

## Shmanners 229: The Pirate Mayor

Published September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020

[Listen here at themcelroy.family](https://themcelroy.family)

**Travis:** What is a pirate's favorite elected position?

**Teresa:** May-arrrr?

**Travis:** No, it's treasure-arrrr!

**Teresa:** It's *Shmanners*!

[theme music plays]

**Travis:** Hello, internet! I'm your husband host, Travis McElroy.

**Teresa:** And I'm your wife host, Teresa McElroy.

**Travis:** And you're listening to *Shmanners*!

**Teresa:** It's extraordinary etiquette...

**Travis:** For ordinary occasions. Hello, my dove.

**Teresa:** Hello, dear.

**Travis:** How are you?

**Teresa:** I'm—you know? I'm good. I think that we finally figured out our little podcasting sitch for this new...

**Travis:** Sound booth.

**Teresa:** Sound booth. Uh—

**Travis:** You're sitting in one of Bebe's play chairs.

**Teresa:** I am!

**Travis:** It's about a foot shorter... than me. It's great.

**Teresa:** Yeah. I mean, the shortness is—is one thing. But the thing is, like, I finally have a little room, not—

**Travis:** A little wiggle room.

**Teresa:** Yeah, a little wiggle room. I think because, you know, you're up there and I'm down here, we're occupying different space?

**Travis:** Different planes, yeah.

**Teresa:** Different planes, yeah. I can still see you. I can, you know move about a little bit.

**Travis:** [snorts]

**Teresa:** [holding back laughter] Hey!

**Travis:** I can roam!

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Now, for this week's episode, we're doin' a bio. And I know nothing about it at all. Not even a name. What I know is that Alex, our amazing researcher, sent over a list of potential topics, and one of them was, "The pirate mayor."

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** And I said, "Yes!"

**Teresa:** It was sent in by Connor Edwards.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, and Alex reads every email, so please continue to send topic ideas to [shmannerscast@gmail.com](mailto:shmannerscast@gmail.com).

**Travis:** Okay. So, Pirate mayor. I'm obviously intrigued.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

**Travis:** I have no idea if this is modern, or history, or literal, or...

**Teresa:** [laughs] Spin me a yarn. [laughs]

**Travis:** Yes, spin me a yarn, indeed! Oh, you want me to do it?

**Teresa:** I want you to do it. I want you—I want you to let your imagination run wild about the pirate mayor.

**Travis:** This is what I imagined, okay? Some pirates ransack a town, right? And the pirate's like, "[pirate voice] I'm in charge!" And takes over. But then finds that there—

**Teresa:** Well, wait a second. What year is it?

**Travis:** Oh! Uhh, let's say, like, 1690.

**Teresa:** Oh.

**Travis:** Yeah, this is while ago, right?

**Teresa:** Okay, okay.

**Travis:** And maybe this is someplace like—and I'm sorry, it's the only place I can think of thanks to *Pirates of the Caribbean*—like Tortuga.

**Teresa:** Okay, okay.

**Travis:** Um, and—

**Teresa:** That's still really early for Tortuga. You know this, right?

**Travis:** Uhh... okay. 1815.

**Teresa:** No, that's too late.

**Travis:** 1761!

**Teresa:** Yes, that's about right.

**Travis:** Okay. 1761, this pirate takes over the town and is like, "[pirate voice] Arr, yes! Let's have fun, boys! It's a—[stammering] party every day!"

But then finds that he's really interested in how government works, and he starts writing laws, and everyone's like, "Oh, he's a pretty fair and just mayor."

That's about where I'm at.

**Teresa:** Okay.

**Travis:** And then he finds, like, "[pirate voice] I'm going to retire from pirating, and focus mostly on, like, city sewage problems, and... infrastructure!"

**Teresa:** [laughs] I love it. That's beautiful. Great job.

**Travis:** That's not it at all, though—

**Teresa:** That's not it at all. [laughs]

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Okay. Uh, so his name... was Frank Ney.

