

The FBI: "The Ultimate Investigative Agency"

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

Barbara Watson is a 17-year clerical veteran at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. James H. Lillard and Patricia M. Feeley are relatively new special agents. They work at FBI State Headquarters in Charlotte. What all seem to have in common is a commitment to what Lillard referred to as "the ultimate investigative agency."

What makes someone want to work for the FBI? Reasons range from happenstance to the dreams of youth.

Recalled Lillard, a Pennsylvania native, "I was interested since high school, but I always thought you had to be a lawyer or an accountant. Then I met an agent while I was a labor relations representative and found out that's not true."

Minimum requirements are a degree and three years experience in any field. Lillard has a degree in business administration and worked for a bank before going into labor relations.

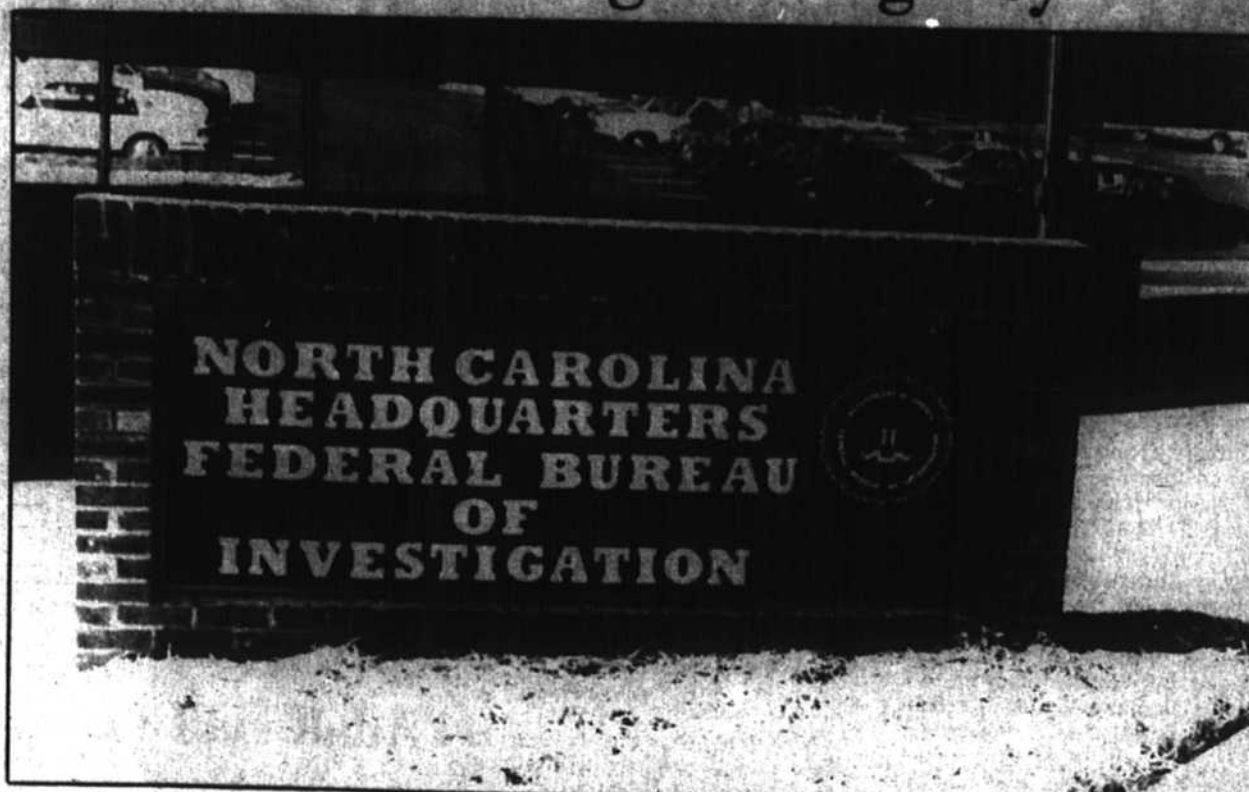
His early impression of the FBI, he said, was based on its reputation. "It seemed like the FBI was the ultimate in any investigative agency and was beyond reproach."

The Bureau has pretty much lived up to his image of it.

"It's top notch," he said. "It's a large organization. You're not locked into any one type of work, and there's never a dull day. I like it much better than being behind a desk from nine to five. And I like dealing with people. There's always something different."

Neeley agreed. When she finished college in Massachusetts in 1981, her father mentioned the FBI as a career possibility. She investigated and was intrigued, but she didn't meet the minimum age requirement. So she put her degree in verbal communications to work as a technical editor for an engineering company until she could qualify.

