

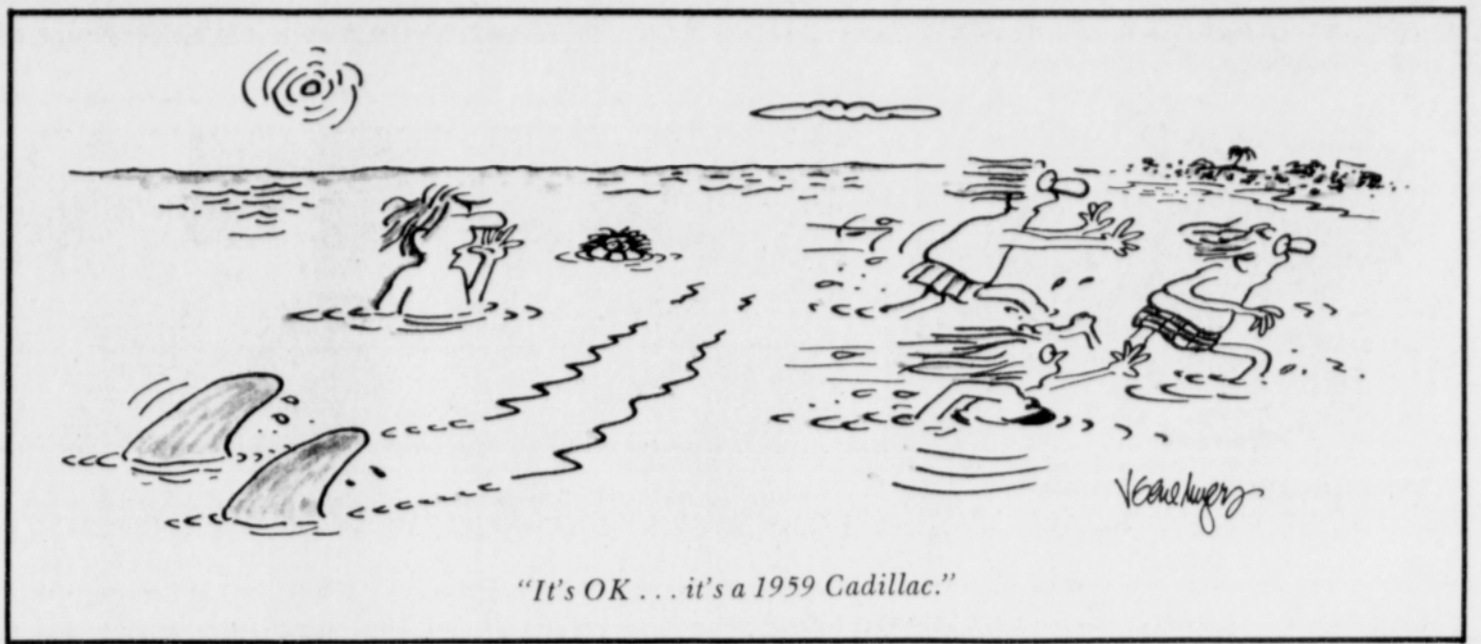
until I was drained of energy. I had a collapsed lung and a hole in my back.

A three foot wave broke behind me. I heard its crash and looked over to my right because I did not want to look at my mangled left side. I thought I would go into shock if I saw my wounds. The wave picked me up and carried me almost into shore. Three of the other surfers waded out and carried me to safety. They said there was a cloud of blood where I was attacked and a trail of it to the beach. The white water on either side of me was red.

Steve ran up a cliff to a house and barged in the door. He found a phone and called for the Cannon Beach medics.

I lay in the sand. A friend named Josh had one hand on my leg and his other on my shoulder. "If you got any prayers, kenny, you better say them now," he said.

I was losing a lot of blood and experiencing hypothermia. Someone held my hand and I heard a woman say that I would be all right. A crowd gathered around me quickly. Soon I heard the siren of the paramedics and felt a little relieved. While a couple of people held a blanket to protect me from the wind the medics slowed



"It's OK... it's a 1959 Cadillac."

the bleeding and gave me oxygen. After about a half hour the emergency ambulance arrived from Seaside. My suit was cut off and I was moved onto a stretcher and taken to the emergency room at Seaside Hospital.

