

Scorpions' Sting Painful, But Usually Harmless, Official Says

By ROL O. GILBERT, M. D., Los Angeles County Health Officer

Scorpions inhabit nearly all sections of Los Angeles County and are likely to be encountered in beach areas as well as in the desert or the hills. Different ones live in different places, but all of the local species are considered relatively harmless. Notwithstanding this fact, the sting of a scorpion, like that of a humble bee, may be mildly poisonous and is often extremely painful.

These nocturnal little animals hide during the day under almost any type of ground cover that is available. Rocks, bales of hay, logs, heaps of trash, or dark secluded corners under a house all provide a daytime refuge. Only by accident do they ever get inside a house, and then they usually conceal themselves as quickly as possible in some dark retreat like a cupboard or the inside of a shoe.

Eat Insects

Cockroaches, beetles, and other small insects are the scorpions' customary food, but they are cannibalistic on some occasions and will eat young scorpions of another species or even some smaller members of their own. Apparently they need little water, and the liquid contained in the food they eat seems to supply them with sufficient moisture.

About 650 species of scorpions are now known to exist and, counting the 13 species indigenous to California, around 40 of them are to be found in the United States. Only two of this number are considered dangerously virulent, and these are confined to certain parts of Texas, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Arizona Tops

Arizona probably has the greatest number of dangerous scorpions, and they cause more human deaths in that part of the country than all other native creatures put together, including rattlers and Gila monsters.

People sometimes confuse scorpions with lizards. In a few Southern states they are even called "stinging lizards," but true lizards are reptiles while scorpions belong to the group in the animal kingdom known as arachnids, which also includes spiders.

Scorpions may be identified by the long tail-like abdomen that ends in a curved stinger resembling a thorn. Owing to the jointed mechanism of this anatomical structure, the stinger can move in any direction and usually curves over the back when ready for attack. The lobster-like pincers at the head end of the body simply function as hands. Like an arachnid, scorpions have four pairs of legs.

Use Insecticide

If scorpions are found around dwellings, a good strong insecticide such as a five per cent chlordane spray or dust, will get rid of them.

but the pain, although of short duration, may be intense and travel some distance from the puncture wound. However, if the individual happens to be allergic to the poison, the reaction may be severe. In such cases, and in all instances when the victim is a young child or a person afflicted with heart trouble, a doctor should be summoned at once.

CONTINENT SPAN

Shortest possible trip coast to coast across the United States would be a flight starting in San Diego, Calif., and ending in Norfolk, Va., according to current flight schedules.

Five Torrance Men With Marine Reserve Flight Unit At El Toro

Five Torrance Marines are among the more than 300 Marine Air Reserve officers and men from Southern California and Arizona who moved out of Los Alamitos Naval Air Station recently for two weeks of intensive combat maneuvers.

The quintet of Torrance residents who will take part in the annual field exercises includes Maj. Clifford B. Ross, of 2835 W. 17th St.; Maj. Henry Fink, Jr., of 3916 Newton St.; M/Sgt. Jack W. Berry, of 2012 Kathy Way; Cpl. Vernon L. Dell, of 25618 Crenshaw Blvd., and Pvt. James D. Roberts, of 21200 Vermont Ave.

undergo training at El Toro Marine Corps Air Station near Santa Ana. Making up the trio of units are two jet-equipped fighter squadrons, VMF 241 and VMF 123, and Marine Air Control Squadron 18. During the summer exercises, an annual event, the combat readiness of the units will be tested and evaluated with pilots being called upon to demonstrate their prowess with bombs, rockets, napalm and the 20-mm. cannon with which their jet aircraft are equipped. According to Col. Robert A. Harvey, recently assigned as the commanding officer of the Marine Air Reserve training detachment, em-

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phases will be placed on close air support work.

Albion Artillery
This is the Marine pioneered system in which planes are literally utilized as airborne artillery to knock out enemy objectives which may be holding up the advance of ground forces.

The maneuvers will end on Aug. 25, when the squadrons will return to Los Alamitos and personnel will be released to inactive duty status.

FEDERAL LANDS
About three-eighths of Montana's land is owned by the federal government.

Motel Burglars Take \$70 Haul in Lomita
More than \$70 was taken from this motel room one night last week by uninvolved intruders, Martin S. Bjerring, 43, of 2810 Pacific Coast Highway told deputies.

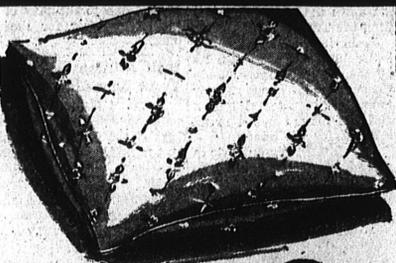
He was staying in a room at that address, he said, when burglars took \$10 in currency, some clothing, a radio and a slide viewer. Total value of the articles was set at \$70.50.

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Reflections

By J. HUGH SHERFEE, JR.

RED BERRIES BRING CHEER

You have had a delightful time, met lovely people, and you think you will never forget them, nor the evening. However, new interest, new pleasures and new faces draw a curtain across your memory; memories of that delightful evening fade. And yet, a small thing can draw back that curtain and rush of mental souvenirs flood our mind.

One day we find a shriveled red berry; we hold it in our hand, remember the delicious dinner, laughter and conversation, before an open fire, bright berries in a bowl, and the thoughtful hostess who, because we admired them, gave them to us to take home.

We say, "Don't forget me," but have we given our new friend something to take home—red berries, a smile, an understanding word, inspiration?

P.S.—We give Memory Pictures that last as long as life.

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