

APRIL 83

VOL 2

NO3



COCONUT COURIER

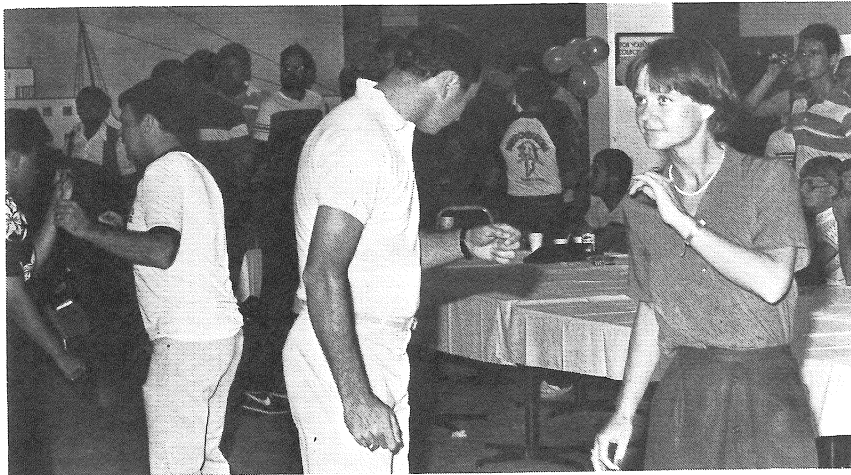
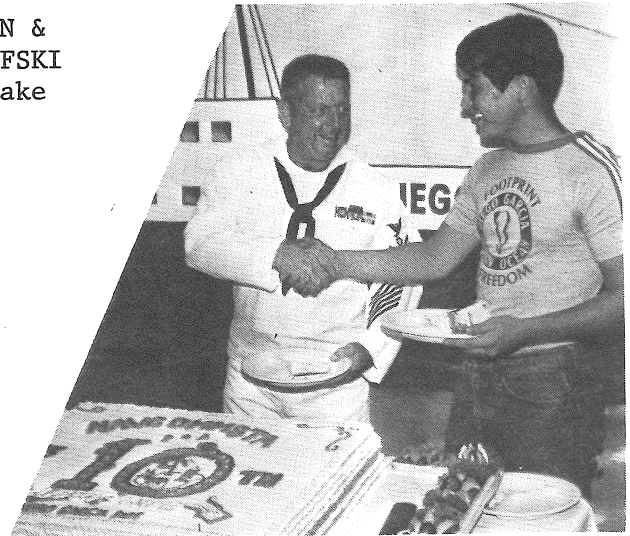
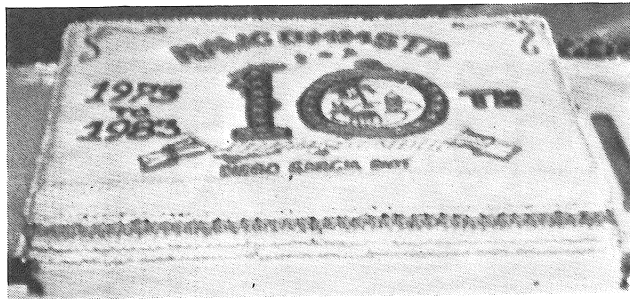


10 YEARS!

**U.S. NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION
DIEGO GARCIA BIOT**

10th Anniversary

EN1 WARDEN &
YNSA LESOFSKI
cut the cake



CTRCS WATERS & LT MULLER

The COCONUT COURIER is published with appropriated funds in accordance with NAV EXOS (P-035), opinions stated are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense or the Department of the Navy.

COMMANDING OFFICER:	CDR W. P. MILLER
EXECUTIVE OFFICER:	LCDR J. E. ISRAEL
EDITOR IN CHIEF:	LTJG N. A. DOSS
EDITORS:	CTRCS K. D. WATERS
	RMSN D. MORALES
	RMSA D. E. PEELER
	CTR3 A. M. DUNKLE
CARTOONIST:	

All contributions to the COCONUT COURIER in the form of articles, photographs, and artwork are strongly encouraged. If you are living here on Diego Garcia, contact LTJG DOSS at R site PH#4188, for those receiving this newspaper at home, your suggestions are welcome. Please send them to: COCONUT COURIER, c/o LTJG DOSS, NCS Box 12, FPO San Francisco, CA 96685.



CO & XO name NCS past CO's

COMMAND MASTER CHIEF

RMCM D. R. WENDEL

I was born at Onawa, Iowa, moved to Clinton, Missouri with my parents when I was 16. I joined the Navy at Kansas City, Missouri in 1959 and have served on active duty since. My last duty assignment was recruiter in charge Lacrosse, Wisconsin.

