

**Thomas Hunter, Author:**

# Do What Makes You Happy

By JOHN DASH

Thomas Hunter believes that "if anyone has a strong desire to do something, anything, he also has the abilities to do it. I'm not talking about hearing a song and thinking, 'Gee, I wish I had written that.' I'm talking about a real, strong desire to accomplish something."

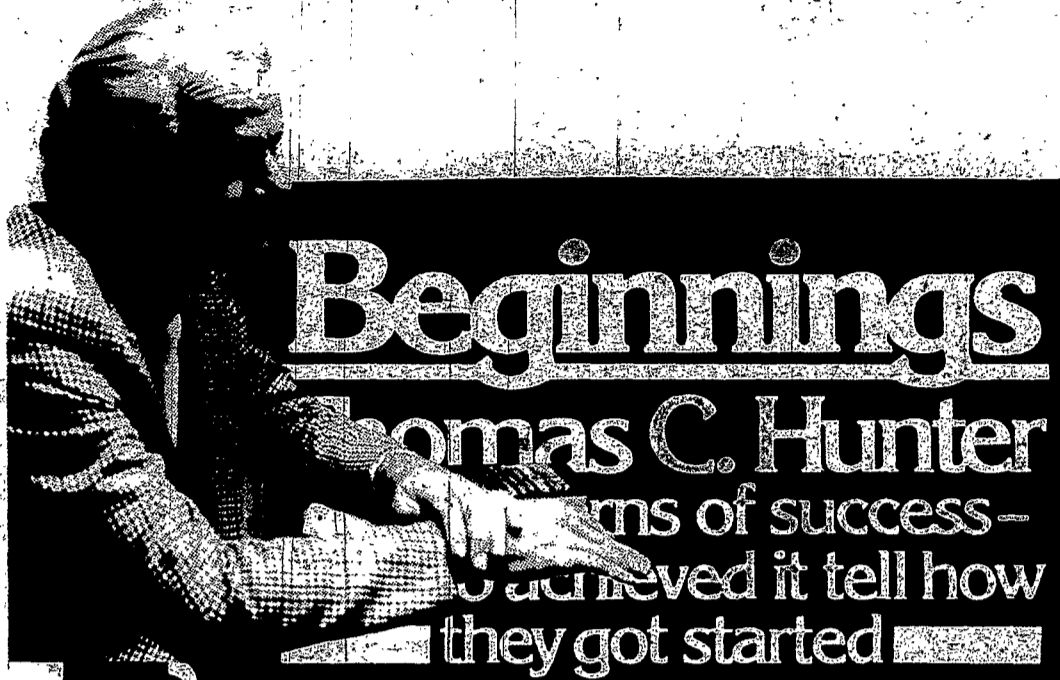
Hunter is the author of *Beginnings*, a book subtitled by publisher Thomas Y. Crowell, "The patterns of success — 24 who achieved it tell how they got started."

Hunter says those abilities may be latent in an individual, but the desire to do "is a pretty good indication that they exist."

Hunter also is a little disappointed with the word "success" in the book's subtitle, because if there's anything that is common to the 24 stories in the book, it's not necessarily that the individuals are successful so much as they are happy doing what they do.

*Beginnings* records the "happy work stories," then, of such diverse personalities as F. Lee Bailey, Pete Rose, Erma Bombeck, Mary Calderone and Stanley Kramer, among others.

Hunter himself has made his name known in Catholic circles. The ex-seminarian for the Archdiocese of New York



**Beginnings**  
 Thomas C. Hunter  
 24 patterns of success —  
 who achieved it tell how  
 they got started

was an information officer of Catholics for Latin America and was a founder and board member of the National Association of Laymen, as well as being the first president of the Long Island Association of Laymen.

In his entire life, he confides, he has enjoyed doing two things, being a page at NBC in New York and working on *Beginnings*.

He once had a job with publishers McGraw Hill, he says, where he was responsible for technical and scientific reporting. The job didn't hold, he

**HUNTER**  
 says. "When I was in school, I was so bad at math, my teachers just gave up and laughed at me."

His heroes number out to two: Martin Luther King and Chief Joseph of the Nez Perce Indians.

Why they are Hunter's heroes, he muses, is because they "were people who helped others to be — to break out of oppression to become total, free human beings."

And that's one of the reasons Hunter wrote *Beginnings*, to reflect that same kind of service.

Graphics by Susan McKinney

He says that among his friends he noticed a great number of them "hating their jobs, feeling shackled, feeling they aren't applying their talents and lacking a sense of satisfaction."

He wants to caution parents not to ask children, "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

Rather, he says, ask the child, "What do you want to do, and not necessarily when you grow up?"

The doing of something satisfying changes as a person matures, as *Beginnings* points out. Once the decision to be

something is made, however, the person may be locked into a frustrating career for which he is not at all suited.

Hunter, who was in Rochester attending a conference of business communicators (he himself edits a house organ for an industrial firm), travelled more than 10,000 miles doing research for *Beginnings*.

His home base is with his wife and children in Ridgewood, N.J.

*Beginnings* is on sale throughout the diocese.

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