



Professor Joyce Elliott talks to two of her voice and diction students, from left, Jeanne Norfleet of Roxobel, and Jill Wells of Forest City, both sophomores. Jeanne is a merchandising management major and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Norfleet. Jill is majoring in commercial art and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Wells.

Photo by Melvin Campbell

## Elliott trades 'soap' stardom to become professor at Chowan

During the height of her acting career in New York City, Joyce Elliott was "Nurse Casey" on the daytime soap opera "Search for Tomorrow."

Elliott also appeared often in "The Secret Storm," another daytime soap, as well as numerous commercials promoting production ranging from coffee to detergents.

Today, however, she has traded her acting career for that of a housewife and college professor. From the hustle of New York to the quiet atmosphere of tiny Sunbury, N.C., Elliott now teaches voice and diction at Chowan College. Elliott, who joined the faculty in 1984, had decided acting was no longer for her 10 years before.

"Ten years ago my life changed when I decided acting was not what I wanted anymore. I began to realize acting was a self-indulgent life. I had to stay at 114 pounds. My hair and nails had to be just right. It looks glamorous to the outsider, but you feel like you're just a commodity."

### Doctoral Degree

In 1974 she entered the doctoral program at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she earned the Ed.D. in gerontology and theater.

While living in New York she

became involved with the Social Action and Urban Involvement Committee of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church which worked with drug addicts, prison ministries, senior citizens and others. She also worked with Project FIND, an organization which sponsored coffeehouses "for old people who used to just sit around the bus station."

### Theater Projects

Elliott also worked with theater projects for older adults and later taught drama in New York, Pennsylvania and Texas. She moved to North Carolina in 1978 when she married Bedford Horton Brown "who had deep roots in this area."

Elliott has not given up acting completely. She continues to be involved in drama in the local community as well as on campus. She developed community theater for area senior citizens and youth and recently appeared in the Chowan Players' production of the Broadway play "You Can't Take It With You."

The difference today, however, is her priorities. "I still think of myself as an actress, but acting is no longer number one in my life." A member of the Episcopal church, she cited her "Christian faith, husband and teaching" as her main concerns.

## Graduated with Class of 1958

# Kearney named Production Manager, Durham newspapers

Chowan Graduate, Lewis Kearney, a Linotype operator at heart, became a production manager of the Durham Herald-Sun Times in January.

The 21-year employee was named manager of three production departments at The Durham Morning Herald and The Durham Sun by President E.T. Rollins Jr. The departments are composing, engraving, and press.

Kearney, who was the Sun Composing room foreman, had been acting production manager for two months, and he succeeds Alvin Sexton who died earlier in January after a five-month illness.

Kearney and his wife have three children.

"The first time I saw a Linotype machine, watched that complicated piece of machinery work, I knew I still miss it".

It was not the only tough transition in his life.

While growing up in a small North Carolina tobacco farm, he played basketball and baseball at Wake Forest High School, later winning scholarship offers from several colleges.

He visited a number of schools but stopped at Chowan College when he was shown the graphic arts department and "the Linotype machine."

At Chowan he played on the baseball and basketball teams and received the Associate degree in graphic arts.

"I picked my trade. A lot of people don't".

After graduation from Chowan, and winning a few athletic honors along the way, Kearney went to work in the N.C. State University print shop.

"Then I went to work for newspapers, which was even better. It was something that always held your interest."



"In printing there is always something fresh and different."

There have been diversions along the way.

He had a four year stint in the Naval Reserves and has spent endless hours working with young athletes, coaching both basketball and Little League baseball.

During his long career in the trade he has seen the transition from "hot metal" to "cold type" and the disappearance of the Linotype from print shops.

"But it is necessary to grow" he said. "The machinery we use today is more complicated and the skills required are less."

"That's the path the business is taking and we're going to be part of at the Herald Sun."

"But it would be nice now and then to set a few lines. Just to get that old feeling."

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