



HIGH VOLTAGE — Navy Electrician Alton Cornelius checks on the USS Dixie's power circuits as part of an effort to keep Navy ships working smoothly.

Electrician's Mate Serves Aboard USS Dixie

By Warren A. Patton
SAN DIEGO, CALIF. — Alton A. Cornelius, a 25 year-old electrician's mate second class from Tyner, N.C., is currently serving aboard the USS Dixie, the oldest Naval vessel to serve continuously on active service.

The Navy repair ship, commissioned April 25, 1940, recently celebrated her 40th birthday while on a deployment to the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific before returning to her homeport here. The Dixie's crew consists of 32 officers and 920 enlisted personnel.

Cornelius, a 1972 graduate of Chowan High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Issacc C. Cornelius, Rt. 1, Tyner. He is the leading petty officer in charge of the engineering shop aboard the Dixie.

His duties include the repair and maintenance of electrical equipment aboard ships and shore facilities. "I have the responsibility of making sure that everything gets done and supervising the 16 men that work for me," said Cornelius.

Cornelius enlisted in 1972 after graduation from high school. "I joined the Navy to get away from home. There wasn't anything at home and all my friends were either going in the Army or Air Force," he said.

One of seven children, Cornelius has a brother, John, 20, who is a ship's serviceman aboard the Mount Vernon, also homeported here. "John

tried to get assigned to the Dixie, but he did manage to get stationed in the same port," said Cornelius.

"I became interested in the electrical field after watching a guy back home fix radios and televisions without any technical training. He didn't know the fundamentals or theory behind electricity but he knew what he was doing," he said.

"When I first came in the Navy I wanted to be a communications technician. I couldn't get it at the time, so I chose the electrician's

mate rating instead," said Cornelius.

Cornelius, who reported aboard the Dixie in June, missed this year's Western Pacific cruise. "I missed this one but I was in the western Pacific while stationed aboard the Navy ammunition ship Kiska, homeported in Concord, Calif.," he said.

"I've been to Hawaii, Guam, Subic Bay in the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong. I became a shellback (Navy fraternity) after crossing the equator."

Having been aboard the Dixie for more than a month, Cornelius said he is aware of the ship's many achievements on her recent deployment.

The Dixie was the first tender to operate independently in the area. With four female officers as part of her crew, she is the first Navy ship, with the possible exception of World War II hospital ships, to have carried women in this remote area. She set another first when she replaced the turbine engine on the destroyer David R.

Ray, and again when she replaced a propeller screw on the frigate Stein.

The large crew on the Dixie makes it difficult for individuals to know one another. "This ship certainly has a large crew, and since I've just recently arrived aboard, it will probably be some time before I can learn some of these guy's names," said Cornelius.

Cornelius, whose favorite pastime is automechanics, is interested in sociology and is planning to attend college under the GI Bill.

Graham Urges Farmers To Seek Relief

RALEIGH—N.C. Agriculture Commissioner Jim Graham recently urged farmers throughout the state who have experienced excessive crop damage due to drought to contact Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. Farmers Home Administration, and Small Business Administration offices in their county to determine what avenues of relief are available to them.

Graham said drought conditions could reach near disaster levels in many sections of the state if farmers do not get any rain within the next week. No widespread substantial amount of rain is in sight for at least the next 10 days according to National Weather Service Reports today.

"Individual farmers who have experienced a lot of dry weather this year should be aware of the assistance programs available to them and should begin taking steps to take advantage of them," Graham said. "Damages to crops in North Carolina have not yet reached emergency levels yet but the drought has destroyed some corn and has inhibited growth in tobacco and many other crops."

Estimates of crop yields will be released Monday by the North Carolina Crop and Livestock Reporting Service which will give an update.

Graham said in most instances representatives from ASCS and FmHA had to verify actual dry weather crop damage before farmers are declared eligible for emergency assistance. "This is why it is important for farmers to begin investigating assistance programs now, if they have dry weather crop damage," Graham said.

Assistance programs are available from the following agencies: ASCS - Some farmers in North Carolina could be eligible for payments under the ASCS wheat, feedgrain and cotton programs. If a farmer has a crop loss he should appeal to the county ASCS committee which will be eligible for emergency feedgrain programs.

FmHA (Farmers Home Administration) - provides loans to farmers whose crops and livestock are heavily damaged by natural disaster. Farmers who have been adversely affected by dry weather can contact their FmHA county

supervisor and request evaluation of their individual situations.

SBA - In certain situations Small Business Administration low interest loans may be available to some farmers who have experienced extreme damage to crops and livestock because of weather and have exhausted

other sources.

Some farmers have coverage under Federal Crop insurance, assuring the farmer will receive a certain level of compensation from his crop even if it is damaged by weather. Farmers insured under Federal Crop Insurance have individual policies.

Sorority Holds Clinic For Contestants In Pageant

The Nu Eta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. recently held its second clinic for contestants in the "Miss Vogue-Mr. Esquire Pageant," at D. F. Walker School. A special welcome was given by the Basileus, Mrs. Vendetta Sutton.

While attending the Self-Awareness Clinic, the selected contestants not only had an opportunity to become better acquainted with other contestants in the pageant and members of the sorority, but gain additional insight as a result of several discussion groups. Topics ranging from "Drugs and Law Enforcement" discussed by Mrs. Linda

Terry; "Interpersonal Relations" led by Mrs. Jolyquin Belfield; "Choosing A Vocation" by Mrs. Jeroline Coston and "Cigarette Smoking and Lung Cancer" led by Mrs. Bettie Bemby were all discussed.

