

ACTIVITY: Unknown

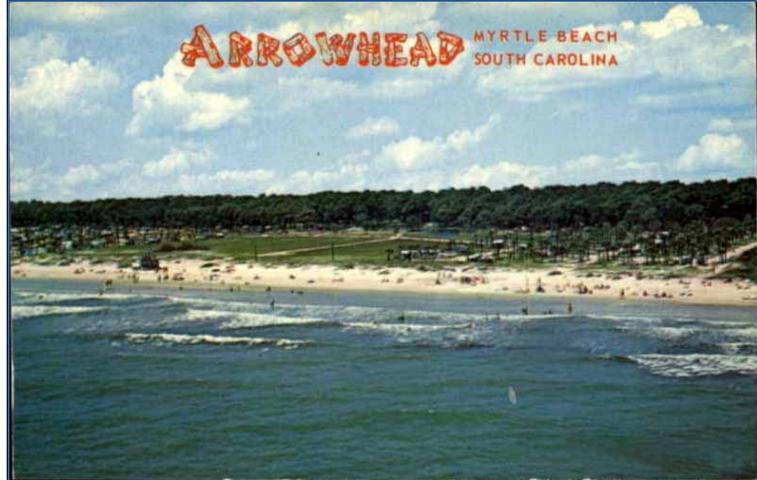
CASE: GSAF 1986.07.09

DATE: Monday July 9, 1986

LOCATION: The incident took place at Lake Arrowhead Family Campground, north of Myrtle Beach, Horry County, South Carolina, USA.

NAME: Jack Serafino

DESCRIPTION: An eight-year-old male from East Patchogue, New York.



BACKGROUND

ENVIRONMENT: Myrtle Beach is located along South Carolina's northern coast, in Horry County. It is the center of the Grand Strand, 60 miles of beaches that stretches from the North Carolina border to Georgetown. Two lifeguard stands near the incident site had off-duty flags posted even though it was the middle of the day.

TIME: 12h00

NARRATIVE: No details.

INJURY: The boy was bitten on his upper left leg. A hospital spokesperson said there was no damage to the bone and the boy was expected to make a full recovery.

FIRST AID: Once lifeguards were located, it took several more minutes to call for an ambulance because none of the lifeguards were equipped with walkie-talkies, and someone had to run to a phone at the rear of the campground to summon help, said Nelson Champlin, the boy's stepfather. Champlin and others provided first aid while they waited for the ambulance. Champlin also added that the ambulance took "at least half an hour" to arrive.

TREATMENT: The boy was treated at Grand Strand Hospital in Myrtle Beach.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Paramedic Bill Ellerbee said that it was believed the bite was caused by a shark, and campground employees speculated that a small sand shark was involved. South Carolina Marine biologist Dean Cain believed the shark was about five feet in length and its jaw was about eight inches wide.

SOURCE: Charlotte Observer, July 11, 1986, page 1C

CASE INVESTIGATOR: Clay Creswell, Global Shark Accident File.

POSSIBLE SHARK ATTACK occurs at S.C. beach

MYRTLE BEACH, S.C. (AP) — An 8-year-old boy was bitten in a possible shark attack at a Grand Strand campground and waited "at least half an hour" for an ambulance, the boy's stepfather said.

Jack Serafino of East Patchogue, N.Y. was in satisfactory condition at Grand Strand Hospital in Myrtle Beach. He suffered a bite in his upper left leg, an Horry County paramedic said Tuesday.

"It was believed to be a bite caused by a shark," paramedic Bill Ellerbee said.

Hospital spokeswoman Cindy Laing Curtis said Serafino suffered no bone damage and will recover.

Doctors worked for hours to reattach two arteries and a muscle in the boy's leg, said the boy's stepfather, Nelson Champlin.

The incident happened about noon Monday offshore at Lake Arrowhead Family Campground north of Myrtle Beach, Champlin said. Campground employees said a small sand shark could have bitten the boy. No one saw a shark in the vicinity, Champlin said.

Two lifeguard stands near the attack had off-duty flags posted, even though it was the middle of the day when the boy was bitten, Champlin said.

Once lifeguards were located, it took several more minutes to call for an ambulance because none of the lifeguards were equipped with walkie-talkies, he said.

Someone had to run to a phone at the rear of the campground to summon help, Champlin said. He said he and others applied treatment until an ambulance arrived.