

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1920.06.29

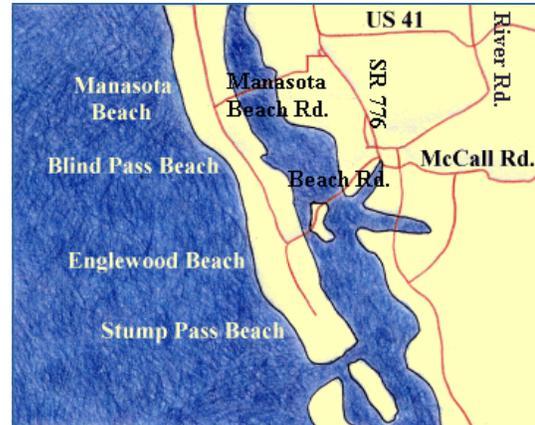
DATE: June 20 or 29, 1920

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Gulf Mexico along the coast of Florida, at Englewood Beach or a half mile north of Point of Rock on Manasota Peninsula near the Manasota Beach Club.

26°58'N, 82°21'W

NAME: Hayward Green

DESCRIPTION: The swimmer was a 13-year-old male, a student.



BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: This incident took place during a week when loggerhead turtles, coming ashore to lay eggs, were being slaughtered and Mr. Green said large sharks were seen close to shore during slaughtering activities. No turtle was being, nor had been, slaughtered at the time of day when the incident took place.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 50 yards or 300 yards, just outside a sand (breaker) bar. Water across the bar was about one and a half feet deep. The bar was separated from shore by a six-foot-deep swash channel.

DEPTH OF WATER AT INCIDENT SITE: Four feet.

TIME: 18h30 (6:30 p.m.)



NARRATIVE: Hayward Green was swimming alone. His grandfather had just finished a swim and no other swimmers were in the area. The shark grabbed Green by the knee (flexed during a kick). Green kicked away from the shark and swam for shore. Green thinks that the shallow water over the breaker bar prevented the shark from making another pass at him. His grandfather saw the shark circling the bloody area from which Green was swimming away. The grandfather helped Green to shore and took him home.

INJURY / FIRST AID / TREATMENT: Green was rushed home and his wound washed with water and alcohol, then bound with bandages. Then he was taken by boat to Dr. Meyers (a mill doctor working several miles north of Englewood, and later the doctor for Naples Hotel, Florida, now deceased) about three hours after the incident. Twenty-one stitches were used on the deepest gash on the outside of the thigh. Green (in 1958) has three major scars on his right leg: one 10" long on the calf, one 7" long on the thigh where the stitches were taken, and a short scar on the inner side of the thigh.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Green described the shark as large, roughly "15 feet" with no special markings or characteristics that he could see, except that it was "dark gray" and had the general shape of a "sand shark".

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Dr. Eugenie Clark, Cape Haze Marine Laboratory, Placida, Florida.