

Local personalities share their first job experiences

By ELLEN THORNTON
Staff Writer

What is there after college? The prospect of getting a job and living in the "real world" is frightening to many. College is supposed to prepare you for your career by directing you to a field of interest. But what do you do right out of school to get on the road to your career? Several University leaders answered this question with their own first-job experiences.

Women's tennis coach Kitty Harrison started her career as a secretary. After graduating from the University of Texas at Austin,

Creative writing professor Doris Betts played piano in a music store, sold crystal in a jewelry store and worked in a dress shop before starting her writing career.

Harrison decided that she wanted to "see the world." She moved to New York City and found a job as a secretary in a large bank. She continued secretarial work for about

seven years, traveling to Austin, Houston and San Francisco.

Harrison turned to coaching for a change in her career.

"Tennis started booming and I

decided it was more my thing," she said. "I didn't like being a secretary."

Sgt. Ned Comar of the University police did not foresee his career early in life either. Comar worked for a number of years as a printer in South Carolina, but eventually became dissatisfied. In the process of doing printing for customers in the Chapel Hill area, Comar became acquainted with the University and students.

"I liked working with UNC students so I came back to Chapel Hill," Comar said. "I feel closer to this age group than to any other part of society."

After deciding that he wanted to live in Chapel Hill, Comar used his

experience as a military policeman in the Korean War to obtain his job as a crime prevention specialist for the University police.

Jim Shumaker, a journalism professor, "fell into" his teaching career. Shumaker began his career working for the Associated Press.

"I hated every damn day of that job," he said.

After leaving his AP job, Shumaker returned to Chapel Hill, where he received his degree, to become the editor of the Chapel Hill Newspaper. He also began teaching part-time at the University.

When he had a "falling out" with the publisher, Shumaker quit his job at the paper and stayed in Chapel Hill to become a full-time professor. Richard Cole, dean of the journalism school, began working as a stock boy in a men's store in Dallas. Later he worked on motors and waxed airplanes at an airport. In college at the University of Texas at Austin, Cole won a competition that got him a reporting job at a daily paper in Mexico City.

Creative writing professor Doris Betts did not begin her illustrious career right away either. She played the piano in a music store, sold crystal in a jewelry store and worked in a dress shop before starting her writing career. Later she worked in classified ads and proofreading at the Chapel Hill Weekly. Betts published several books before coming here to teach.

It's obvious that not everyone starts out doing what they enjoy. The successful already mentioned didn't. But what about those who did?

Football coach Mack Brown started his career as a full-time assistant coach at Southern Mississippi University. Basketball coach Dean Smith began his legendary career as an assistant basketball coach and golf coach at the Air Force Academy.

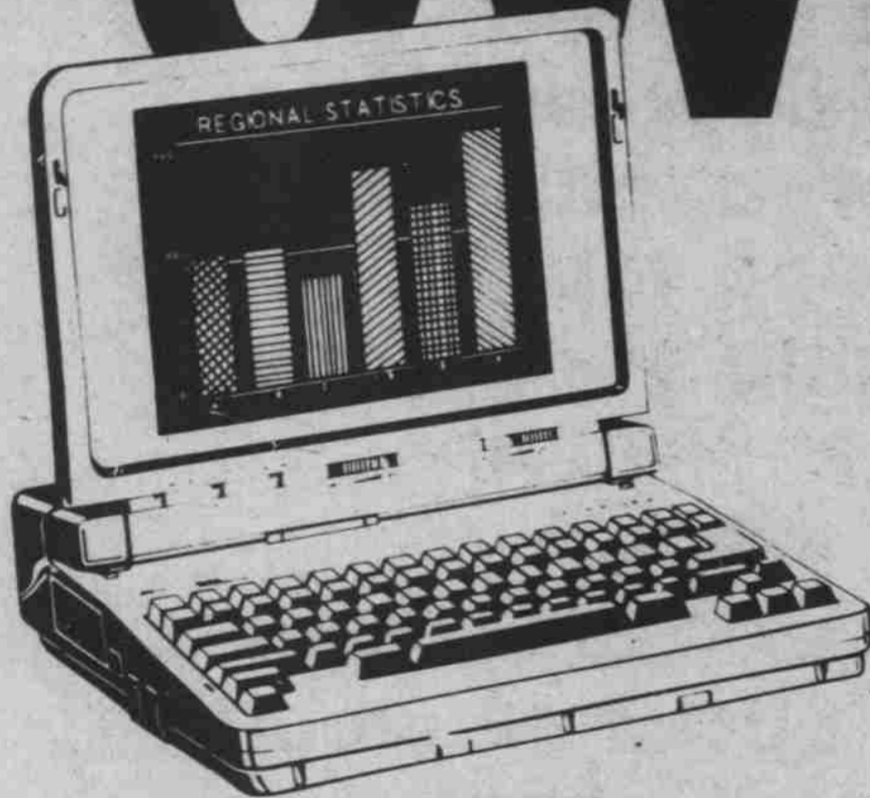
Chapel Hill Mayor Jonathan Howes, who teaches classes in regional planning at the University, began his career as an urban planner for the Urban Renewal Administration in Washington, D.C.

Paul Rizzo, dean of the business school, used his background in accounting to work as a junior auditor for Lybrand, Ross Bros. & Montgomery.

Perhaps Dean of Student Affairs Donald Boulton has the solution to the problem — stay in school. That's what he did. After receiving his undergraduate degree in biology, Boulton did seven years of graduate work in theology and archaeology, as well as counseling psychology and administration. When he finally finished, he became the assistant dean for admissions at the Upstate Medical Center in Syracuse, New York.

"I liked being in school so much that I just kept on going," Boulton said. "That's why I wanted to go into administration."

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