

The VOYAGE of the HEROES

***DEDICATED WITH LOVE AND AFFECTION TO
JOE JOYCE, JACK DOHERTY, AND FRANKIE KEOGH - HEROES ALL!***

TUNE: "MICK MAGUIRE"

**COME LADIES ALL AND GENTLEMEN
AND HEAR A SONG FROM ME
ABOUT THREE BOSTON HEROES
AND THEIR VOYAGE ON THE SEA
IT'S YEARS NOW SINCE IT HAPPENED
BUT THE STORY'S ALWAYS NEW
AND EVEN MORE IMPORTANT IS
MOST EVERY WORD IS TRUE!**

**THE STORY STARTS WITH PRETTY GIRLS
(AS MANY STORIES DO)
AND THE INTENTIONS OF OUR GENTLEMEN
TO BID THEM FOND ADIEU
TO THE GRAND SS NEPTUNIA
COME THE LADS TO SAY GOODBYE
AND IN THEIR YOUNG FRIENDS' CABIN
SOON THE TUNES BEGIN TO FLY**

**THE ACCORDIONS ARE PLAYING AWAY
AND THE CHEER IS PASSING ROUND
BUT SOMEHOW IN THE RUCKUS
NO ONE SEEMS TO HEAR THE SOUND
OF THE SHIP'S ALARM BELL RINGING
OR THE WHISTLE'S MOURNFUL SIGH
THE SIGNAL TO ALL VISITORS
THAT SAILING TIME IS NIGH**

**INSTEAD THE FUN CONTINUES
IN THE CABIN DEEP BELOW
UNTIL THE REVELERS REALIZE
THEY'RE ROCKING TO AND FRO
"I THINK THE SHIP IS MOVING,"
SAYS PERCEPTIVE JOE TO JACK
"I WONDER HOW FAR OUT WE ARE?
AND HOW WILL WE GET BACK?"**

**THE LADS RUSH TO AN UPPER DECK
WHERE QUICK ENOUGH THEY FIND
THEY'RE OUT ON THE OCEAN'S BOSOM**

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**WITH OLD BOSTON FAR BEHIND
OFFICIALLY THEY'RE STOWAWAYS
AND NOT MUCH CAN THEY DO
BUT REJOIN THE LADIES' CABIN
AND START THE FUN ANEW**

**BUT SOON THE PARTY'S OVER
AND ALTHOUGH THEIR HEADS ARE SORE
THEY KNOW THEY HAVE TO HIDE THEMSELVES
TILL THEY REACH OLD ERIN'S SHORE
SO THEY FIND AN EMPTY LIFEBOAT
AND MAKE IT THEIR NEW HOME
AS NEPTUNIA SPEEDS TO ERIN'S ISLE
ACROSS THE SILVERY FOAM**

**BUT MEANWHILE BACK IN BEANTOWN
THERE ARE CRIES OF DOUBT AND FEAR
FOR JOEY'S CAR NEXT DAY IS FOUND
AT THE SHIP'S DEPARTURE PIER
WHEN DETECTIVES COME TO JOEY'S HOUSE
SAYS HIS MOM WITH VISAGE GRIM
"MY DARLING PLAYS THE CORDEEN
BUT HE DON'T KNOW HOW TO SWIM ..."**

**BUT MAMA SOON REMEMBERS
(AND HOPE IS SOON RESTORED):
- THEY WENT TO A SHIP TO SAY FAREWELL
AND THEY MIGHT STILL BE ABOARD!
A TELEGRAM TO NEPTUNIA
SOON REVEALS THEIR WOEFUL PLIGHT:
THE BOYS HAD BEEN DISCOVERED
AS THEY HID THE SECOND NIGHT**

**NO SURPRISE - THEY'RE IN THE GALLEY
PEELING SPUDS AND WASHING PLATES
AS OFFICIALDOM IN IRELAND
DECIDES UPON THEIR FATES:
THEY'D BE TAKEN OFF THE SHIP AT CORK
AND LOCKED UP FOR A WHILE
TILL THE NEXT SHIP HEADED WESTBOUND
COULD RETURN THEM HOME IN STYLE**

**AND THAT'S JUST HOW IT HAPPENED:
NOW THE BOYS ARE IN THE CLINK
BUT THE CORK POLICE ARE QUITE AMUSED
AS THEY BRING THEM FOOD AND DRINK**

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NEXT DAY BY PLANE FROM BOSTON
COMES UNHAPPY MAMA JOYCE
"IS THAT YOUR SON?" THE SERGEANT ASKS.
"IT IS," SAYS AN ICY VOICE.

"AND THESE OTHERS - IF YOU VOUCH FOR THEM
WE'LL HOLD THEM HERE NO MORE..."
"NOW LISTEN HERE," SAYS JOEY'S MOM
"I'VE NOT SEEN THOSE TWO BEFORE
A COUPLE OF SUSPICIOUS CHARACTERS,
IF YOU ASK ME, BY THEIR LOOKS
MY JOEY'S FRIENDS AREN'T PIRATES
OR OCEAN-GOING CROOKS..."

