

ACTIVITY: Swimming

CASE: GSAF 1982.07.11

DATE: Sunday July 11, 1982

LOCATION: The incident took place in the Pacific Ocean near Malibu, California.

NAME: Gerald Winkle

DESCRIPTION: He is a 43-old male, an off-duty police detective.

BACKGROUND

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 200 feet

NARRATIVE: "I felt tug, like someone was pulling me," said Winkle. "I reached down and felt something. I knew it was a fish." Winkle called out to a friend, Michael Castro who swam over to him and saw the shark. Castro swam to shore, grabbed a lawn chair, went back into the water and hit the shark four or five times over the head. "He [Castro] kept pushing and hitting it on the head," Winkle said. "It would not let go." Winkle said the shark suddenly let go of his leg and swam off.

INJURY: Winkle sustained an eight-inch laceration to his left thigh. However, his injury was not caused by a shark; he was injured when he tripped over a lawn chair. The article turned out to be a hoax.

Shark attacks off-duty cop in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — A shark attacked an off-duty police detective about 200 feet offshore from the Malibu area, slashing an 8-inch gash in the man's left thigh, it was reported today.

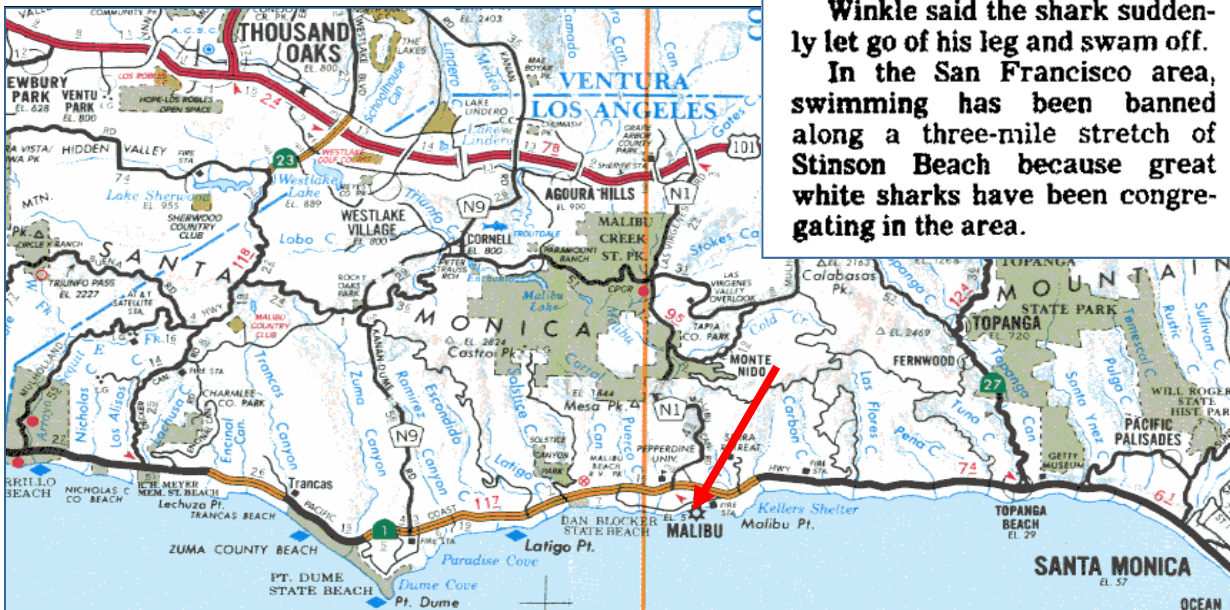
"I felt a tug, like someone just pulling me," Gerald Winkle, 43, told the Daily News of Los Angeles. "I reached down and felt something. I knew it was a fish."

Winkle said he called out to a friend, Michael Castro, who was swimming with him and also saw the shark. Castro swam to shore, grabbed a lawn chair, went back into the water and hit the shark four or five times over the head.

"He (Castro) kept pushing and hitting it on the head," Winkle said. "It would not let go."

Winkle said the shark suddenly let go of his leg and swam off.

In the San Francisco area, swimming has been banned along a three-mile stretch of Stinson Beach because great white sharks have been congregating in the area.



SOURCES: Chronicle Telegram (Elyria, Ohio) Monday, July 12, 1982, page A-4, Daily Herald, July 13, 1982

California shark attack a hoax, 'victim' reports

LOS ANGELES (UPI) — A newspaper report that a police detective was attacked by a shark while swimming off Malibu was a hoax, the purported victim said today.

Rick Orlov, assistant city editor of the Daily News of Los Angeles, said editors were attempting to determine how the story got into the Van Nuys-based newspaper.

The newspaper reported today that Detective Gerald Winkle, 43, was attacked Sunday by a shark that cut an 8-inch gash in his left thigh.

But the police officer said today he was actually injured when he tripped

over a chair on the beach while chasing a ball and had no idea how the newspaper got the phony story.

WINKLE SAID he had gone to the beach Sunday with a group of friends and their children.

"Late in the evening a ball was thrown, and while going to get it I fell over a chair and opened up a pretty good gash inside my leg," he said.

"It was bleeding pretty good and my wife, Roberta, told me to get into the water and wash it off. While I was in the water, everybody started kidding me, telling me, 'Don't go in too deep because the sharks will get you.'"