

"CUJO LEARNS ABOUT THE SPERM WHALE WAR"

By Joseph H. Rinaldi

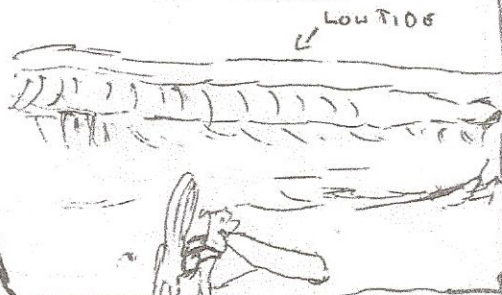
MILES You missed out on the beach today. Why don't you ever come with us?

NONE EVER BETTER???



Because I'm A CAT. WE DON'T LIKE THE BEACH. WHAT HAPPENED? YOU SWIM WITH DOLPHINS AND A SHARK AGAIN?

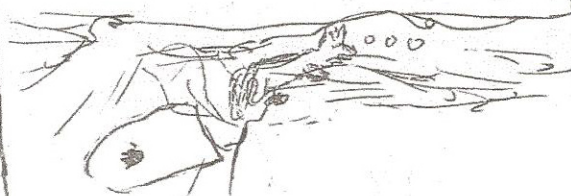
So everybody was sleeping in the sun and I decided to try and catch a few waves too...



AND EVERYTHING WAS GOING GREAT UNTIL I WAS CAUGHT IN A RIPTIDE THAT CARRIED ME FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE FOREVER



BECAUSE THIS TIME I didn't wash up onto the beach shore... I just kept getting carried into the water.



AND EVENTUALLY I WAS MILES FROM THE BEACH. FLOATING ALONG, JUST ME AND A BUNCH OF TRASH...



Then I decided as long as I'm stranded I'm gonna have fun. I put the trash to good use:



AND AFTER I MADE MY OWN SCUBA GEAR I PUT IT TO USE. AND YOU'RE NOT GONNA GUESS WHAT HAPPENED NEXT...



HEY MUTANT SEAL??? WHAT ARE YOU DOING WAY OUT HERE? DON'T COME OUT HERE AND START TROUBLE. WHAT KIND OF SEAL WEARS A BOWL ON HIS HEAD TO BREATHE UNDER WATER ANYWAY???

Please don't say I'm a shark whale

I'm a dog, specifically a dachapoo. what are you?

I'm a whale, a sperm whale.

LIKE MOBY DICK??? wow! WILL YOU AUTOGRAPH MY BOARD? I'M A HUGE FAN.

AUTOGRAPH? SURE: YOU HAVE A PEN MAN?

There's one floating

YEAH LIKE MOBY DICK I GUESS. WE CALLED HIM P.T.

WAIT P.T.? MOBY DICK WAS REAL, AND YOU'VE READ IT? TELL ME MORE DETAILS.

SURE, HERE'S YOUR BOARD PRIN

BOB

IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN THE REAL STORY OF P.T. YOU'LL HAVE TO KNOW ABOUT THE SPERM WHALE INDUSTRY THAT HAS DECIMATED THE SPERM WHALE POPULATION. THROUGHOUT HISTORY HUMANS KILLED US BUT ONLY IN THE LAST TWO CENTURIES HAS IT FELT LIKE WAR ON THE WHALES.

WAR?? "WELL MORE LIKE HUMANS ATTACK US AND CUTTING OPEN OUR HEADS AND STEALING ARE BRAIN JUICE TO MAKE CANDLES AND TO USE AS OIL."