**Travis:** Frank Nay. Like N-A-Y?

**Teresa:** Yes—N-E-Y. Ney.

**Travis:** N-E-Y. Okay.

**Teresa:** Uh, he was the mayor of Nanaimo. Uh, which is in British Columbia.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** He was the mayor on and off for about 20 years.

**Travis:** Wait, on and off? [laughs] So, like, he'd get elected, he would stop, and then he'd get elected again?

**Teresa:** I mean, I guess so. He just had some other things to do in between stuff.

**Travis:** Pirating.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** I assume pirating.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** Okay? Wait, when is this?

**Teresa:** This is... he was born in 1918.

**Travis:** Oh, okay.

**Teresa:** So very close to modern times.

**Travis:** Sure, sure. A leet—a leetle history. I li—this isn't now. It's a *little* history.

**Teresa:** A little historical.

**Travis:** A *little* history.

**Teresa:** A little bit. Um, so he was most well known for his outgoing personality and his, you know, iconic presence. Um, so—

**Travis:** Did he dress like a pirate?

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** He was known to attend civic events dressed up as a pirate. And he also has the, I mean, fantastic legacy of the invention of the Nanaimo bathtub race. Uh, which goes—did go, um, between—from the Georgia strait of Nanaimo to Vancouver.

**Travis:** Okay. Now, normally on this show... when we discuss something, uh, they have some kind of impact to culture. Um, or, like, society, right?

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

**Travis:** I feel like—we're five minutes in to what is normally a 30 to 40 minute episode, and you have told me he dressed like a pirate—

**Teresa:** Uh-huh.

**Travis:** —and he invented a bathtub race.

**Teresa:** Uh-huh.

**Travis:** And I don't know why we're talking about this fellow.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Okay.

**Travis:** Now, don't get me wrong! I like both of those things. That he dressed like a pirate at civic events, and that he invented a bathtub race. Which, how does that even happen? I guess you have to put wheels on the dang things, right?

**Teresa:** Uh, no. It's a boat race.

**Travis:** Well, I'm even more confused, now!

**Teresa:** It's a bathtub boat race.

**Travis:** I guess you gotta plug it up. And so what—[laughs]

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** What beyond those two things, though, make him a noteworthy Shmannerly figure?

**Teresa:** Okay. It is, he was incredibly active and incredibly proud of the civic life in this very small town. Um, he was a member of the Society of Notaries, of the Public—[stammering] Society of Notaries Public of British Columbia.

**Travis:** A notary public of British Columbia. Got it, okay.

**Teresa:** Yes. Um—

**Travis:** You know, when I was a kid, for a long time when I heard "notary public," I heard it as, "notor... republic."

**Teresa:** Ohh.

**Travis:** And that is not it at all. It's a notary... public.

**Teresa:** Public.

**Travis:** But that's not how I heard it!

**Teresa:** So, here's the thing, right? He ran a very busy and profitable notary practice on the island, and served a lot of different commenities—excuse me, committees, dedicated to the development of the island, right? Um—

**Travis:** I just want to say, and I hope this doesn't sound like I'm in any way making fun of notaries—I think it's wonderful that people have figured out a way to make businesses out of being able to say, like, "Yep! I saw it!" [laughs]

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** "Yep! I was there when it happened. That'll be \$20, please." Good for you, notaries!

**Teresa:** Congratulations

**Travis:** My mother was a notary.

**Teresa:** I know this. You've told me.

**Travis:** Oh—okay. I guess I brag about that? [laughs]

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Is that the thing I talk about all the—she was also the fastest typer in West Virginia at a time.

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm, yep.

**Travis:** Yep, okay.

**Teresa:** You've told me that too, mm-hmm, mm-hmm. Okay. Um, and so one of his other many jobs, civically, developmentally related, was that he was the president of Nanaimo Realty.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** So, this is his legacy. It's called Protection Island.

