

Zuma Beach



CASE: GSAF 1955.08.30.a

DATE: Tuesday August 30, 1955

LOCATION: The accident took place in the Pacific Ocean at Zuma Beach, Santa Monica, Los Angeles County, California, USA.

NAME: Dale Strand

DESCRIPTION: A 25-year-old male from Glendale.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: Full Moon, September 2, 1955

NARRATIVE: An investigation by Gene Helfman revealed "...the lifeguard went out on a surfboard....when he got in the water he found a thresher shark which he grabbed by the tail. The shark turned around and bit him." Two other lifeguards got into the act and were bitten while bringing the shark to the beach where it was killed.

INJURY: Strand sustained "11 moon-shaped lacerations" to his thigh.

SPECIES: The incident involved a five-foot thresher shark.

SOURCES: Long Beach Press-Telegram August 31, 1955; Daniel Miller & Ralph Collier, Victor M. Copleson (1958), p.255; ISAF #244

NOTE: This was a provoked accident.

3 Lifeguards Fight Shark; 1 Wounded

MALIBU (AP)—A Glendale man has 11 moon-shaped lacerations to show for the battle he and two other county lifeguards waged with a 5-foot blue shark which attacked them at nearby Zuma Beach.

Dale Strand, 25, was treated Tuesday by a private physician for the bite on his thigh. He and his companions, Dick Joy, 20, of Pasadena, and John Calderwood, 20, of Inglewood, battered the shark on the head repeatedly with a metal can buoy when the big fish charged their surfboats.

They finally killed the shark but not before Strand was bitten. The three lifeguards were called to the area after the shark had circled three women swimmers.

Joy narrowly escaped injury when he grabbed the shark by the tail as it charged his surfboard. He was pulled into the water but he scrambled back onto his board before the shark could charge again.