

Elon Alumni Of Alamance At Banquet

Merriment and good fellowship featured the annual banquet meeting of the Alamance County Chapter of the Elon College Alumni Association which was held in the college dining hall here at 7:30 o'clock last Wednesday night, January 6th.

The meeting, which was hailed as being definitely the most successful in the history of the local alumni group, attracted more than 100 former Elon students from Burlington and other Alamance County communities.

Presided over by Woody Wilson, Burlington business man, who is president of the Alamance County organization, the banquet session kept serious business affairs to a minimum, with a program that emphasized entertainment, of the light and enjoyable type, and delicious food and beautifully decorated tables contributed to enjoyment of all present.

The invocation was by Dr. John G. Truitt, with the alumni guests welcomed back to the Elon campus by Mrs. Scott Boyd, Elon's alumni secretary. Greetings were also extended by Dr. Leon E. Smith, Elon College president, and by William B. Terrell, of Warrenton who is president of the General Alumni Association of the college.

A special feature of the banquet was the presentation of miscellaneous gifts from the alumni to Prof. and Mrs. A. L. Hook, who are at this time beginning construction of a new home to replace the one which was destroyed by fire early last fall. The presentation was made by Eugene A. Gordon, Burlington attorney, who extended the greetings and good wishes from Elon alumni in this area.

Prof. John Foster West, Elon faculty member from the college's English Department, who is known for his activities as a writer and poet, brought roars of laughter from the alumni audience with a humorous address that climaxed the evening program.

His address followed a series of musical numbers and skits, which had been presented by Elon students under the direction of Prof. John Westmoreland. The student program included two skits by Laverne Brady, a senior girl of Robbins, and four musical numbers by student singers.

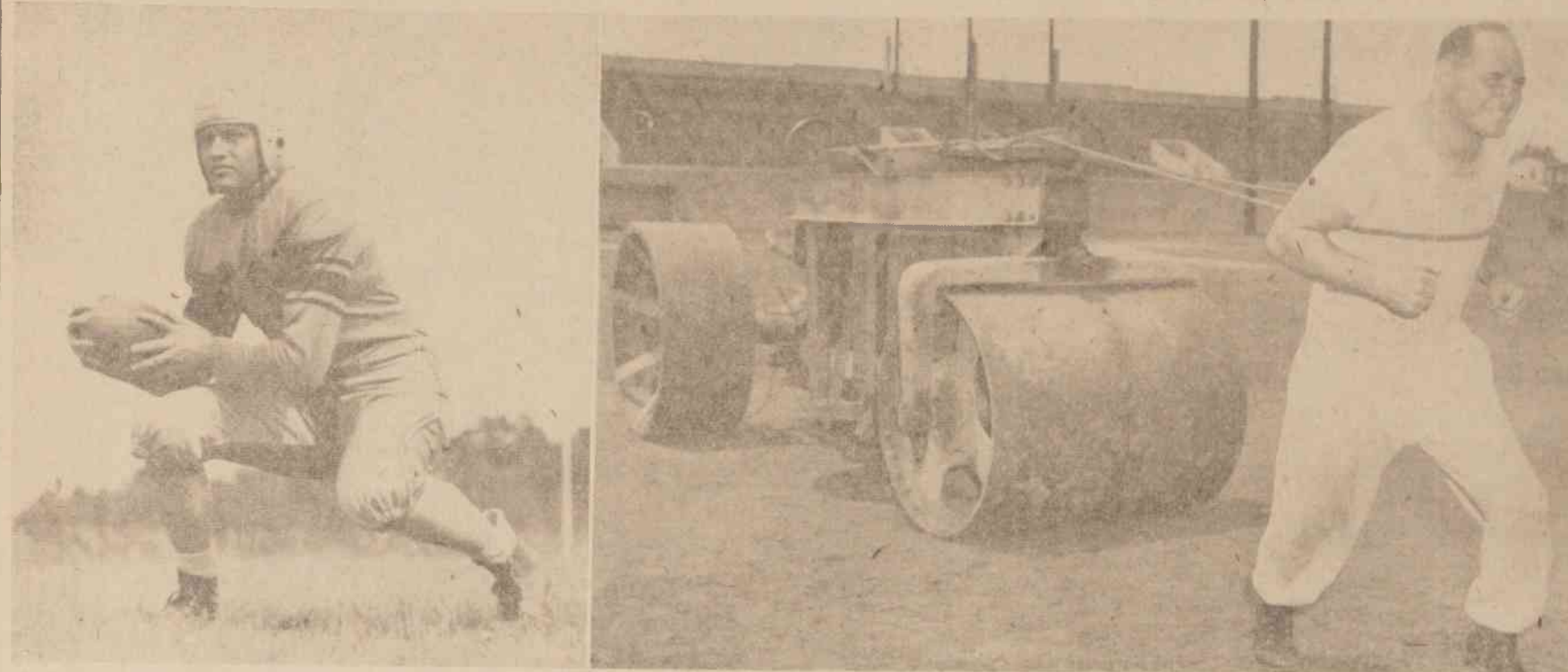
First of the musical offerings was "You'll Never Walk Alone," rendered in entrancing style by a chorus of more than thirty student singers. This was followed by "The Bitterness of Love," tenor solo by Jerry Smyre of Greensboro; "Take Joy Home," by Judith Ingram, soprano soloist, also of Greensboro; and by "Make Believe," with the two soloists in duet combination. Accompanying all the singers at the piano was Shirley Cox, of Elon College.

