

ACTIVITY: Walking

CASE: **GSAF 1988.09.13.b**

DATE: Tuesday September 13, 1988

LOCATION: The incident took place at Shell Island, a 700-acre barrier island opposite Panama City Beach, Bay County, Florida, USA. Panama City is on the panhandle of northwest Florida on St. Andrews Bay and the Gulf of Mexico.



NAME: Ann and Dennis Hadden

DESCRIPTION: Dennis is a 42-year-old male and Ann is a 41-year-old female. They live in McDonough, Georgia.

BACKGROUND

MOON PHASE: New Moon, September 11, 1988

SEA CONDITIONS: The water was murky due to recent rains and decomposing seaweed.

ENVIRONMENT: Shell Island an uninhabited island with great stretches of white sand and windswept dunes. Several sharks were sighted off area beaches that day.

DISTANCE FROM SHORE: 30 feet

DEPTH OF WATER: Three and a half feet

TIME: 15h45

NARRATIVE: The Haddens were walking in the water when they saw a dark shadow circling them. Then it swung around toward Ann and grabbed her right forearm. Dennis lunged forward and kicked the shark. "I must have hit it pretty good because it let go of her," he said. Dennis pushed his wife towards shore and then turned to face the shark. "I got hold of its head and evidently I let a hand get in its mouth because it got chewed up some."

INJURY: Dennis' hand was injured and Ann's forearm was lacerated by the shark.

SPECIES INVOLVED: Not identified. The shark was said to be six feet in length.

NOTE: This incident took place 400 yards from where John Martin (GSAF 1988.09.13.a) was killed by a shark 45 minutes earlier.

Officials in Panama City closed St. Andrews State Park to swimming and surfing for a week.

SOURCES: Daily Herald, Thursday, September 15, 1988; M. Womack, News Herald; <http://www.news.herald.com/articles/2001/07/29/lo072901e.htm>; Orlando Sentinel, September 18, 1988, page B.4

Shark attacks leave one dead

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. — A shark killed a 38-year-old man before his horrified girlfriend, and two other swimmers were injured in a separate shark attack at a popular state park, the Florida Marine Patrol said Wednesday. Panama City Beach resident John P. Martin, 38, was killed in the first attack Tuesday. Later, Dennis Hadden, 42, and his wife, Ann, 41, suffered cuts and abrasions from a shark attack near the site of the first attack. The incidents took place off Shell Island, a section of St. Andrews State Park. According to witnesses, Martin was struck twice by one of two sharks in the area, estimated as between 6-9 feet long. Martin's girlfriend, another woman and a bystander in a second boat frantically tried but were unable to pull Martin on board.