

BAGUETTE & BONTON - #2

# THE GREAT PARADE -PART ONE-



## THE PARADE



THE GREAT PARADE WAS MAKING ITS WAY THROUGH TOWN, ITS TWELVE COLORFUL FLOATS ACCOMPANIED BY A WHOLE FLOCK OF DANCERS. EACH FLOAT HAD A DIFFERENT THEME ALL ITS OWN.

ONE FLOAT CELEBRATED ICE KIBBLE, WOOFLAND 'S MOST SPECIAL TREAT, ONE PROUDLY FEATURED A SMALLER VERSION OF MOUNT RUFFMORE, THE OLD VOLCANO THAT SAT IN THE MIDDLE OF WOOFLAND NATURAL PARK.

AND LOOK! THERE, ON THE VOLCANO FLOAT, ALSO STOOD **GRANDPA FETCHER** AND HIS FRIEND **TROTTO**, THE VERY BEST PARK RANGERS IN THE COUNTRY!

BUT EVERYONE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO THE ARRIVAL OF THE FLOAT CARRYING A COPY OF THE GREAT STATUE OF **DROOP-EARS!** BAGUETTE AND BONTON, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, HAD SEEN THE ORIGINAL STATUE MANY TIMES.

THE BRONZE STATUE STOOD IN FRONT OF CITY HALL, SHOWING **DROOP-EARS** IN HIS FUNNY 18TH-CENTURY OUTFIT AND THOSE LONG, LOW-HANGING EARS THAT HAD EARNED HIM HIS NAME.

IT WAS TALL, REACHING OVER SIX FEET HIGH, BUT IT WAS TINY COMPARED TO THE COPY THAT THEY HAD PREPARED FOR THE MOST EAGERLY AWAITED FLOAT. AND FINALLY, HERE IT WAS!

A HUGE STATUE OF **DROOP-EARS**, THE PIONEER WHO HAD FOUNDED WOOFLAND IN 1713. THIS PAPER-MÂCHÉ COPY TOWERED AT OVER TWENTY-FIVE FEET. BAGUETTE'S MOUTH HUNG OPEN, AND BONTON HAD STOPPED EATING



HIS ICE KIBBLE TO GET A BETTER LOOK AT THE STATUE. WHEN THE FLOAT APPEARED BEFORE EVERYONE WHERE THE STREET WIDENED INTO THE GREAT SQUARE, THE ENTIRE CROWD LET OUT A DEAFENING CHEER.



THE CLAPPING AND HURRAYS WENT ON AND ON, AND HERE AND THERE FIREWORKS BURST OUT, REMINDING EVERYONE OF THE SHOW THAT AWAITED THEM LATER ON THAT NIGHT.



- DADDY, DADDY!" SAID **BONTON** ALL OF A SUDDEN, FORGETTING ALL ABOUT HIS ICE KIBBLE, "IS IT TRUE THAT THERE'S GOING TO BE A MOVIE ABOUT THE LIFE OF **DROOP-EARS?**"

**DADDY QUILL** SMILED AND NODDED.

- YES, PUP, AND IT'S BEING FILMED BY THE GREAT DIRECTOR **SPIELBARK** AS WE SPEAK."

- WILL IT BE AMAZING?"

- HA HA, I DON'T KNOW, SON... BUT I KNOW SOMEONE WHO MIGHT!"

**BAGUETTE**, WHO HAD HEARD EVERYTHING, CHIMED IN:

- WHAT DO YOU MEAN? DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO'S WORKING ON THE MOVIE?"

- KIND OF!"

- HUH?"

- I MEAN YOU KNOW HIM TOO."

**BAGUETTE** AND **BONTON** WERE BESIDE THEMSELVES.

THEIR FATHER WAS BEING SO MYSTERIOUS...

MEANWHILE, THE FLOAT PARADE WAS ENDING, AND, AS WAS USUALLY THE CASE, EVERYONE WAS ABOUT TO HEAD INSIDE THE ICE KIBBLE PARLORS TO CELEBRATE WITH A DELICIOUS KIBBLE CONE.

AS A JOURNALIST, **DADDY QUILL** WAS USED TO LARGE CROWDS, AND HE MOVED AHEAD OF EVERYONE ELSE TO AVOID THE RUSH ALONG WITH **BAGUETTE** AND **BONTON** AS THEY HEADED TO



**MR. ICEBERG'S** PARLOR... WHERE THEY FOUND **MOMMY MELODY**, **GRANDPA DOODLE** AND **GRANNY GARLAND** WAITING FOR THEM AT A TABLE. THEY ALL ORDERED A CUP OF ICE KIBBLE EACH, BUT **BAGUETTE** COULDN'T WAIT ANY LONGER.

