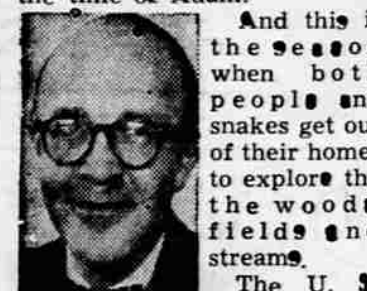




COVERING SOUTHERN PART of Eaton, Ind., flood waters of Mississinewa River force hundreds of residents to evacuate homes. Normal course of river is at top. (UPI Telephoto)

Summer Best Time To Be Bitten By Snakes; Death Rate Said Low

By LOUIS CASSELL
United Press International
Washington—UP—Man has been bitten and killed by snakes since the time of Adam.



And this is the season when both people and snakes get out of their homes to explore the woods, fields and streams.

The U. S. Health Service does not know exactly how many people are bitten by snakes each year. It quotes one estimate of 3,000, and says this may be "far too low."

Public Health records do show the number of deaths from poisonous snake-bites. It averages about 14 per cent in the United States.

There are two reasons why the death rate is so low:

Most snakes — and hence most snake-bites are non-poisonous.

Prompt treatment of a poi-

sonous snake bite is usually effective. The fatality rate for untreated poisonous snake bites is 10 to 15 per cent.

Dr. Henry M. Parrish of the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health recently made a detailed analysis of snake bite deaths in all parts of the country. He found:

August and September are peak months for snake bites. June and July are close behind.

Many Victims Children

Three times as many men as women are bitten.

Nearly 40 per cent of the victims are children under 15. More than half of the victims are bitten on the foot or lower leg. About 37 per cent are bitten on the hand or lower arm.

Reptile experts at the Washington Zoo said there are 135 known species of snakes in the United States, of which 20 are poisonous.

Maine is the only state that is "relatively free" of poisonous snakes, and it has a few

timber rattlers. Vermont and New Hampshire have the sparsest snake population after Maine.

The southeastern states, from North Carolina to Texas, have the most kinds of snakes (60) as well as the most snakes.

Without getting into scientific nomenclature, there are four general types of poisonous snakes in this country. They are:

Rattlesnakes — Every state has one or more varieties. More than three-fourths of all snake-bite deaths are caused by rattlers. The South has the huge and deadly diamond-back which reaches a length of eight feet; the East has the timber rattler; the Great Plains have the prairie rattler; the Far West has at least 12 nasty specimens.

Copperheads Like Populations

Coral snakes — One species is found in the Southeast, another in Arizona and New Mexico.

Water moccasins — sometimes called cottonmouth moccasins. Found in the Southeast from Virginia to Florida, and westward to southern Illinois and Texas. The so-called moccasin of the Northeast is a different, non-poisonous species.

Copperheads — Widely distributed east of the Rockies. Unlike other species which move out when man moves in, copperheads like to remain around habited areas to hunt rats and mice. They inflict more bites than any other poisonous variety but fortunately their venom is comparatively weak and they cause few fatalities.

Here are a few tips from Dr. Doris Cochran, curator of reptiles at the Smithsonian Institution, on how to avoid being bitten by a snake this summer:

"Most people get bitten because they don't look where they are going. Snakes hide under logs, in thick underbrush, and in rocky crevices. If you are climbing, examine a ledge before you thrust your hand into it. If you are walking through the woods, step up on a fallen tree and look before you step over it. Never step or reach into undergrowth without probing first to see if there is a snake there.

Good Protection

"Boots or leggings offer good protection, since snakes rarely strike high.

"Carry a flashlight at night and be doubly careful. That's when snakes go prowling in search of food."

Remember, also, that a snake does not have to be coiled in order to strike. That's an old wives' tale.

If, in spite of everything, you are bitten by a poisonous snake, the American Red Cross recommends the following first aid steps:

Stop all muscular activity at once.

Apply a tourniquet above the bite. Make it tight enough so that blood barely oozes from the wound, but not so tight as to cut off the flow of deep interior vessels.

Sterilize a knife blade with a match and make cross-cut incision into the actual venom deposit, which probably will be below the fang marks (a snake usually strikes downward).

Suck the wound (never mind about cuts in your mouth) for an hour or so.

Get the victim to a doctor or hospital fast for an antivenom injection.

Necessity To Sign White Collar Men Seen for Unions

By ELMER C. WALZER
UPI Financial Editor

New York—(UPI)—White collar workers are rising in number while the blue collar group holds static or slips back, posing the question: "Are labor unions on the skids?"

Iron Age in its coming issue brings this out in an article entitled: "Union Growth Lags as Automation Begins to Take Its Toll."

"By 1965," says Iron Age, "there will be an estimated 30 million white collar workers against 29 million blue collar workers. By 1975, the mix will be 36 million white collar men against 33 million blue collar."

The magazine points out that union membership has held around 16-18 million for the past five years. Eighteen million members represented 40 per cent of the non-farm work force in 1950; they represent about 30 per cent today.

According to Iron Age the 25 per cent of the blue collar force that is organized is difficult to get since the group is in small plants.

White Collar Unions? Hence the only way for the unions to grow is to attract white collar groups, their officials admit.

So far the efforts to unionize white collar workers have been inconclusive. In 174 elections conducted in 1955 and 1956, Iron Age notes, office workers split about evenly on the issue of unionization.

Unions won bargaining rights in 80 contests and lost in 94. About 5,100 voted for the unions, 4,800 voted against.

Iron Age says the union efforts so far have been heavy-

handed and misguided. "Organizers have come into offices with standard leaflets, designed for plant workers. They have waved red flags and talked wildly about bread lines."

Labor relations men said the unions used the wrong pitch and that they will have to tone down anti-management approaches if they expected to attract white collar workers.

New Techniques They are said to be doing that right now, training their organizers in new techniques that will not offend the new prospects for unionization.

Iron Age notes that most industrial relations men are firm in their attitude toward white collar unions. They don't want them. The magazine quotes one:

"The variety of jobs and people in the salaried force calls for individual treatment. It's better for the company and it's better for the man. And when you must deal with organized groups you can't maintain the same flexibility."

Some other labor relations men held the unions are on the skids and that the office worker and his technical cousin will never warm up to organized labor. They assert the union is basically a plant animal, drawing strength from community effort and anchored to a position of hostile separation from management.

More Trustful "The office guy is closer to management, less angry with it and more trustful than the plant man. He identifies himself more closely with the company."

Unions reject this thesis and are setting out right now to organize white collar workers, starting with the aluminum industry. They expect to kick off this aluminum drive within the next three weeks at a conference in Tennessee.

Knowland Wants Facts on Adams

San Jose, Calif. — (UPI)—Sen. William F. Knowland (R-Calif.), Senate minority leader, called Monday for a full disclosure of the facts surrounding the controversy over Presidential Assistant Sherman Adams' use of the President's name.

"The facts," Knowland told a press conference here, "should be completely disclosed. Otherwise the responsibilities he has with the President would be seriously undermined."

Knowland met with Republican leaders here and promised them he would put up a "rugged fight" in his campaign against Democratic Attorney General Edmund G. Brown for the California governorship.

House Subcommittee Sets Klamath Hearing

Washington — (UPI)—The House Indian affairs subcommittee completed taking testimony Monday on a bill to provide for disposal of Klamath Indian lands in Oregon.

The subcommittee was to meet today to begin closed-door consideration of the bill. The measure already has passed the Senate.

Burns — (UPI)—Sputnik III, Russia's latest entry in the race for space, was sighted by Oregon's moonwatch team here Sunday.

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