

LaVerne Hawkins: Y Camp Was ‘Chick’s Favorite Thing To Do’

LaVerne Hawkins knows what going to YMCA camp is all about. She certainly should. LaVerne and the late Triangle Y Ranch Camp Director Chick Hawkins lived at camp for most of the 25 years he was the director.

“Chick just loved camp,” LaVerne told *Legacy*. “His whole heart was in it. We had jobs to do, too. We tended to the horses, prepared meals for the whole camp when the cook had a day off, helped in the camp store, and I stayed in the nurse’s cabin when she had a night off. Having four kids gave me a pretty good idea of how to help kids.”

The fact is, LaVerne says, “Chick was simply cut out to be the ideal camp director. It was his favorite thing to do. Some people have a job to collect a paycheck. Not Chick. He could have cared less about the dollars.”

LaVerne says Chick had some strong feelings about what kids should take home from camp. “He thought camp made children into worthwhile people. He knew that every kid had good attributes and traits so they were able to do good things. He didn’t believe there were any bad kids at all.”

He often said it was a “wonderful feeling to be able to help kids through an experience at YMCA camp, educating them and teaching them good things.”

LaVerne has so many memories of those summers at camp. University of Arizona coaches, including legends Fred Enke, Frank Sancet, and others, made regular trips to camp to conduct sports clinics for the kids.

There are so many Wildcat ties. “Tommy Hudson was our first cook,” she recalls. “He was the cook at a fraternity house during the school year, but he became famous with our campers for his special mashed potatoes — he mashed them by hand and used lots of milk and butter — and his fried chicken.

“Sometimes, at the end of summer in those days, we had our girls’ camp. I don’t think Chick ever did adjust to the girls wanting to wash their hair and take showers every day,” she laughs.

Chick developed many of the programs at Triangle Y that are still in place today. He was responsible for many improvements, too, such as bathrooms that replaced outhouses, the first swimming pool, new cabins, and more.

“It wasn’t easy raising money for capital projects in those days, just like it isn’t easy today,” LaVerne says. Chick raised most of the money from private individuals. Much of the meat they served came from ranchers. McMahon’s City Meat would cut and store the meat for use at camp.”

LaVerne knows kids learn many valuable lessons at Y camp that last them throughout their lives. They learn how to conserve water, a must in our desert region. They also learn that physical activity is important. “The kids had to hike everywhere they went at camp,” she recalls. “Childhood obesity wasn’t a problem in those days.”

Chick left us in 1996. Our YMCA dedicated Hawkins Hall in Chick’s memory in 2004. It once served as the home of the camp owner, Mrs. Woods, then the Hawkins’ family home. Now, newly refurbished, Hawkins Hall serves as a general gathering place or group meeting room for the Triangle Y’s many retreat groups.

Yes, camp was Chick Hawkins’ favorite thing to do. It’s still the favorite thing to do for more than 1,500 Tucson kids every summer. ■

The C.S. “Chick” Hawkins Memorial Fund

“There is nothing people can do that is more useful to society than helping children learn about honesty, integrity, and responsibility. YMCA camp does a great job in that regard,” LaVerne Hawkins says.

That’s why the C.S. “Chick” Hawkins Memorial Fund is such an important part of the YMCA Foundation of Tucson and so critical. The fund provides campership money for children whose families cannot afford to pay the fees.

Thanks to the Hawkins family and Chick’s friends, Tucson’s YMCAs have been able to send kids to camp every year. You can help perpetuate the memory and the work of Chick while helping Tucson kids get the unique experience of going to YMCA camp. Send your check to the YMCA Foundation of Tucson today and indicate you would like to help send kids to Y camp.

You also might consider a bequest to provide a campership. Many friends of Triangle Y Ranch make annual gifts to support camperships. A \$6,000 to \$7,500 endowed bequest in your estate will ensure your annual gift to send a kid to camp continues for generations to come.



Hawkins Hall at Triangle Y Ranch Camp is dedicated by LaVerne Hawkins and her family in 2004, as Randy Lewis watches.

International YMCA Programs Receive Increasing Attention, Says Foundation's Co-chair Jay Kittle

Jay Kittle's involvement with international studies and trade law recently led him to establish the YMCA International Program Fund which will help young YMCA members to participate in work/study programs involving YMCA programs in other countries. Jay is a longtime member of the Lohse Family YMCA, and co-chair of the YMCA Foundation of Tucson Board of Directors. Jay is President of Palo Seco Corp.

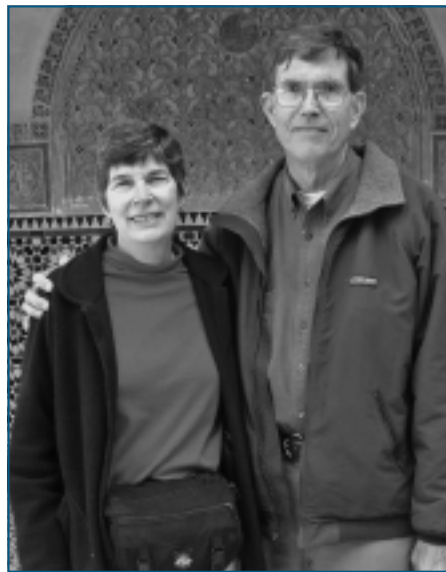
"I grew up in Tucson and got an early exposure to international subjects because of our proximity to Mexico," Jay told *Legacy*. "But, my first real opportunity to travel internationally came between my junior and senior year in high school when I was part of an American Junior Red Cross group which visited Red Cross installations in 10 European countries."