What she likes about her work, she said, is "the idea of being able to investigate and solve the puzzle. Your job means something. You're doing something to help." She added, "The days go by so quickly. It's a fun job!"



NORTH CAROLINA HEADQUARTERS FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

NEW FBI FACILITY -6010 Kenley Lane

Neeley, who has been with the Bureau about a year, works in the same squad as Lillard, a two-year veteran, but that doesn't mean they always work together.

According to Lillard, "You have to be able to work on your own. Each case is 100 percent yours; it's up to you to investigate it from beginning to end and produce a report to present to the U.S. Attorney."

Other personal characteristics that make for a good special agent: people skills ("If you can't interview, you can't get the information you want.") and flexibility, both in terms of being able to talk to people from all walks of life and in terms of time and schedule ("If something happens, you go.")

Barbara Watson, an "evidence custodian," started as a clerk with the Bureau in Washington, D.C., 17 years ago. She recounted that she and a friend were out looking for summer jobs, saw a sign for the

FBI, and applied. The "summer job" turned into a career.

"I like the challenge," she remarked. "I'm always busy, and I like to stay busy. After you've been here a while, you hate to leave."

She noted that there is good opportunity for growth and promotions within the organization and has learned a lot of additional skills in her years at the Bureau.

After starting in the Washington office, Watson transferred first to Savannah, her home city, and then to Charlotte. Her brother is an FBI employee at national headquarters. "It's a good career to get into," she commented. "I would do it again."

The Bureau is recruiting both clerks and special agents. Over a 1,000 clerks will be hired to work in Washington by October 1, according to Special Agent Charles Richards, applicant coordinator for N.C. headquarters in Charlotte. And, Lillard noted, "A lot of people will be

retiring in the next five years."

To encourage and inform applicants, as well as the general public, the Charlotte office is holding an open house at its new facility at 6010 Kenley Lane on Saturday, February 22, from 1-5 p.m. (Directions: From Tyvola, take Westpark Drive going toward the Marriott. Turn left on Griffith, then right on Kenley.)

Both Lillard and Watson are black. Commented Lillard, "The Bureau is always actively seeking qualified women and minorities. We're into such a variety of investigations that we have to have a good cross section. We look for life experience."

And Neeley added, "I haven't found any problems at all being a woman. I think I've been treated very fairly and given the same opportunities as men."

She concluded with, "It's a great job." Lillard echoed the sentiment.

Local Democrats To Meet With State Party Chairman

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

A reception for Mecklenburg Democrats to meet their new state party chairman will be held on February 27 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 920 Granville Road.

David McConnell, former county Democratic party chair and former ambassador to the United Nations, and his wife Ona will host the event.

Jim VanHecke of Greensboro was elected to the state chairmanship in January when the state executive committee met in Raleigh. Commented Mecklenburg acting chairperson Cathy Hughes, "He's probably the youngest (state chairman) we've ever had." VanHecke is 38.

Charlotte's D. G. Martin, second-time candidate for the Ninth District Congressional race, will be on hand, as will Mayor Gantt and other elected officials. Officers of the ninth district of the Democratic Party, which covers Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, and parts of Yadkin counties will also attend.

The executive director of the state party, Ed Turlington, may also be there, said Hughes.

A donation of \$10 is requested. Explained Hughes, "We have to have \$3,000 a month to keep things going."

Hughes has been serving the Mecklenburg Democratic Party as acting director since February 1



Cathy Hughes
Acting chairperson

when Ron Harper took a leave of absence because of his wife Catherine's entrance into the race for U.S. Senate.

Prior to Harper's leave, she was serving her second term as first vice chairperson of the county party.

Hughes will retain the acting chair post until after the May primary. She is only the second black to serve as chairperson.

The county chairperson is responsible for local party operations as well as sending out a newsletter.

AABWE Sets Meeting

The American Association of Black Women Entrepreneurs will meet Monday, February 23, at 6 p.m. at McDonald's Cafeteria. Each month the professional organization meets on the fourth Monday.

For more information, contact Regina Jones, 372-9888.

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According To Sherr, Siding Is Answer To Home Maintenance Problems

By Loretta Manago
Post Managing Editor

As owner of ALL-STATE Siding & Window, Inc., Arnold Sherr is interested in the homeowner who no longer wants to waste his valuable time painting his home every three to five years. Sherr is also interested in the homeowner who is tired of the growing expense that painting a home adds up to.