I have been onboard for three weeks. I was here ten years ago and they were living in tents and open bay huts. Things have really changed in those ten years. We have a nice gally with an even newer one being built, an exchange, nice barracks and etc. Agreed we have a long way to go but we have come a long way. Many of the changes came about by suggestions from you and your previous shipmates. Let's even grow faster, make sure your suggestions get submitted via the chain of command or the appropriate committee so we too can make things better for our shipmates.

I hope to be meeting each and everyone of you personally in the next couple of months. Good luck, and have a good tour. I know I will.

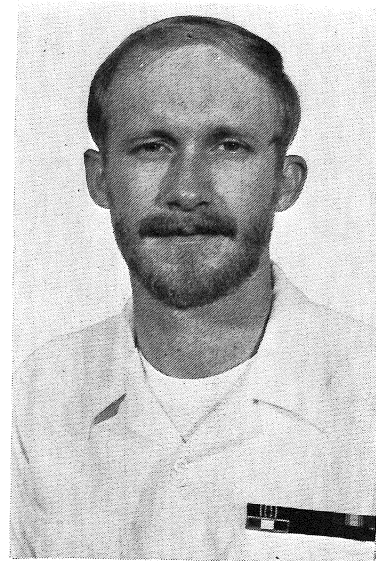
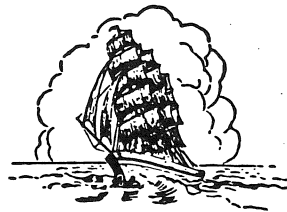
SAILOR OF THE QUARTER



RMSN JODIE ELWELL

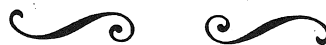
Jan

Apr



CTT1 G. W. SKIPPER

Quotable Quotes



After the ship is sunk, everyone knows how it might have been saved. (Italian Proverb)

He that wrestles with us strengthens our nerves and sharpens our skill. Our antagonist is our helper. (Edmund Burke)

The way to gain a good reputation is to endeavor to be what you desire to appear. (Socrates)

Not until we are lost do we begin to understand ourselves. (Henry David Thoreau)

Career Counselor

by RMI GONZALEZ

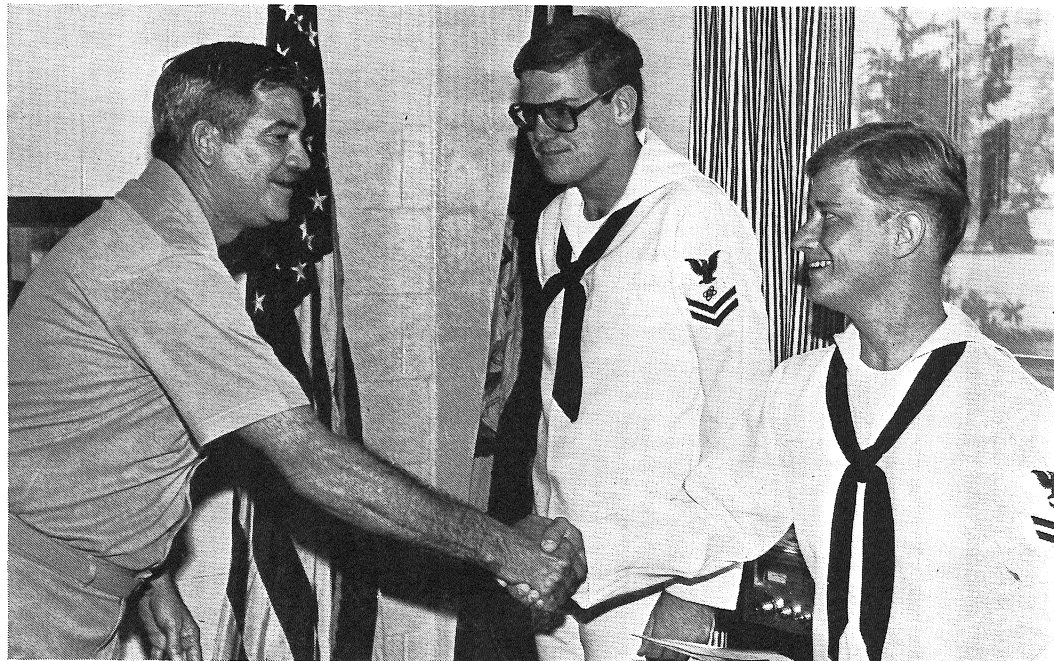
The Duty Preference Form has a significant role in determining future orders you will receive. It serves as a direct link between you and your detailer by letting him or her know of your duty desires. Also, it will inform the detailer of special interests/requests you may have for a specific program by stating that special interest/request in the remarks section of the form. In addition, by simply maintaining an up-to-date "Dupref" in your NMPC file, the detailer is made aware of your own interest in determining your own future orders and he/she will do the best they can to match your desires and the needs of the Navy. Without your input you are subject solely to the needs of the Navy.

