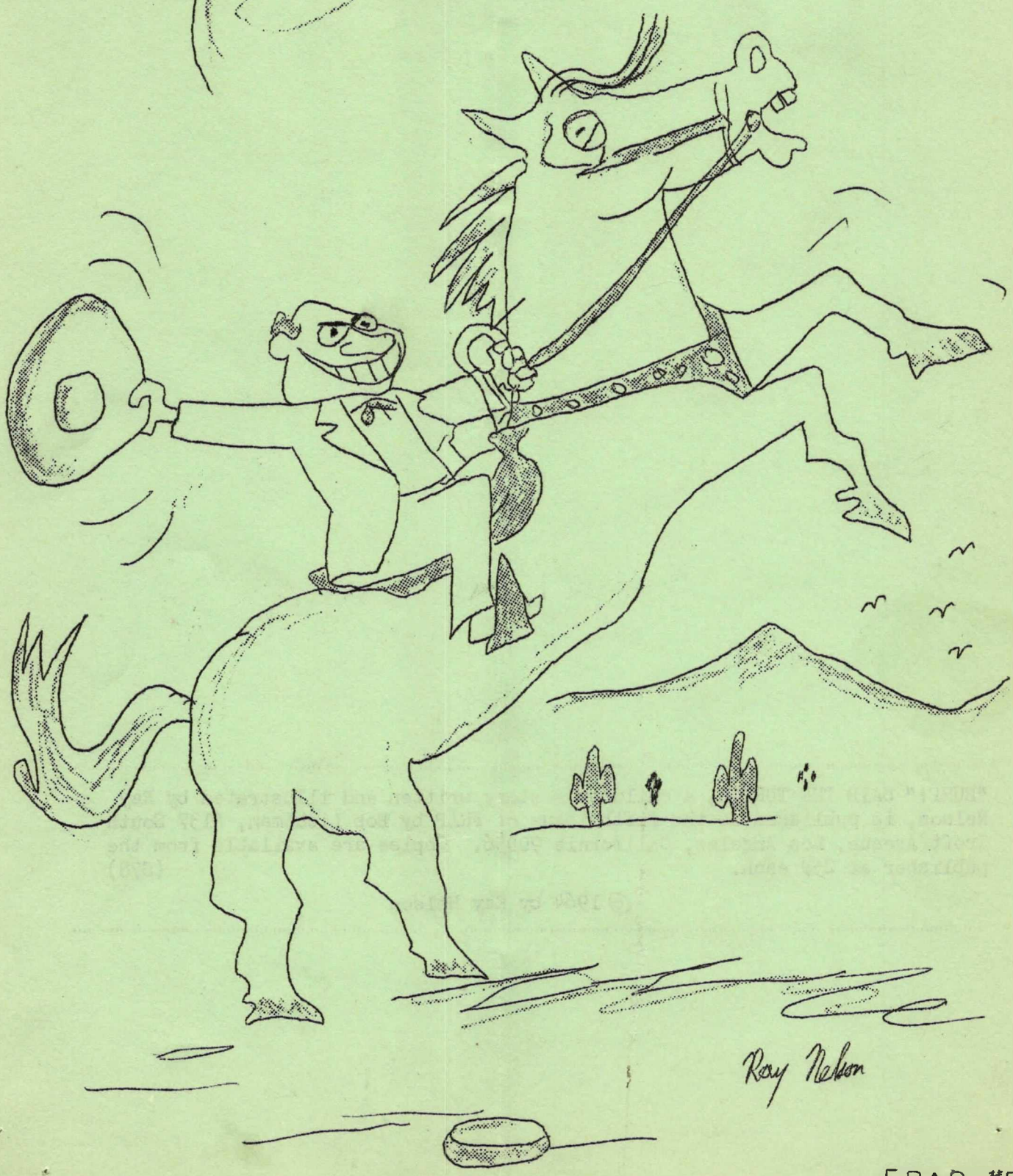


"Burp!" Said The Turtle

by ray nelson

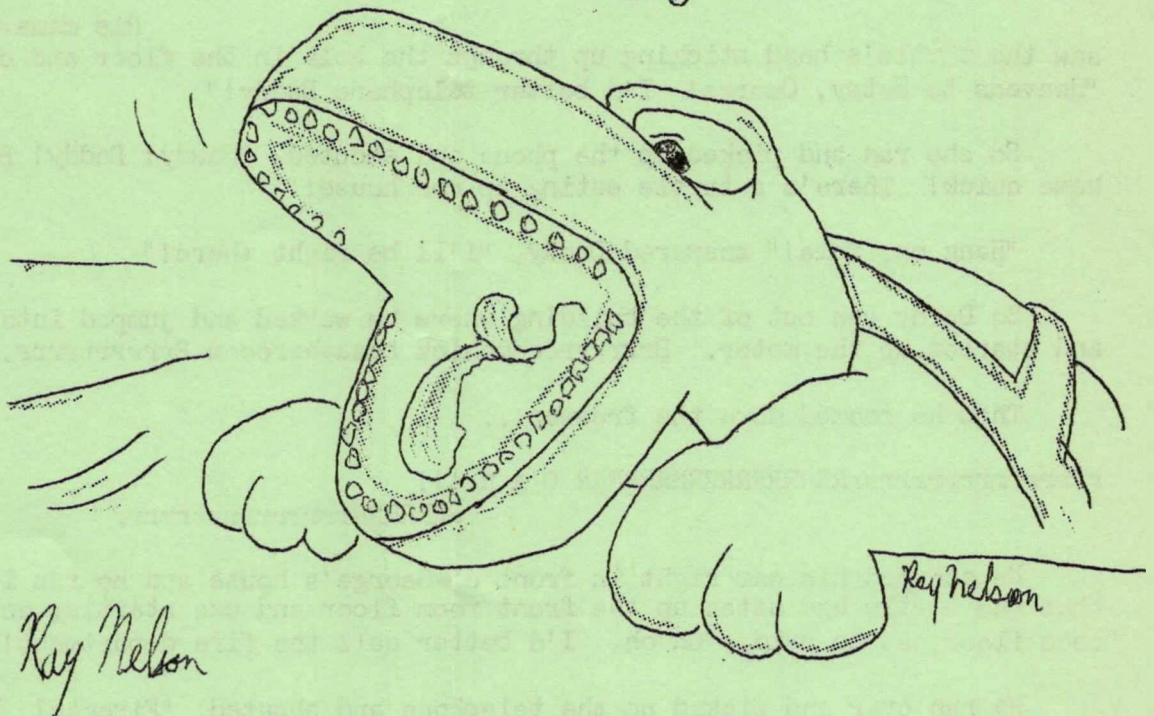


Ray Nelson

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“BURP”
Said the Turtle.



by Ray Nelson

ONCE UPON A TIME there was this turtle, see, and he lived at the bottom of a pond. What this turtle liked best of all to do was swim up to the surface of the pond and blink at the sun. He really liked blinking at the sun. It was his main interest in life. Every day without fail he would swim up and stick his nose out of the water and look at that sun until his old turtle eyes hurt.

Then one day he came swimming up through the water to take his usual peek, but when he stuck his nose out, there was no sun to be seen. For a moment, the turtle thought that the sun had gone away, never to return, but then he saw that somebody had built a house right over his pond. All he could blink at now was the bottom of the house.

"We'll see about that!" said the turtle, and he opened his mouth up real wide, then a little wider, then a little wider....and took a huge big bite out of the bottom of the house.

Munch, munch, munch, went the turtle.

Finally he ate his way right up through the floor of that house and poked

"WHO'S THERE?" yelled Little George.

"It's me! The fireman! Let me in!" answered the fireman.

So George let the fireman in, and the fireman saw that the turtle had eaten up the front room floor and the dining room floor....AND HE WAS STARTING ON THE KITCHEN!

"Oh oh!" said the fireman. "I'd better call the police."

The fireman grabbed the phone and shouted, "HELLO POLICE? YOU'D BETTER GET HERE QUICK, BECAUSE THERE'S A TURTLE EATING UP THIS HOUSE!"

"Hang on," answered the policeman. "I'll be right there!"

Then the policeman raced out of his police station and jumped on his motorcycle and started the motor. VAAAAAAAAAAROOOOOOOOOOOOOM!

