

Is That So?

By OLGA BURNS

The common garter snake is said to be the reptile featured on Mexico's coat-of-arms where he is shown clutched by an eagle.

If he is the one, then it is quite fitting, for the garter snake, though harmless to man, is extremely brave and able. They are fast on land, excellent swimmers — one has been caught with a six-



IS THAT SO!

inch trout inside it — and they put up an excellent fight in the face of heavy odds. Furthermore, some of them get to be much bigger than those you may see in your garden. Some of them have been captured up to 55 inches in length, and even bigger ones have been seen in the tule-fringed lakes and sloughs of California's San Joaquin.

Because the bigger ones prey extensively on gophers, mice and other rodents they are sometimes called gopher snakes, although none is known to get as large as the true gopher snake of the Gulf States that reaches eight feet in length.

Quite possibly one of these larger garter snakes may have been the snake that visited the yard of Mrs. Helen Rowell, of Morro Bay, Calif., earlier this year. She writes: "On a warm day several people standing in the yard saw a snake come winding toward them from across the street. He paid no attention to anyone, just slithered toward between their feet and headed directly toward a small strip of grass where a seep hose was spraying the garden. He went into the water, reared up, much as the cobra does, and with open

mouth weaved back and forth until he found one of the fine sprays and then stayed in that position until he had drunk his fill. Then he went on his merry way . . ."

Color Variation

Even if that snake had the coloration of a true gopher snake — deep black shading into yellow on the throat — it may still have been a garter. Though usually they are of a greenish cast, they have considerable color variation, some of those in Southern California being largely black.

The garter, by the way, is probably the last snake in the country to hibernate and the first to emerge in the spring. They usually crowd into a gopher hole or other burrow and spend the winter coiled up in a large ball.

This tendency to congregate is shown at other seasons also. Two scientists of the California Academy of Science wrote thus of a visit to the Klamath Falls area some years ago: "Perhaps nowhere else in the world are snakes so abundant. We counted 180 (garters) on a small rock about a yard in diameter."

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East Pakistan contains more than 42 million persons.



BACK FROM MOSCOW—Sen. Hubert Humphrey (D, Minn.) confers with Asst. Secy. of State Wm. Macomber at Washington National Airport, on Humphrey's return from a trip to Moscow. Humphrey described as "significant" a message Premier Khrushchev had given him for President Eisenhower, and mentioned two Soviet "secrets" which may indicate major Russian progress on nuclear problems.

Boy Admits Try To Burn School

Stockton, Calif.—(UPI)—A 10-year-old boy has confessed setting fire in the library of the Jefferson Elementary School a few minutes before 611 students were to start classes.

Fire Chief Lyle Stevenson said the fire would have been "disastrous" had it not been controlled almost immediately. He estimated the damage at \$500.

The fire was brought under control at 8:54 a.m. Monday. Classes start at 9 a.m.

The boy said he had made five different attempts to set the library afire. In one of them, he put crumpled paper between the pages of an open-faced dictionary and touched a match to the paper.

He denied the recent Chicago school fire had caused him to act as he did.

Stevenson said the boy was suspected because a class paper with his name on it was found in the library.

The boy confessed after undergoing questioning for two and one-half hours. Asked why he did not confess sooner, he said:

"I was afraid my teacher would be mad at me."

PARENTS ROUT TEACHERS

Numada, Japan—(UPI)—Two hundred school teachers on a sit-down strike were chased from Education Hall Monday by 1,500 angry parents. The teachers were protesting plans to set up a new system for rating their efficiency.

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, a newspaper editor, a women's editor and two writers. Each article is a summary of an actual report. The Family Council does not give advice; it merely reports on problems that have been dealt with by responsible agencies and counselors.

Mrs. G.V. — Our youngest son Victor, age 20, left college in his junior year last year to get married. He and his wife now have a baby of several months.

Of course we were opposed to the marriage because we had made a lot of sacrifices to send Vic through college. We wanted him to become somebody and not have to struggle like his father. But we realized that we just couldn't fight city hall. Vic was determined and he couldn't do a thing about it.

We tried being very nice to his wife and we spent a lot of money on the baby. We want to be close to them, but both our son and his wife are cold toward us. They went to live near her family and they rarely visit us. When we visit them they never seem glad to see us.

Victor V. — My parents just don't realize how much they hurt me and my wife with the attitude they took before we were married. They made me feel like two cents. They treated her as though she had no right to come into our wonderful family. Her people are no worse than my family. But her parents welcomed me with open arms.

Now that we are settled my parents want to be "close" to us, but it is not so easy for us to let bygones be bygones. They need us now because they are lonesome. Well, they can't have things just as they want them.

I don't like it having it thrown up in my face how many sacrifices my parents made for me, etc. They did for me only what they wanted to do. I didn't ask for anything.

The Council: Now that he is a parent, Victor will soon discover that when a parent reprimands a child he is not rejecting the child. In fact, it

he cannot help but feel half-bated and disowned.

As children become more mature they usually begin to understand the whys and wherefores of parental criticism and learn that their parents do love them in spite of everything. Unfortunately, many individuals do not completely advance in this direction. Like Victor, they confuse chastisement with rejection. The parent innocently wonders why his child resents it when he is "only trying to help."

It appears to us that Victor's resentment of his parents' criticism of his marriage has been doubled because he has more than a sneaking suspicion that they were right—that he should have finished

college before starting his family life. Annoyed with his own childish error, he tries to get back at his parents with the revenge weapon that happens to be handy—their need of his love. That elevates him to the position of power they once held.

Until Victor comes to terms with his bad feeling about his parents, he is in a very poor position to accept his own responsibilities as head of a family.

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