

M U T I N Y



Shorn pollywog hears charges read against him by tribunal of the deep.

Mutiny broke out on the Antarctica-bound Eastwind the afternoon of Nov. 5, 1961. The 269-foot white cutter was on her way to join other ships on Operation Deepfreeze in New Zealand before cutting a swath in the ice for ships supplying scientific stations at the South Pole.

The first indication of unrest among the crew occurred when the ship neared the Equator near noon. All pollywogs (those who have never before been across the Equator) were ordered by the shellbacks (those who have been across in the past) to report to the bow of the ship in swimsuits. A shellback's command is law and pollywogs must obey. As soon as the pollywogs were assembled, the shellbacks turned firehoses on them.

Captain Joseph W. Naab Jr., the Eastwind's commanding officer and himself a pollywog, led the mutiny. "Grab those hoses men" he said, pointing to some other fire hoses strewn about. In a very few minutes the 137 pollywogs had the 83 shellbacks scurrying for cover.

The shellbacks won the final victory however. During the late afternoon initiation ceremony, King Neptune and his scribe Davy Jones prescribed cruel and unusual punishments for the mutinous pollywogs. Soon

everyone aboard the Eastwind was a shellback, but there were many former pollywog officers and men who were going to be wearing their hats clamped tight on their heads for awhile.



Eastwind's skipper goes through the line.