

**ACTIVITY:** Standing

**CASE:** GSAF 1988.03.31

**DATE:** Thursday March 31, 1988

**LOCATION:** The incident took place in the Atlantic Ocean off Singer Island, Riviera Beach, Florida, USA.

**NAME:** Peggy Schaefer

**DESCRIPTION:** She was a 30-year-old female from Wisconsin.

#### **BACKGROUND**

**MOON PHASE:** Full Moon, April 2, 1988

**DEPTH OF WATER:** Knee-deep

**TIME:** Night

**NARRATIVE:** Peggy Schaefer was standing in shallow water when "something just bashed into me and threw me around."

**INJURY:** She sustained lacerations to her foot and lower leg.

**FIRST AID / TREATMENT:** The injury was repaired with 35 stitches at St. Mary's Hospital.

**SOURCES:** The Palm Beach Post, Saturday April 2, 1988, page 16; The Milwaukee Journal, April 12, 1988, page 36

### **Shark bite not enough, she gets music, too**

**Madison, Wis. —AP—** When Peggy Schaefer returned to work after her Florida vacation, she was greeted by co-workers humming the theme from the movie "Jaws."

Schaefer, of Madison, returned to her advertising job at Ad Madison on Monday sporting an 8-inch shark bite on her foot that required 35 stitches.

She said she was bitten by the shark at Riviera Beach near Palm Beach, Fla. She said was standing in knee-deep water when "something just bashed into me and threw me around."

## **Woman bitten by shark off Singer Island**

**RIVIERA BEACH —** The moon was almost full, the sand cool, the water warm. A tempting combination for two Wisconsin residents thawing out from another winter on the Great Lakes.

So tempting, in fact, that Peggy Schaefer and Kevin Gundersen decided a late-night swim in the ocean off Singer Island Thursday would be just the thing.

"All of a sudden I got hit real hard," Schaefer, 30, said Friday. "Something grabbed hold of me and was thrashing around. I crawled backwards on my hands and feet."

By the time Schaefer pulled herself from the water, a shark had sampled a large part of her foot.

"I didn't even know I was hurt," Schaefer said. "I looked down at my foot, and it was all bloody."

Gundersen, Schaefer's boyfriend, drove her to the St. Mary's Hospital emergency room, where doctors sewed up the gashes in her foot and lower leg with about 35 stitches.

Spinner sharks are common along Singer Island at this time of year, said Brian McManus, captain of the Palm Beach County Beach Patrol.