

# The Medical Roundup

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## Black Moles and Their Dangers

Dr. George D. Pack, one of the world's experts on tumors tells of studying 1,000 adult patients who had come to a diagnostic clinic with no particular concern about their skin. The average one of the patients had 15 moles, none of which located on the feet or the genitalia. When a study was made of 1,225 patients with the black moles, or so-called melanomas, which often cause serious trouble, many were found on the soles of the feet and on the genitalia.

What this means is that anyone who has a black mole on his feet or genitalia ought to have it removed. These black moles occur most often on the skin of blonds or persons with a sandy complexion, red hair, and a tendency to freckles. Dr. Pack and his associates urge all people of this complexion to get their black moles cut out before they begin to give trouble. They should be removed, also, from infants and children.

Some times a pigmented mole will remain quiet for years, and then it will grow bigger and darker, and it may ulcerate a bit or bleed or hurt. This generally means that trouble is starting. Sometimes by then it is too late to get the thing all out. Already it may have scattered through the body. Often the black moles don't show up in children until after puberty. Fortunately, there are some dark pigmented moles which don't change into cancer, but one cannot always tell them from the other type even with the help of a microscope. Young women, when pregnant can have a bad flare-up of a black mole. At the great Memorial Cancer Center in New York it was found that between the years 1917 and 1945, 21.4 per cent of the patients treated for flare-ups of black moles stayed well. During the last few years the percentage of cures has gone up to 39.1.

## Snakebite

During my many years of traveling through the Sierras of California, I was often impressed with the fact that, although my companions and I met many a rattlesnake, we rarely had a dangerous brush with one. I once nearly stepped on a big fellow but he rattled and warned me in time. We practically never heard of or met with anyone who had been bitten or had known personally a person who had been bitten. In all of my many years of medical life I have seen only one man who was bitten by a rattler, and he was a professional rattlesnake catcher who sold rattlesnake bile to Chinese herb doctors for large sums.

He was foolish enough to reach down into a bag to pick out a snake that he had caught. He surely was asking for trouble and he got it. After the bite, he had a nasty black swelling of one of his fingers, but aside from this he didn't seem to be any the worse for wear. I was just reading an interesting article by Drs. H. M. Parrish and E. B. Pollard, who say that it has been estimated that each year in the United States from 2,000 to 3,000 persons are bitten by poisonous snakes. That the mortality is not high is shown by the fact that in the period from 1950 to 1954 there were only 71 reported deaths from snake bites. In this country, most of the dangerous bites are inflicted by the pit vipers, which include the rattlesnake, the moccasin, the copperhead and the cottonmouth.

## Cases Reported

The remarkable thing that Drs. Parrish and Pollard have now done is to report the cases of 14 persons who were repeatedly bitten by snakes. One was bitten 12 times, another 10 times, two had six bites, one had five bites, three had four bites, one had three bites and five had two bites! They were all either professional herpetologists (students of snakes), or snake-handlers, wild animal dealers, or biologists. Usually they got bitten on the fingers or thumbs or forearms or hands or legs. Some of the persons had to have a finger of thumb amputated because of the gangrene that followed a severe bite. None of these people appeared to have become so immunized against snake venom that their second or third bite would do them little harm. In many cases the bite was not severe because the snake was small. Usually, there was some shock, nausea, vomiting and giddiness, a little fever, a rapid, thready pulse, occas-

Nottingham, England, a remarkable new experiment is being tried out. A wing is being added to a mental hospital - a wing which will be run by the patients! Doctors and nurses will come in only on invitation. Doubtless, the only types of patients admitted will be those who are well-behaved and troubled only by some mental quirk which they still have to get under control before they can safely take their place in the community again.

Dr. Alvarez' booklet on heart trouble may be obtained by sending 25 cents and a large, stamped, self-addressed envelope to Dr. Walter C. Alvarez, Dept. MMT Register and Tribune Syndicate, Box 957, Des Moines 4, Iowa.

# Six Public Hearings Scheduled Next Month

A total of six public hearings have been called for June meetings of the Medford city council.

The hearings, based on recommendations from the city planning commission, were called at the council meeting Thursday night.

A proposed subdivision ordinance is slated for a hearing June 4. Passage of the ordinance would mark the fulfillment of several years' efforts by city officials.

Other hearings called for June 4 concern two zone change requests. One is for a change from single family residential to multiple family to permit erection of a Scottish Rite consistory at the southeast corner of Crestbrook rd. and Highland dr. The second concerns a change from single family to limited commercial asked by the Knights of Columbus for a lodge hall on property on Black Oak dr. south of Barnett rd.

Two hearings slated for June 18 concern requests on behalf of B. and G. properties, a block of businesses on East Jackson st. near the new Medford Shopping Center.

The lots, currently zoned single family residential, are a non-conforming use. One request would change the zone to limited commercial. The second concerns vacation of an alley behind the properties.

A third hearing slated June 18 is on a zone change request from single family to light industrial by Harold Farr to permit expansion of his Valley Center Trailer court, North Pacific highway, onto a lot in the Valley Center subdivision.

Exeter, England—UPI—At the Devon County pig show Thursday: Two bishops showed up to hold a special communion service for herdsman. No herdsman came. The pig that won a blue ribbon for Mrs. Diana Suthrell bit her on the hand as she waited to collect his prize.

W. B. Taylor rowed the Harvard crew in an intercollegiate regatta in 1875 and next day won both the seven-mile walk and the three-mile walk.

