



On every Trans-Pacific cruise, the ship must cross the International Date Line. This is where the lines of Longitude switch from WEST to EAST. When travelling West, one day is lost—a work day of course! On the return Eastbound crossing, the day is regained—only Saturdays, Sundays, or Holidays this time! The landlubbing “Neophytes” must pay for the “lost” day. This is the only day the Royal Order of Golden Dragons comes alive. The Neophytes are all escorted through the day by a “Dragon Deputy”; they must pass up the Electric Ladder, bow to the Dragon King, kiss the Golden Baby’s belly, get a real “trim” from the Royal Barber, eat some of King Neptune’s fish & worms, visit the Royal Painter, Doctor, and Nurse, and finally take a little initiation swim. But the day is over soon, and all the Golden Dragons, old and new, can enjoy an afternoon of fun and festivities . . .