



The Tribune

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 CHARLES H. NOLAN
 Publisher

BARRE BEACOCK
 Advertising Manager

JOHN MONTGOMERY
 Editor

EDITORIAL DEPT: Annette Lamure, Keith Bolander
 DISPLAY ADVERTISING DEPT: Lois Wideman, Art Dixon
 BUSINESS OFFICE: Joan Marshall, Dorreen Deacon, Eileen Glover

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Editorial

Councillor is unfair

Councillor Jim Doble almost graciously apologized, in a self-serving letter printed elsewhere on this page, for the possibly slanderous remarks he made last week at the budget committee meeting.

Mr. Doble hedged around apologizing to the library staff before trying to edge out of responsibility by casting aspersions on the accuracy of the original reporting, inferring that the person who wrote the editorial was not familiar with the incident and lastly by accusing The Tribune of over-reacting to the whole thing.

His apology would have been quite acceptable if he hadn't added the qualifier "if I was quoted correctly." The Tribune states unequivocally that our reporting in this incident was accurate and in fact we have verified the accuracy of the quote with other members of council.

During a telephone conversation Mr. Doble insisted his remarks had been taken out of context but this is extremely unlikely as he was quoted verbatim and the conversation leading up to his now famous remarks was included in the story.

Sort of

He apologizes

Dear Sir,

In regards to your editorial about my comments concerning Terry Verity, Chief Librarian, I feel an apology is in order, if I was quoted correctly. Comments which should have been directed to the library budget were inexcusable when directed to an individual's ability and dedication.

I may have erred in that particular point but as far as the overall budget for the library I have no apologies to make. Vandorf, Lemonville and the Museum Boards came in below last year's budget figures with Recreation up 6 per cent, Ballantrae with only a \$365 increase and Stouffville up slightly. The Library Board's asked for budget came in at 30 per cent increase which was considered by most council members to be excessive when the taxpayers are already paying \$25,000 a year in interest alone on monies borrowed for the library building and grounds. The Library budget of \$90,000 as approved by council still constitutes 11 per cent of the town's total expenditures, some of which are the above mentioned boards, wages, road maintenance, etc.

It was most unfortunate that the person responsible for the editorial was not the same person who covered this important yearly budget meeting.

The over-reaction of The Tribune regarding the library board's budget is unfair to council in the light of the fact that one would have to search a long way to find another municipality that will have no mill increase in their 1978 budget and this is not accomplished by granting excessive increases.

Jim Doble, Councillor,
 Ward 1,
 R.R. 3, Newmarket.

Also, Mr. Doble offered no explanation as to how his comments would have been mitigated by our giving more background.

The Ward 1 councillor then goes on to say it was "unfortunate" the person who wrote the editorial did not also cover the meeting.

In fact the author of the editorial was the reporter who covered the meeting and, as was explained to Mr. Doble, the editorial was then read by the editor who made some minor revisions.

We are further accused of over-reacting and treating council unfairly since they have kept the local mill rate down. Our editorial deals not with the fact that the budget was cut so much as the continuing animosity shown toward the library by certain members of council. Especially as exemplified by Mr. Doble's slurring remarks.

The Tribune reacted because we feel this treatment is grossly unfair to the library board and staff who have done a tremendous job in the past three or four years of upgrading an almost non-existent service into a municipal show spot.

In our telephone conversation last week Mr. Doble sort of sloughed the whole issue off by saying, "Well, you have to sell newspapers."

This type of reporting, in our opinion, does not necessarily enhance sales of The Tribune. However, we feel it is our paramount responsibility to inform the public of these issues which so vitally affect our pocketbooks and the quality of our lives.

