

Rex Noville

BEDTIME STORIES

Tonight children I am going to tell you a story about the meeting of two ships, and what I am going to tell you happened long, long ago.

One of the ships was named the "BEAR OF SOAKLAND" and it was built of wood. The other ship was named "DISTILLERY II", and it was build of steel. From more than one thousand miles apart these two ships, in order to find each other, travelled as fast as they could. They met such a long way from land and such a long way from any other ship. Where they met there were tremendous pieces of ice floating upon the sea, there were huge fishes called whales swimming about in the water, and pretty little white birds flitted about the ships..

Very soon after the two ships met, you would have seen them being tied together side by side by great big ropes. Then all the men worked as hard as hard could be. They rolled hundreds

of barrels from DISTILLERY II and placed them upon BEAR OF SOAKLAND. Besides the barrels they took hundreds and hundreds of boxes in which there were bottles and put them upon the BEAR OF SOAKLAND. It was not until every barrel and every bottle had been taken from one ship and put upon the other ship that the two ships separated, each to go its own way.

Childred, you must be wondering what it was that was in all those barrels and in all those bottles.

The BEAR OF SOAKLAND had left more than one hundred strong men upon a great sheet of ice. This sheet of ice was floating upon the sea in some places, and in other places it rested upon the bottom of the sea.

All the men upon the ice were so brave that they were called heroes. It was their intention to battle against fierce things that were called the elements of nature. It promised to be a very even battle for the heroes were going to give the elements of nature a sporting chance.

Each hero was very busy writing a book about himself as well as separate books about each of his fellow heroes. Every day, besides writing up his diary, each one wrote radio messages to be sent to all of his relatives and friends to let them know that he was well. Each one wrote newspaper articles and poetry daily and hours and hours were spent practising signature writing.

Of course, you can see that there was lots and lots of writing to do.

There was plenty of paper to write upon, there were plenty of pens to write with, there was plenty of ink to put into the pens, but it was impossible to do any of the writing because the ink was frozen solid.

They had brought a great quantity of alcohol with them, and if they had put alcohol into the ink the ink would not have become frozen. However, all the alcohol had become mislaid and though many of the heroes kept on searching for it they could not find it.

Now children, can anyone of you tell me what was in all those barrels and in all those bottles that were put upon the BEAR OF SOAKLAND? That is right, Georgie, those barrels and those bottles had alcohol in them, and it was needed by the heroes to stop their ink from freezing.

Hush! Wally and Charlie have fallen asleep so Georgie do be a good little boy. I must turn your light off. It is 10 o'clock. So you must go to sleep.