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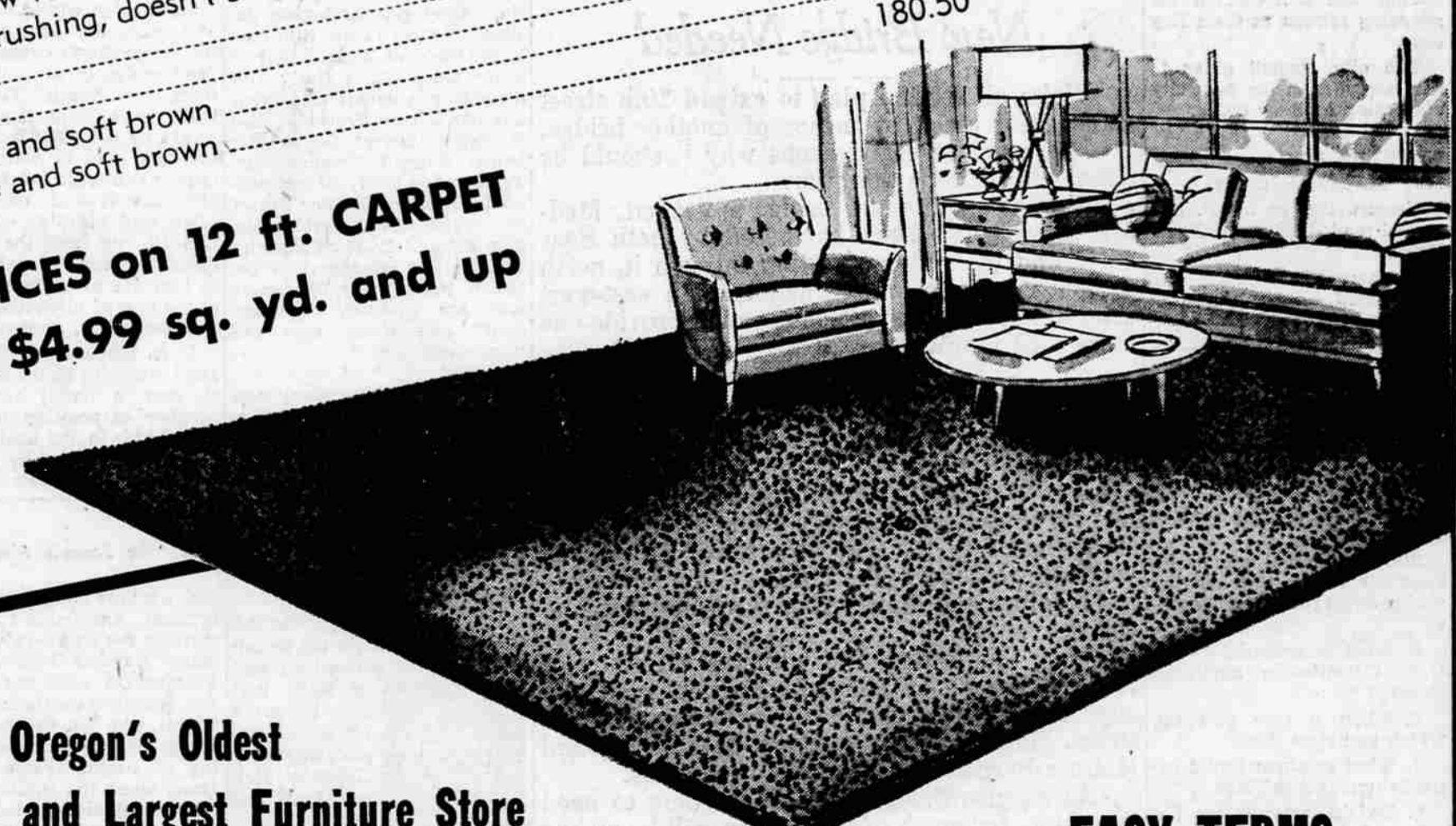
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12' x 17'3"	Select Wool Embossed Surface Texture Sea Island Green, a tropical yellow green to complement all wood tones		
15' x 15'9"	100% Select Wool, heavily textured to hide traffic, Stardust, a pale warm beige	356.50	239.50
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12' x 11'9"	Embossed Texture Cross tone coloring, Bisque beige and natural	197.10	134.50
15' x 14'3"	All Wool hard, firm finish, extra easy to care for. Cameo beige in natural	169.75	121.00
15' x 11'6"	Soft, Luxurious Pile, select wool, resistant to crushing. Canyon Mist, a warm rouse taupe	257.85	187.50
15' x 15'2"	Green Frieze, 50% viscose, 30% wool, 20% nylon	208.05	159.50
9' x 15'7"	Grey Embossed 100% Wool, scrolled pattern	323.75	209.50
12' x 15'7"	Gold All-Wool, with a random height loop pile	124.00	79.50
12' x 14'7"	All Wool in a soft blue	265.00	179.50
15' x 16'7"	Beige Tweed, 100% Wool. A new version in tweed	195.00	143.50
12' x 17'9"	All Wool, Beaver Rose, resists crushing, doesn't show foot prints	216.00	127.00
9' x 12'	All Wool, brown	216.00	199.50
6'9" x 15'	Green Wool Frieze	312.00	129.50
11'6" x 12'	100% Nylon, Ashwood, beige and soft brown	204.60	39.50
15' x 17'	100% Nylon, Ashwood, beige and soft brown	115.00	139.50
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