The "Miss Vogue-Mr. Esquire Pageant" is a first for the Town of Edenton and surrounding counties and will be held on December 6 in the auditorium of D. F. Walker School. Contestants represent the counties of Chowan, Bertie, Perquimans, Washington, Pasquotank and Camden. Their classifications at school are juniors and seniors.

Applications Being Taken

The Economic Improvement Council's Section VIII Rental Assistance Program will resume taking applications for rental assistance on a limited basis. New regulations require that we give Elderly, Disabled, and Handicapped first priority, then all others will be processed. All applications are on a first come first serve basis. Applications can be filled out at the E.I.C. Resource Center in your county or at the Administrative Office at the Airport Tower Building, Phone 482-8547.

Ladies Attend Conference

Mrs. Johnnie Bass and Mrs. Mary Julia Parrish of Chowan County were among nearly 2,500 women who traveled to Biloxi, Miss., for the 44th annual National Extension Homemakers Council conference September 14-18.

Mrs. Bass was a delegate at large from the Northeastern District. Mrs. Parrish is president of the Chowan County Extension

Homemakers Council. "Experience Opportunities, Encourage Growth, Explore Possibilities" was the theme of the convention held at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. Delegates represented some 600,000 National Extension Homemakers Council (NEHC) members in 41 states, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Members of the Mississippi Extension Homemakers Council served as hostesses.

Keynote speaker was Jim Guy Tucker, chairperson of the White House Conference on Families, who spoke on the "White House Conference: Issues and Recommendations."

Workshops and learning sessions dealt with specific subjects of interest to NEHC members: citizenship and community outreach; cultural arts, clothing and textiles; family relationships and child development; family resource management; health, food and nutrition; housing,

energy and environment; international concerns; membership; public relations; and safety and emergency preparedness.

Trade show exhibits and cultural arts exhibits attracted a large number of viewers. An awards session honored 50-year members and those groups and individuals winning national awards. Special tours included an excursion to Ship Island, a tour of the National Space Technology Laboratory, a seafood and industry tour and a south Mississippi agricultural tour.

Fraud Counts Result In Fine

William H. Holley, 26-year-old Negro 128 East Albemarle Street entered a guilty plea Sept. 9 in Chowan County District Court to nine counts of unemployment insurance fraud.

Judge Grafton Beaman sentenced Holley to six months, suspended upon payment of court costs in

each case and make \$400 in reimbursement. The defendant was given until November 4 to comply.

Henry Byrne fraud investigator with the N.C. Employment Security Commission testified that Holley collected unemployment benefits while being paid from CETA funds for training at Coastal Developmental Center at Edenton Municipal Airport. In his defense, Holley explained that he had been given "some cards" at the ESC office and he "just filled them in and mailed them."

Asst. Dist. Atty. Frank Parrish prosecuted the docket with the following other action taken:

Jay Frank Spruill Jr., assault on a female 60 days suspended upon payment of \$30 fine and costs.

Jerry Clinton Ward, drunk driving 60 days suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs.

Ray Hassell, worthless

check, and Rhonda Nichols McGuinness, no liability insurance, warrants ordered.

Willie M. Rankins, four counts of worthless checks, 90 days, suspended upon payment of costs and make restitution.

Leonardo Trafto, communicating a threat and non-support, 120 days, suspended upon payment of costs and \$15 per week for support. He was also ordered to make restitution for medical bills.

Samuel Lee Carter assault with a deadly weapon, probable cause found.

Hugh B. Currin, worthless checks, 10 days, suspended upon payment of costs and make restitution.

Melvin Alton Lee, injury to personal property and assault and battery, 120 days, suspended upon payment of \$200 fine and costs and placed on probation for 12 months. Notice of appeal entered.

Cotton Harvest Starts Early

FLORENCE S.C. — The cotton harvest is off to an early start in North Carolina due primarily to the extended summer drought. The dry weather has caused bolls to open prematurely and gins across the state have opened two to three weeks early.

According to Warren E. Deviney, area director of the USDA's new Cotton Marketing Service Office in Florence, S.C., nearly 3,100 samples of N.C. cotton had been classed through

Friday, 19. The quality of the samples classed has held up well despite the drought, but grades were slightly lower and staples a little shorter than last season. During the week ending September 19, 50 per cent graded 41 and better and over 90 per cent graded 51 and better. Nearly 100 per cent stapled 34 and longer. Micronaire tests found 98 per cent in the 35-49 range. No market pattern has yet been established as most growers were busy getting started with picking and a good portion of the early cotton had already been contracted prior to the harvest. Early indications are that merchants are offering around 250-300 off December Futures basis grade 41 staple 34.

Cottonseed prices range from \$110-120 per ton at the gins.

Local Farmers Interviewed

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found interesting was the construction of a new cotton gin headed by the Chowan Cotton Cooperation. In talking with manager, Fahey Byrum, it was learned that cotton has taken on a new dimension in the area. Better insect control and higher prices make it an easy crop to grow according to Byrum.

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Thursday, October 2, 1980
8:00 P.M. Talent Show
Swain Auditorium
Friday, October 3, 1980
8:00 P.M. Football Game
Hicks Field
Saturday, October 4, 1980
10:00 A.M. Parade
Activities, John A. Holmes School
11:00 A.M. Barbecue-Bake Sale to White Elephant Sale
7:00 P.M. Children's Games
1:00 P.M. Band Competition
Hicks Field
8:00-12:00 P.M. Student Dance - Walker Gym
9:00-1:00 A.M. Festival Dance
American Legion
Sunday, October 5, 1980
Activities at Colonial Park
1:00 P.M. Art Show/Sale
2:00 P.M. Band Concert
Gospel/Country Western Music
Sponsor: Edenton-Chowan Band Parents Assn.

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