Then he came zooming down the freeway...zzzzzzZZZZOOOOOOOMmmmmmmmmmm...and stopped right outside little George's house and knocked on the door.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

"WHO'S THERE?" yelled little George.

"It's me, the policeman. Open the door!" answered the policeman.

So George let the policeman in and the policeman saw.....that the turtle had eaten up the front room and the dining room and the kitchen.....AND WAS STARTING ON THE STAIRS!

"Oh oh," said the policeman. "There IS a turtle eating up this house! I'd better call the Army!"

So he ran to the nearest telephone and shouted into it, "HELLO! HELLO! ARMY? YOU'D BETTER GET HERE FAST, BECAUSE THERE'S A TURTLE EATING UP THIS HOUSE!"

"Hang on," answered the Army soldier, "I'll be right there!"

The Army soldier ran out of his tent and jumped into his tank and started the motor. rumble rumble rumble ROAR!

Then he came zooming in his tank down the freeway. BDRRRRBDRRRRBDRRRRRDRRR.

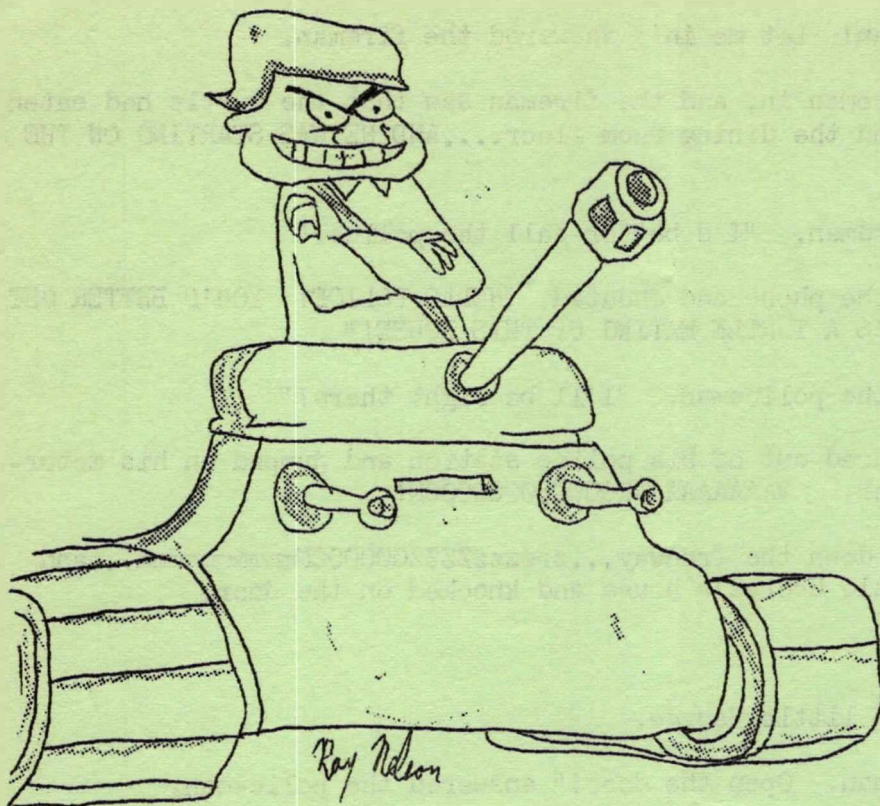
He drove up and parked his tank in the parking space right in front of George's house and ran up to the door and knocked.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

"WHO'S THERE?" yelled Little George.

"It's me, the Army soldier. Let me in!" answered the Army soldier.

So George let the Army soldier in and he saw.....that the turtle had eaten up the front room, the dining room, the kitchen, and the stairs....and HE WAS STARTING TO EAT THE BEDROOM!



"Oh oh," said the Army soldier, "that turtle really is eating up this house. I'd better call the Marines!"

He grabbed the neatest telephone and shouted, "HELLO? HELLO? MARINES? YOU'D BETTER GET OUT HERE FAST! A TURTLE IS EATING UP THIS HOUSE!"

"Hang on," answered the Marine. "I'll be right there."

The Marine ran out of his barracks and jumped into his helicopter and the helicopter took off and flew way up in the air, higher than the clouds.

f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1

It came down and landed in the street right in front of George's house.

f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 f1 bump.