**Travis:** Okay? This is inter—'cause it almost has, like, a *Hunger Games* or, like, *Most Dangerous Game* feel, but the opposite? Of, like, "We are gonna take you to this island, and you'll feel totally safe." [laughs]

**Teresa:** [laughs] Well...

**Travis:** "This is the one place on Earth we can guarantee you won't be hunted for sport."

**Teresa:** Okay. So, what it is. So, this island is about a kilometer and a half from downtown Nanaimo.

**Travis:** That's, like, 80 miles.

**Teresa:** Sure.

**Travis:** No.

**Teresa:** Uh, I'm not—

**Travis:** It—it's not.

**Teresa:** It's not. I don't know—I don't know metric.

**Travis:** Half—half a mile? Ugh.

**Teresa:** [sighs]



**Travis:** Okay, you keep talking.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Travis googles it. And so it was the home of the Protection Island mine, which actually had a very, very terrible history. Um, so lots of accidents, including an uncontrollable gas fire that blew up in the powder house in 1911—

**Travis:** Oh boy.

**Teresa:** —a cable snap that sent 16 miners... down to the depths, uh, a mine that exploded and killed 150 people.

**Travis:** Oh boy.

**Teresa:** So it was closed.

**Travis:** It kind of makes the fact that I found out that one kilometer equals, like, .62 miles—it's not really as important [laughs] now.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Now it's kinda silly that I spent time looking that up, but...

**Teresa:** But it was—they closed it. They closed it in 1938.

**Travis:** Yeah!

**Teresa:** And they actually burned what was left of the mine, uh, when World War II ended.

**Travis:** Wait. As, like, a celebration, or... ?

**Teresa:** Yeah, yeah.

**Travis:** Wait, really?

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** They were just like, "Ah, World War II's done! Hey, you know that old mine that's been sittin' around? Let's burn it."

**Teresa:** Sure.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Either way, this is a prime real estate development, eh?

**Travis:** Are you trying to sell me land there?

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** Is that what this whole—and I don't just mean this episode, I mean the entire series—has been about?

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** You trying to sell me realty? You're my wife!

**Teresa:** Although I would really like to go to Canada.

**Travis:** I—well.

**Teresa:** I've always dreamed of a bed and breakfast on Prince Edward island.

**Travis:** I know, because of *Anne of Green Gables*.

**Teresa:** Yeah.

**Travis:** I know!

**Teresa:** [wistfully] Yeah.

**Travis:** I know! That is—so, for our honeymoon, Teresa wanted to go there, and I wanted to go to Ireland, so we went to Scotland.

**Teresa:** [laughs loudly]

**Travis:** Kind of split the difference.

**Teresa:** It's hardly the difference.

**Travis:** But that is how it worked out.

**Teresa:** That is how it worked out.

**Travis:** That is what happened. You can't deny that that is the truth.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Alright. Frank actually thought that this was a really great development opportunity.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** This little strip of dirt was going to waste, when all it really needed, according to him, was some TLC. So, in 1959, his realty company bought the island for—the whole—the island—for \$130,000.

**Travis:** Wow!

**Teresa:** Uh, and divided it into 344 lots, hoping that they could develop a neighborhood, right? Um, and this sounds like a pretty tough sell, but Frank? He was up to the challenge.

So, he went gangbusters, making sure that the island was cleaned up and presentable. And once that was done, he promoted it as someplace to live... by dressing as a pirate.

**Travis:** Ohhh.

**Teresa:** In fact, he took the pirate thing to its logical conclusion, um, by— [laughs] organizing treasure hunts for silver dollars, to lure buyers to the lots on the islands.

**Travis:** Now, I want you to know. I understand what you're saying. But you can't say, "To it's logical conclusion," when that could be [loudly] anything!

**Teresa:** [laughs loudly]

**Travis:** "He bought his own ship and sunk people's, you know, speedboats with cannons." Like, I don't know! He... keelhauled people.

**Teresa:** It seems like a logical conclusion to me.

**Travis:** It's *one* of the logical conclusions, for sure!

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** He dressed—he took it to its logical conclusion and got scurvy. I don't know!

**Teresa:** Well, so, I mean, it totally worked, because 300 lots were purchased right up front, [holding back laughter] as soon as they found their doubloons, I guess.

