

UNIVERSITY EXPLORER

Fear of Snakes Based on Misunderstanding

Without a doubt, snakes—of which there are some 2500 different species—are the subject of more myths and misunderstandings than any other creatures under the sun. Many of us, for example, have the impression that snakes are "slimy." Actually, their skins are dry and exceptional clean. There's no such thing as a snake with a poisonous sting in its tail. Nor does any snake roll like a hoop, have yellow blood or hypnotize birds. Mother snakes do not swallow their young to protect them, and killing a snake won't bring its mate seeking vengeance.

It's not true—as many people believe—that a fatally injured snake somehow manages to stay alive until sundown. Nor is it so that a horsehair in water ever turns into a snake. The belief that snakes suck milk from cows is a myth. So is a myth that snakes are charmed by music. Snakes are deaf.

Deer-Swallowing 'Tree'

Much more remarkable snakes are the real facts. For example, a snake can engulf prey far bigger than its own mouth. It may go without food for months—or even years. In some rare cases—and suffer no ill effect. Such giants as the pythons of Asia are sometimes 30 feet long, thick as a tree, and capable of swallowing a whole deer. The common snakes of our own fields and gardens have such remarkable endowments as a stomach that can digest bones and a yellow eyelens that gives sharper vision by filtering out ultraviolet rays.

Our fear of snakes is based more on myth than on fact—for about nine tenths of all species are harmless. Few have any aggressiveness toward humans. They are so frightened by anything the size of a man, they're only too glad to get out of the way.

Furthermore, snakes are extremely useful creatures. In the process of feeding on insects, mice and countless other pests they help maintain the vital balance of nature's economy.

Everything about a snake is designed around the key fact that it has no arms or legs. Yet a snake is not at all a primitive or simple creature like a worm but a highly developed, complex organism. It has a three-chambered heart. Its internal processes involve an intricate physiology of liver, gall bladder and kidneys. It must catch prey defeat or evade enemies, and reproduce its race—in other words, it must meet all the problems of living in a world of creatures having arms and legs—while it is confined inside its own elongated skin. To meet such problems nature has given the snake specialized equipment and unique skills.

Six Rows of Teeth

For example, there's nothing about a snake more remarkable than its

feeding habits. Since it may be able to catch prey only at undependable intervals, nature has insured that when the snake does have a chance to feed, it can swallow a bulk large enough to keep it going for extremely long periods. Consider the structure of its jaws and mouth. Instead of having two rows of teeth, a snake has six: two in its lower jaw, two above, and two more in the roof of its mouth. The teeth are needle sharp. They all curve inward, making it almost impossible for a captured insect or animal to pull away.

A special mouth construction permits an amazingly wide opening. All the movable bones of the snake's head are loosely put together. The bones of its lower jaw can be separated from the upper. Each side of the jaw can be worked quite independently, since the two halves are connected only by elastic ligament. Even the arches of the snake's palate are movable.

Walking Movement

Once the prey is seized, the backward-sloping teeth sink into it. The more it struggles, the deeper they sink. Then begins the so-called "walking movement" of the jaws: to get an advanced grip, each jaw is shifted forward more or less independently of the three others. The snake literally pulls itself over the object somewhat as a housewife pulls a pillowcase over a pillow.

Because of its pliable jaw construction, a snake can perform feats of eating which seem mechanically impossible. For example, a slender garter snake has been known to swallow 30 tree frogs in succession. Many serpents can engulf large birds' eggs without breaking them. In order to digest big unchewed meals, snakes have gastric juices so powerful they will break down fur feathers and even teeth.

Apolinar Torres Participates in GI "Strike" Drill

Army PFC Apolinar Torres, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul F. Torres, 1743 W. 247th Pl., Lomita, Calif., is participating in Exercise Swift Strike III, a U. S. Strike Command exercise in Georgia and North and South Carolina, involving more than 75,000 armed forces personnel.

Swift Strike III pits two task forces against each other in a four-week mock war ending Aug. 16, and includes airborne maneuvers, long-distance airlifts, air-ground support missions and counterterrorism operations.

Torres, a longshoreman in the 119th Transportation Co. at Camp Leroy Johnson, La., entered the Army in September, 1961, and completed basic training at Ft. Ord.

Camp Edison-Shaver Lake Ready to Open This Week

Roads are being bulldozed through "Camp Edison—Shaver Lake" public campground this week, and the High Sierra facility is expected to be ready for occupancy by Thursday, Southern California Edison Company officials announced today.

Construction crews are pushing the work with all possible speed, after being handicapped by unfavorable weather during much of the past several months, the announcement said.

Campsites are being laid out, tables and grills are built and ready for installation, restrooms are nearing completion, and power poles have been set throughout the area, Edison officials reported.

