

# Elbert Ernest (Ernie) Beamer

Born in Mt. Airy Feb. 14, 1920  
Eldest son of Earl & Pearl (Irene) Beamer

## Mt. Airy High School

- Earned 4 letters (see picture taken for local paper)
- **Basketball**
  - played forward & center
  - competed in the Winston Salem Journal tournament semifinals
- **Baseball**
  - outfielder
  - being very nearsighted, Ernie developed the ability to determine where the ball was going by sound and would be in position before he could see the ball
- **Wrestling**
  - competed in unlimited division even though he only weighed 190 pounds
  - did very well, cannot remember losing
- **Football**
  - #46, played weak side end and place kicker (kick off & field goals)
  - end position as used by Coach Shelton called for throwing, running, & catching the ball
  - threw for more touch downs than any other one on the team
  - **1938 Granite Bears won the Class B championship** by defeating Whiteville at the state finals in Chapel hill
    - Coach Shelton developed a “devious” offense that was considered “the most powerful combination in Mt. Airy football history” (see newspaper clipping)
  - made the North & South Carolina high school all-state team 2 years running (played in Charlotte)
- **Academics**
  - top quartile of his class
  - original degree in industrial studies
  - stayed one extra year at Coach Shelton’s suggestion to pick up the courses necessary for college admission as he had a good chance to earn a scholarship

## Duke University

- awarded football scholarship
- earned 2 letters
- **Wrestling**
  - competed 2 years in unlimited division (still only 190 pounds)
  - dropped subsequent years due to overlapping schedules with football
- **Football**
  - on varsity team 3 years
  - #36, played left & right end, place kicker
  - blocked & ran the ball, limited throwing & receiving
  - assistant end coach for preseason practice (Sr. yr.)
  - **1942 Rose Bowl** (1/1/42)
    - played in Durham, N.C. due to war
  - **1944 Shriners East West All-stars** (1/1/44)
    - voted one of 2 best place kickers by sports press
    - Only player selected for the team from the entire south
    - Andy Kerr coach
- competed in intramural basketball
- elected President of the Freshman Advisory Council
- graduated with a BS degree in economics, class of 44
- Post graduation
  - Assistant end coach (1945), intramural physical training & wrestling

## Post Scripts

- Upon graduation was offered a position on the N.Y. Giants team
  - paid \$25/game (~\$350 2019 dollars)
  - declined because he wanted to marry his college sweet heart
- Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations
  - Graduated with MS degree in Industrial and Labor Relations
- Retired after 25 yrs of service to Harrison Radiator Div. of General Motors
  - Held various positions in Personnel, Purchasing, Material handling eng.
- Life long community service volunteer
  - Boy Scouts
    - 25+ years at troop & district level
    - led local troop on multiple trips to Philmont Scout Ranch
    - Silver Beaver Award
  - Methodist Church
    - Member 50+ years, Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, Captain of Ushers, taught Sunday School
  - Salvation Army
    - Christmas toy & food distribution
  - Lockport Senior Center
    - 17 years doing taxes for Senior Citizens, tax instructor
  - 25+ year blood donor
- Married to his college sweet heart for 51 years, 2 sons

Updated with additional comments not included in Hall of Fame application:

## Duke University

- awarded football scholarship
- earned 2 letters
- **Wrestling**
  - competed 2 years in unlimited division (still only 190 pounds)
  - dropped subsequent years due to overlapping schedules with football
- **Football**
  - on varsity team 3 years
  - #36, played left & right end, place kicker
  - blocked & ran the ball, limited throwing & receiving (limited by his nearsightedness)
  - assistant end coach for preseason practice (Sr. yr.)
  - **1942 Rose Bowl** (1/1/42)
    - played in Durham, N.C. due to war
    - did not start, 1<sup>st</sup> year on varsity
  - **1944 Shriners East West All-stars** (1/1/44, San Francisco, Ca. )
    - voted one of 2 best place kickers by sports press
    - Only player selected for the team from the entire south
    - Andy Kerr coach
    - Game ended in a tie. Dad is convinced that they would have won if they had let him kick the field goal
    - All of the players were presented a watch engraved with East West All star game.
    - Dad played a lot of bridge in college. He was good enough to “earn” a fair amount of money at it. He and another player met a couple of girls on the train & were playing bridge with them. Coach Kerr noticed Dad’s play & sent someone else back to replace Dad in the game & had Dad join him. Dad played bridge with the coach for the remainder of the train trip to San Francisco.
    - The train route passed through Nevada. During a train stop, Dad played a dollar slot machine in the train station. He won 10 silver dollars on his one and only try. He later gave Mom the coins. Several years later, Mom needed money for groceries and used some of the silver dollars. Dad was able to get all but one of them back from the grocery.
    - While in San Francisco, Dad purchased some butterfly jewelry in China town, visited some of the giant red woods, and was entertained by “the last of the red hot momas” (Sophie Tucker)
    - Dad revised his return trip to pass through Washington DC so that he could visit Mom, but she had left a day earlier.
- competed in intramural basketball
- elected President of the Freshman Advisory Council
- graduated with a BS degree in economics, class of 44