Personnel on Diego Garcia may obtain the Dupref forms from their respective career counselors. The Dupref should be submitted, with the professional guidance of their career counselor, within three months after arriving on-island. Negotiations for follow-on orders commence 6-5 months prior to the member's projected rotation date (PRD). Therefore, your desires should be determined and made known to all concerned prior to negotiating.

With proper planning, guidance, and documentation you can play a part in the decision-making process for obtaining the duty of your choice, and it all begins with the Duty Preference Form. Talk to your Career Counselor.

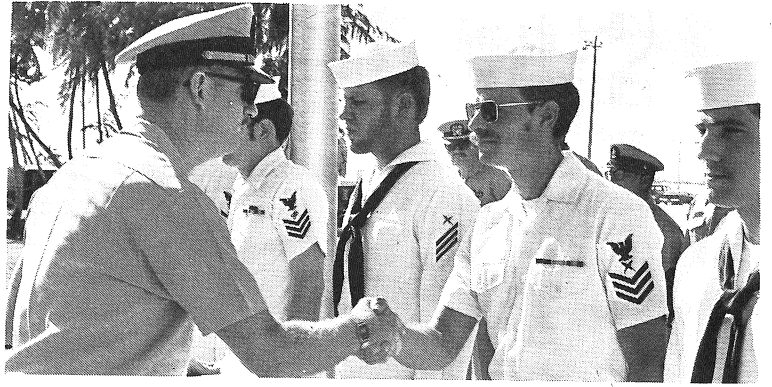


CAP ADVANCEMENTS



CDR Miller congratulates ET2 JAMES and CTM2 ROSSINS

NOW HEAR THIS!



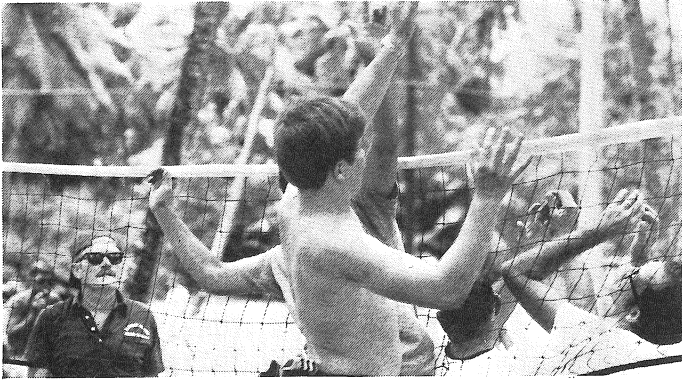
XO presents CTT1 UNDERWOOD with a letter of appreciation

CTMC DOSSEY
re enlists
with the help of
DALLAS COWBOY
CHEERLEADERS



LT Muller re enlists
CTR1 FERGUSAN

SPORTS



"OLD GUYS" VS "THE KIDS" By ENS MUELLER

The shouts of encouragement from the excited crowd echoed through Seabee Park. "Fantastic", "dynamic", "beautifully played" were some of the terms heard. There were other phrases too, but the "COMMSTA KHAKIS" trounced all opposition at a recent volleyball marathon. The undefeated KHAKIS included the CO, XO, LT Carter, ENS Mueller, CWO4 Rivera, CWO3 Mendoza, RMC McCall, ETC Orr, CTAC Reindl, CTTC Benoit and CTTC Lessard.

It was early in the day when a brash young sailor, who shall remain anonymous, (Hargrave, Malcom D., RM3) made some comments about the "old guys". They sent their best team, they sent their worst team. Their best team was beaten 15-13, their worst team lost 15-1. LT Carter excelled all day considering that he was under attack by a palm tree. While it's a fact that the KHAKIS occasionally had to eat the volleyball, more often than not they administered the feeding.

Suffice it to say that after the dust had settled and the net restrung, the "old guys" were the winners eleven times in a row. At that time the court was turned over to the "kids" to give some of them an opportunity to win a game. Haven't you "kids" heard that things get better with age?