THEN FRANK AND JACK IN WOEFUL PLIGHT
BEGIN TO PLEAD IN TEARS
"AH MRS JOYCE - TAKE ANOTHER LOOK -
YOU'VE KNOWN US BOTH FOR YEARS!"
BUT NOT A WORD DOES MARY HEAR
(THOUGH IN FACT SHE KNOWS THEM WELL)
AND JOE IS FREE WHILE THE OTHER TWO
ARE RETURNED TO THEIR LONELY CELL...

BUT FRANK AND JACK AT LAST ARE FREED
AND IN FACT ALLOWED TO STAY
WHEN AN UNCLE AND A COUSIN
COME TO VOUCH FOR THEM NEXT DAY
BUT STONY BROKE AND DESPERATE
FOR A FEW PINTS AND SOME GRUB
THEY FIND THEMSELVES AND THEIR CORDEENS
IN A NEARBY FRIENDLY PUB

THEY PLAY A BIT FOR THE LOCALS
AND DECIDE TO PASS THE HAT
AND TO THEIR DELIGHT THEY LEAVE THE PLACE
WITH JINGLING POCKETS FAT
THE LOCAL PAPERS WRITE THEM UP
AND THEIR STORY SOON GETS ROUND
THE BRAVE YOUNG BOSTON STOWAWAYS
ARE NOW TOASTED THROUGH THE TOWN

THEN THEY'RE OFF FOR FURTHER TRAVELLING
THROUGH MOUNTAIN, PLAIN, AND PASS
THEN FOR REASONS NEVER SPECIFIED
THEY DECIDE TO BUY AN ASS
IT'S SNOWY WHITE AND TOOTHLESS

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**ITS BRAY IS HIGH AND SHRILL
"TWO POUNDS - NO LESS" THE SELLER SAYS
(AND THAT TINKER IS LAUGHING STILL!)**

**AND NOW THE BOYS ARE RIDING
ON THEIR NEWLY-PURCHASED BEAST
OF ITS MANY NOBLE QUALITIES
SWIFTNESS HAS TO BE THE LEAST
BUT IT BEATS THE HELL OUT OF WALKING
AND IT SEEMS TO KNOW ITS WAY
(IT'S HARD TO GET LOST IN IRELAND
WHEN YOUR SPEED IS TWO MILES A DAY)**

**AND AS THEY PASS FROM TOWN TO TOWN
THEIR STORY SOON HAS SPREAD
AND IT SEEMS THAT ALL OF IRELAND
HAS EITHER HEARD OR READ
OF OUR HEROES' DARING EXPLOITS
ON THE SEA AND ON THE LAND
THEIR MONEY'S NO GOOD FOR ANYTHING
AND LIFE IS GENERALLY GRAND**

**UNTIL ONE NIGHT IN GALWAY
WITH THEIR THIRST AND HUNGER KEEN
THEY STOP AND TIE "WHITE LIGHTNING" UP
IN FRONT OF A SHEBEEN
THREE MOST CONVIVIAL HOURS
DISAPPEAR LIKE MIST ON GLASS
BUT ON COMING OUTSIDE, OUR HEROES FIND
NO TRACE OF THE FAITHFUL ASS**

**THE GARDA SOON ARE NOTIFIED
AND AN INQUIRY'S SOON BEGUN
THE ANCIENT ANIMAL'S WHEREABOUTS
ARE A SOURCE OF FURTHER FUN
MORE PICTURES IN THE PAPER
AND MORE STORIES IN THE PRESS
BUT OUR HEROES HAVE GROWN WEARY
AND ARE HOMESICK, MORE OR LESS**

**SO THEY BID FAREWELL TO IRELAND
AND ARE SOON BACK ON THE SEA
THIS TIME AS PAYING PASSENGERS
RESPECTABLE, YOU SEE
AND LANDED BACK IN BOSTON
THEY ARE FAMOUS FOR A DAY**

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**TILL UNCLE SAM SENDS GREETINGS
AND CALLS THE LADS AWAY**

**THERE'S MUCH MORE TO THE STORY
I COULD PUT DOWN IN THIS SONG
BUT A HUNDRED TWENTY VERSES
COULD BE JUST A BIT TOO LONG
BUT YOU'VE HEARD - AND I HOPE ENJOYED - THE TALE
OF OUR HEROES BRAVE AND BOLD
GOD KEEP THEM SAFE AND HAPPY
TILL THEY'RE NINETY-NINE YEARS OLD!**

- April 2001

Footnote:

The full (true) story can be found at:

<http://www.boston.com/news/local/articles/2004/07/11/stowaways/>

**Jack Doherty, RIP October 2006
Joe Joyce, RIP July 2007**