

**ACTIVITY:** Surfing

**CASE:** **GSAF 1981.12.19**

**DATE:** Saturday 19 December 1981

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean at South Moss Beach in Spanish Bay on the Monterey Peninsula, California, USA.

*36°36.8'N, 121°57.1'W*

**NAME:** Lewis Boren

**DESCRIPTION:** He was a 24-year-old male.

**SURFBOARD:** The surfboard was 163 cm in length and 40 cm wide. Both surfaces of the board were yellow and there was a black border around the edge. The tail of the board formed an upside-down "V".

### **BACKGROUND**

**WEATHER:** It was a cold, windy, overcast day.

**MOON PHASE:** Waxing Gibbous, 95% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. Full Moon on 21 December 1981.

**NARRATIVE:** Lewis Boren was surfing alone. Examination of his body, wetsuit and surfboard revealed that he was lying prone (face down) with his left arm extended slightly from his side, as though he had been pulling the board through the water with his arms and hands using the butterfly stroke commonly employed by surfers.

**INJURY:** Fatal. Boren's body was recovered at 11h00 on 14 December, a kilometer north of Spanish Bay. The Monterey County coroner's office listed the cause of death as "severe trauma, left chest (shark bite)." In a single bite, the shark had removed a major portion of the surfer's chest cavity. Death was instantaneous.

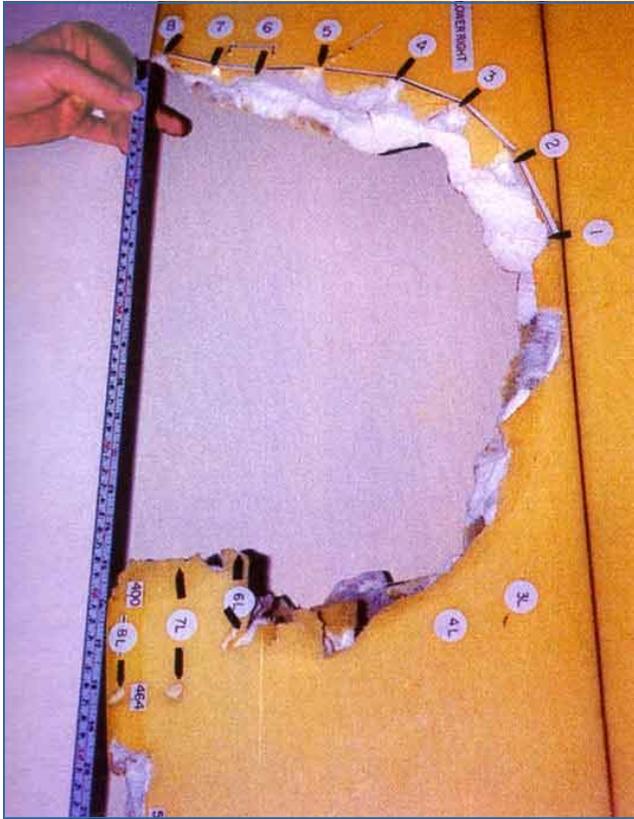
**DAMAGE TO EQUIPMENT:** A semi-circular section, measuring 40 cm wide by 26 cm deep, had been removed from the left side of the surfboard, 77 cm from the tip (or roughly midway along its length). Damage to the board's upper surface was clean and symmetrical, while its under surface bore numerous jagged-edged impressions at the perimeter of the bite. Tooth impressions, including their spacing, and measurements of the piece of surfboard that had been removed in a single bite corresponded to the wound sustained by the surfer. The shark had struck the board and surfer only once.

**SPECIES:** This incident involved a white shark, thought to be in excess of seven metres.

**SOURCE:** Ralph Collier (2003), pages 84-85

**CASE INVESTIGATOR:** Ralph Collier





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# *Shark Victim's Body Found*

PACIFIC GROVE, Calif. (UPI) — The body of a 25-year-old surfer washed ashore Thursday in Monterey Bay near where he was attacked during the weekend by one of the largest great white sharks ever recorded.

The Monterey County sheriff's office said the wetsuit-clad body revealed a shark bite similar to the 18-inch bite taken out of a surfboard which was analyzed by shark experts.

The surfer, Lewis Boren, a local welder with 10

years' experience riding waves, was in the water alone Saturday when he disappeared.

Scientists analyzed the chunk bitten from his surfboard and concluded the species was a two-ton great white shark at least 20-feet long and possibly larger. The largest ever recorded in California was 18 feet, and the world record is a 21-foot shark caught in Cuba.

Bloodstains on the surfboard, however, were found to be not human.

*The Post-Standard (Syracuse, New York), December 25, 1981, page 81*