**Travis:** Then they're just buying it with your own doubloons. You know what I mean?

**Teresa:** Yes, right. Right, right, right. So he started dressing up as a pirate regularly. He would wave—

**Travis:** At this point, it sounds like he just liked that.

**Teresa:** I mean, it does sound like that. He'd wave a plastic sword around and sing she—sea chanties—sing... sea... shanties. [laughs quietly]

**Travis:** By the seashore.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Uh, and he would go out to the docks and wave at people. Um, and if he wasn't dressed as a pirate, you might catch him dressed as a riverboat captain.

**Travis:** Sure. [laughs quietly]

**Teresa:** Or leading a parade in a gigantic bow tie.

**Travis:** Uh-huh, yeah, yeah.

**Teresa:** And this was all to promote the city.

**Travis:** Sure. Well... sure. Sure. Let me say, though. It sounds also like Frank was havin' some fun promotin' himself.

**Teresa:** Well, I mean... does anyone really set out to be an icon

**Travis:** I mean, I—I do.

**Teresa:** You do? Hm.

**Travis:** Yeah.

**Teresa:** I mean—

**Travis:** Do you think I dress the way I do for fun? Yes. [laughs]

**Teresa:** Yes. Um, so... if you haven't gotten enough of this story, perhaps you want more details.

**Travis:** Good news. We have at least 23 minutes left in the episode.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Um, you may know him as the lead keyboardist for the rock band Trooper, but Paul Gogo is also the author of *Frank Ney: a Canadian Legend*. This is a delightful and endearing biography of the island's former mayor.

**Travis:** So, wait. The keyboardist for Trooper wrote a book about Frank Ney?

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Not Frank Ney is the keyboardist for Trooper—

**Teresa:** [through laughter] No!

**Travis:** —which is how I heard it. I was like, "Wow! What doesn't this guy do?"

**Teresa:** [laughs] Did I—

**Travis:** He also did the first heart transplant.

**Teresa:** [simultaneously] —did I mix up my clauses?

**Travis:** I don't know.

**Teresa:** Were my clauses reversed? Sorry about that.

**Travis:** I don't know. And you know what? I am excited to hear so much more about this pirate fellow. But first... how about a thank you note for our sponsors?

[theme music plays]

\*\*\*\*\*

**Travis:** This week, we want to say a thank you to our sponsors, one of which is Function of Beauty. Listen. One-size-fits-all may work for your accessories, but when it comes to your hair, we all need something a little different to help us look our best. What if hair care was as unique as you are?

I think my hair is pretty unique, and I like to treat it as such. I got some purple in there. It's gettin' a little longer. I don't want it to dry out. All of these things, you know? It's got a lot of body to it, and sometimes I can have a dry scalp.

So, I went to Function of Beauty, I plugged all that in, and they created a shampoo, conditioner, and treatments that fit my unique needs. There are over—get this—54 *trillion* possible ingredient combinations to make sure your formula is as unique as you are.

You take a quick quiz, you tell 'em about your hair, and they send it to you, including in a customized bottle! So, mine says, "Function of Travis," which is pretty exciting... for me personally. Plus, their formulas are vegan and cruelty-free. They never use sulfates, parabens, or any other harmful ingredient.

So, what are you waiting for? Go to [functionofbeauty.com/shmanners](https://functionofbeauty.com/shmanners) to take your four part hair profile quiz and save 20% on your first order. Go to [functionofbeauty.com/shmanners](https://functionofbeauty.com/shmanners) for 20% off, and let them know you heard about it from our show. That's [functionofbeauty.com/shmanners](https://functionofbeauty.com/shmanners).

Also, we want to say thank you to DoorDash. Continue supporting restaurants in your community safely. There are thousands of restaurants open for delivery on DoorDash, and they need you now more than ever.

So, go support your favorite restaurants on DoorDash. Ordering is easy. You open the DoorDash app, you choose what you want to eat, and your food will be left safely outside your door with the new contactless delivery drop off setting. We use it all the time.

We have two children, and the fact is, Teresa and I often forget that dinner exists until the last minute. So, having the option to not only order food but order from some of our favorite local places is a slam dunk, and that's a basketball term. So, right now, our listeners can get \$5 off their first order of \$15 or more, and zero delivery fees for their first month when you download the DoorDash app and enter code "shmanners." That's \$5 off your first order and zero delivery fees for a month when you download the DoorDash app in the app store and enter code "shmanners." Don't forget. That's code "shmanners" for \$5 off your first order with DoorDash.