- SO WHAT ABOUT IT, DADDY?"
- ABOUT WHAT?"
- WHO'S WORKING ON THE MOVIE?"
- WHICH MOVIE?" ASKED **GRANNY GARLAND**.
- THE ONE ABOUT **DROOP-EARS**," ANSWERED **DADDY QUILL**.
- OH, I HEAR THE STAR OF THE MOVIE IS GOING TO BE **WOOF WILLIS!** DON'T YOU THINK HE'LL BE PERFECT?" ADDED **MOMMY MELODY**.
- DAAAAADDY!"



- HA HA!" LAUGHED **DADDY QUILL**.
- I PROMISED THEM I WOULD EXPLAIN WHO'S WORKING ON THE MOVIE WITH **MR. SPIELBARK...** WHAT DO YOU SAY, **GRANDPA DOODLE**, SHOULD WE TELL THEM?

**BONTON** TURNED TO **GRANDPA DOODLE**, FILLED WITH EXCITEMENT...

- YOU KNOW HIM TOO, **GRANDPA?** WHO IS IT?"
- WELL, YOU'RE LOOKING AT HIM!"

**BAGUETTE** AND **BONTON** LOOKED AT EACH OTHER IN SURPRISE, THEN AT THEIR GRANDFATHER. THEY COULDN'T BELIEVE THEIR EARS!

- YOU, **GRANDPA?**"

## THE CONSULTANT

GRANDPA DOODLE LAUGHED. ACTUALLY, EVERYONE ELSE LAUGHED, TOO. EVERYONE EXCEPT BAGUETTE AND BONTON.

BUT IT WASN'T A JOKE. THEY LAUGHED WITH HAPPINESS.

- GRANDPA, YOU'RE SPENDING TIME WITH MR. SPIELBARK TO WORK ON A MOVIE ABOUT DROOP-EARS, STARRING WOOF WILLIS?" ASKED BAGUETTE.

- THAT'S RIGHT, PUPS. I'M A CONSULTANT."

- WHAT'S THAT?"

- YOUR GRANDFATHER," SAID GRANNY GARLAND, "IS THE GREATEST EXPERT OF WOOF LAND 'S HISTORY IN

THE WORLD, AND MR. SPIELBARK IS ASKING HIM TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO MISTAKES IN THE MOVIE."



AT THAT MOMENT, THE WAITER BROUGHT OUT THE SIX KIBBLE CONES THE WHOLE FAMILY WAS WAITING FOR, AND FOR A FEW MINUTES, NO ONE TALKED ABOUT MOVIES. THEIR TONGUES WERE BUSY LAPPING UP THE ICE KIBBLE.



AFTER A WHILE, THOUGH, THE TWO PUPS WERE BACK AT IT.

- GRANDPA," YELPED **BONTON**, "WILL YOU TELL US ALL ABOUT IT?"  
- WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW? THE STORY OF **DROOP-EARS**, HOW A MOVIE IS MADE, OR WHAT **MR. SPIELBARK'S** MOVIE IS ABOUT?"

**BONTON** WAS CONFUSED. **BAGUETTE** SPOKE UP TO HELP OUT HER YOUNGER BROTHER.  
- WE KNOW THE STORY OF **DROOP-EARS**, GRANDPA, WE'RE GOING TO BE IN A SCHOOL PLAY ABOUT HIM..."  
- I'M PLAYING THE CARPENTER THAT FIXED HIS SHIP!" ADDED **BONTON**.



- SEE, GRANDPA? THE CARPENTER WHO BECAME A SHIP-BUILDER, THE PIRATE **BLUE-EARS**... WE KNOW ALL ABOUT **DROOP-EARS**! TELL US ABOUT THE MOVIE AND WHAT YOU'RE DOING WITH **MR. SPIELBARK**!"

**GRANDPA DOODLE** SMILED.  
- MY DEAR," HE SAID TO **MOMMY MELODY**, "WOULD YOU MIND IF I



TOOK THE PUPS TO VISIT THE MOVIE SET WHILE YOU ALL GO TO THE MARKET?"

**BAGUETTE AND BONTON** WERE HOLDING THEIR BREATH WHEN THEY HEARD THOSE WORDS, AND WHEN THEIR MOTHER SAID "NOT AT ALL, GO AHEAD!", THEY SCREAMED FOR JOY SO LOUDLY THAT THE OTHER PATRONS OF THE ICE KIBBLE PARLOR WERE WORRIED THAT A FIRE HAD BROKEN OUT.

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