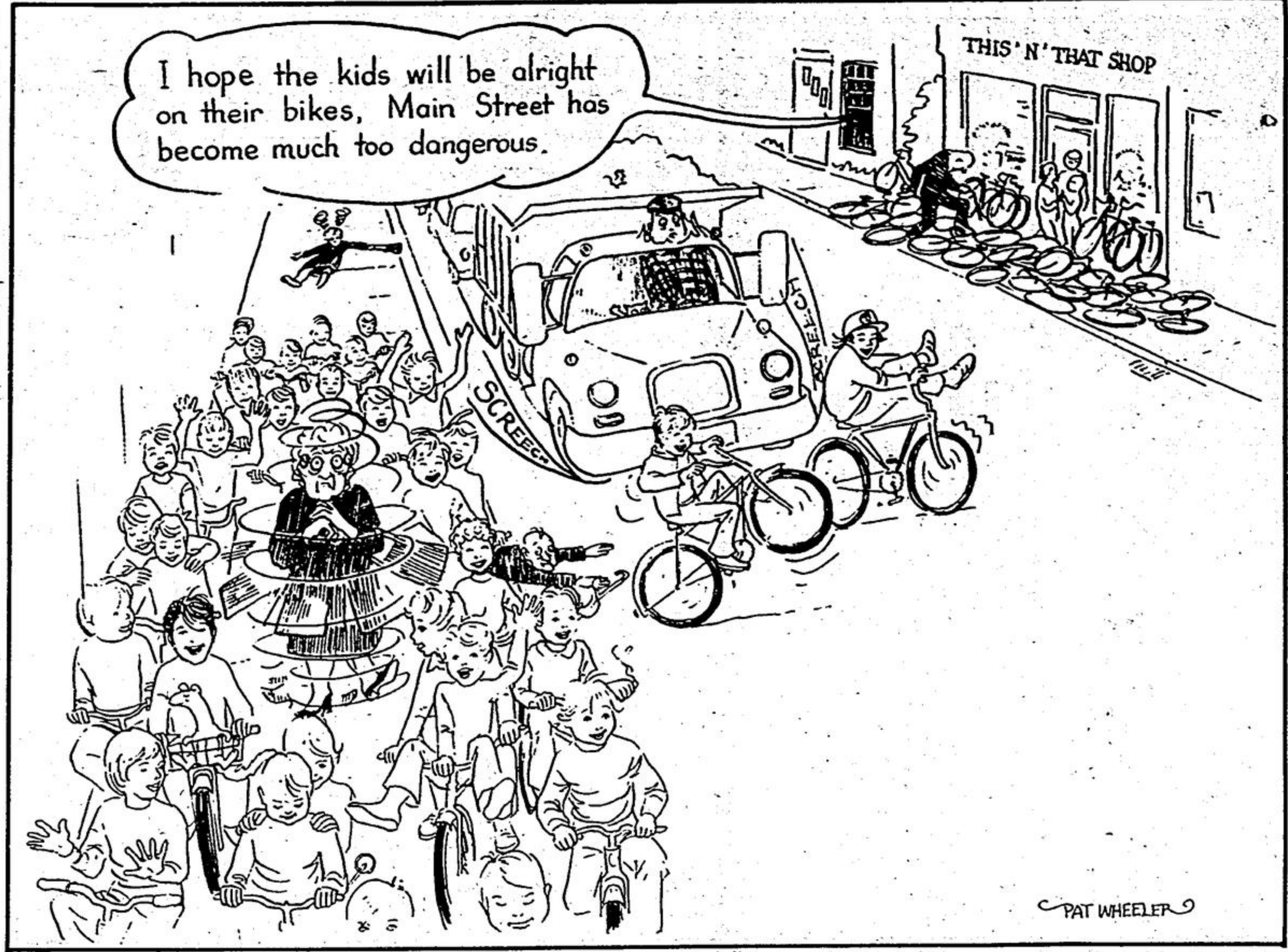
Also there has been a strong public reaction to Mr. Doble's comments and generally to the attitude of council toward the library. Obviously the issue is one of some concern.

There is no doubt the increase in the library budget is considerable but we just spent close to \$400,000 to erect a new library last year and now we have to spend some money to fill it with books. It is not just a problem of filling more shelf space. The library circulation has increased tremendously so the books already owned by the library are more often in circulation and thus are unavailable a good deal of the time.

