

BAGUETTE & BONTON - #3

THE GREAT PARADE -PART TWO-



- GO TO PART #1

THE MOVIE SET



ABOUT HALF AN HOUR LATER, THE TWO PUPS AND THEIR GRANDFATHER WERE ON THE MOVIE SET.

- THE PLACE WHERE A MOVIE IS FILMED, DEAR PUPS, IS CALLED A 'SET', AS IN 'TO SET UP'... IT'S THE PLACE PEOPLE SET UP FOR FILMING THE MOVIE SCENES."
- AND THIS IS THE PLACE THEY'VE

SET UP FOR THIS MOVIE?" ASKED **BONTON**, DISAPPOINTED. THE THREE OF THEM WERE STARING AT WOOFLAND 'S OLD HARBOR.

BAGUETTE WAS PUZZLED, BUT HER BROTHER THOUGHT THERE WAS SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON.

- GRANDPA," SAID **BONTON**, "THIS IS THE HARBOR! THEY'RE NOT FILMING A MOVIE HERE!"

- NO, THAT'S TRUE. BUT THIS IS WHERE THEY'LL FILM THE LIVE ACTION SCENES. DO YOU SEE THAT HOUSE, OVER THERE?"

HE WAS POINTING AT AN OLD BUILDING THAT FACED THE HARBOR. A STRANGE BILLBOARD READ "NET AND SAIL REPAIRS SINCE 1713", AND AN EVEN LARGER ONE READ "HIGHSNOUT".

- DO YOU RECOGNIZE THAT NAME?"



BAGUETTE SUDDENLY CAUGHT ON.

- HIGHSNOUT! THAT'S **DROOP-EARS'** FAMILY NAME!"

- ARE YOU SAYING THAT THIS," **BONTON** CONTINUED, EYES WIDE WITH EXCITEMENT, "IS THE SHOP **DROOP-EARS** FOUNDED?"

- THAT'S RIGHT! HIS FAMILY STARTED WORKING HERE WHEN THEY FIRST ARRIVED ON THIS ISLAND, AND BEGAN WHAT WOULD ONE DAY BECOME OUR CITY." THE THREE OF THEM SKIPPED ON THEIR WAY TO THE STORE... THE BUILDING SHOWED CLEAR SIGNS OF A LONG AND INTERESTING HISTORY. IT WAS WELL KEPT, BUT THE SALTY AIR COMING

IN FROM THE SEA HAD TAKEN ITS TOLL, AND THE PLASTER ON THE WALLS WAS ALL CRACKED. STILL, THE BILLBOARDS SEEMED AS THOUGH THEY HAD JUST BEEN PAINTED; IT WAS CLEAR THAT SOMEONE TOOK GOOD CARE OF THEM.

HOWEVER, **BAGUETTE** WASN'T YET CONVINCED.

- BUT GRANDPA, IN SCHOOL THEY TAUGHT US THAT **DROOP-EARS** HIMSELF BUILT THE HARBOR HOUSE WHERE HE AND HIS WIFE





BONELINE REPAIRED SAILS AND NETS... THIS BUILDING DOESN'T LOOK OLD ENOUGH, AND I THINK THE BILLBOARDS HAVE JUST BEEN PAINTED..."

- HA HA! THEY HAVE, MY DEAR, I DID IT MYSELF FOR THE MOVIE!"

THE THREE OF THEM STOPPED BEFORE THE DOOR.
GRANDPA DOODLE FINALLY BEGAN TO EXPLAIN.

- WHEN THE DIRECTOR, **MR. SPIELBARK**, MADE A DEAL WITH OUR MAYOR TO FILM THE MOVIE, **MAYOR KENNELWORTH** TOLD HIM TO SPEAK TO ME."

- YOU KNOW THE MAYOR TOO?"

- OH YES, HE'S AN OLD FRIEND OF **GRANNY GARLAND'S**, THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE MARRIED BEFORE -- WELL, THAT'S ANOTHER STORY, LET'S GET BACK TO THE MOVIE..."

BAGUETTE AND **BONTON** WANTED TO HEAR ABOUT THE MAYOR AND THEIR GRANDMOTHER TOO, BUT THEY GAVE UP ON CHASING THAT BONE FOR THE MOMENT AND STAYED QUIET.

- IN ANY CASE, **MR. SPIELBARK** GOT IN TOUCH WITH ME AND ASKED ME TO TELL HIM EVERYTHING I KNOW ABOUT **DROOP-EARS**.