The Marine jumped out and ran up to the door and knocked.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

"WHO'S THERE?" yelled little George.

"It's me, the Marine. Open the door!" answered the Marine.

So George opened the door and the Marine saw.....that the turtle had eaten up the front room, eaten up the dining room, eaten up the kitchen, eaten up the stairs, eaten up the bedroom.....AND HE WAS STARTING TO EAT THE BATHROOM!

"Oh oh," said the Marine. "There IS a turtle eating up this house. I'd better call the Navy!"

The Marine ran to the neatest phone and picked it up and shouted, "HELLO! HELLO! NAVY? YOU'D BETTER GET HERE QUICK, BECAUSE THERE'S A TURTLE EATING UP THIS HOUSE!"

"Hang on," answered the Navy sailor, "I'll be right there."

The Navy sailor ran down his dock and jumped into his battleship and blew the big whistle BEEEEEEEEEEEP and rang the bell DINGDING DINGDING and blew the little whistle TWEEEEEEEEET and shouted "ALL HANDS ON DECK! PREPARE TO HOIST ANCHOR! HERE WE GO!"

He pulled up the anchor and the huge propellor in the back started to turn and the battleship floated proudly out onto the water.

Swishswishswishswishswishswishswishsiwshsiwshswishswishswishswishswish.

It sailed across the sea and into the bay and up the river and up the stream and up the drainage canal until at last it stopped right near George's house. The sailor jumped out of his battleship and ran up to George's front door and knocked.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

"WHO'S THERE?" yelled little George.

"It's me, the Navy sailor! Open the door!" answered the Navy sailor.

So George let the Navy sailor in and the sailor saw.....that the turtle had eaten up the front room, eaten up the dining room, eaten up the kitchen, eaten up the stairs, the bedroom, the bathroom.....and he was STARTING TO EAT GEORGE'S ROOM!!

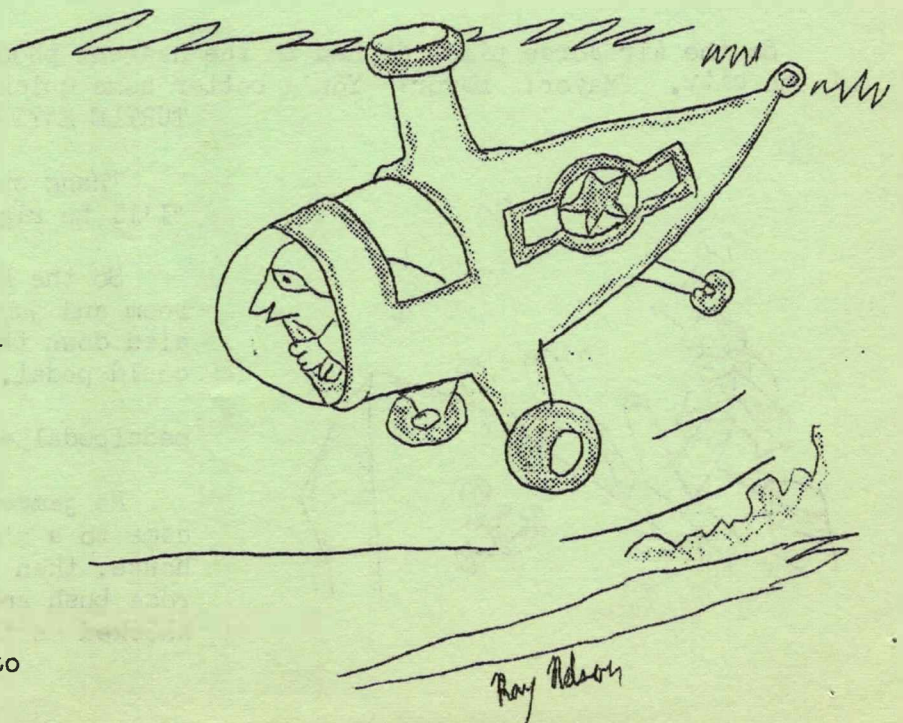
"Oh oh," said the sailor. "I'd better call the Air Force."

The sailor ran to the nearest telephone and called up the Air Force and shouted, "AIR FORCE! AIR FORCE! YOU'D BETTER GET HERE QUICK, BECAUSE THERE'S A TURTLE EATING UP THIS HOUSE!"