Another point Mr. Doble made when he called The Tribune is that he wants to see this \$26,000 per year debenture out of the way before allowing the library a considerable increase in operating funds. The point is it is a 20 year debenture. Does Mr. Doble expect us to wait 20 years before upgrading the library's collection?

It is council's prerogative to set the library budget and of course we will have to live with their decision but we have to add that the reason we face such a tremendous increase in the budget is not because the library board has gone on a wild spending spree but because so dismally little money was spent on the library service in previous years.

In our opinion the library board is only trying to upgrade the service to a reasonable degree. We are paying now for years of neglect.



Booze, barbecue and beach

By John Montgomery

Summer has now been officially ushered in, with prodigious amount of steak, hamburgers, hotdogs and especially beer.

The May 24th trek to "cottage country" is so firmly entrenched it has become almost a ritual and this year, as I have almost every year for the past 12 or 13 years, I spent the weekend at Sauble Beach.

As a high school student I used to thump up and "crash" wherever I could but now Alice and I stay at my friend Gene's cottage. It is almost a tradition that Gene invite us up every year so I have been wrangling for a lifetime invitation — something that could be made a condition of purchase if the cottage is ever sold — but to no avail.

Actually the whole area around Sauble, Port Elgin, Southampton, Wiarton is like one huge time-warp on May 24th with muscle cars full of young beer drinkers roaring up and down the streets and everybody trying to act like they are in an Annette Funnijello beach blanket movie.

Driving over to Port Elgin Sunday the highway is lined with roadside partiers who raise their beer bottles on high as we scoot by in my brother's over-powered and rumbling orange Plymouth.

"Bunch of burn-outs," my brother laconically describes them as we tool by.

At Port Elgin we visit my brother-in-law who has a cottage on one of the main streets leading to the beach. There is an endless procession of sports cars, vans, muscle cars, motorcycles and a few family vehicles that look hopelessly out of place.

The road is on a slight grade and as we sit a half ton truck goes rolling down the hill with several young guys in hot pursuit. They get along side the truck, open the driver's door

and one man dives in and brings the runaway to a halt.

No-one pays too much attention and the conversation quickly reverts to discussions of the weather (cold) and beer supplies (short).

There is something about May 24th that causes huge quantities of beer to simply evaporate and by late Sunday and early Monday the bootleggers are doing a roaring trade.

My brother-in-law tells us of a beer tent at Port Elgin that was drunk dry in some two hours. He also relates a hair-raising tale of a boozey 15 mile canoe race held early in the weekend. Apparently everybody filled their canoes with potables and then nearly every vessel tipped in fast water, causing great consternation to the bombed contestants.

The only injury was one guy who fell on some rocks during a portage and ended up with cuts caused by the beer bottle he refused to let go of on his hand, requiring some 18

stitches and the commandeering of a camper's car to get the guy to a hospital before he bled to death.

Sunday night after the hockey game we hear on the news that the police have closed off the road between Sauble and the provincial park. Everybody registers acute disappointment.

"Aah, we missed it again," Gene's sister Mel mournfully mutters.

It seems May 24th at Sauble is not complete without some major confrontation between beery young holidayers and police and we have developed a tradition of never even seeing the slightest trace of it.

It is embarrassing to come home every year and have all my friends ask, "Did you get hurt in the riot?"

How can I tell them that because of a combination of fresh air, sand, beer and extravagant barbecued steak dinners I was, at the time of the riot, peacefully snoozing back at the cottage.

Oh well, maybe next year.



WINDOW ON WILDLIFE

Lamprey major problem

By ART BRIGGS-JUDE

Part of the east branch of the Humber River has its beginnings just south of King City. From there it angles south, twisting and turning through rolling and wooded country, till it joins up with its sister stream, the west branch, near Woodbridge. Now a sizable watercourse, the river cuts across metro, tunnels under the 401 highway and continues in a parallel direction with Jane St. eventually slipping under the Lakeshore and emptying into Lake Ontario west of Sunnyside.