I WAS HAPPY TO DO IT, BUT I DID HIM ONE BETTER AND BROUGHT HIM HERE. I INTRODUCED HIM TO THE OWNER OF THIS SHOP, WHO IS THE GRANDPUP OF OUR CITY'S FOUNDER, AND THE DIRECTOR DECIDED TO FILM THE MOVIE HERE."

BAGUETTE AND BONTON WERE BESIDE THEMSELVES WITH EXCITEMENT, SINCE THEY WERE LEARNING THINGS THAT NO ONE EVEN KNEW ON THE **WOOF-WIDE WEB**.
- **MR. SPIELBARK,**" GRANDPA DOODLE WENT ON, "REALLY LIKED THE PLACE, AND DECIDED TO CHANGE THE MOVIE TO BEGIN HERE, WHERE THE SON OF **DROOP-EARS**, PLAYED BY HIS GRANDPUP, WILL INTRODUCE HIS ANCESTOR'S STORY."



- "SINCE THE SHOP'S OPEN, CAN WE GO IN?" CHIMED IN **BONTON**, WHO HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN HOW "DISAPPOINTED" HE'D BEEN JUST A FEW MINUTES BEFORE.
- "OF COURSE!" SAID **GRANDPA DOODLE**, MOVING TO THE DOOR.

THE GRANDPUP

GRANDPA DOODLE GENTLY PUSHED THE FRONT DOOR OPEN AND THE THREE OF THEM WERE GREETED BY THE SOUND OF A DOOR CHIME. THEY MADE THEIR WAY INTO A ROOM DIMLY LIT BY OIL LAMPS, JUST AS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THREE HUNDRED YEARS EARLIER.



A GREAT MANY FISHING NETS, BUIOYS, ROPES AND PIECES OF SAILING EQUIPMENT HUNG ON THE WALLS, AND BEHIND THE COUNTER AT THE FAR END OF THE SMALL SHOP STOOD THE OWNER, AN OLD BASSET HOUND WHO LOOKED READY TO HUNT DOWN A WHITE WHALE. HE WAS CHATTING WITH A CUSTOMER.

THIS CUSTOMER WAS POINTING AT A HANGING NET AND ASKING QUESTIONS, WHILE THE SHOPKEEPER NODDED, SAYING THAT IT REQUIRED A SPECIAL KIND OF SHUTTLE TO MEND IT.

THEN THE SHOPKEEPER NOTICED THE NEWCOMERS.
- DOODLE!" HE CALLED OUT,

"HOW GOOD TO SEE YOU. WHO ARE THESE PUPS, THEN?"

- THESE ARE MY GRANDPUPS, THE ONES I'VE TOLD YOU ABOUT SO MANY TIMES... THE YOUNG LADY IS **BAGUETTE**, AND THIS BIG, BURLY ONE IS **BONTON**."

- OOH... BIG AND BURLY IS RIGHT, **DOODLE!** HE LOOKS ABOUT READY TO BOARD A WHALING SHIP! PLEASSED TO MEET YOU, **BAGUETTE AND BONTON!**"

- IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU TOO," SAID BOTH BROTHER AND SISTER TOGETHER, CURIOUS BUT A LITTLE SHY AT MEETING THIS STRANGE CHARACTER. THEN BONTON, WHO WAS ALWAYS QUICK TO FORGET EMBARRASSMENT, DOVE INTO HIS QUESTIONS AS SUDDENLY AS ONLY PUPS CAN.

- IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE **DROOP-EARS'** GRANDPUP? IS IT TRUE THEY'RE FILMING THE MOVIE ABOUT OUR FOUNDER HERE? HEY, IF YOU'RE HIS GRANDPUP, DID YOU KNOW YOUR GRANDFATHER? HOW WAS HE? AND ARE YOU STARRING IN THE MOVIE TOO? AND WHAT..."

EVERYONE BURST INTO LAUGHTER, ALL EXCEPT **BAGUETTE**, WHO HAD TURNED RED WITH SHAME (MOSTLY BECAUSE SHE WAS TOO TIMID TO ASK THOSE QUESTIONS HERSELF, RATHER THAN BECAUSE OF HER BROTHER'S DARING).

BONTON THEN REALIZED HE HAD GONE A BIT TOO FAR, AND HE WENT QUIET AND REDDENED LIKE HIS SISTER.



- SLOW DOWN, PUP... ONE QUESTION AT A TIME. FIRST, LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF: MY NAME IS **LONG-EARS**, AND YES, I'M MY GRANDFATHER'S GRANDPUP." AND AS PROOF FOR HIS CLAIM, HE STEPPED OUT FROM BEHIND THE COUNTER, SHOWING THE LONGEST

EARS THAT EITHER PUP HAD EVER SEEN APART FROM THOSE ON THE STATUE OF **DROOP-EARS**.