C SITE WATCHSTANDERS SPOT DAYWORKERS 20 POINTS...THEY GET CLOBBERED! by CTT1 Michael FISHER

It was a heartbreaking scene. The C site watchstanders hung their heads in shame, for they had just been beaten by the dayworkers in a stunning 67-66 basketball upset before a fanatical, frenzied crowd of nineteen at the station gymnasium. The watchstanders (always long on words but short on action) had cockily spouted their usual pre-game story about how they would "blow out the old folks" by at least 20 points, and were quickly taken up on the offer. Let the games begin!!!!

As the game got underway, it was clearly obvious that the shift rats were being outplayed (not to mention outclassed). They had a horrible night! Lester "What-me travel?" Knighten was caught walking or palming on at least 26 occasions, thus confirming the rumor that your average watchstander cannot chew gum and walk at the same time. Wayne "hatchetman" Haver kept looking around for the downmarkers (actually his style is kind of a cross between football, hockey, and mud wrestling). Dave "Yo-Yo" Yost played what is now recognized by all as his normal game (faintly reminiscent of a blind one-legged epileptic in a 50 yard dash), and somehow managed to keep from fouling out. Stoneman was too short on the Rock to care, and Mickey was just plain too short (but they put him one-on-one against Vance Lessard, so what the hell?) In spite of their totally inept performance, they squeaked out a paltry 66 points (personally, I think they bribed the officials).

The dayworks displayed superb skills, blinding speed and an uncanny ability to be in the right spot at the right time. Their ball handling, passing, shooting and rebounding were all sparkling, shining examples of the true nature of the sport. The offense operated in a smooth, flawless fashion, and the stingy, disciplined defense kept the watchstanders from even scoring until 23 seconds of the game had elapsed! Just look at the point totals:

Jim "Wheatie Ball" Sandlin	21
Randy "Sore Knee" Casteel	18
Neil "Mat-crank" Constanzo	14
Herb "Mo-Jo" Mosier	12
Keith "K-Ream" Waters	10

Duane "Riverboat Louie" Lavont	8
Vance "Left Tackle" Lessard	8
LT Ronald "Big Mac" Mcdonald	8
Skipper	8
Penny "Hot Shot" Phillips	6
Larry "NMN" Paul	4
Reggie "Thurston" Stroud	3
Ron "Poon Sniff" Blankenship	2
Andy "Amoeba" Brace	1
Mike "I don't do windows or play ball"	
Fisher	0
Point Total	123

The scoreboard must have been malfunctioning, because it only showed 47 points (But add 20 to 47 and you can see why all the tears and despair from Yo-Yo Yost and company).

Better luck next time, wimps!!!!!!!!!!

FIRST SEASON OF 1983 by Don HAY

With the ringing in of a new year, a new softball season was just around the corner.

This season saw the R site team moving into the gold division, which proved to provide the team with some stiff competition. The only trouble came at the hands RBRM, MSCO, AND PWD. The team lost six games to these three teams. At the end of the season R site posted 11 wins and 6 loses which was as good a record as last season, but alas it was only good for a fourth place finish in the division.

The team really tried hard, and if it wasn't for the support of all people concerned the season probably would have been worse. A big thanks goes out to all fans that watched our games. Your support really boosted the teams spirits. What more can I say, but watch our next season!



SURVIVING ON DIEGO, TWO POINTS AT A TIME
by RMSN Danny PEELER

During the month of January, a mens basketball league was formed here of Diego the notice stated they were looking for teams that could play on Tuesdays and Thursdays, well working here at R sight, we stand watches which meant we would be working some nights. When I say we I mean duty section 3 from, RM3 Randy Johnson, our starting center, RMSN Danny Peeler, also the assistant coach, at one of the forwards, the other was manned by RM2 Lupe Garcia. The guards were, RM2 Russel Spivey, at the point, the off guard, was RMSA Brian Block. On the bench we had some quality players who we liked to call our "Pine Boys", headed by LT Harrison (one of the island Chaplains) along with PNSN Abdulah (PSD). Others included RM3 Marcus Drost, a sometimes starter, and RM1 Phil Akridge. RM2 James Ohler who provided us with a little playing time, plus assisting with the coaching and the teams "statistician".

In the events that followed the team formed itself under the name "RM EXPRESS" and the leadership of RM1 William Kivlan. After talking with SH2 James Gage (NSF), coordinator of this league, he agreed to let us play providing we informed him when we couldn't make it. He then would reschedule the games at the end of the season.

Well the season started. Going in we knew the chances of winning were slim to none, since we had never played together. but with all the aggressive players that we had, and the coaching that we had, we were going to give it our best shot. The first game ended in no surprise. MSCO took us 67 to 38. The following week was our week. Playing C site we came from behind in the final seconds to win 30 to 27. Well the season ended with 7 losses to our credit, but the effort was there. The team will be back. A 2 and 7 season was not that bad a season. That is how section 3 sees that time goes by on Diego.