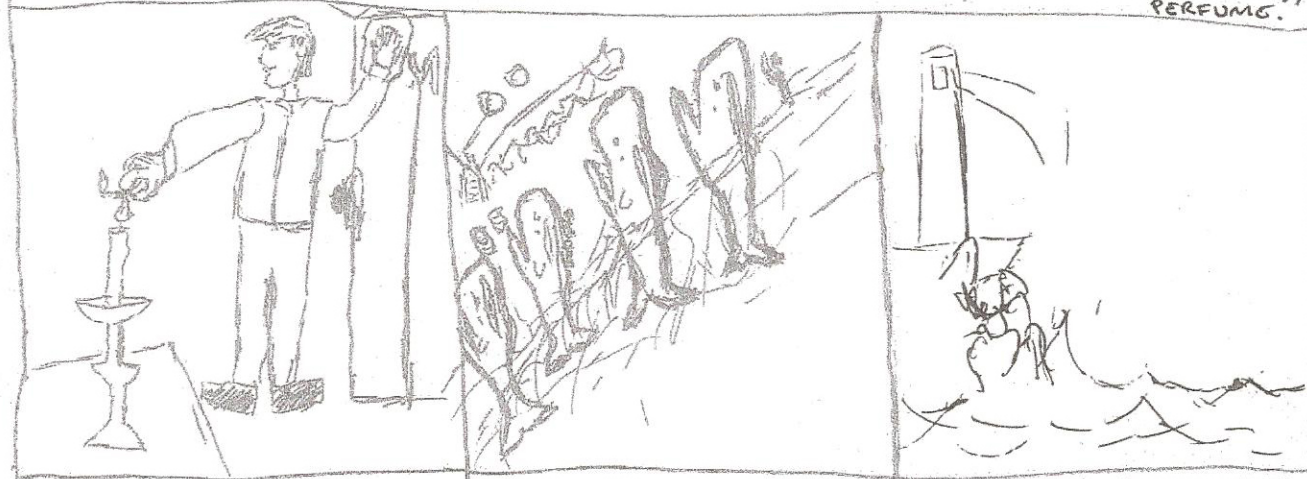
THAT'S TERRIBLE! WHY DO THAT TO WHALES?

SPERMALCETIN

You see in the early 1700's humans began killing us, starting with the Hussey family. NO ONE KNOWS FOR SURE WHO STARTED THE KILLING, BUT OUR SIDE OF THE LEGEND SAYS A MEMBER OF THE HUSSEY FAMILY WAS BLOWN OFFSHORE BY A NORTHERLY WIND. A SCHOOL OF SPERM WHALES WERE TRYING TO HELP HIM, BUT WERE MET WITH SPEARS AND P.T.'S GRAND FATHER WAS MURDERED."



BY 1743 HUMANS BEGAN TO MAKE SPERMACETI CANDLES AND BY 1744 ONE NANTUCKET VOYAGE WAS SAID TO HAVE BROUGHT IN '45 SPERM CATES" IN ONE DAY. THIS MADE OIL FOR LIGHTHOUSES AS WELL AND PERFUME."

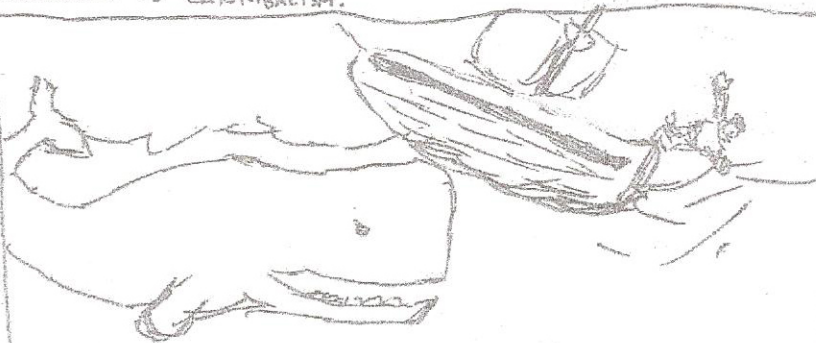


BY THE MID 18th CENTURY WE WERE USED IN AMOUNTS EXCEEDING 45,000 BARRELS OF SPERM OIL. (8,000 OF WHALE OIL ALSO)

