

Sound Advice on Snakes Given to Pre-Flight Personnel

Along with spring in Carolina comes the end of hibernation for Nature's limbless reptiles—and advice herewith for all hands regarding snakes.

While Pre-Flight personnel were fortunate last year in that there was not a single case of snake bite occurring here, it is well to be on the alert for the danger, know how to recognize the poisonous species and how to render first aid should an emergency occur.

The common poisonous snakes in this area are three members of the pit viper family—copperheads, water moccasins, and rattlers.

So that everyone may become familiar with these reptiles on sight, Lieut. George D. Kepler, USNR, officer in charge of hiking here and an expert hunting guide in civilian life, has been assigned the task of capturing alive one each of these three varieties for display in a wooden box on this station where all may view them in safety.

Samples of poison oak and poison ivy will also be displayed, so they may be recognized and avoided.

"Although about 95% of all snake bites occur on the legs from the knee down and on the arms from the elbow to the finger tips, most fatal bites are received on the head or parts of the body where it is difficult to render first aid treatment," Lieut. Kepler states. "It is well to be particularly careful along the banks of streams where water moccasins lurk, and near old bark and rubbish piles where copperheads often are to be found. Rattlers are not as restricted in their roamings as the other two and may be found most anywhere.

"The bite of a poisonous snake may be distinguished from that of a non-poisonous variety in that the former leaves two punctures and the latter leaves a set of teeth marks. Also, poisonous bites are accompanied by stinging—as that of a bee—about one minute after the bite. It is best though to treat all snake bites, just to play safe."

Valuable information for recognizing copperheads, water moccasins, and rattlers, and for treating their bite should one occur, was issued during the past week by the Medical Department, as follows:

The most important identify-

ing features of these snakes are:

1. The presence of a very definite pit or depression situated in the head between the eye and nostril on each side.

2. One row of teeth on each side of the jaw and fangs in the upper jaw. Non-poisonous snakes have three rows of teeth on each side and no fangs.

3. A triangular head.

4. The copper head has a definite copper colored head, rattlesnakes have a conical rattle on the tip of the tail, and water moccasins are brightly colored.

These snakes are armed with two highly specialized teeth called fangs, located in the front of the upper jaws. Ordinarily the fangs are folded back against the roof of the mouth but are extended when the snake strikes. Each fang is hollow like a hypodermic needle and is connected to a venom or poison sac.

When the snake bites the fangs are driven into the body of the victim, the venom sac contracts forcing the poison through the fang and out into the tissues. The venom is then picked up by the blood vessels and distributed all through the body where it effects its lethal action.

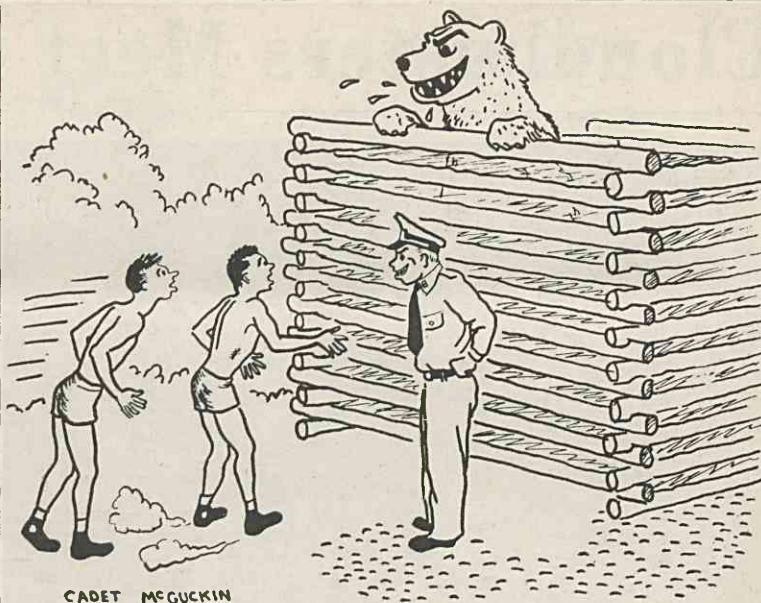
As in all illness the best treatment is prevention, which in this case is primarily alertness. Snakes ordinarily do not attack unless molested. The important rule is to look where you are stepping and before you reach out with your hand. If available high leather boots or canvas leggings should be worn while walking in open country. Be particularly careful of rocky areas that are sunny.