In its upper reaches, the Humber supports some trout along with various other fresh water species. Below the Boyd Conservation area near Woodbridge however, the water starts to pick up pollutants to such an extent that by the time it reaches Humber Bay, few if any trout can survive. This fact was pointed out very clearly when Ontario began planting Coho salmon in the streams of western Lake Ontario. For while the young smolts survived and returned to such waters as the Credit River and Bronte Creek, no such success was realized from the Humber.

But the Humber River has, in spite of its water condition, contributed somewhat to the success story of the Pacific salmon introductions. Early in 1968, for example, the federal government began collecting sea lampreys in the Humber as part of the programme to test the effectiveness of the chemical T.F.M. This toxic solution, discovered in 1956, and field tested for two years after, was being used to treat lamprey spawning streams in the upper Great Lakes.

As the treatment programme followed a scheduled pattern down through the Great Lakes watershed, Lake Ontario only started the application of T.F.M. in the spring of 1971. After initial surveys with electro-shocking equipment to determine the presence of larval lamprey in the stream, the chemical is metered into the water-course. By careful monitoring, the liquid formulation is made lethal to the developing lampreys, while having no adverse effect on the fish in the same water.

And as young lampreys spend anywhere from two to seven years in the streams, it is here they are most vulnerable. For when the ammocoetes, as they are called, reach a length of about six inches, they change appearance, taking on the adult form. Now they move down stream and out into the lake to

begin a year or more of devastation. With a mouth well adapted for sucking, the lampreys attach themselves to the sides of fish. The strong suction makes it difficult for the fish to dislodge this predator, and so it remains, rasping a hole in the flesh with its harp, tooth-covered tongue. Sometimes the lamprey weakens the fish to the ravages of disease or other predators, or it may hang on to kill its host outright. Often, however, trout and salmon especially, are found with healed over scars from lamprey attacks.

In 1970 for example, almost every coho caught on the Credit River bore these scars, while in 1977 only 4 per cent of the salmon boated showed these deadly markings. And while the fish were being checked for tell-tale scars, and the streams were being surveyed and subsequently treated, the Humber River was yielding valuable information on the adult lampreys also. For each spring as these now mature pests wiggle their way into this river looking for suitable spawning beds upstream, they are collected. The results have been most encouraging.

In 1968, with an already depleted large fish population in the western basin of Lake Ontario, 1200 adult sea lampreys were caught. After introducing the salmon programme in 1969, the lamprey taken reached a peak of 6800 in 1975, then showed a remarkable decrease to 1600 last year. This despite the fact that over 11 million trout and salmon have been stocked by both New York State and the Province of Ontario during those years. The deadly onslaught of this highly destructive predator has, it seems, been greatly reduced.

So it caused more than a mild concern this past week when young lampreys were discovered some 40 miles upstream where the east branch of the Humber parallels Major Mackenzie Drive, west of Maple. Could this section of stream be another unknown spawning bed of these lethal serpentine? Samples taken to the Ministry of Natural Resources at Richmond Hill were carefully scrutinized. Thankfully they proved to be specimens of the harmless brook lamprey, a small native species that does not attack fish.

As a salmon fisherman, I sighed in relief. For it was only two weeks ago at Pt. Dalhousie that a 16 lb. Chinook salmon was brought in with a young lamprey still attached. To my untrained eye, it looked for all the world like the seven inch creatures were caught in the creek.

Kids' stuff

Johnny Fire-nose slays dragons

By David Elliott,
 Grade 6
 Dickson Hill Public School

Thousands of years ago, there came a time...



when the earth became overpopulated with dragons. Dragons were everywhere, causing great fear. Sometimes they would attack and injure, and even kill many people.

One day a meeting was called to deal with the problem of dragons. A great discussion took place. Many ideas were put forth and many schemes were promoted. The meeting went on for days.

