

**ON LOCATION....
ON MARTHA'S VINEYARD**

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**(The Making of the Movie *Jaws*)
50th Anniversary Edition**

Edith Blake

**BearManor Media
2025**

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FOREWORD

Here it is, firsthand, the account of how the motion picture *Jaws* was made, and for anyone who sees the motion picture this may well be as indispensable as a libretto at the Metropolitan Opera. Not that *Jaws* on the screen fails to speak adequately for itself, but the making of the film involved quite a different sequence of circumstances and pervasive tone. In a word, as Edith Blake points out, it was a riot. A troubled, surprising, eventful, and hilarious riot.

Mrs. Blake not only saw the action on the Island of Martha's Vineyard where in many long months (not in the originally projected few weeks) the filming was accomplished, at the cost of many odd confrontations and adventures, but she was part of the action. Who fell over backwards into a tub of blood and guts? Cinematographic blood and guts, of course, but about as inconvenient as the real thing.

This, however, is the least item of her narrative of the spring and summer of *Jaws*. A memorable, definitive, suspenseful, immensely varied and funny exploit of Universal and of all moviedom. Was there ever anything like it? The jury is still out, but no reader of Edith Blake's narrative will doubt the verdict.

Henry Beetle Hough

Edgartown, June 1, 1975

Dedicated

to

Henry Beetle Hough

and the Shark

45^h Anniversary Edition/Expanded 50th Anniversary Edition

Dedicated to

Edith Blake

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INTRODUCTION

Hello, and welcome to the 45th Anniversary Edition of Edith Blake's best-selling book "On Location....On Martha's Vineyard (The Making of the Movie *Jaws*).

I first "met" Edith Blake in September 1976. I was 16-years old. Barred by my father from making long distance phone calls from home, thanks to a \$300-plus bill I racked up talking with a fellow Roy Scheider fan in Kansas City, I walked to the nearby 7-Eleven armed with a roll of quarters and dialed long distance information. I asked for the listing of Edith Blake in Edgartown, Massachusetts and was given the number. After depositing \$3.25 "for the first three minutes" – this may sound shocking to those of you reading this that have only known unlimited usage on your cell phones – I waited eagerly as the phone rang. I was greeted with a pleasant "hello" and quickly blurted out who I was and why I was calling. At the time I was helping to run Richard Dreyfuss' official fan club, and I told her that I loved the many "behind the scenes" photos of Richard she had featured in her book. We chatted for a few more minutes – I had to deposit another \$1.25 – and then said our good-byes. Before we hung up, she asked for my address, which I gave her. Needless to say, I was shocked a week later when I came home from school to find a large envelope on my bed. Inside were three photos Ms. Blake had taken during the shoot that weren't included in the book. I still cherish her gift today.

I finally got to officially meet Edie in June 2005 at the first JAWSFest, held on Martha's Vineyard. I had the good fortune of being introduced to her and was able to spend a few moments alone with her. I told her who I was and mentioned the above story and, to my glee,

she remembered me. Being a former Boy Scout, I came prepared and produced my copy of her book, which she graciously signed. Over the past 15 years I have had the chance to speak with her on several other occasions and every meeting creates a new memory.

Along with Carl Gottlieb's "The *Jaws* Log," Edie's book was one of the first in-depth looks into the making of a feature film. It helped inspire popular "making of" books covering films like *Superman the Movie* (1978), *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), *Brazil* (1985), *Dick Tracy* (1990) and *Titanic* (1997). It also was a major influence in two other books that feature some of her photographs – "*Jaws: Memories from Martha's Vineyard*" by Matt Taylor and Jim Beller and my own "*Jaws 2: The Making of the Hollywood Sequel*," which I authored with Lou Pisano.

45-years after its premiere on June 20, 1975, *Jaws* continues to gain fans with each successive generation. It is one of those timeless films that pretty much everyone has seen at least once and its impact on pop culture is still being felt today. It has not only spawned a countless number of fans but a countless number of friends as well. If you're reading this book for the first time, I say "welcome aboard!" If you've decided to revisit the adventures within, I say "welcome back!" Amity, as you know, means friendship.

This project would never have come to fruition without the support and friendship of others. Thank you to Edith Blake, for allowing me the honor of sharing her work with new generations; Donna Honig, *Jaws*-doms most favorite Islander and Bow Van Riper of the Martha's Vineyard Museum for sharing many of the new photos featured in this book. Special thanks to Phil Heeks, who not only designed the brilliant cover of this book but was able to clean up 45-year-old negatives to give you, the reader, the best photos possible as well as Chad Godfrey and his staff at Summit Video in Lee's