the moment Davy Jones boarded the ship bringing the news that Neptunus Rex was on his way, the Big Ben's pollywogs were given the treatment reserved for such miserable creatures.

Although every effort was made by the pollywogs to resist, the Shellbacks won out and converted the crew into true sailors worthy of bearing the name Shellback.

The ceremonies actually began at 1300 last Friday when the word was passed for all pollywogs to change into the pollywog uniform of the day. The average pollywog uniform consisted of blue trousers worn backwards with flaps down; white jumper, also worn backwards; and a flat hat worn at any angle but the one prescribed by Navy uniform regulations.

The colorful event also featured many "special" uniforms, such as, the pollywog choir attired in remodeled mattress covers; the Duty Buglers who wore an outfit usually restricted to athletic events; the Marines, with full field packs, leggings, cartridge belts and little else; the Royal Surgeons wearing the complete outfit for performing a major operation; and the Special Ready Aviation Pilots, who were the hottest thing in the whole ceremony with their winter flying gear, fur helmets and fur lined shoes.

Pollywogs were urged (with



Murderers' Row

clubs and water hoses) to put on some special exhibitions. The Choir complied as they sang some old favorites and a few original compositions, including one dedicated to the Shellbacks.

As the afternoon wore on and the pollywogs began to

wear out, all hands were called to Quarters for Muster on the hangar deck to greet Davy Jones and his Attendants who had been sighted on the horizon.

As the crew took their places the Number One elevator slowly began to descend and Davy Jones and his party brought gasps of admiration with their extremely authentic costumes.

When the elevator stopped, Captain Foley greeted the Royal Party and renewed his old friendship with Davy, whom he had met 15 years ago on the old Houston. After the formalities were over the pollywogs began to cringe as Davy Jones and his Sheriff read the charges. Having never before crossed the Equator, as every good seaman does, the pollywogs were to be initiated into the ranks of the Shellbacks in the cruel manner for which King Neptune is famous. It was said that the Monarch of the Seas shows no mercy to those who dare to enter His Royal Domain with the

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