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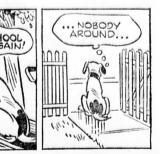
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THE TORRANCE HERALD

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By George Sixta

RIVETS







Person Bitten by Snake Should Not Move Around, Doctor Says

Fewer poisonous snakes seem to have been encourtered by residents of Los Angeles County this year than in times past.

However, campers, hikers, and people who live near the hills or in desert areas should always be alert to the danger of snakebite as long as the temperture remains in the vicinity of 60 degrees Fahrenheit and above.

Poisonous snakes of several

above.

Poisonous snakes of several varieties are found just about everywhere in the United States. However, the only poisonous snakes that inhabit Caliment about the prompt administration of antivopin and the states of the st States. However, the only poisonous snakes that inhabit California belong to the pit viper family, and local members in clude the sidewinder and the Mojave and Pacific rattler is the one generally found in the footbills and mountains, whereas the others are native to desert areas.

SNAKEBITE is always a serious medical emergency, but is particularly so in the case of children and elderly people. The situation is extremely critical when children receive a large dose of venom, as the ability of the body to withstand the poison is in direct proportion to body weight. In the case of older people, the body is simply less able to resist the poison. Generally speaking, the larger the snake the greater is the amount of venom injected.

The depth of the bite and the place the poison enters the body influences the victim's physical reaction to it. An injection directly into a brood vessel, for instance, may Jesult in sudden death, while bites on the legs and arms are less dander to feed and the place and the place and the place and the place the season the legs and arms are less dandered. SNAKEBITE is always a ser-

the legs and arms are less dangerous than when the face and head are involved.

THE DANGER to the victim is also less when the injection of venom is just under the skin rather than into a muscle.

There are many opinions expressed in medical journals as to the efficiency of various forms of treatment, but all physicians are agreed that the sooner treatment is begun, the



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OTHER FIRST AID measures have been debated at some length. The procedure generally employed in this area, and which is recommended in the Red Cross First Aid Manual, includes cutting and sucking the wound. This is done in order to remove as much of the poison as is possible before it is absorbed by the body.

A cross-cut incision about one-fourth inch long is made through each fang mark and suction then started. If no suction apparatus is at hand, mouth suction must be used. This is a relatively safe procedure for the person applying the suction as long as there is no abrasion in the mouth. It is advised that suction be contin-

no abrasion in the mouth. It is advised that suction be continued for an hour or more.

If a person is alone when the accident occurs, this same technique may be used. If impossible because of the location of the bite, it is advised that pressure be exerted to pressout the blood and venom. When necessary, walk for help but

necessary, walk for help but do not hurry.

CAMPERS and people who live in desert areas or adjacent to the foothills may be interested to know that a snake repelent is now on the market. Apparently it will repel snakes from premises when it is properly used. erly used.

Residents of snake-infested Residents of snake-infested areas should always keep the environs of their dwelling place free of rodents — which snakes feed on — and also of rubbish, piles of lumber and the like where snakes may

Whenever snakebite occurs, nedical attention should be obtained without delay and first aid measures started as quickly

aid measures started as quiexly as possible.

A pamphlet on snakebite will be mailed to anyone who sends a card of request to the Division of Public Health Education, Los Angeles County Health Department, 241 N. Figueroa St., Los Angeles 12, Calif.

