

Issue 2

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The Seaside News



Surfman Walks into Stormy Sea

On August 18, 1899, surfman Rasmus Midgett was patrolling the beaches keeping watch for shipwrecks. He was riding his pony in a hurricane when he heard a cry for help. The schooner "Priscilla" was grounded on a shoal, and waves were crashing over her. Rasmus did not have time to go back to the life-saving station for help. He had to make a quick decision. Watching the waves roll toward and away from him, he timed his approach to the ship so that he could swim and wade through surf and sea and get to the shipwreck. It was important to get all the people off the ship before it was smashed to pieces.

Rasmus made several trips to the ship and helped the crew members to the shore. Then he realized that some of the men still onboard were not able to walk on their own, so he carried them one at a time to shore. Imagine a man moving through ferocious hurricane seas over and over to rescue people! For his courage, Rasmus Midgett was awarded a gold lifesaving medal of honor, the highest award a civilian can receive during peace time.



Joke of the Month

Why don't oysters like to share their pearls?



Because they are shellfish.

Rasmus Midgett Word Search

E D Q G G P Z J J Z V X T T L
 L N A X K N R R J W W S T T D
 X I A E W W S I X P H I E L J
 W C F C V J Q R S O U Y G A Q
 O Z X E I R O N A C N F D D C
 K S P G S R A L B O I R I E G
 T S U B J A R S P E P L M M S
 A P I V T G V U M D L S L U L
 J M K W O F V E H U C U R A R
 K N A L J H F H R H S F N A V
 K Y D V G S M E O U M T Q E M
 S U O U M N O O R A Q B E O Y
 F S D Y M P N T N U H H L N R
 Q H K X J E S N X W E Q F C G
 M V Z R R B W Y Y F T M Y Q N

GOLD
 MEDAL
 SURFMAN
 RASMUS

HURRICANE
 MIDGETT
 PONY
 SCHOONER

LIFESAVER
 SHOAL
 PRISCILLA

1. Why was Rasmus Midgett patrolling the beach?
2. Why didn't Rasmus Midgett go back to the Life-Saving Station to get help?
3. What made walking to the ship dangerous?
4. Why was it important to get the sailors off the ship?
5. Why was Rasmus Midgett given a gold medal?

1. He was watching for shipwrecks.
2. He did not have time.
3. Strong wind and waves were dangerous.
4. They ship would break apart.
5. Because he was a man of courage who helped people in need.