We also have a special message here for Zoe Kingsley from Paige, Mom, and Dad. And Paige, Mom, and Dad wanna say, "Hey! Happy birthday, Zoe. We're so proud of all you've accomplished, from being a great student, black belt, and friend. We love your drive to help people, and can't wait to see what you do. We hope your sweet 16 is as amazing as you imagine, and that you like this shoutout from one of your favorite podcasts. Have fun driving! Love, your crazy family."

Aw, that's so sweet! Do have fun driving. Um, and be careful. And I'm glad you're a great black belt! And I'm glad you enjoy the show, Zoe! Uh, Zoe, you have a great family, and you are great, and happy birthday.

\*\*\*\*\*

[music plays]

**Speaker One:** Hey, you like movies? What about coming up with movie ideas over the course of an hour? 'Cause that's what we do every week on *Story Break*, a writer's room podcast where three Hollywood professionals have an hour to come up with a pitch for a movie or TV show based off of totally zany prompts.

**Speaker Two:** Like that time we reimagined *Star Wars*, based on our phone's autocomplete!

**Speaker One:** Luke Skywalker is a family man, and it's *Star Wars*, but it's a good idea.

**Speaker Two:** Okay. [laughs]

**Speaker Three:** How about the time we wrote the story of a bunch of Disney channel original movies, based solely on the title on the poster.

**Speaker One:** Okay, Sarah Hyland is the 50 Foot Woman. Let's just go with it, guys.

**Speaker Two:** Or the time we finally cracked the Adobe Photoshop feature film.

**Speaker One:** Stamp tool is your Woody, and then the autofill is the new Buzz Lightyear.

[laughs]

**Speaker One:** Join us as we have a good time imagining all the movies [dramatic voice] Hollywood is too cowardly to make! *Story Break* comes out every Thursday on Maximum Fun. I don't know why I'm using this voice now.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Travis:** So, when we last left off, we were talking about what instruments Frank did and did not play.

**Teresa:** No, we were not.

**Travis:** Okay. So this keyboardist for Trooper wrote a book about Frank Ney. And what?

**Teresa:** Yes. And—

**Travis:** So, you can check this book out.

**Teresa:** So, you can check this book out. Um, but he interviewed nearly everyone who knew Frank. And it's—it's amazing. Uh Alex is reading it.

**Travis:** Just for fun, now.



**Teresa:** Just for fun, now!

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, another legacy that Frank left on his beloved town is that he had investors name their streets. Here are some of the best streets.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Twiggly Wiggly Road.

**Travis:** Oh yes. I like this.

**Teresa:** Uh, there is a whole neighborhood named after Sherwood Forest, and you could buy a house on Bowstring Close, or Nottingham Drive, Robin Hood Drive, Loxley Place—

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** —or King John Way.

**Travis:** Now, if you were going to name a street, Teresa Marie, what would you name it?

**Teresa:** Oh. Hmm. I would want it to invoke some kind of feeling.

**Travis:** Mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** Right? So I think I would do something like... [pause] Pleasant Drive.

**Travis:** Oh, that's nice. You know what I'd call mine?

**Teresa:** What?

**Travis:** Dead End Street.

**Teresa:** Dead End?

**Travis:** Dead End.

**Teresa:** Street.

**Travis:** Or—or No Outlet Street.

**Teresa:** [laughs] What if—what if—

**Travis:** Not A Through.

**Teresa:** Not A Through! That's nice. That's a good one.

**Travis:** Yeah, there you go.

**Teresa:** But would you—would you want it to be, like, confusing in the way of it actually being a through street?

**Travis:** Or I'd call it, like, One Way. Yeah, I—I think—yeah.

**Teresa:** Oh, okay.

**Travis:** Clear—I—I'm going for... having someone be like, "I don't think you can do that." And then be like, "It's my street! Ha ha."

