

Emily Holland Returns (Again)

BY DAVE OWENS

Eating her words, Emily Holland will graduate from Guilford College in Greensboro, N.C., as a member of the class of 1977.

She figures it's high time she finished. As Emily Johnson, she entered Guilford as a freshman in 1947.

The words she will be eating?

Such as "Even though the young students will treat me like an old fogie, an antique, I will go back to Guilford, go about my solitary business of completing my degree work, and then quietly steal away when it is done."

Also, words like "I will not have my picture in the yearbook, and I most certainly will not have it in the Baby Book," published each fall semester by the college to introduce freshmen, transfers and returning students.

And, "When it's over I will say to the Academic Dean, 'Here's a stamp. Send me my degree and I'll be happy. The big brass band bit is not my style. I am not coming back for commencement.'"

Those were her words last August, when she left home in Dover, Del., and moved in with her husband David's parents in Greensboro, Mr. and Mrs. C.A. Holland.

The "old fogie" became a day student at Guilford College, depressed by the prospect of having to "endure" an entire semester.

Emily sensed right away that the young students were sneaky. Surely they were staring at her as if she were an antique, and surely they were trying to avoid her. But they hid their actions amazingly well. They even appeared friendly.

An immediate shock was the first of several students who approached her, smiled

and said, "Hi! You're Emily Holland. I wanted to get to know you. You see, I saw your picture in the Baby Book and . . ."

"My what in what?" Emily responded, her mouth ajar. "You've got to be kidding!"

She soon solved that mystery. Her son Steven, 24, and daughter Tracy, 19, had sneaked her photograph and sent it to Guilford College. There she was, the "antique," in a Baby Book.

Days and weeks flew by. All too soon, her final semester was finished. Quietly, as is her nature, she described the period in her life which she had dreaded because of her "advanced" age.

"It has been such a good experience," she declared. "I have not been received on the parent-child level; it's been a very person-to-person level.

"It was a good feeling to have students want to talk to me, to invite themselves to sit with me in the dining room, to lend and borrow books and records, to ask me to join their study groups before a quiz, to consider me as just another student in class.

"The atmosphere at Guilford is that everyone is equal. It has a leveling effect. It says 'I'm no better or worse than you,' and, here, somehow that idea of equality has a different kind of polish on it, saying 'I'm unique and different,' that each person's individuality and uniqueness is precious," she said.

A question often asked Emily was how Guilford had changed.

"Physically, it is obvious that it has improved considerably," she said, looking around at the new and renovated buildings nestling under giant oak trees.

"And through the years, I have changed, too," she added. "I am more of a person now. The student body is different now . . .

clothes, music, the externals . . . but it's a different world than it was then.

"What makes Guilford is not the trees and dogs or the long hair/short hair, blue jeans, bare feet, but the intangibles, the idea that you do not have to conform to be accepted.

"You're accepted here if you can get excited discovering something, if you find pure learning a delight, if you think excellence is desirable, if you have a reverence for life. That's what makes Guilford."

There was a time, at the beginning of the semester, when Emily never dreamed she would be voicing those observations. She had strong doubts, then, that she had made a wise decision.

"At first I really was very unsure of myself," she recalled. "It was scary: just the reality of the situation, the idea that it was costing me and costing so many others.

"I doubted that I should be at Guilford. I felt I was shirking my responsibilities to my husband, my children, my church. (Even though Steven is teaching in Smyrna, Del., and Tracy is studying at the American Ballet Theater in New York.) I felt that



Emily Holland selects lunch in Guilford cafeteria.

Photo by Owens

people were making sacrifices one way or another so I could do something I wanted to do." She sighed. "It was kind of heavy."

She continued to reflect. "I always was a quick student, and my expectations for myself have always been very high. I've had to come to grips with my rustiness, my slow skills, to get the dust and cobwebs out of my head. I have had to revise my expectations, and it has been an interesting experience."

Another thing bothered her, too. She found it difficult to accept all the support she received once her intentions to return to school were announced.

"It's much harder to

receive than to give, and I had to learn to receive," she confided.

Emily learned about Guilford from a physics teacher in her Tenafly, N.J., high school. He was Henry Tew, a 1927 graduate of the Quaker institution who "had at least one student from Tenafly at Guilford year after year," she noted.

She met David Holland at Guilford. They clicked. After three years they transferred . . . she to the School of Physical Therapy at Duke and he to UNC-Chapel Hill for economics.

A year and a half later, she received a certificate for completing her studies at Duke and worked in the old Central Carolina Convalescent

Eldora Terrell Becomes Guilford Trustee

CONTRIBUTION

High Point physician Eldora Haworth Terrell has been named a member of the Guilford College Board of Trustees.

She joins four other women on the governing board of the Quaker institution — Mrs. Edwin P. Brown of Murfreesboro, Marietta Forlaw of Greensboro, Helen G. Hole of Providence, R.I., and Elizabeth G. Parker of George.

Dr. Terrell practices internal medicine in High Point in partnership with her husband, Dr. T. Eugene Terrell, and her brother, Dr. Chester Haworth.

Both Drs. Terrell graduated from Guilford College in 1949, Dr. Haworth in 1959. The Terrells received their M.D. degrees from the Duke University School of Medicine in 1953.

She was president of the Guilford College Alumni

Association in 1974-75 and has served as chairman of the school's annual Loyalty Fund drive.

The new trustee is a member of the staff of High Point Memorial Hospital, where she directs the Medical Out Patient Clinic for the Guilford County Health Department. She belongs to local, state and national medical societies.

She has served as president of the High Point Medical Auxiliary, High Point Altrusa Club twice and the High Point Family Life Council. The state Family Life Council presented her the Sperry Award in 1971 for leadership in family education.

Dr. Terrell is a director of Friends Homes Inc. and is on the executive committee of North Carolina Yearly Meeting of Friends. She was the Guilford County Medical Society representative to the N.C. Medical Society House of Delegates in 1974-76.

Her great-grandparents were Quaker ministers who answered a call to Springfield Friends Meeting in High Point after the Civil War. Currently, she teaches Sunday school there and sings in the adult choir.

Many of her relatives have been and are Guilford College connected, going back to great grandmother Sara English Blair. She was in the class of 1850 at New Garden Boarding School, which became Guilford College in 1888.

Her mother and grandmother attended Guilford, as did all her brothers and sisters. Two of the six Terrell children are students at Guilford now, Sara Beth and Bill.

The Terrells operate a charolais cattle farm between High Point and Asheboro, an undertaking featured several years ago in Medical Economics magazine on how physicians invest.

Late March Recruiting

- March 23: Kendal at Longwood (Planned community for retired people; Quaker operated)
- March 24: Metropolitan Life Insurance Camp Winaukee & Robindell (Summer camp in New Hampshire) Capital University Law School (Juniors & Seniors)
- March 25: Moore County Schools
- March 31: Kenan Transportation Company (accounting majors)