- Post graduation
  - Assistant end coach (1945), intramural physical training & wrestling
  - Took position to remain close to Mom while she finished her last year at Duke & to remain involved in athletics
  - Duke went to & won the Sugar Bowl this year making them the 50 Conference champions
  - Dad had a choice of going to the game or visiting Mom. He chose to visit Mom as this was when she was in Baltimore & was seeing another guy. It worked (see below). Dad was awarded a gold pendant football for the Sugar Bowl (He has 3 pendant footballs: 1938 Class B championship, 1942 Rose Bowl, & 1944 Sugar Bowl)

## Post Scripts

- Upon graduation was offered a position on the N.Y. Giants team
  - paid \$25/game (~\$350 2019 dollars)
  - teams at that time were semi-pro and did not pay very well, but team connections made it possible to land a good full time job.
  - Mom & her parents did not think that athletics was a very reliable way to earn a living
  - declined because he wanted to marry his college sweet heart
- Following graduation, Mom took a job working in a biological lab in Baltimore
  - She dated another guy briefly
  - Dad was visiting her & the other guy got a good look at Dad while they were in a drug store & never called her again
  - Mom quit her job after her father became very ill
  - They became engaged while her father was sick. Dad asked her parents for permission during a small family gathering, but they did not announce the engagement outside of close family until after the funeral
- Dad worked at Burlington Mills as a machine repairman on the knitting machines (during the time Mom was at the lab?). He eventually left feeling that there was little advancement potential. He then held various office jobs including a sales job that involved traveling to N.Y.C.
- Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations
  - Graduated with MS degree in Industrial and Labor Relations
- Retired after 25 yrs of service to Harrison Radiator Div. of General Motors
  - Held various positions in Personnel, Purchasing, Material handling eng.
- Life long community service volunteer
  - Boy Scouts
    - 25+ years at troop & district level
    - led local troop on multiple trips to Philmont Scout Ranch
    - Silver Beaver Award
  - Methodist Church
    - Member 50+ years, Finance Committee, Board of Trustees, Captain of Ushers, taught Sunday School
  - Salvation Army
    - Christmas toy & food distribution

- Lockport Senior Center
  - 10+ years doing taxes for Senior Citizens, tax instructor
- 25+ years blood donor
- Married to his college sweet heart for 51 years, 2 sons Henry & Richard

# Surry County Hall of Fame

- Born in 1920 in Mt Airy the eldest son of Earl & Pearl Beamer

## **High School**

- In High School very good student and an exceptional athlete lettering in
  - Basketball
  - Baseball
  - Wrestling
  - Favorite Football
    - played end position and place kicker
    - end position as used by Coach Shelton called for throwing, running, & catching the ball
      - throwing for more touch downs than any other team mate
    - **1938 Granite Bears won the Class B state championship**
    - made the North & South Carolina high school all-state teams 2 years running
- **Academics**
  - Good student but couldn't afford college so majored in industrial studies
  - at Coach Shelton's suggestion stayed an extra year to pick up the courses necessary for college admission

## **Duke University**

- Awarded football scholarship
- Earned 2 varsity letters
  - **Wrestling**
    - Wrestled 2 years in unlimited division (still only 190 pounds)
    - subsequently dropped due to overlapping schedules with football
  - **Football**
    - made varsity team 3 years
    - again playing end position and place kicker
    - assistant end coach for preseason practice (Sr. yr.)
    - **1942 Rose Bowl (1/1/42)**
      - one of only 2 Duke appearances
      - only game not played in Pasadena due to war
    - **1944 Shriners East West All-stars (1/1/44)**
      - sports press voted him one of 2 best place kickers
      - Only player from the south selected for the team
- graduated 1944 with a bachelors in economics
- Post graduation
  - Assistant end coach (1945), waiting for his sweetheart to graduate

## Post Scripts

- Upon graduation drafted by the N.Y. Giants team
  - declined because he wanted to get married
    - paid \$25/game (~\$350 2019 dollars)
- Cornell University
  - Graduated with masters in Industrial and Labor Relations
- Retired after 25 yrs of service to Harrison Radiator Div. of General Motors
- Life long community volunteer
  - Boy Scouts
  - Church
  - Salvation Army
  - Lockport Senior Center
    - 17 years doing taxes for Senior Citizens, tax instructor
  - Red Cross
    - 25+ years Red Cross blood donor
- Married to his college sweet heart for 51 years
- Even though his job had brought him to a new home him in Western New York, he remained fiercely proud of his Mt Airy roots and would have been immensely grateful for this recognition.
- Thank you.