

# Computer technology: Health career for the future

By Kathryn Hall Bogle

Building his own professional career is Benjamin Berry Jr. He is building his career as a man builds a cathedral - one block at a time, placed where it is needed in the larger scheme of things.

Ben Berry follows his blueprint with determination and imagination, too. Ben's cathedral will be made out of his dreams to be a Computer Medical research person.

The foundation seems solid and broad enough to support a good many flights of fancy and alterations later, if necessary.

Ben is a transplanted Californian and had his early education there. He was graduated from high school at age 16, about the time his family moved to Portland. He is the son of Benjamin Berry Sr., a former Portland builder and contractor, and his wife Zanna, a teacher in the public schools during their residence in this city.

Ben's most important early position was with Pacific Northwest Bell company. "I worked with the telephone company for seven years and formed my interest in computer systems with them. I worked up to becoming a network supervisor while in their employment and I enjoyed being there," says Berry.

"At the same time I realized I had equally strong pull towards something medical. It didn't seem to be a career in just medicine that I wanted, but I enrolled at the University of Portland in their courses of Life Sciences which includes classwork fitted for pre-medical and pre-dental students.

"When I was graduated from the Life Sciences courses, I found a place for myself at the University of Oregon Dental School as an assistant in periodontal disease research. This experience led me to take a year of dentistry at the U. of O. Dental school."

Berry didn't really want to be a dentist, because, he said, "I missed working with computer systems too much. So I went back to University of Portland and enrolled in two major courses at once; Computer Applications Management and Nursing!

"Meanwhile," Berry related, "I had to support myself. Luckily, I found a part-time job at the U. of O. Health Sciences Center as a research supervisor in the National Stroke Prevention Project. Another part-time job added to my income and to my interest in computers. This job was with Tektronix. For them I was a systems development researcher doing the work of an analyst on national employee benefit packages."

Berry gave a short laugh. "I can see some surprise whenever I mention that hectic period I went through," he said amiably. "Yes, I did all that and kept up my grades in college too. I did that for two full years. I slept only about four hours out of every 24 hours. I did it. I made it through. But I wouldn't recommend it to anyone.

"How did I study? Well, study time was limited. I relied heavily on careful listening to each of my lectures. A tape recorder helped a little there. I listened to it while I drove back and forth between jobs. Also, for class time in nursing, we had to travel to one of seven different hospitals for clinical work and the recorder played back the lectures to me as I traveled on these assignments.

"Here at Good Samaritan Hospital I am called a Project Coordinator in the department of Information Management Services. I have the responsibility for Computer Medical Systems for Hospital Support. This is my niche and it is all fitting in together, finally.

"More and more medical diagnosis is being made through computer systems, and the medical background I have is already coming in handily. I have only 18 hours left to be graduated in nursing, but the language and understanding are already mine. I hope to complete my classwork in nursing and win my degree in 1982 - or in 1983 - whichever I can.

"The U. of O. Health Sciences Center has begun to offer classes in computer medical research and I am glad that I have already come to this point. Wish me luck!"

## Good first impression vital

A good first impression is imperative when interviewing for first jobs.

Company personnel managers expect first-time applicants to be nervous, so control the visible signs and relax. Remember, interviewers want to find persons who have some contribution to make to their companies, and are not there to embarrass you.

Greet the interviewer by name and with a firm handshake. Be neat and dress appropriately in business attire. Don't smoke and don't chew gum.

Sit erect and look interested. Maintain eye contact with the interviewer. If you feel the interview is not going well, don't let your concern show. Continue to appear confident.

Applicants must be prepared to respond to general, open ended questions such as, "Why do you want to work for our company?" or "Tell me about yourself," and "Be as specific and brief" as possible, telling the interviewer about your education and related education and related work experiences, making a point of accomplishments.

Frank, responses are important, don't exaggerate, this could trip you up later in the interview.

Job seekers are going to run into interviewers who are "listeners." During these sessions, the initiative is with you. Keep the interviewer's attention by mentioning qualities that relate directly to your background and the job. Also, if you have paid for all or part of your school expenses, say so.

The dream cathedral is standing out now; the outlines are becoming clearer and clearer with the passage of time and the application of hard work and determination by Ben.

Ben Berry Jr., is 29 years old. He is not married yet. Here is good luck to him on all counts.



Ben Berry at CAT Scanner (Computed Axial Tomography) at Good Samaritan Hospital. Computer uses X-ray and sophisticated techniques to give cross-section views of the body's interior that can reveal organ damage, strokes and tumors.

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