Electric Cooking

An unusual feature of the camp, they said, will be free electric cooking facilities, to be provided throughout the area designated for tent camping. Half of the 100-unit camp will be devoted to tents, and the other half to trailers.

There will be electrical connections at each campsite, so campers can plug in all the electric appliances they wish to bring along—from electric blankets to coffee pots.

Plenty of fresh water, including hot water for show-

ers, also will be piped into the camp, which is located in a pine forest on the western edge of the lake, at an elevation of 5,370 feet.

Other facilities to be made available to the public will include a boat launching ramp and group picnic area, it was announced. The lake is stocked with trout by the state department of fish and game.

All facilities will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis—although advance reservations will be taken for the group picnic area, which does not include overnight camping, it was explained.

Dollar Fee

The only charge for campers will be a \$1 registration fee, which is good for the entire season. There is to be a two-week limit on camping, in order to make the facilities available to as many people as possible.

Shaver Lake is approximately 50 miles northeast of Fresno, Cal., over state highway No. 168.

Construction of Camp Edison—Shaver Lake is the first step in a long-range public service recreation program by Edison, designed to provide camping, fishing, picnicking and boating facilities throughout the utility company's "Big Creek" hydroelectric area in the High Sierra.

ED FERRO HEADS FIELD OF 50 IN FIGURE 8 RACES

Three top drivers, Ed Ferro, Torrance; Frank Thompson, Inglewood, and Ben Steele, Gardena, will lead a field of 50 cars and drivers in this Sunday night's nine-event racing card for Figure 8 Stock Cars at Ascot Park, Gardena, where racing begins at 8:15 p.m., preceded

by qualifying at 7:15 p.m. Other former main event winners who will see action are, Leon Garrett, Joe Drew, Bob Hobbs, Frank McEwan of Torrance, Jack "Red" Frick and Bucky Fallon. Other Torrance drivers entered include Jack Wittrock, Willy Ladd, Chuck Enlo,

Bob Queener, Nick Thomas, Roger Thorson and Nestor Silveira.

Topping the night's racing is the 15-lap main event, other action includes a 10-lap semi-main, four 8-lap heat races, and 4-lap trophy dash. Gates will open at 6:30 p.m.

Injured Dragster in Fair Condition After Hitting Pole

Dwayne Wilcox, 23-year-old veteran driver from Los Angeles, injured last Saturday at Lions Drag Strip, is reported in fair condition at Long Beach Memorial Hospital. Injured when his Peters and Frank fuel dragster left the strip on a competition run, crashing into a steel pole, Wilcox suffered a broken shoulder and two broken legs. The final run-

offs for the evening were called for time after the unfortunate accident, the first serious injury of the year at the strip. Lions Drag Strip clocks approximately 500 cars a weekend on approximately 2,000 runs for time and speed.

This Saturday night, Jet driver Gary Gabelich will drive the Chevrolet-powered fuel dragster of Bill Martin's in defense of his No. 6 Eli-

minator spot. Challenging Gabelich will be the new Chrysler-powered dragster of Kolb and Steiner, driven by Leland Kolb.

Qualifying starts at 2 p.m. for the Modifieds and Dragsters Saturday with eliminations at 7 p.m. Stocks and sport cars run Sunday, 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the quarter-mile, strip located on 223rd St. between Santa Fe and Alameda.



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Answers to key questions about the investor-owned electric utility industry and the all-electric future

How does Edison help create job opportunities in Southern California?

Investor-owned companies such as Edison have a real stake in the prosperity of their home communities—and are busy clear across the country doing something about building business and attracting industry. Example? Here is one of a series of national advertisements published by Southern California Edison.



This ad dramatizes the advantages of sun-kissed Culyver City as the "perfect plant site" for a modern industry. The advertisements are part of a consistent drive by Edison to attract industries to the 11-county area which we serve.

How does the electric industry help ease your tax load?

The investor-owned electric utility companies rank first of all industries in total taxes paid in support of local, state and federal governments (see chart below).

INDUSTRY	TOTAL TAXES PAID BY TEN LEADING INDUSTRIES
INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC UTILITY CO'S	100%
COMMUNICATIONS	85%
CHEMICALS	75%
BEVERAGES	65%
PETROLEUM REFINING	55%
FOOD	45%
MOTOR VEHICLES	35%
MACHINERY	25%
TOBACCO MANUFACTURERS	15%
ELECTRICAL MACHINERY	10%

One of the many important differences between government-operated power agencies and investor-owned electric companies is this: The former are supported by taxes—while the investor-owned utility companies are major supporters of the community, the state and the nation.

