

# CROSSING THE INTERNATIONAL DATELINE

7 February 1969—

The 180th meridian marks the entrance into the realm of the Golden Dragon, omnipotent ruler of the mysterious Orient. When one enters this kingdom for the first time, he must undergo an initiation which is traditional for sailing men everywhere. The pollywog is first assisted by the golden dragon and his helpers in performing some mild exercises. Physical fitness is essential for survival in the Far East. A shower and haircut is also in order to insure that the prospective member of the realm is well groomed. The pollywog is then brought into the presence of his eminence the Golden Dragon and his august court to determine if he is fit to partake of the benefits which the kingdom has to offer. A pollywog who is unfortunate enough to be found lacking in some respect is sent back for further "rehabilitation."

The pollywogs were nervous. The awful day was at hand. The fear and apprehension which had been lurking in the recesses of their minds broke out into the open as the SPENCER neared the International Date Line. Pollywogs throughout the ship were nervously contemplating their fate.

On the morning of February 7th the Golden Dragons were happily preparing to initiate the pollywog population. It was then that what has since been referred to as the "Great Pollywog Resistance" took place. The pollywogs were determined not to be taken without a fight and the result was a battle royale led by a wild-eyed fanatic known only as "Slick", the pollywogs carried the fight to the outnumbered golden dragons. Chaos reigned from stem to stern as water balloons flew and fire hoses gushed. Counterattack followed counterattack as the resourceful Slick maneuvered his forces skillfully. Hostages were taken and underwent horrible tortures.

After a while, though, tradition won out and the rebels, along with their leader, succumbed to the ritual. The Supreme Golden Dragon finally held court on the SPENCER and his honor was salvaged. But the pollywogs had been heard from! Pollywogs everywhere could take heart from "The Great Resistance". What became of Slick? He is now a bona fide golden dragon and, having explored extensively wherever the SPENCER went, is widely recognized as an authority on occult customs and rituals of the Orient. Slick may still be a rebel at heart, though. Reliable sources report that at the stroke of midnight when the moon is full, he can be seen atop the radar shack defiantly shaking his fist at the moon and whispering, "Viva la resistance!"

