

ACTIVITY: Standing

CASE: GSAF 1987.08.20

DATE: Thursday August 20, 1987

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean at Satellite Beach, Brevard County, Florida, USA.

28.2°N, 80.6°W

NAME: Gary Kritlow

DESCRIPTION: He is a 12-year-old male from Satellite Beach.

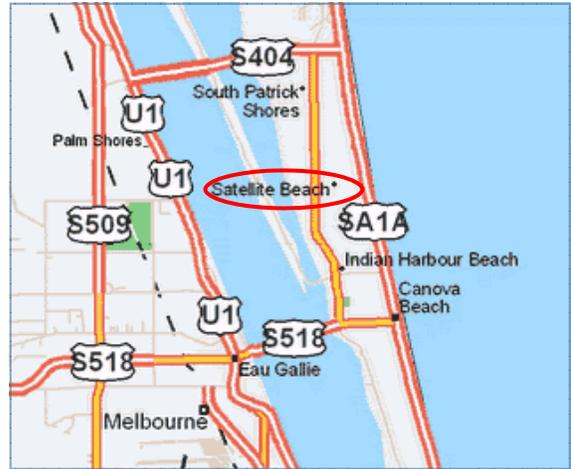
BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Waning Crescent, 14% of the Moon's visible disk was illuminated. New Moon, August 24, 1987

ENVIRONMENT: The boy was standing on a sandbar.

DEPTH OF WATER: Waist deep

TIME: 11h30



NARRATIVE: Gary, his 11-year-old brother, Robert, and 13-year-old Tom Dailey had been riding foam knee-boards for 30 minutes. "I was standing on a sand bar when something started biting my foot," said Gary. He said the shark just took his foot in its mouth and clamped down. "He was just hanging there until I pulled my foot out, and then he started to fight a little bit." Gary didn't know the fish was a shark until one of the other boys who had seen it briefly told him. The three boys swam to shore.

INJURY: The boy sustained deep puncture wounds on his lower left leg.

FIRST AID: Gary's brother wrapped a towel around the injury while Tom ran to get his stepfather, Air Force Staff Sergeant Douglas Broom. Broom drove Gary to the Patrick Air Force Base medical clinic. The boy and his mother were sent by ambulance to Holmes Regional Medical Center.

TREATMENT: Gary was first taken to the hospital at Patrick Air Force Base medical clinic, and then transported to Holmes Regional Medical Center by ambulance. He underwent six hours of surgery that afternoon. At least 150 stitches were needed to close numerous tooth punctures and lacerations on his leg. Skin grafts patched six deep holes, the largest of which was two inches in length and an inch wide. "You could actually see where the shark's teeth scraped the bone," said plastic surgeon Victoria Vitale. Gary was expected to remain hospitalized for a week, his leg to remain in a cast for at least a month.

NOTE: Gary's father, Gary Kritlow, Sr., an Air Force security police officer temporarily assigned to a base in the Netherlands, was notified of the accident by the Red Cross, and arrangements were made for him to fly home .

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified. The shark was said to be 1.2- to 1.5-metres in length.

SOURCES: Orlando Sentinel, August 21, 1987, page B1 and August 22, 1987, page D6