**Teresa:** [laughs] So, not a cul de sac, or actually—

**Travis:** No! It is a through street.

**Teresa:** —a dead end. It's a—

**Travis:** It's definitely a through—and a two way street, all of that. I just want it to be confusing, 'cause—and that's fun! You know? Confusing... drivers [holding back laughter] is—is just good, clean fun.

**Teresa:** These—these drivers, wielding a...

**Travis:** Yep.

**Teresa:** ... four ton piece of machinery. You want—you want to confuse—

**Travis:** That's just safe, good fun right there, yeah.

**Teresa:** Alright. Alright.

**Travis:** Just confusing them. And you know what? Maybe all the street signs on Not A Through are different! [laughs] Maybe the stop signs are green. Who knows? It's my street! [singing] It's my world of pure imagination.

**Teresa:** Probably the best thing about Frank is you—you talk about, um, this legacy that he's left, not only just, you know, the pirate guy, right? But also, he didn't hoard properties or overcharge mortgages, like some kind of, like, pirate Mr. Potter.

**Travis:** Like, kind of like a... pirate? [laughs]

**Teresa:** Right, right. Not like a pirate. He dressed like a pirate, did not behave like a pirate. Right?

**Travis:** mm-hmm.

**Teresa:** Um—

**Travis:** So he was more a Jack Sparrow than a Barbossa, you might say. More of a Jack Sparrow than, like, a Davy Jones, you might say.

**Teresa:** Sure.

**Travis:** Okay. Maybe even a Will Turner, if you wanna go that far.

**Teresa:** Can I say, it's been a long time since I've watched those movies, and I don't—

**Travis:** Well, I mean, yeah. Me too. I just—

**Teresa:** I don't recall hardly—

**Travis:** Oh, there—

**Teresa:** —I mean—

**Travis:** —you just don't have—

**Teresa:** I have a vague remembrance of those movies. They all kind of run together. There's, like, four 'em, right?

**Travis:** I think there's, like, 18 at this point.

**Teresa:** [laughs] Oh, okay.

**Travis:** Yeah. There was the one where it was Jack Sparrow vs. Freddy vs. Jason. That one gets pretty silly, you guys.

**Teresa:** Um, so, a couple other nice little tidbits about Frank. He developed affordable neighborhoods, gave away a decent chunk of his own property holdings to develop into local parks.

**Travis:** Nice.

**Teresa:** Um, during one of his mayoral terms, he initiated the creation of cutaway corners of sidewalk curbs in downtown Nanaimo. He did this after spending a full day in a wheelchair so he could experience for himself the difficulties of getting around in Nanaimo.

**Travis:** Okay!

**Teresa:** Um, we haven't—and we are about to get to the ultimate legacy that he has.

**Travis:** This dude's got a lot of legacies! Okay, go on!

**Teresa:** Alright. The bathtub races.

**Travis:** Okay. I had questions.

**Teresa:** 1967 was Canada's—

**Travis:** I just wanna just put a pin in it real quick to say, I think making your town more accessible is in many ways, perhaps all ways, better than a bathtub race. But now go on.

**Teresa:** But this is what he's most *known* for.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Besides dressing up like a pirate.

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** Uh, 1967 was Canada's centennial year!

**Travis:** And a prime year for bathtubs.

**Teresa:** I guess so! And—

**Travis:** They came in every color. You had puke green, puke brown, weird yellow, all of 'em.

**Teresa:** Those are all of 'em?

**Travis:** You had, uh, like... kind of—kind of pink, but in an off putting way? There was, like, sky blue, but hard to look at, you know? All of these. We have a sky blue bathtub in our house that the previous owners just kind of painted white, and clearly not the right kind of paint!

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** 'Cause there is now about a two foot wide circle of blue. [laughs] Just peelin' right in the middle of it. And every time Bebe's in it she goes, "Why is that there?"

And we say, "Hmm. Bad flipping."

**Teresa:** We're workin' on it. Anyway...

**Travis:** I'm just peelin' it the rest of the way off. Is that what I am not supposed to do?

**Teresa:** Uh... [sighs]

**Travis:** I want it all blue.

**Teresa:** No.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Okay. Um, so cities and provinces across the nation were encouraged to celebrate this centennial by creating some kind of long lasting community project. Maybe a soup kitchen, or new parks, or something like that.