Southern California Edison pays taxes to help build and maintain schools, fire stations, police systems and other mainstays of our way of life. Edison's total taxes for 1962 came to \$85.7 million (that's about one quarter million dollars every day of the year)! Taxes represent almost 24 cents of every dollar of our revenue.

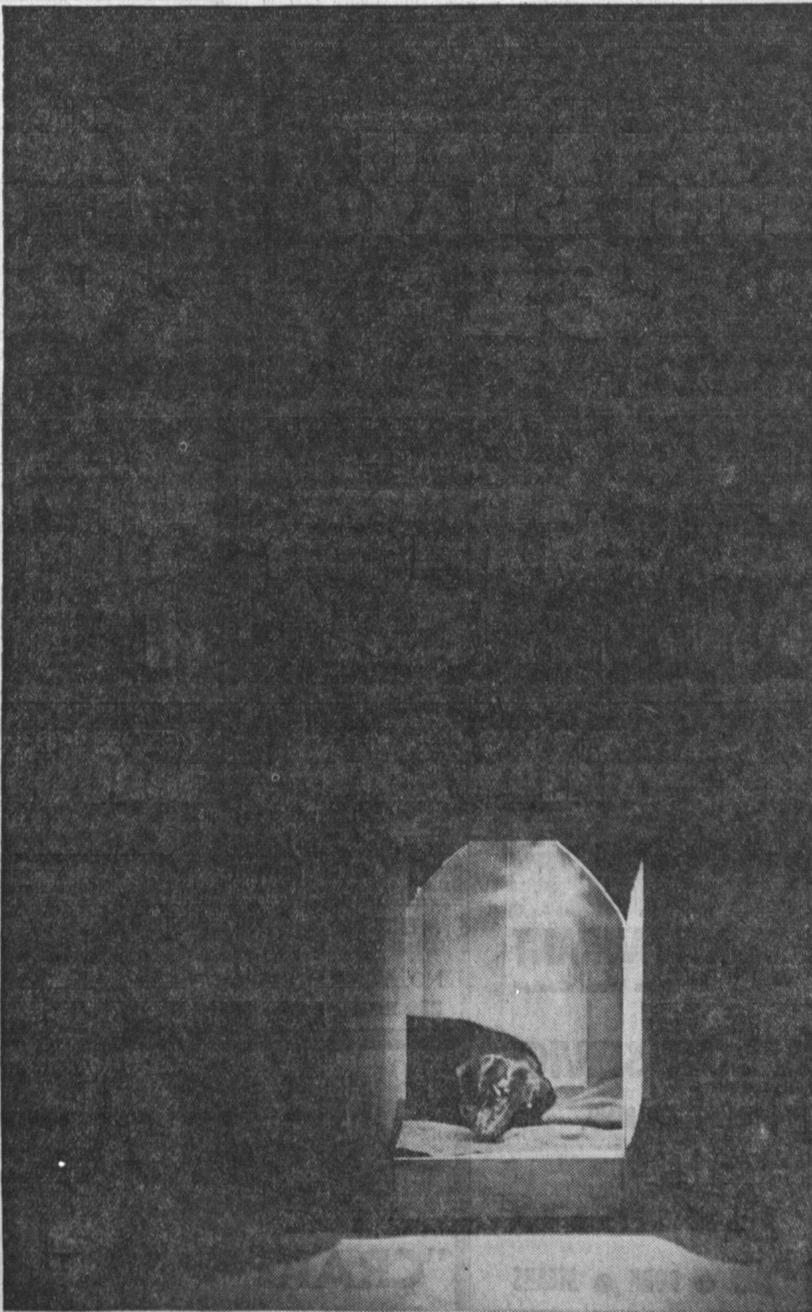
For more details, send for your copy of "The Answers to 30 Questions." Write: Advertising Department, Southern California Edison Company, P.O. Box 351, Los Angeles 53, California.



Why should teenagers have phones of their own? (It's part of their education)

A personal phone helps a youngster feel, and be, grown up. So why not grant this importance to your young adult with a STARLITE® extension phone, and watch him or her measure up to the recognition. Besides, everyone will appreciate the added privacy. Visit or phone our Business Office for details.

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Night light for a nervous dachshund

One day a man called us about a dog. Seems the dog was afraid of the dark. The man at Southern California Edison (a dog-owner himself) suggested a special night light and a good electrician. Result: dreamless sleep for a calmed canine and a delighted owner. Day after day (and night) the investor-owned electric utility companies do more than provide low-cost electricity. We try to please every customer. Like any citizen, we pay taxes to help build the new schoolhouse, library and fire station. We take pride in being good neighbors—and in actively helping to build our home communities. For news of how community job opportunities are being opened up for you and your neighbors, read right.

Southern California Edison SCE