The shark's teeth had penetrated five inches into my back. They had severed and shattered four ribs. My heart, lungs and a kidney were exposed, and the muscles that run down my back from the armpit to the buttocks had been torn apart. My body temperature was ninety-one degrees. Out of almost six normal quarts of blood I was down to about a pint.

Doctor Robert Wayne and another physician knew I needed blood but they did not know my type. They chose a normal type and started transfusions which saved my life. They rolled me over on my side to look at my back. There was a large hole in the left side and they could observe my exposed lungs while I breathed. I could only breathe through one lung. A steel

tube was inserted into my chest so that I could take in more air.

I was taken to Saint Vincent's Hospital in Portland. Doctor Wayne rode with me. I faded out twice from lack of blood. Each time he and a medic pumped up air splints which had been placed on each of my legs to maintain my blood pressure. My whole body was numb. I felt no pain. I thought that I was going to die and that there was nothing I could do to prevent it. I continued losing blood and used up five units on the way to Portland.

I thought about my two sons, Jeremy and Justin. I did not want to leave them and have them grow up without a father. I wanted to be with them and that desire gave me the will to survive.

Later, while I was recovering from surgery, I asked my doctor how many stitches my wounds had required. "I don't know," he replied. "I stopped counting when I got to five hundred."

Thank you

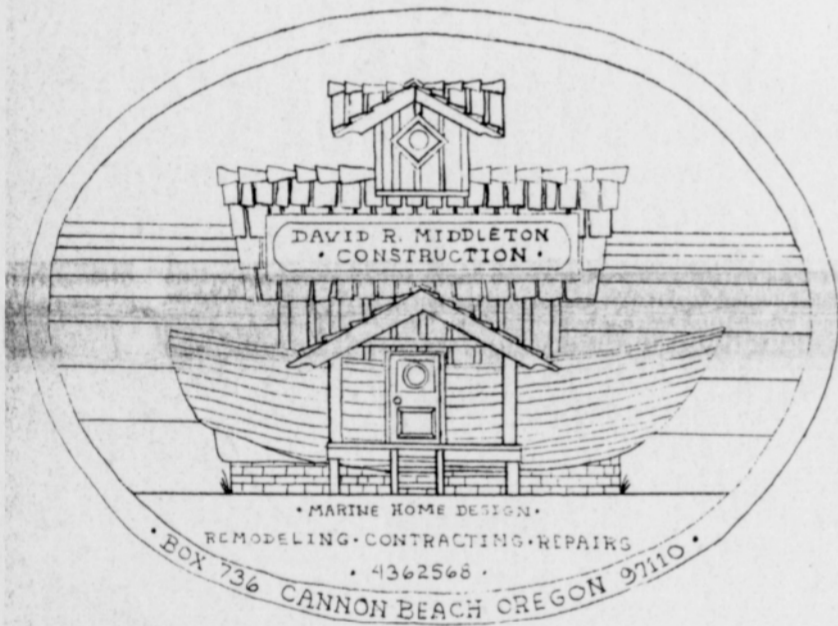
I would like to thank the volunteer paramedics of Cannon Beach for saving my life.

I would also like to thank the guys out in the water with me that day, Jack, Josh, Steve, and Al, and Tom Butori for holding my hand.

I am grateful to the city of Cannon Beach for donating the Coaster Theater for raising medical expenses and to those who contributed. And to Dallas McKennon who let everyone gather in his studio.

My special thanks to Doctor Robert Wayne, and to the physicians and staff at Seaside and Saint Vincent Hospitals, and to all who said prayers for me.

— Kenny Doudt

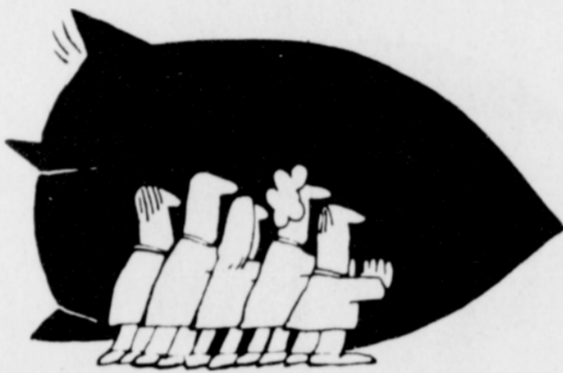


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