# Six Persons Killed in Authenticated Attacks by Sharks During Last Year

By JOSEPH L. MYLER

Washington – (UPI) – Sharks killed six persons and injured 25 in 30 "unprovoked attacks" last year.

This has been reported by the shark research panel of the American Institute of Biological Sciences in its annual worldwide census of authenticated shark attacks.

In addition to the 30 unprovoked attacks on 31 persons, sharks launched four other attacks — against boats. Nobody was hurt in these forays, but a couple of boats were incapacitated.

The panel also listed nine attacks, on 10 persons, by sharks which it said had been provoked by being caught, trapped, speared, injured, or pursued by humans.

All 10 provokers were injured, none fatally.

The panel repeated previous warnings to swimmers and skin divers that "it is dangerous to hunt, provoke, or hang on to the tails of sharks or otherwise 'play' with them."

**Eight 'Doubtful' Attacks**

In addition to the confirmed attacks, the panel reported eight "doubtful" attacks with two fatalities among the 10 persons involved.

The panel recorded among doubtful attacks cases in which, despite some circumstantial evidence, it could not be proved that death or injury resulted from onslaughts by sharks "on living persons."

In this list was the case of Alfred J. Haen, 43, who disappeared Oct. 9 in the water off Ocean Ridge, Boca Raton, Fla. His body, mutilated by sharks, was found four days later. But there was no way to tell whether he was alive when attacked.

In a separate category, the panel reported sharks may have killed scores of victims of air and sea disasters last year. But as in the case of Haen, a spokesman said, it was impossible to determine whether the sharks attacked before or after the death of their prey.

The total of 31 persons injured in unprovoked shark attacks last year compared with 23 in 1960 and 21 in 1959. The nine provoked attacks compared with 12 in 1960 and four in 1959.

**Off Both Coasts**

Last year's unprovoked attacks occurred off both coasts of continental United States, off Hawaii and other Pacific islands, Bermuda, Australia, South and East Africa, the Philippines, in the Mediterranean sea and Persian gulf, and 150 miles upstream in the Limpopo river of East Africa.

At least 17 species of shark made these attacks on fishermen, swimmers, or boats. The smallest was a two-foot Banjo shark, the largest a 2,500-pound white pointer shark.

Most of the unprovoked attacks were made in African and Australian waters. Three were in Florida waters, one off South Carolina, one off California, and one off Oahu, Hawaii.

In these six U.S. attacks, one person was killed and the others wounded. The fatality was William J. Dandridge, 23, of Miami who was attacked while scuba diving.

**Nine in 1960**

These figures compare with nine unprovoked attacks in U.S. waters in 1960, with one person killed and nine injured, and 10 attacks in 1959 with three killed and seven hurt.

Of the four unprovoked attacks by sharks on boats in 1961 the panel said:

"One 35-foot launch was incapacitated when its rudder was damaged by a huge shark, one canoe was bitten in two and turned over and its occupant forced to swim to shore, and a dinghy with two occupants was used as a toy by a school of sharks which swirled it around and around."

The panel said sharks were reported present among victims of four air and sea disasters during the year. It cited the sinking of the Pacific Seafarer, a U.S. Navy vessel, off the coast of Colombia in January, 1961. Three persons perished.

The panel included in this disaster listing the deaths of "many of the hundreds of hurricane victims who were attacked by sharks" in waters northwest of Acapulco, Mexico, Nov. 17.

## Graham Deplores Court Decision

Montreat, N.C.–(UPI)–Evangelist Billy Graham said here that the U.S. Supreme Court decision banning official state prayers in public schools is "another step toward secularism in the United States."

The North Carolina evangelist, resting at his home here after his recent Chicago crusade, said the decision "is a most dangerous trend" and comes at a time when American youth is in "need of moral and spiritual influence as never before."

Graham said that if the decision were followed to its logical conclusion, "prayers will not be said in Congress, chaplains will be taken out of the Armed Forces and the President will not place his hand on the bible when he takes the oath of office."

He said the decision is "enough to make the framers of the constitution turn over in their graves. They meant we would have freedom of religion and not freedom from religion."

**DONATES BLOOD**

Aviation fire control technician second class Raymond C. Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Nelson, 240 North Holly st., Medford, serving with Fighter Squadron 151 aboard the attack aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea, recently helped make life for the Chinese refugees streaming into Hong Kong more pleasant. During a recent visit to the colony, the crew donated blood to the British Red Cross to be used by needy refugees.

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## Forest Personnel Complete Training

Klamath Falls – Sixty firefighters, smokechasers, lookouts and forest guards on the Winema National forest completed a three-day training last week. The training camp was held at Sevenmile Guard station on the Klamath Ranger district.

District rangers and foresters acted as instructors and gave training in all phases of fire control activity. Lookout training was conducted at the Fort Klamath lookout.

The group put out small fires and were thoroughly instructed in the use of fire equipment. A highlight of the camp was the competition between districts. The Chemult district took top honors and won the overall Guard school trophy. Individual prizes were won by Bruce Hill, Pelican Butte lookout, of the Klamath district, who was first in the compass and pacing competition, and Jack Coffman also of the Klamath district, who won first place among the foresters and engineers.

Training was completed Thursday evening and personnel are now being moved to their stations in preparation for the fire season ahead.

## *Mahoney Withdrawing Senate Candidacy*

Portland —(UPI)— State Sen. Thomas Mahoney (D-Portland) has announced he is withdrawing his candidacy for president of the Oregon Senate in 1963.

Mahoney said he was releasing those who had pledged their votes to him.

This leaves five announced candidates. They include Sens. Dan Thiel (D-Astoria), Ben Musa (D-The Dalles), Al Flegel (D-Roseburg), Ward Cook (D-Portland), and Al Corbett (D-Portland).

Sen. Harry Boivin (D-Klamath Falls) was Senate president in 1961.

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