**Travis:** Sure. Butterfly garden.

**Teresa:** Frank Ney said, "Bathtub race."

**Travis:** Okay. Soup kitchen was also good. I'm just saying, soup kitchen was on the table.

**Teresa:** Yes.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** It definitely was. And I'm saying that, like, he also did a lot of other, like, really great stuff—

**Travis:** [simultaneously] Okay. Cool, cool, cool.

**Teresa:** —but the bathtub race is when you put a motor on the bathtub. You have to plug it up, like you mentioned, but like—like a motorboat.

**Travis:** It's not a race to see how far you can get before it sinks.

**Teresa:** [laughs] No. In fact, it was a 36 mile course!

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** That is a long race!

**Travis:** That sounds like a whole day!

**Teresa:** Yeah! [laughs]

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** As the sun rose on the city, in the—[laughs] for the centennial event, more than 200 tubbers entered the competition, and they paraded themselves through the streets of Nanaimo. And only 47 completed the 36 mile course.

**Travis:** The rest died.

**Teresa:** It started on the beaches of Nanaimo—

**Travis:** They didn't die, right? I made that joke—hold on.

**Teresa:** No. No, no, no, no.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** No, no, no. [laughs quietly]

**Travis:** I made that joke and you didn't correct me, and you gave me heart palpitations.

**Teresa:** You know what? I wasn't listening. [laughs]

**Travis:** I—oh. Okay.

**Teresa:** Sorry.

**Travis:** No, it's alright. I'm just here, doing my best.

**Teresa:** I'm here doing *my* best.

**Travis:** I know, but can't we do our best together?

**Teresa:** Well, I'm also trying to read.

**Travis:** Fair. I'm trying to joke!

**Teresa:** [laughs] Trying.

**Travis:** Oh boy.

**Teresa:** [laughs]

**Travis:** Oh boy. Aw, beans!

**Teresa:** [laughs] Alright. [clears throat] It was meant to be a one time celebration for the centennial, but 53 years later, they're still going strong.

**Travis:** Nice.

**Teresa:** Uh, there's some really great footage of Frank with his sword to the heavens, cruising through the waters in a bathtub boat the size of a large pontoon boat.

**Travis:** Oh, wow.

**Teresa:** Yeah!

**Travis:** Wait, that's a big tub!

**Teresa:** It is a big tub. Tubs come in all shapes and sizes.

**Travis:** I mean, I guess, but I didn't think you could get a bathtub the size of a pontoon boat!

**Teresa:** Hmm, I guess you can.

**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** It doesn't say you have to, like, purchase a factory made tub. You can make a tub out of lots of stuff.

**Travis:** I guess that's true. Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, so this led to the birth of the Loyal Nanaimo Bathtub Society in 1968.

**Travis:** Nice.

**Teresa:** Uh, with a goal of using the bathtub races to bring tourism to the island.



**Travis:** Okay.

**Teresa:** Um, and Frank Ney of course served as their first chairman and admiral.

**Travis:** Oh, okay. I like—

**Teresa:** Of course he did!

**Travis:** —yeah, I like that. That's nice. Had a fleet of tubs.

**Teresa:** Uh, he was dubbed a bathtub ambassador, traveling all over the world to sing the praises of both competitive bathtub races and, of course, Nanaimo, right? Um, he established bathtub racing as far away as Australia and New Zealand! And there's even a picture of him with the Queen of England.

**Travis:** Oh boy.

**Teresa:** Um, he was also a devoted family man. Let's—let's also, like, round him out, right?

**Travis:** Sure.

**Teresa:** He had 11 children, several of whom were adopted from a variety of different backgrounds.

**Travis:** 11 kids!

**Teresa:** I know, right?

**Travis:** We got two, and it's a lot!

**Teresa:** That's—that's a lot. Um, in 1984 he was made a Freeman of the City of Nanaimo, to honor him and his lifelong service to the community. Um, unfortunately... he, uh—he died, after a long battle with cancer, in 1992.