One day some bright person came up with the idea and convinced his friends that fire could most successfully be fought with fire. But the big problem was how to do it, and, as common in most meetings, more discussion took place. A solution seemed impossible.

However, during much of this meeting Mr. and Mrs. Bignose had been doing an awful lot of thinking. So outrageous were their thoughts that they were ashamed. But finally they hesitantly brought forward a suggestion.

Johnny, their son, had been blessed with a bigger nose than them. Could it be possible that the gods would allow him to breathe fire even hotter than the dragons' breath?

The people thought it was a great idea and decided to build the world's greatest bonfire. Some gathered stones and others paper, and most of them went great distances to gather wood.

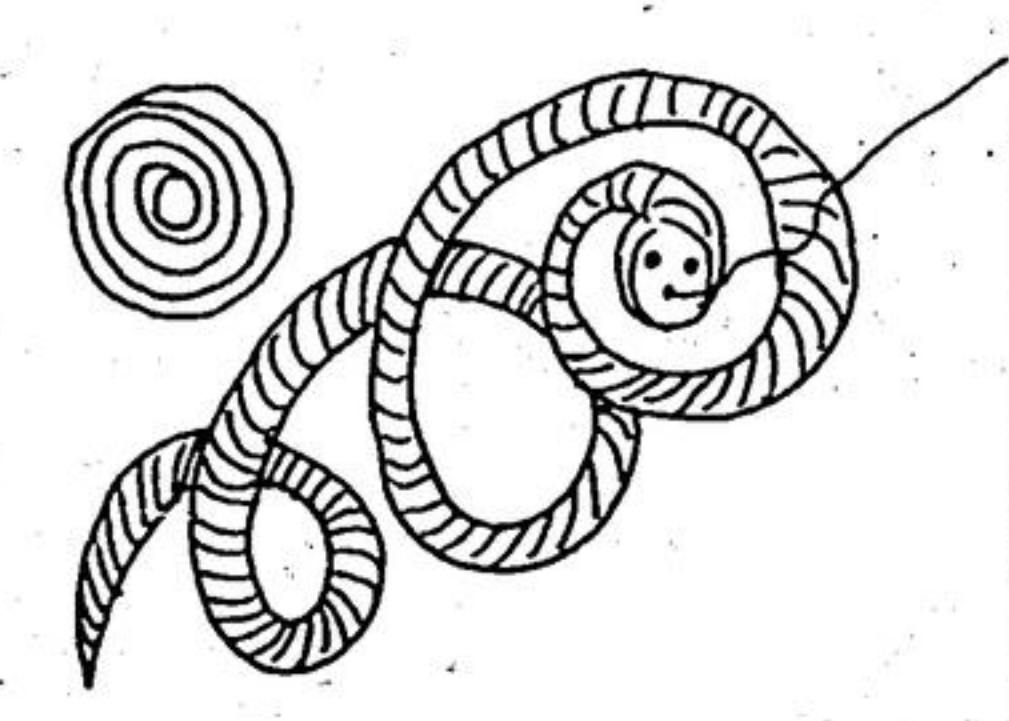
The fire was lit. The musicians came and the great fire dance began. People sang, danced and prayed to the fire god. All this time attention was on Johnny Bignose. This was probably the biggest fire dance that had ever taken place. Would the fire god give them an answer?

All of a sudden something strange began to happen. A faint blue flame began to come from Johnny's nose.

The message was quickly carried to the king who sent his best men to visit the Bignose family. The king's men told Mr. and Mrs. Bignose that if they would allow Johnny to fight dragons he would give them his best horse chariot and let them live in the king's palace for the rest of their lives.

So they sent Johnny out to fight and about a year later he had dispatched all the dragons with his marvellous fire nose.

This snake flies



If you have some toddlers around the house you can make them a whirly snake to fly. Start with a circle of cardboard and cut it round and round till you have a spiral. Attach a string and the little ones have their own 'kite' and, hopefully, will leave yours alone.