COMMUNITY ACTION: A children's dragon

This concrete dragon—a spotted species with a slide in its tail—is the newest addition to the children's park in Mercer Island, Washington. The park, reported on page 98 of the March 1963 Sunset, is sponsored and supervised by the Mercer Island Preschool Parent-Teachers Association, and is limited to children 8 years old and under. The association commissioned Seattle designer Kenton T. Pies to plan and build the dragon.

He used steel reinforcing of the kind employed in casting large-diameter concrete pipe to form the hollow body, overlaid with poultry netting to shape surface details. Burlap sacking went on over the wire, as a base for layers of concrete. A finish layer of white cement and white sand gives the dragon its snowy coat; only the polka dots are painted on. A smooth concrete interior makes the beast easy to crawl through. Needless to say, the children love it.

Large holes provide entrances and exits for youngsters, who can peer out dragon's eye sockets. Steps carved in the legs make it easy to climb on the monster's back.
Children wait, none too patiently, for their dragon to take shape. With help from fathers, designer Pies built it in two months.

comes to life in the Mercer Island woods

Dragon's framework is steel reinforcing mesh, poultry netting, and burlap sacks

Concrete goes on by the shovelful. Note used slide incorporated into the structure

Step to the rear of the dragon, and you can have a ride down the slide in his tail