Church Speaker Coming To Elon

Dr. Elden Mills, pastor of the First Congregational Christian Church, West Hartford, Conn., one of the outstanding religious speakers and leaders in his field, will appear on the Elon Campus for a series of services during the week beginning February 8th and ending February 14th.

Appearing as a representative of the Home Board of the Congregational Christian Church in America Dr. Mills will speak to the Elon student body in chapel services each morning during his visit.

TYPICAL SNAPSHOTS OF FORMER ELON FOOTBALL STAR AND PRO BOXER



Pictured above in two shots that typified his athletic career is Joe Golombek, a former Elon football great, whose mysterious death was discovered when his body was uncovered in a lonely grave on Long Island just before Christmas. Golombek, who came to Elon from Portsmouth, Va., is pictured at the left in an Elon uniform in the period during the late 'thirties when he was starring and earning All-State honors as a Christian fullback. A later shot on the right pictures the big grid star and boxer while he was fighting as a professional boxer in the Norfolk-Portsmouth area in eastern Virginia. Taken as a publicity stunt shot, that picture portrays graphically Golombek's tremendous strength.

Former Elon Athlete Is Mysteriously Slain

Body Of Joe Golombek Discovered On Long Island; Death Unsolved

The mysterious death of a former Elon football star, whose body was discovered by New York police in a lonely grave on Long Island sent the name of Elon College rocketing over Associated Press wires to the front pages of newspapers from coast to coast during the Christmas holidays.

The body of the man, later identified as Joe Golombek, once a brilliant fullback for the Fighting Christian football squad, was discovered on Tuesday, December 22nd, and the first stories hit the afternoon newspapers the following day, while the New York authorities were still seeking to establish the identity of the slain man. Identity was established within twenty-four hours, and the morning papers on Thursday, December 24th, carried Associated Press dispatches which stated definitely that the slain man was Joe Golombek, the former resident of Portsmouth, Va., who won football laurels at Elon College, later fought as a professional boxer and then chose a career as a soldier in the United States Army Air Forces.

The first news stories told how New York police, following up a tip contained in an unsigned letter, uncovered Golombek's body in a shallow grave in a remote clearing, not far from Long Island's Great South Bay, and the lone clue at first as to his identity was an Elon College ring for the Class of 1947, which bore the initials "J. G." inside.

The authorities also had evidence from the unsigned letter, which had been addressed to the commander of the Westover Air Force Base, Chicopee Falls, Mass., and which stated that the dead man had been in the Army Air Forces. Search of his clothing also revealed a cleaner's tag from Portsmouth, Va.

The Greensboro Daily News staff upon receipt of the press dispatches, contacted Elon College authorities on Wednesday afternoon, December 22nd, and a check of alumni records disclosed that the only graduate either 1947 or 1948 whose initials were "J. G." was Golombek, and the same alumni records disclosed that the big athlete had been in the Army Air Forces at latest report and that he had been originally from Portsmouth. His Air Force serial number, as recorded here in 1948, were forwarded to the news agency on the chance that it might lead to identification through the finger prints in the War Department files.

In the meantime, however, identification had been made that same day by the statements of two of Golombek's friends in New York, who were located through a telephone number written on a scrap of paper in the slain man's pocket. They identified him mainly from clothing and body characteristics, since his head was

battered too badly to be recognized.

The two friends, David Rosen, 24, and James Johnson, 23, told police that they last saw Golombek on November 8th when he had visited them in their Manhattan hotel, at which time he had told them he planned to visit

who tipped the scales at 200 pounds or more, who stepped at once into a regular berth at fullback for Coach Horse Hendrickson's Fighting Christian football squad.

Elon football fans and sports-writers of that year branded Golombek as more than slightly terrific in ability, and he continued through that season and the next to be a real star in virtually every game that the Christian grid squad played. With a 7-1 record in 1937, the Elon eleven lost the Conference title to Appalachian, but the Christians tied with Catawba for the Conference crown in 1938.

In 1938 Golombek was named as All-State fullback, chosen in competition with the stars of the North Carolina "Big Five" as well as the North State Conference, that in the days before two-platoon football and when the All-State included only eleven men.

Those same two years saw Golombek gain laurels in amateur boxing circles and put the name of Elon in the national exploits in the square ring. He won the heavyweight championship in several Golden Gloves tournaments.

He won the heavyweight crown in the Carolinas Golden Gloves tournament at Charlotte in the winter of both 1938 and 1939. He went to New York to the national Golden Gloves meet each year as a member of the Carolina's team, and each year he fought his way to the national

finals before being defeated.

Then came the 1939 football season and the end of Joe Golombek's Elon grid career. No one seems to know exactly the reason, but early that season Coach Hendrickson dropped him from the squad in some sort of disciplinary action, and the big boy soon dropped from school.

