

ACTIVITY: Cleaning an aquarium tank.

CASE: [GSAF 1961.02.17.b](#)

DATE: Friday February 17, 1961

LOCATION: The incident took place at the Fairmount Park Aquarium in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA.

NAME: Charles Peterson

DESCRIPTION: He was a 30-year-old male, an attendant at the aquarium.

NARRATIVE: Peterson said he was pushing silt toward the drain of the tank with a pole when a sand shark jumped out of the water and injured him.

INJURY: His left thumb was lacerated.

TREATMENT: Ten stitches were needed to close the gash on his thumb.

SPECIES: A "sand shark".

NOTE: This was a provoked incident; it involved a captive shark.

SOURCE: The Bee (Danville, Virginia), Saturday February 18, 1961

BITTEN BY SHARK

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A sand shark leaped at an attendant cleaning a tank at the Fairmount Park Aquarium Friday and bit him on the thumb.

Charles Peterson, 30, said he was pushing silt toward the drain of the tank with a pole when the sand shark jumped out of the water. Ten stitches were needed to close the gash on his left thumb.