**Travis:** So, what? That's, uhhh... 80—74 years? He was born in 1918?

**Teresa:** Mm-hmm.

**Travis:** Died in '92, 74 years? I mean, that's—listen. Solid, but still. Always hurts to lose somebody like this. He sounds like he was an amazing dude.

**Teresa:** He was an amazing dude! His legacy is alive and well in the Nanaimo community archives. Um, you can see one of his pirate outfits. You can see some of his, like, plastic swords, and all kinds of stuff like that. Um, and, like I mentioned, Paul Gogo's biography was published in 1995. Um, and it was—you can still order it today. He was even—Frank Ney, he was even memorialized in an episode of *Bones*.

**Travis:** Oh, wow! The biggest honor!

**Teresa:** Well, I mean... no, but—

**Travis:** No, hey!

**Teresa:** —pretty cool!

**Travis:** I was only half joking. If I got talked about in an episode of *Bones*, I'd be over the moon. Are you kidding me?

**Teresa:** Alright. Uh, that's not all, because in March of 2007, a satirical musical review based on Ney premiered at Nanaimo's Western Edge Theater. Um, and not even a month later, G. Kim Blank's play, *Being Frank*, was performed at the Port Theater in Nanaimo. Um, I think that... like several of the people that we've talked about, it's something that just kind of—these people leave not just physical representations of themselves. They also leave a kind of culture, right?

**Travis:** Yeah, they inspire other people to make things better, and to take pride in things, and to make change wherever they can.

**Teresa:** Exactly! Um, so on March 12th, 2018, everybody came out to celebrate what would've been Frank Ney's 100th birthday, at Maffeo Sutton Park. Uh, where there is a statue of him. Um, he has his sword in the air, and he's smiling, bein' a cool dude. Um, so they attached a bunch of balloons to his—his, uh—his statue, and they gave him a birthday sash. And these bathtub races that he started out? They've changed just a little bit. Instead of ending at Vancouver, the finish line is at his beautiful statue.

**Travis:** Aww. That's wonderful. Well, this has been a bit shorter episode, but I think we got there. You learned a lot about Frank Ney, the pirate mayor. Uh, thank you so much. Who—remind me, who submitted that?

**Teresa:** That was submitted by...

**Travis:** I put you on the spot. I'm so sorry.

**Teresa:** You did, you did. I have to scroll all the way up to the beginning...  
[pause]

**Travis:** We're getting there.

**Teresa:** Connor Edwards.

**Travis:** Thank you so much, Connor. Um, and thank you to Alex for the research. If you have other topic suggestions, you can email us, [shmannerscast@gmail.com](mailto:shmannerscast@gmail.com). Don't forget to follow us on Twitter, @shmannerscast.

**Teresa:** Which is where we get questions from y'all when we call for questions.

**Travis:** Uh, thank you to Max Fun, our podcast home. My brothers and I wrote a podcasting book called *Everybody Has a Podcast (Except You)*. You can preorder it at [mcelroypodcastbook.com](http://mcelroypodcastbook.com). It is a step-by-step guide that'll teach you how to make a podcast you're proud of. Uh, plus it's funny! Because we made it. And it's funny, and you'll like it.

Um, go check out all the other McElroy shows at [mcelroy.family](http://mcelroy.family). Uh, who else do we thank, Teresa?

**Teresa:** We always thank Brent "brentalfloss" Black for writing our theme music, which is available as a ringtone where those are found. Also, thank you to Kayla M. Wasil for our Twitter thumbnail art. Thank you to Bruja Bettay—excuse me, Bruja Betty Pinup Photography for the cover picture of our fan-run Facebook group, *Shmanners Fanners*. Go and join that if you love to give and get excellent advice.

**Travis:** And that's gonna do it for us, so join us again next week.

**Teresa:** No RSVP required.

**Travis:** You've been listening to *Shmanners*...

**Teresa:** Manners, *Shmanners*. Get it?

[theme music plays]

\*\*\*\*\*

Maximumfun.org.

Comedy and Culture.

Artist Owned.

Listener Supported.