Time out against the "I" site First Dolphins. Lost 52 to 51.
Coach "K" in the dark shirt.

C SITE SWEEPS THE SUPERSTARS COMPETITION
by Randy CASTEEL

The 26th and 27th of March, marked the weekend of the annual DIEGO GARCIA--SUPERSTARS COMPETITION. A field of 16 contestants began the competition, but after two solid days of strenuous, painstaking, events only 11 remained to see the finish. The first day's events consisted of 18 holes of putt-putt golf, a bicycle race through sand and around obstacles, three minutes of torture with a basketball, and ending up the days events was the awesome 440 yard run. The following day after a good night's rest the competitors returned to the field to complete the rest of their events. These included, a rough round of darts, a fast game of bowling, a soccer obstacle course, a genuine wear your-self-out obstacle course, a 100 yard swim, a mighty weightlifting challenge, and tennis. There were two divisions represented: the 35 and older age group and the 34 and under age group. The overall average age of competitors was 32. Congratulations to the SUPERSTARS that competed!

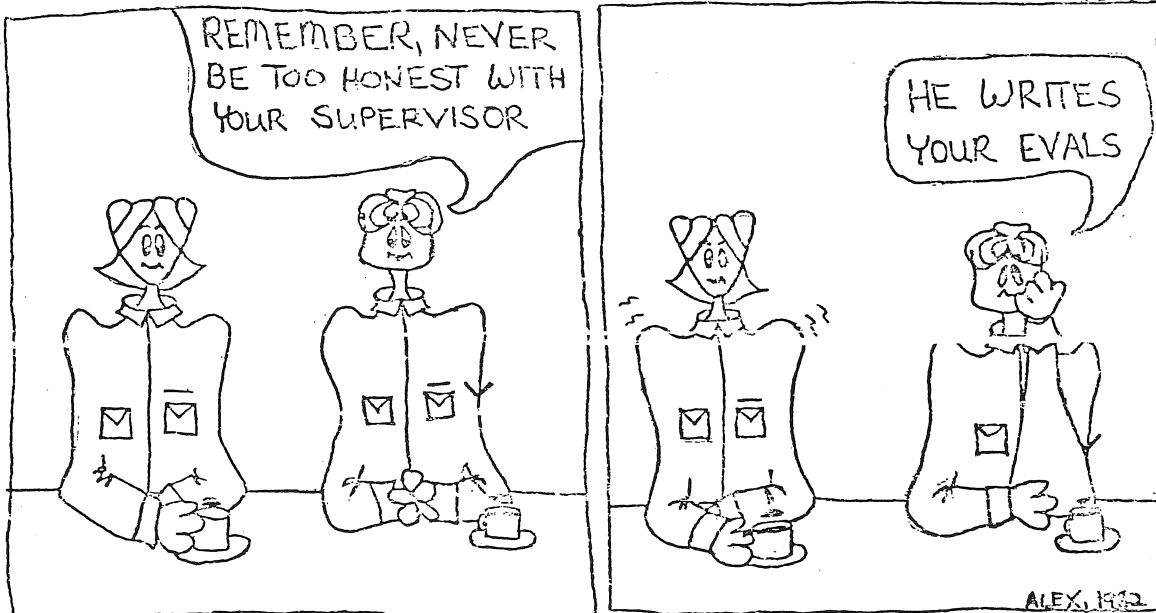
Name	Final Score	Place finished
Neil Costanzo	735	1st (35&over)
Randy Casteel	720	1st (34&under)
Ron Miller	645	2nd (35&over)
Vance Lessard	630	2nd (34&under)
Herb Mosier	615	3rd (34&under)
Duane Lafont	600	4th (34&under)
Terry Keller	570	5th (34&under)

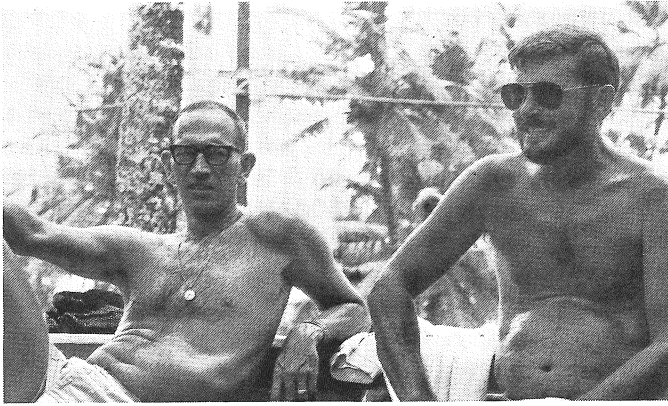
Raymond Reindl	530	3rd (35&over)
"Jungle-cat" Sherrod	525	4th (35&over)
Marlin Roe	515	6th (34&under)
Mike Tolle	365	5th (35&over)
Michael Slavin	210	7th (34&under)
Mike Ingram	90	8th (34&under)
Leo Leamy	80	9th (34&under)
Keith Waters	70	6th (35&over)
Frank Neidigh	25	10th (34&under)