"Hang on," answered the Air Force pilot, "I'll be right there!"

The Air Force pilot ran out of his hanger and jumped into his airplane and started the motor. TwEEEEEEEEEEEEOOOOO BAAAAAAA-ROOOOOOOOOOOOM!

Then he zoomed up into the sky...

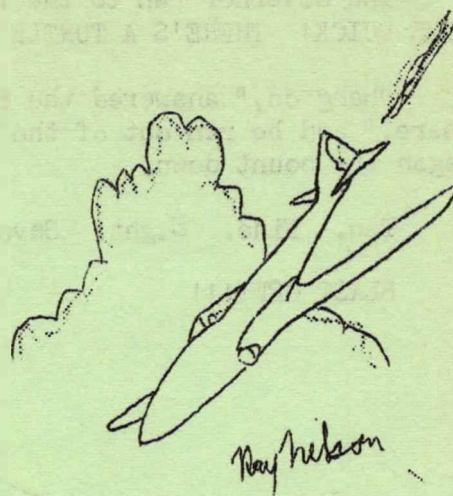


KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

"WHO'S THERE?" yelled little George.

"It's me, the Mayor of the City.
Open up!" answered the Mayor of the
City.

"Come on in," said George, opening
the door. The Mayor came in and saw
.....that the turtle had eaten up the
front room, the dining room, the kitchen,
the stairs, the bedroom, the bathroom,
George's room, and the stairs to the
attic...AND HE WAS STARTING TO EAT THE
ATTIC!



"Oh oh," said the Mayor. "That turtle is actually eating this house after
all. I'd better call the Governor of the State."

The Mayor grabbed the nearest telephone and shouted, "GOVERNOR? GOVERNOR?
YOU'D BETTER COME QUICK, BECAUSE A TURTLE IS EATING UP THIS HOUSE!"

"Hang on," answered the Governor of the State, "I'll be right there."

The Governor ran out of his ranch house and jumped on his big white horse
and shouted, "HI YO SILVER! AWAY!"

The horse ran madly down the freeway and all the trucks and busses and cars
had to pull off in the ditch to let it go by.

kiddleup kiddleup kiddleup kiddleup went the horse's feet.

After a while the horse got tired and then his feet sounded like this.
Clip. Clop. Clip. Clop.

But all the trucks and busses and cars still had to get out of the way,
because after all it WAS the governor's horse.

Finally the Governor of the State got to George's house and climbed off
his horse and staggered up to the door and knocked.

KNOCK! KNOCK! KNOCK!

"WHO'S THERE?" yelled little George.

"It is I, the Governor of the State. Open this door," said the Governor
of the State.

"Come on in," said George, so the Governor of the State came in and
saw.....that the turtle had eaten up the front room, the dining room, the
kitchen, the stairs, the bedroom, the bath room, George's room, the stairs to
the attick, and the attic.....AND NOW HE WAS STARTING TO EAT THE ROOF!

