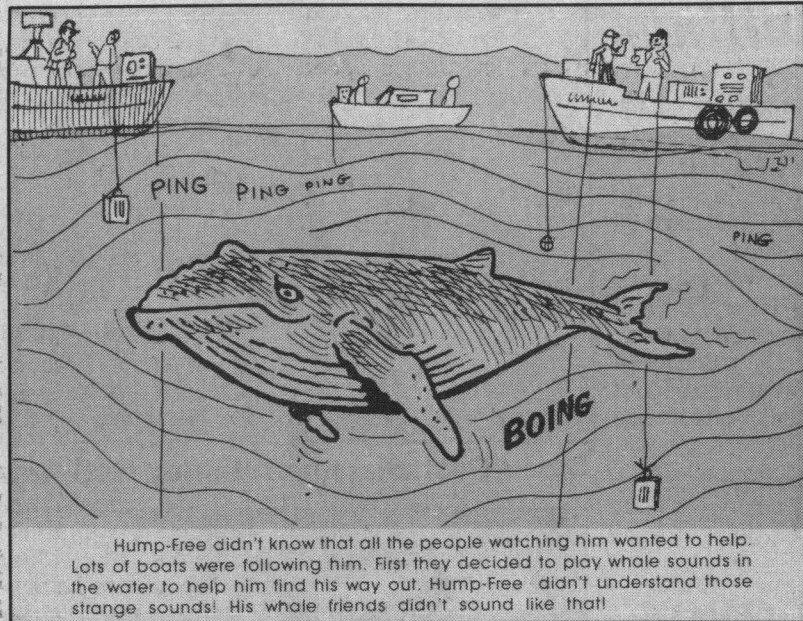


# MacQuiddy students, author have whale of a time



Hump-Free didn't know that all the people watching him wanted to help. Lots of boats were following him. First they decided to play whale sounds in the water to help him find his way out. Hump-Free didn't understand those strange sounds! His whale friends didn't sound like that!

## A page from the story of Hump-Free.

**S**TUDENTS AT MacQuiddy Elementary School in Watsonville had the opportunity last week to learn the famous story of Humphrey the Whale from the whale's point of view when "Hump-Free the Wrong Way Whale" author Henry Eisemann visited the campus.

In lively performances, Eisemann acted out excerpts from his books on Hump-Free, getting help from his elementary school audiences.

Eisemann has written four books on the whale, building on the original true story of Humphrey the whale, who somehow swam into San Francisco Bay and on to the Sacramento River where he stayed while marine biologists, ecologists and others worked to coax him back into the open sea and crowds of well-wishers cheered him. The whale's notoriety earned him fan clubs, positions as school mascots and front-and-center designs on souvenir T-shirts.

Eisemann's book about the wrong-way whale educates the reader that Hump-Free, as he's called, didn't appreciate, much less understand, man's clumsy but well-meaning attempts to herd him back out to sea. Had the whale not turned back, his life would have been threatened in the close, fresh-water environment.

The author was in familiar territory when he visited Watsonville. He's a Salinas native who has led a diverse life, working many years as a roofer, then as a kindergarten teacher. He

earned a graduate degree in counseling and has also served as a school counselor. In addition, he is a property developer, landscape designer, interior decorator and professional dance instructor.

His long-time loves, he says, are books, animals, children and storytelling.

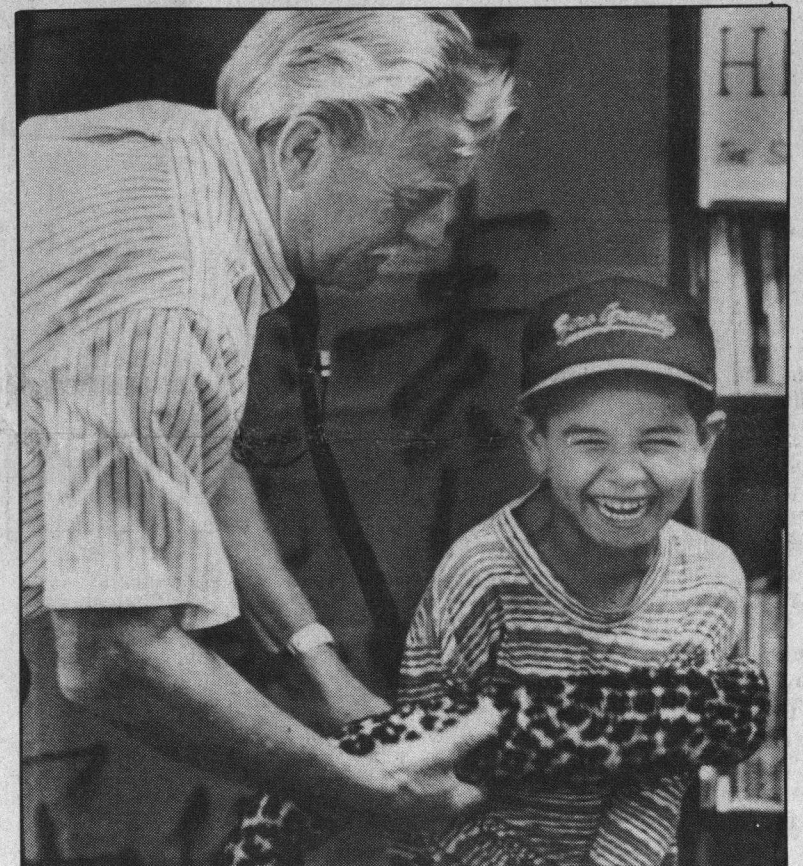
**Photos by  
Mike McCollum**



Henry Eisemann stretches out a length of fabric to illustrate Hump-Free's length.



Eisemann wraps volunteer Jesse Tapia, 5, in a fabric snake.



Apparently, the snake likes to tickle.