SPORTS #1 by RMSN MORALES

Diego Garcia is something else when it comes to sports. Why you say? Well, when you have 4 seasons in softball, and basketball, you kind of wonder "Where have I been!?" Slow pitch softball is about the biggest sport's event out here with the exception of the smokers. In a season you might get 15 to 20 teams all trying to be the best on the island. But only one can claim that title. They can only hold that title for about 2 months because then they have to go out there once again and prove they are #1. Diego Garcia is beginning to get area wide recognition. On November 28 Diego Garcia was invited to attend the San Miguel softball tournament. The team went out there and tried hard, but they were eliminated from the finals. They won 3 games and lost 3. They also accomplished something no other team did. They played the fastest game ever in San Miguel history. Official time was 38 minutes. Well, there is nothing more I can say except if you want to share the spirit--*PLAY BALL*

DIEGO BLUES





10 Years Ago

by Jim Ohler and Lauren Poirier

Since we couldn't find out what message center section three was like ten years ago we decided to ask today's section three. This is what section three message center was doing ten years ago.

--Danny Peeler from Spartanburg SC was busy pullin' up the kivers, 'cause he was cold. Danny was also busy playing pony league baseball as a pitcher.

--Brian Block originally from Buffalo NY moved to Las Vegas NV was busy playing basketball and running numbers for the mafia.

--Russell Spivey from Beaumont TX was graduation from high school and looking forward to a trip with the Exxon Corp to Puerto Rico.

--James Ohler from Cavite Cu City Philippines, was graduating from basic training in San Diego Ca. Jim now resides in Tacoma Wa with his family.

--Boris Ferrell was playing pony league football and baseball in Senioa Ga at the age of nine.

--Jodie Elwell from the big city of Damariscottia Me at the age of nine was playing baseball and anxiously awaiting her tenth birthday. Happy Birthday Jodi!

--Danny Simonson from the Miami Beach Fl area was at the age of eight a budding tennis star.

--John Combs from the fun city of Kalamazoo Mi was in the 6th grade playing little baseball and the coronet for the school band.

---Louis Gonzalez from Ponce Puerto Rico moved to Brooklyn Ny was at the age of nine busy in the streets playing stickball.

--Robert Tierney from the Boston Ma area was busying himself with adolesent games.

--Lauren Poirier from Columbus Oh was ten years ago working part time as a hair-dresser and was on the high school gymnastics team.

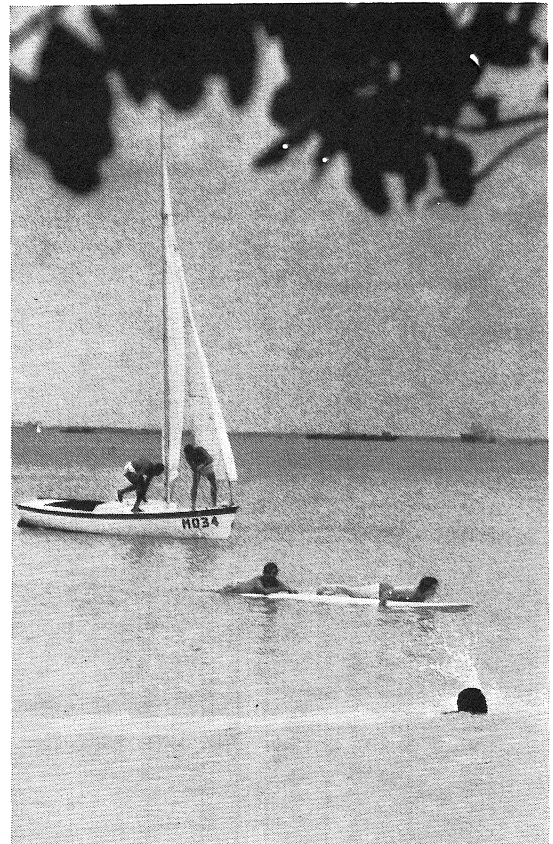
--Frank Wallath from Detroit Mi was involved in all sports and was some what busy throwing snowballs thru windows. Frank was practicing for the baseball season.