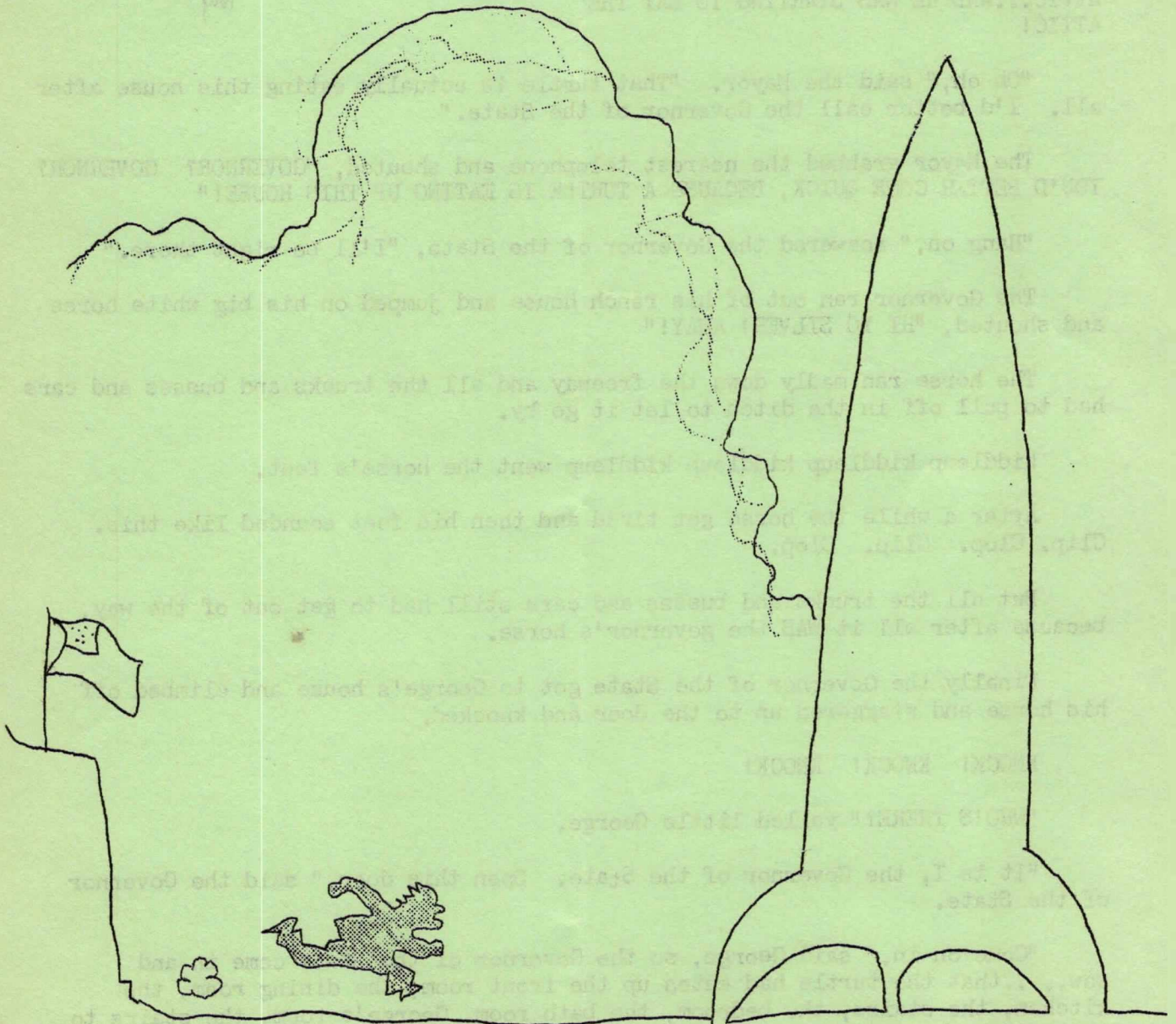
"Good grief!" said the Governor. "That turtle really is eating up this
house. I'd better telephone the President of the United States!"

The Governor ran to the telephone and shouted, "PRESIDENT! PRESIDENT!
COME QUICK! THERE'S A TURTLE EATING UP THIS HOUSE!"

"Hang on," answered the President of the United States. "I'll be right
there," and he ran out of the White House and jumped into his space ship and
began the count down.

Ten. Nine. Eight. Seven. Six. Five. Four. Three. Two. One.

BLAST OFF!!!!



Ray Nelson

went the spaceship, up into the sky.

It went around the moon.

It went around the sun.

It went around the stars until it glittered like snow.

Then at last the spaceship came down and landed right near the car, the fire truck, the motorcycle, the tank, the helicopter, the battleship, the bicycle, and the horse. The President of the United States jumped out and ran up to knock on the door.....but there was no door. The DOOR WAS GONE! SO WAS THE HOUSE!

The President of the United States looked around at all the people standing there. For a long time nobody said anything, then the President got mad and said, "What are all you idiots standing around here for? There isn't any turtle eating a house here! There isn't even any house! Go home! Go home! Get out of here!"

Everybody started to run. "Help! Help!" they screamed, as they ran wildly in all directions, tripping, falling, running into each other, trampling each other underfoot.

Finally everyone was gone but the President. He stood frowning by the pool and said, "What stupid fools! Making me come all this way for nothing!"

Just then a turtle face stuck out of the pond and two turtle eyes blinked at the sun.

"BURP!" said the turtle.

-- Ray Nelson