LONG-EARS WENT ON.

- AND YES... THEY'RE GOING TO FILM PART OF THE MOVIE THAT YOU SEEM TO FIND SO CAPTIVATING RIGHT HERE."

YET **BAGUETTE**, WHO HAD RECOVERED HER PRESENCE OF MIND, GAVE A SMALL COUGH WHICH DREW THE ATTENTION OF EVERYONE THERE (INCLUDING THE CUSTOMER, WHO SEEMED TO GREATLY ENJOY THE WHOLE SCENE).

- MAY I ASK A FEW THINGS, IF YOU PLEASE?"

LONG-EARS, TAKEN ABACK, NODDED; **GRANDPA DOODLE**, MEANWHILE, HAD GUESSED WHAT

HIS GRANDPUP WANTED TO ASK (AND THE CUSTOMER LOOKED AS THOUGH HE WERE HOLDING BACK A GREAT CHUCKLE).

- OF COURSE, PUP..." REPLIED THE OWNER OF THE OLD SHOP.

BAGUETTE'S QUESTIONS_

BAGUETTE WENT AHEAD WITH A POISE THAT IMPRESSED HER GRANDFATHER AND MADE HER LITTLE BROTHER PROUD.

- SINCE **DROOP-EARS'** SHOP WAS A TINY SHACK, THIS PLACE CAN'T BE THE ORIGINAL, CAN IT, SIR? ALSO, GIVEN THAT TODAY IS A HOLIDAY AND ONLY ICE KIBBLE PARLORS ARE OPEN, WHY ARE YOU WORKING? AND IF YOU'RE REALLY THE CITY FOUNDER'S GRANDPUP,

WHY AREN'T YOU A SPECIAL GUEST AT THE PARADE?"

- YOUR GRANDPUP'S A SHARP ONE, DOODLE!"



- ISN'T SHE? DO YOU WANT TO ANSWER OR SHALL I?"

THE CUSTOMER SPOKE UP.

- DO YOU MIND IF I ANSWER?"
GRANDPA DOODLE AND LONG-EARS GESTURED FOR HIM TO GO AHEAD.

- BY ALL MEANS!"

THE STRANGER BEGAN:

- **DROOP-EARS** HAD THIS SHOP WAS BUILT WHEN THE CITY WAS STARTING TO GROW, AND THIS HARBOR, NOW CALLED THE OLD HARBOR, WAS STILL EXPANDING... THE STORIES REMEMBER THE WOODEN SHACK, BUT FEW KNOW ABOUT THIS SHOP."

"BY CUSTOM, THE SHOP STAYS OPEN ON THE CITY'S HOLIDAY, WHICH IS WHY **MR. LONG-EARS** ISN'T AT THE PARATE, DESPITE THE

MAYOR'S REQUESTS EVERY YEAR."

THE BASSET HOUND THEN TURNED WITH A SMILE TO FACE **GRANDPA DOODLE AND LONG-EARS**.

- WHAT DO YOU SAY? DO I GET FULL MARKS?"

BAGUETTE, EMBARRASSED FOR HAVING DOUBTED HIM, OVERCAME HER AMAZEMENT AND ASKED:

- ARE YOU A STUDENT OF **GRANDPA'S?**"

(**GRANDPA DOODLE** TAUGHT PAINTING AND HISTORY AT THE WOOF LAND ART SCHOOL.)

HER GRANDFATHER WAS ABOUT TO ANSWER BUT THE CUSTOMER SPOKE FIRST.

- IN A WAY, YES. YOUR

GRANDFATHER'S TAUGHT ME MANY THINGS."

"ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF: MY NAME IS **STEVEN SPIELBARK**, AND I'M A MOVIE DIRECTOR."
BONTON ALMOST FAINTED WITH SURPRISE!

EPILOGUE

IT WAS A THRILLING EVENING FOR EVERYONE, BUT ESPECIALLY FOR OUR FRIENDS. THE WHOLE FAMILY WATCHED THE FIREWORKS TOGETHER, AND THEN **MAYOR KENNELWORTH** MADE THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE MOVIE AND INTRODUCED **STEVEN SPIELBARK**, **GRANDPA DOODLE** AND **LONG-EARS** TO THE CROWD, TO **BAGUETTE** AND **BONTON'S** GREAT DELIGHT.

THEY WOULD HAVE SO MANY THINGS TO TELL THEIR CLASSMATES THE NEXT DAY. OH YES, THEIR GRANDFATHER WAS PRETTY AWESOME!

