

Jupiter Island Beach Club by Peter Roome



ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: [GSAF 1981.10.19.a](#)

DATE: Monday October 19, 1981

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean in front of the Jupiter Island Beach Club, Brevard County, Florida, USA

NAME: Van Horn Ely

DESCRIPTION: He is a 19-year-old male and an employee at the Jupiter Island Beach Club.

BACKGROUND

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 30 feet

DEPTH: Waist-deep

TIME: 11h30

NARRATIVE: He was swimming when he was struck by the shark. He reached shore without assistance.

INJURY: Lacerations to left forearm and hand.

TREATMENT: He was taken to Martin County Memorial Hospital in Stuart, Florida, where he underwent several hours of surgery.

SPECIES: The shark was thought to be six to eight feet in length [1.8 m to 2.4 m].

SOURCES: The Chronicle Telegram, Tuesday, October 20, 1981
A. MacCormick, page.11-13, citing the New Orleans Times-Picayune of October 21, 1981.

Shark attack victim nearly loses hand

JUPITER ISLAND, Fla. (UPI) — A shark estimated to be 6 to 8 feet long struck a 19-year-old man who was swimming in waist deep water, slashing open most of his left hand and forearm in the 15th shark attack reported in Florida this year.

Attendants at Martin County Memorial Hospital in Stuart reported the victim, Van Horn

Ely, in stable condition Monday following several hours of surgery. Doctors said Ely was in shock when he arrived at the hospital but said there was no danger he would lose his hand.

Ely was attacked about 30 feet from shore in front of the Jupiter Island Beach Club where he works. He told medics he managed to pull his hand free and run to shore.