

mile. Had two boys with me. Told 'em to take me to the hospital. Had to go about three or four miles on a rough road. Takes us about thirty-six minutes. From the snake bite to the doctor's place. And I had already--was already in the hospital when I woke up. 'Cause I was passed out.

(Passed out?)

Woke up and they had a lot of needles in my arm. Getting that poison out of my arm.

(About how many needles did they have in it?)

Oh, about four.

(I see, uh-huh. They're trying to draw that venom out right along the--)

No, it was above the wound.

(Above the wound? Well, when a snake bites you, does it leave two little marks where the fangs are?)

Uh-huh. Sure did.

(And they're not very big either, are they?)

Well, mine was pretty big. They show on my hand now.

(Really? You're still carrying scars. He must have been grandpa snake. But now these creeks around here in northeastern Oklahoma, they're full of those cottonmouth snakes, aren't they?)

No. I wouldn't say they're full, but back here south where it's warmer, I'd say southeastern part of Oklahoma you might find more cottonmouth snakes over there. But up here on the east part water is a little cooler. Streams are cooler. Cold springs. And they like to hang around down there.

(And is that because they're fresh fed? I mean the springs are fresh water springs? That keeps 'em colder and they don't much like