For these individuals, siding is the answer to their home maintenance problems. According to Sherr, once his company replaces the wood on a customer's home with siding, the homeowner has little to worry about in the area of upkeep.

"First, we use CertainTeed solid vinyl siding which is manufactured by a company with more than 80 years experience in constructing dependable building materials. After the siding is on, the owner has little or no maintenance problems. There is no need to paint and the siding won't show scratches, nor will it peel, rot, warp, pit or attract

termites," related Sherr.

Even with those appealing features, the one feature, not yet mentioned that boosts the option of siding more is the money a homeowner saves.

"Siding saves a homeowner money in three ways," began Sherr, "first, there's the money you save from not having to paint anymore. Secondly, at ALL-STATE we blow the walls with insulation which shows a savings in the customer's utility bills. And lastly, siding adds to the property value of the house. If a homeowner ever wanted to sell his home, he could sell it at a higher price than he would have been able to without the siding."

Because of these money-saving features Sherr states that the person that considers siding is looking into an investment, rather than an expense.

At ALL-STATE Sherr and his 13 member staff assure the highest quality of workmanship and competitive prices to its customers, along

with a three year labor guarantee.

"There's a house that we're working on now that we were able to save the homeowner approximately \$1,300 from a price he was quoted by someone else last year," cited Sherr.

In selling siding to the potential customer, Sherr assured that he uses no high pressure tactic, but let's the benefits of 100 percent vinyl siding sell itself. Customers find out about ALL-STATE through flyers, telephone solicitations and newspaper ads.

Another facet of ALL-STATE is the installation of replacement windows. These windows are also manufactured by CertainTeed and feature such benefits as strong, solid vinyl frame, double-pane sealed insulated glass, double weather stripping and tilt-in sashers.

ALL-STATE Siding and Window, Inc., located on Park Rd. opened for business last year. Sherr, however has had 15 years of experience in the siding, window and roofing business.

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Malpractice Rate Increase Causes Physicians To Stop Delivering Babies

Special To The Post

The expectant mothers in rural North Carolina will soon feel the effects of a recent announcement made by Medical Mutual Insurance Company to increase malpractice insurance rates by more than 350 percent for family physicians who deliver babies.

The North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians has identified 207 family doctors among their membership who deliver babies. Sue Makey, executive director, expects 98 to 99 percent of the family physicians now delivering babies to discontinue that portion of their practice. "The bottom line effect will be felt by the citizens of rural North Carolina - in essence, the people who need them the most.

Family physicians are trained to care for the 'whole person' and the entire family as a unit. Because of increased rates for malpractice insurance, family physicians will be forced to give up a part of their practice for which they are trained and qualified to provide.

Dr. Frank W. Leak, a Clinton family physician, stated that, "We just cannot absorb the tremendous increase and we certainly cannot pass the costs on to our patients." Dr. Leak's five-physician group delivers approximately 240 babies per year. If family physicians chose to continue their OB practice, this increase would mean, in some cases, that family doctors would have to charge as much as \$1,000 per delivery just to cover their

insurance premiums.

Dr. Charles O. Boyette, a Belhaven family physician, said, "Some of his patients would have to travel up to 80 miles for OB care when he stops delivering babies."

Dr. Ron Fisher, a Sylva family physician, stated, "My four-physician group provided prenatal care for the local health department in Jackson County." When they stop delivering babies, the health department will definitely experience a crisis for those patients

who receive OB care there. Dr. Fisher's neighboring county, Swain, has no obstetrical service other than family physicians, all of whom have said they will also stop delivering babies because of the rate increase.

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Affirmative Action Setbacks

Special To The Post

Washington - "In the latest setback for affirmative action, it is ironic that by abandoning goals and timetables, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is hindering rather than encouraging the eradication of discriminatory practices by private employers," said Robert L. White, National President, National Alliance of Postal and Federal Employees.

"To drop goals and timetables is bad policy in and of itself," White continued, "But to do it without any vote or public announcement is both an abdication of the EEO Commissioner's policy duties and a flagrant disregard for the public's right to know."

The union leader's comments were made as he prepares for NAPFE's Mid-Winter Executive Board Meeting at the Omni Hotel in Baltimore, Maryland, later this week. White questions why the EEO EEOC "would drop an anti-bias practice that the U.S. Supreme Court has continuously recommended."

In a meeting last February with EEO Commission, William Webb and EEOC Acting General Counsel Johnny Butler, the NAPFE Board harshly criticized the EEOC's shift from pursuing class actions in favor of individual remedies. In rejoinder, Webb and Butler expressly told the NAPFE Board there was no policy shift nor was one planned.

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