Once a man is bitten proper first aid is life saving. Don't get panicky. Snake bite is never fatal sooner than eight or twelve hours.

The following things should be done in this order:

1. If the wound is on an extremity place a tourniquet tightly on the single-bone part of the limb between the wound and the heart to prevent the poison from being distributed throughout the body. Loosen the tourniquet about every half hour for one or two minutes to restore circulation but if symptoms of general poisoning occur tighten it up immediately.

2. After the tourniquet is applied cut through the tissues with any available sharp instrument



"What's the matter, no guts?"

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(remember glasses, watch crystal, etc. if no knife is handy) so that free, active bleeding is established. The incisions should be in the form of a cross so that one cut goes through both puncture wounds. The bleeding washes the poison out.

3. Apply suction either with the mouth or by some mechanical means but remember if you have a cut or sore in your mouth you may absorb the poison into your own system through the cut. Spit out the fluid in your mouth after such a procedure and if possible gargle with water.

4. If the bite is on the face or body, of course, a tourniquet cannot be applied, but incision and suction must be done.

5. Try to get a look at the snake for identification purposes.

6. Keep the injured man quiet. Activity increases blood flow and favors distribution of the poison.

7. Get the patient to a medical officer as soon as possible.

8. The above outlined treatment is the only safe first aid. Despite what you have heard do not use cauterization, tobacco juice, gun powder or any other such so-called remedies.

SPORTS RECORD

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points against N. C. State.

The officers' basketball team won 6 and lost 1, and the track team just completed a successful season, winning four of five meets. Victories were recorded over N. C. State twice, Duke and Catawba once. The lone defeat was to Duke in a return meet, the score being 65 to 61.

Coaching the various sports were Lieut. Earle C. Waters,

USNR, Soccer; Lieut. Charles Speidel, USNR, Wrestling; Lieut. Alfred Wolff, USNR, Boxing; Lt. Comdr. James A. Crowley, USNR, Football; Lieut. Richard Raese, USNR, Cadet Basketball; Lieut. Forrest Kendall, USNR, Officer Basketball; Lieut. W. G. Killinger, USNR, Baseball, and Lieut. Charles Werner, USNR, Track.

TRACK

(Continued from page seven)

Gary (N), Chipley (N), 44 ft. 8 1/4 in.

120-yard high hurdles: J. C. Jones (S), Underwood (N), Miller (S), 16.2.

High jump: Trentham (S), Falls (N) and McAllister (N) tied for second, 5 ft. 11 in.

880-yard run: Farley (N), Neuffer (S), Freeman (N), 2:05.9.

220-yard dash: Holloman (S), Pease (S), J. H. Jones (S), 22.3.

Pole Vault: Mauger (N) and Lannon (N) tied for first, Kelliher (N), 11 ft.

Two-mile: Gregory (N), Tierney (N), Jennison (N), 9:38.9.

Discus: Leichner (N), McGary (N), Lantz (N), 121 ft. 7 in.

Broad jump: Underwood (N), Callaway (S), Beauchesne (N), 20 ft. 6 in.

220-yard low hurdles: J. C. Jones (S), Underwood (N), Oddo (N), 25.08.

Javelin: Miller (S), Stuckey (N), Trentham (S), 153 ft. 10 in.

Softball Games Again Postponed

The four games postponed in the Pre-Flight Softball League last week are now scheduled to be played next Wednesday.