--Marc Drost from the windy city of Chicago Il was busy ten years ago learning to survive and learning alot more about women.

--Mark Zeigler from the Bluegrass state Louisville Ky was busy learning the art of making moonshine.

--Ken Fanning from Denton Tx was busy ten years ago skipping school and fishing.

And that folks is today's section three message center.



THE DAY COSMOS ALMOST by RMI Kivlan

I happened to be one of the fortunate to be awake at 0400 in the morning of 23 Jan 83 to witness such a short and memorable event. To explain from the start, I was on the mid-watch and at approximately 0410 over one of our many teletype circuits COMNAVTELCOM came up on the circuit with a message stating that the Russian Satellite "Cosmos" would be reentering the earth's atmosphere and landing in the Indian Ocean in the vicinity of the island of Diego Garcia.

The funny yet serious fact of the matter is that though we received the message at 0410, the message read that the satellite would be descending between 0400 and 0430. Being that it was already 0410 my first feeling was "Oh No! This can't happen. Not on Diego Garcia."

Once the message was received and acknowledged for, most everyone on watch immediately went outside the building to witness the historical event. What seemed like forever was only about 4 or 5 minutes and there it was, this bright shiny object as if burning, was overhead some odd thousand feet. Well, this memorable event for the few who saw it only lasted 15 seconds. I myself happy to have seen it's passing over, was even happier that "Cosmos" didn't hit the island even better yet hit R site. I am now a firm believer of

the impossible.

DIEGO GARCIA, THEN AND NOW. by CTM2 Earl L. Sassaman Jr.

Well, here I am on Diego Garcia again. When I left in Jan 1980, I never thought I'd see this place again and at that time I didn't really want to see it again. But I was offered the opportunity to come here again for only 2 months, and here I am again.

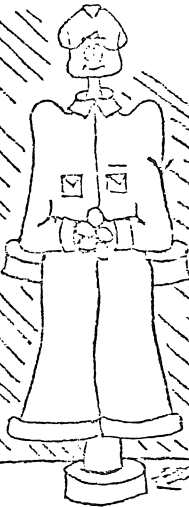
In a lot of ways D.G. is still the same beautiful tropical island with it's sandy beaches, clear water, coral, coconuts, palm trees, and hot weather. But in other ways it's changed. There's a lot more people here, including females, Filipinos, and other civilians, but there's a lot less Seabees. From what I've seen at C site the females have helped to improve moral, and added a great deal of professionalism.

D.G. is also a lot busier now, with a lot more ships and planes coming and going. In 1979 we were lucky to get 2 or 3 planes per week from the Phillipines, (and none from Norfolk). And when a Navy ship pulled in, it was a big event. Everyone would go over to the lagoon side. Now I think the residents are somewhat relieved when the fleet departs.

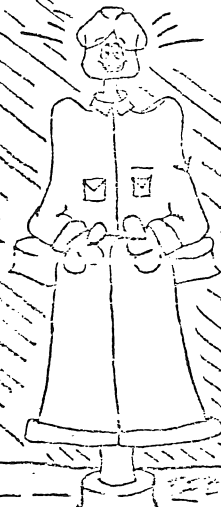
The biggest change I've noticed has been the construction, and demolition which has occurred since I left. When I left BEQ 7 had been

DIEGO BLUES

I AM A WOMAN
I AM A PETTY
OFFICER IN THE
UNITED STATES NAVY



TODAYS WOMAN IN THE NAVY HAS
POWER, PRESTIGE, RESPECT. I HAVE
MORE OPPORTUNITIES OPENING UP
TO ME THEN EVER BEFORE IN HISTORY
I CAN GO ANYWHERE, DO ANYTHING



JUST DON'T
TELL MY
SUPERVISOR



AL 1982

completed, (in Sept. 1979) and BEQ 8 was under construction, by the Seabees. Splendidville and BEQ's 9, 10, 11, and 12 did not exist. To the west of the post office (where BEQ's 9, 10, 11 and 12 are now) there were several corrugated metal buildings, which included the old chow hall (or "Reindeer Inn" as it was called), a bakery, an ice house, and other buildings for use by the Seabees. The building on the other side of the post office (in front of the new chow hall) was the package store. The new chow hall, is situated where the old softball field was located, and out behind that toward the lagoon were several seahuts, which were home for many, who were stationed here during the 1970's.

Behind the post office was a laundry room, weight room, and racquetball courts. And alas, the infamous "Diego Burger" is also gone.

