

1930 : National Guard encampment at Sea Girt



ACTIVITY: Swimming
CASE: GSAF 1931.07.15
DATE: Saturday July 15, 1931
LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Sea Girt, Monmouth County, New Jersey, USA.

NAME: Unknown
DESCRIPTION: He was a guardsman encamped with the New Jersey National Guard.

BACKGROUND
MOON PHASE: New Moon, July 15, 1931

NARRATIVE: No details

INJURY: He was "nipped on the leg"

SPECIES: "He reported that in his excitement to get ashore he could not say definitely whether it was a shark or swordfish. He thought it was a shark."

SOURCE: The Daily Courier (Connellsville, PA), Friday July 21, 1931

Man Kills Shark With Club When It Tries to Attack His Daughter Who Is Swimming

GREENPORT, L. I., July 21—An attempted attack by a blue-nose shark on a child bather—the third such incident within a few days—made old fishermen wonder today if a school of the man eaters had moved into North Atlantic seaboard waters.

The latest report of the big fish came when a blue-nose shark, one of the more ferocious species, tried to attack seven-year-old Irene Matthews in Gull pond, an inlet connected with the harbor. The child's father, Carl Y. Matthews of Cleveland, clubbed the creature to death in the water.

Matthews, here to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Y. Matthews, was watching his daughter play in the pond where he often swam as a boy. She was standing hip-deep in the water. He noticed the fin of a shark making towards her.

Matthews seized a club. Then he waded in, fully clothed and got between the fish and the girl. As the shark approached he hit it on the head. It plunged toward him but the water was so shallow he was able to beat it until it was stunned. Irene waded ashore.

Matthews pulled the shark up on the beach and found it measured six feet, seven inches. Local fishermen identified it as a blue-nose.

Sharks in this latitude of the Atlantic are not uncommon in summer but to have them venture into shallow bays and inlets is unheard of, according to fishermen. Their only explanation was that it followed a school of fish into the pond at high tide and when the water receded found the way barred by sand bars.

A group of boys swimming in a shallow part of Staten Island Sound near Elizabeth, N. J., were routed by the appearance of a sand shark. It was captured with a net and measured three feet.

Fishermen said they could not remember ever seeing a shark in the sound.

Last Saturday at Sea Girt, N. J., a guardsman encamped with the New Jersey National Guard was nipped on the leg by a large fish. He reported that in his excitement to get ashore he could not say definitely whether it was a shark or swordfish. He thought it was a shark.