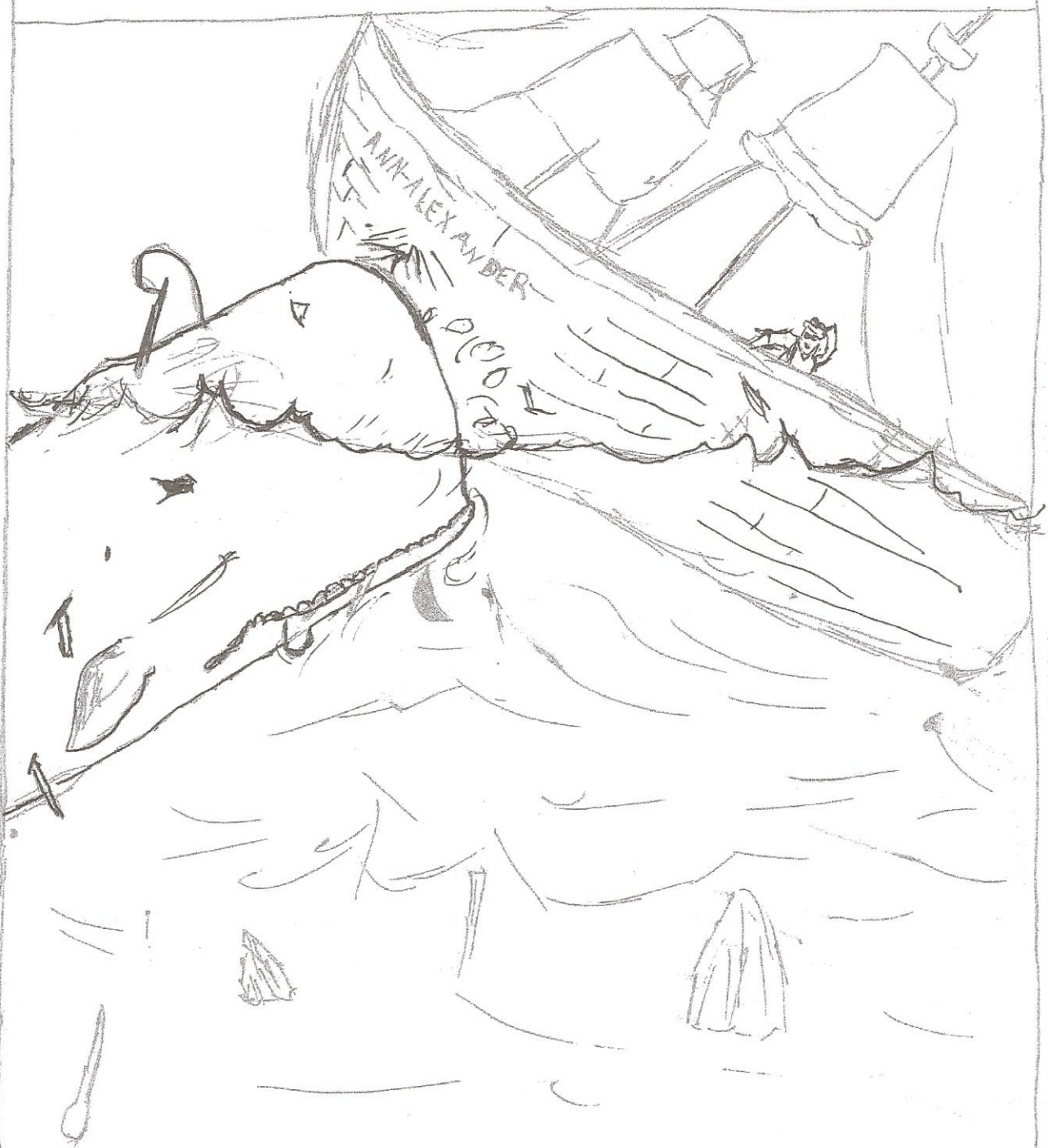
LEGEND HAS IT P.T. (AN '85 FT BULL) RAMMED THE SHIP THEY CALLED ESSEX TWICE. THIS SHIP WAS HUNTING FEMALES NEARBY. 3 OUT OF 20 SAILORS RESORTING TO CANNIBALISM.

FLESHING:

Spermaceti is located here. This substance found in sperm whale brains is believed to be part of their navigation system.



JUST MILES AWAY FROM THE ATTACK NEAR THE GALAPAGOS ISLAND
P.T. ATTACKED AND CHANGED TO PIECES TWO WHALE BOATS AND THEN
ATTACKED THE SHIP CALLED THE ANN ALEXANDER. THIS IS WHERE YOU MET
THE HUMAN STORY OF MOBY DICK. P.T. WAS FLOATING WITH THE WRECKAGE
BADLY INJURED IN BATTLE... AND SAVING THE LIVES OF HIS FAMILY.