After leaving school Golombek entered the army and served through World War II, returning to Elon after the war to resume his studies. He played one season of basketball just after the war, and finally completed requirements for graduation. He was a member of the Class of 1947, but delay in completing his work caused him to be listed with the Class of 1948.

Also after World War II he took a whirl at professional boxing, engaging in several bouts in the Norfolk-Portsmouth area of eastern Virginia, but he soon dropped out of action in that field.

After finishing his work at Elon, Golombek re-enlisted in the Army Air Forces, and the Elon Alumni Directory of 1948 listed him stationed in Japan. As late as the autumn of 1942 Prof. A. L. Hook, Elon registrar continued to receive letters from him, one of the last mentioning that he had met a boy in the Army, whom he wished to send to Elon as a student, proof that Golombek still remembered pleasantly his days on the Elon campus.

being slated to report to Camp Kilmer, N. J., on November 16th. Upon failure to report at Kilmer at that time, Golombek had been declared AWOL.

The New York men, both of whom had served with Golombek in the Air Forces, declared that in all their friendship they had never heard Golombek mention hunting—the anonymous letter to the Air Force authorities had stated that his death was due to a hunting accident—and that he had never mentioned knowing anyone on Long Island or planning to go there.

The two men described Golombek as a non-drinker, and they declared that he had appeared normally as a peaceable man, thus blocking suspicions that his death may have resulted from a brawl during a party. Possibility of a robbery motive, however, loomed in their statement that Golombek had usually carried a good bit of money with him.

Both Rosen and Johnson were reported as quite perturbed during their questioning, but New York authorities apparently attached no suspicion to them, since both were released after the identification of the body.

The FBI entered the case to investigate the anonymous letter that had pointed the way to Golombek's grave. This letter said that the writer had been hunting on Long Island with a companion and that the companion had been "accidentally, fatally injured."

Enclosed in the letter was a detailed sketch showing where the grave could be found, and skeptical officers made the search. Just as the letter said they would, they found a 4-foot pile of underbrush. Under this pile in a gray sport shirt, brown slacks and a blue sweater, Golombek lay on his back, and his mouth and nostrils were stuffed with leaves, indicating a possibility that he had been buried alive and had died of suffocation after being injured.

The investigation revealed a peculiar twist to the case when it was learned that Golombek's cousin, Ansel Liebman, 43, of Brooklyn, died of a heart attack on the same day that Golombek's body was found. The cousin died while driving a rented car on the New Jersey Turnpike, with his own car standing unused before his home. A search of Liebman's home revealed a typewriter, but police stated that it could not have been the one used in typing the anonymous letter.

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Elon Plans Fifth High School Day

Elon College will award eight free scholarships, with a total value of \$4,400, as a feature of the college's fifth annual "High School Day," which will be observed on the Elon Campus on Wednesday, February 3.

These scholarships will be equally divided between boys and girls, with the top winners in each group to be crowned as "King and Queen" of the day's festivities. The scholarship awards were first made at the Annual "High School Day" last year, and there was widespread interest in the contest.

Invitations are now being mailed to more than 300 high schools in North Carolina and Virginia with each school invited to send its entire senior class to be the guests of Elon College for the day and with each school invited to enter one boy and one girl in the contest for the eight scholarships.

Details of the scholarship contest are being enclosed with each invitation, citing the fact that competition will feature the fields of scholarship, poise, personality and appearance.

Top awards for both boys and girls will be \$1,000 scholarships to apply on a four-year course at Elon College, while other scholarships in the amounts of \$600, \$400 and \$200 will go to boys and girls who place second, third and fourth in their respective divisions.

Plans for the fifth annual event are in charge of a faculty committee, which is working with Roger Gibbs, field secretary of the college, and indications are that the 1954 observance may break all records for the number of visitors who will be attracted to the Elon campus.

The first annual visitation of high school seniors brought delegations from 43 high schools, with a total of more than 1,000 seniors and class sponsors. The second annual event attracted delegations from 61 high schools and the third year saw visitors from 62 different schools. Last year there were senior groups from 69 different schools in North Carolina and Virginia, and for the third straight year there were more than 1,500 individual seniors and senior class sponsors on the campus.

The contestants for the eight scholarships this year will come to Elon on Monday, February 1st, and on that day they will compete in a series of tests that will determine the winners in both boys' and girls' divisions. Winners will then be announced and the "King" and "Queen" of the high school program will be crowned on Wednesday, February 3rd.

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Player Try-Outs Start Thursday

Try-outs for parts in the Elon Player production of "Pygmalion," which is to be presented in Whitely Auditorium on February 18th and 19th, will be held in Mooney Chapel this week, with readings scheduled for 2:30 o'clock Thursday afternoon and 7 o'clock Friday night.

This was announced by Prof. Charles W. Cox, faculty director of dramatics, who stated that a cast will be chosen at the same time for parts in the religious play, "Abraham and Isaac," which will be presented as a chapel program on April 2nd.

In announcing the try-outs for these two productions, Prof. Cox stated that the cast for "Pygmalion" will call for five men and six women, while four persons will be necessary in the staging of the religious play in chapel.