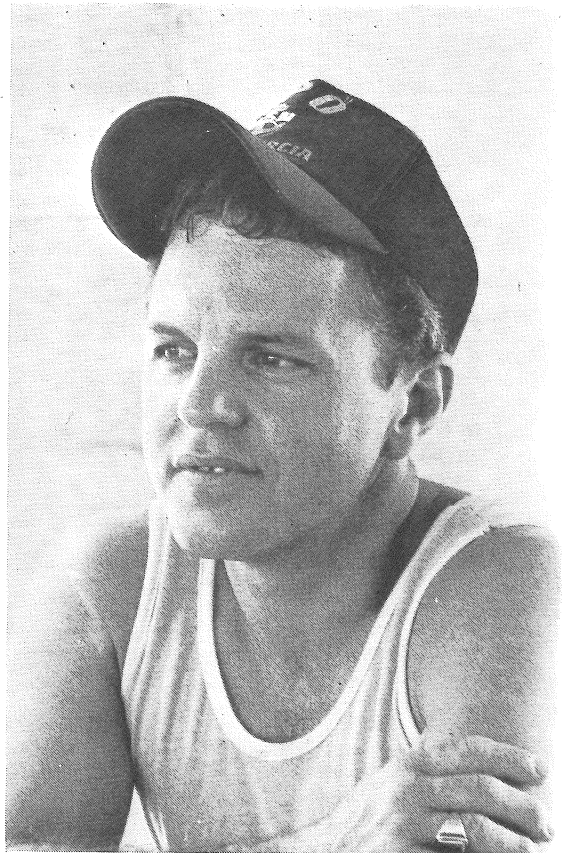
Some other pleasant changes and additions include the Stars and Stripes book store, the satellite terminal for phone and television, and the United Seaman's Center. They've also attempted to beautify the downtown area, by the additions of those low white fences, and shrubbery.

But with all of the changes, and improvements, D.G. is still an isolated tour and the people stationed here are away from friends and loved ones. Mail is a very big morale booster, as we eagerly await to see if we've gotten any mail. One of the most depressing things here, is not to get any mail. To the people stationed here, I encourage you to write letters home, because I've found that the more letters you write, the more you'll receive. And those of you, who read this, and aren't fortunate enough to be here, remember those people who are here and write some letters, (and send packages). I know it will be greatly appreciated.

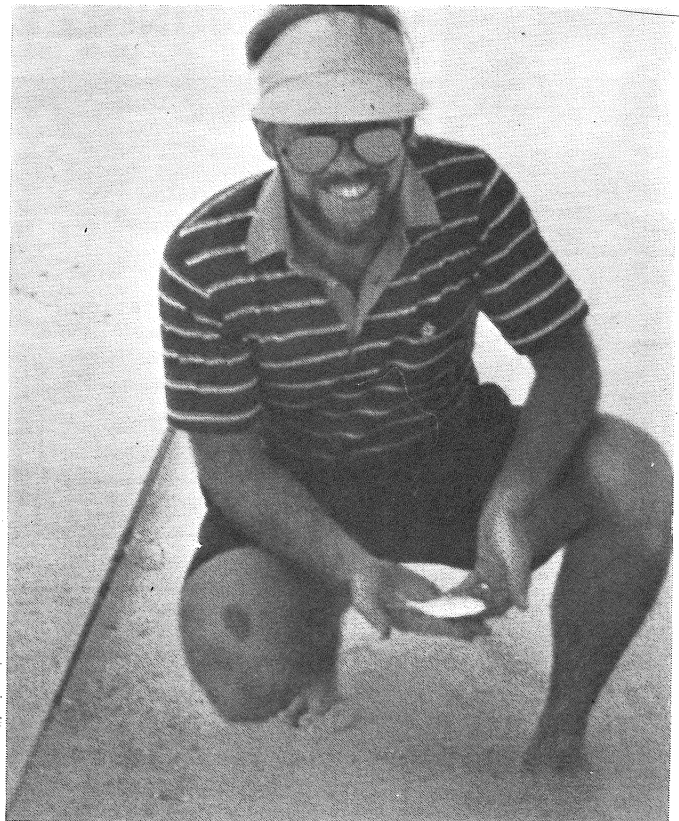
Oh yes, one last thing, that hasn't changed, the Ship's Store, still seems to always be out of things, just when you need them. And they've still got the same post cards they had in 1979.



If this was the first fish that you caught on Diego Garcia, would you allow anyone to take a picture of it? He even complained of sore arm muscles for two days after landing this lunker.



CTTC LESSARD





JUNGLEBALL!!

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

Commanding Officer
U.S. Naval Communications Station
FPO San Francisco 96685

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
DOD 516



THIRD CLASS

FAMILYGRAM