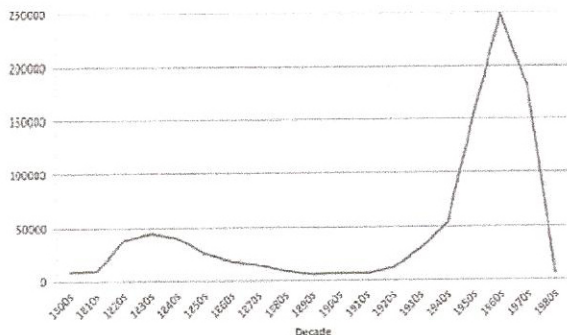


"NOT UNTIL THE DISCOVERY OF OIL WELLS AND PETROLEUM WERE WE FINALLY SAFE. FROM THE 1830s UNTIL 1946 WE THOUGHT WE WERE SAFE. THEN AFTER HUMANS DECIMATED THE BALEEN WHALES, THEY STARTED USING NASTY EXPLODING HARPOONS ON US... ALL TO MAKE COSMETICS, SOAP, AND INDUSTRIALIZED MACHINE OIL."



(Grand ball given by Whales in the discovery of oil wells in Pennsylvania)

Global Sperm Whale Catch



Data sources:
<http://mars.xos.tol.wisc.edu/~whale.htm>
<http://www.refa.noaa.gov/HF45/HW4516410.pdf>

"WORLDWIDE HUMAN ESTIMATES OF SPERM WHALES TOTALLED 1,100,000 BEFORE THE GREAT WAR ON SPERM WHALES BEGAN. IN, THE 19th CENTURY ESTIMATES UP TO 236,000 WERE KILLED, AND FROM 1946 TO 1980 770,000 SPERM WHALES WERE MURDERED."

WOW, SO THAT'S HOW THEY MADE THE TALE OF MOBY DICK... I LIKE YOUR STORY BETTER BOB. WHY DID THEY FINALLY STOP ATTACKING YOU GUYS?

WELL, I'M ONLY A FEW MONTHS OLD BUT I GUESS THE INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION GAVE US FULL PROTECTION IN 1985.



I CAN'T BELIEVE HUMANS COULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT TO ANOTHER ANIMAL. MY HUMANS ARE PRETTY NICE... ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT HELPING THE EARTH AND CO₂ AWARENESS.

CO₂? OH WE KNOW ABOUT THAT. IN FACT WE WERE A MAJOR SOURCE TO BRINGING CO₂ LEVELS DOWN. GUESS HOW... OUR FECES ACTUALLY ABSORBS CO₂ IN THE AIR SO KILLING US = MORE CO₂.

THAT'S PRETTY GROSS
BOB. COOL. BUT GROSS.
YOU THINK YOU COULD
DO ME A FAVOR AND
TAKE ME BACK TO
HALF MOON BAY?



I'LL ASK MY
MOMMA. YEAH
IT'S GROSS, BUT
DOES YOUR POO HELP
ABSORB 400,000
TONS OF CARBON?
I THINK NOT.
THAT'S TWICE AS
MUCH ABSORPTION
AS WE PRODUCE.

"WAIT? STOP?"

... SO YOU'RE TELLING ME
YOU SPENT ALL DAY WITH
SPERM WHALES. AND THEY INSIST
ON TALKING ABOUT POO?

YEAH SPERM
WHALES REALLY
CARE ABOUT CO2

AND THEN
THEY TOOK
YOU BACK TO
THE BEACH.



THAT IS REALLY
COOL, I JUST
WANT TO GO HOME.



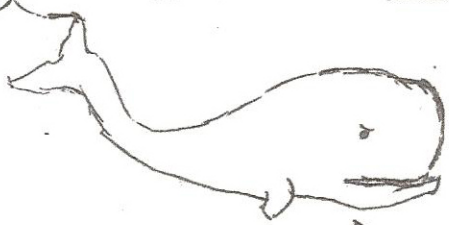
THAT'S A LAME STORY CUJO." IS IT EVEN TRUE?"

AT LEAST I HAVE A STORY MILES YOU JUST SIT AROUND AND MEOW
AND IT'S MOSTLY TRUE. I DON'T KNOW IF THE P.T. PART IS THOUGH."

WELL WHERE'S YOUR
MOM BOB. I REALLY DO
NEED TO GET HOME?

MOM CAN WE
TAKE MY NEW
FRIEND HOME...
IT'S SORT OF ALONG
THE WAY

YES DEAR, BUT WHEN DID YOU
START BECOMING FRIENDS WITH
MUTANT SEALS?



YES
MOM!

DID YOU TELL HIM
ABOUT THE CO2 ABSORBING
HELPLESSNESS OF OUR POO?

THE END?

Works Cited

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