His international experiences expanded during college when he attended summer school in Guadalajara, Mexico, and later spent six months at a foreign study campus near Stuttgart, Germany. "That was an eye-opener for me since it was only 16 years after the end of World War II. Relations between Germany and the U.S. were still somewhat delicate."

Jay became involved with the Arizona Mexico Commission after graduating from law school, and was Deputy Director of the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade. The National Law Center seeks to harmonize trade laws

between North America and Latin America. He is still a member of the Center's board of directors.

YMCA Development Director Kerry Dufour says that the International Program Fund that began with Jay's contribution will



Jay Kittle and wife Barbara on a recent trip to Morocco.

make it possible for more young people from Tucson to have a chance to see and learn more about people and cultures outside the United States. In the future, the Fund also may support programs to help facilitate the integration of recently arrived immigrants into our community.

"Our YMCA, for example, selected Kristen Currier, a sophomore from Ironwood Ridge High School, to travel to Spain this summer as part of the New York YMCA's Global

Teens program. Participants live with a local family, travel, and become involved in community service projects. They share their experiences when they return. This is just one example of how income from the Foundation's International Program Fund will be used," Dufour said.

"I really want to encourage others who believe in the value of YMCA international activities to help the International Program Fund to grow," Jay says. "As teens return from these international experiences and mature into Tucson leaders, they do so with a better understanding of today's global economy and the importance of other cultures."

Jay says he sees the Tucson YMCA as "a convergence of goals — local and international — that make it a leader among our region's social service organizations."

Contact Kerry at (520) 623-5511, ext. 256, or e-mail her at kerryd@tucsonymca.org if you'd like more information on making a contribution to the Foundation's International Program Fund. ■

Heritage Club: Making A Difference

The Heritage Club is a special group of friends who understand and believe in the YMCA's mission and values, who want to ensure YMCA's life-changing programs continue for generations to come. Members include the YMCA Foundation in their wills and estate plans, or establish a named fund to honor a loved one. Find out how you can make a difference in the life of a child. Call Kerry Dufour at (520) 623-5511, ext. 256, at the Foundation office today for more information.

Clermont Loper's Tucson Legacy Is The YMCA Youth Foundation

“We always try to help people in the YMCA, but sometimes we don't have enough money to do it,” says Clermont Loper, 95, a beloved former Tucson community leader and its YMCA professional staff inspiration for 46 years. “That's why we started the YMCA Youth Foundation.”

It's no coincidence that “Lope,” as he's known by his friends (and everyone in Tucson was his friend), became a legacy himself. That's likely because the greatest legacy he left in our city was establishing an endowment fund for youth that gives the Y the financial edge to fund new and exciting youth programs every year from its earnings.

Lope has been involved in the YMCA as long as he can remember. “I grew up in a little town in Northern Iowa called Charles City,” he said in an interview from the Scottsdale retirement community he moved to 16 years ago. “I spent so much time playing basketball at our little Y that my mother only half-joked that she should bring my lunch over there.”

Lessons Learned

The lessons learned early at the Y stood him well as he grew up. “I credit the Y for giving me the motivation and leadership training I needed to get a college scholarship,” he said. This was during the Great Depression and money was not available for college tuition. He graduated with a coaching degree from what is now Northern Iowa University.

“I could have gone into a coaching career, but the YMCA gave me a much better opportunity to help people,” he said. So, he began a Y career where left an indelible mark on the people he met along the way in places like Des Moines, Iowa; Knoxville, Tenn.; Beatrice, Neb.;

Honolulu, Hawaii (“we shipped back to the Mainland with our new baby just four days before the attack on Pearl Harbor”); San Jose and Berkeley, Calif.

Lope became our Tucson YMCA General Secretary (Y directors used to be called “secretaries”) in 1946. The Old



Clermont “Lope” Loper

Pueblo wasn't such a big city then, he recalls with a laugh, but was indeed a thriving little city.

“I remember the first night we arrived in Tucson. The phone rang late at night and it was the wife of a local minister. She told me she had heard there was a new Y Secretary in town and her husband had developed laryngitis. She asked if I could preach the sermon the next morning.

“Well, I'd never done that before, so I was up half the night coming up with something to say. When I got there, she said, ‘Oh, you need to teach the Men's Sunday School class before you preach.’ I used the same material twice that morning, but nobody seemed to know the difference.”

Lope says the Y was “all things to all

people in those days,” not too dissimilar to the Y's role today. There would be many times when a school principal would call him and say, ‘we have a problem with a bully. Can you come down here and form a club?’

“We'd drop everything, rush to the school, sit the kids down, and tell them, ‘listen, we're going to become a club and help people.’ They always did it, too,” he recalls.

Collaboration was part of the YMCA way of work from the early days, Lope says. “We worked with the *Arizona Daily Star* when it established the Sportsmen's Fund and that helped lots of community groups and, of course, still helps the YMCA.”

Lope was responsible for the spread of YMCA programming throughout Tucson. “The city just kept on growing so we began to expand with it by establishing Y branches around town so we could keep serving people wherever they lived,” he says.

Money Available

The YMCA Youth Foundation “was a way we always could be assured there was money available for new children's programs.” He tells how he, Y Board Member and Tucson attorney Ashby Lohse, and other leaders got together to establish the Foundation.

“It was tough sledding at first,” Lope remembers. “I think our biggest gift was \$5,000. We grew to over \$100,000 before too long.” Today, Youth Foundation income generating investments total \$2.6 million. Over \$130,000 was invested in citywide YMCA programs last year alone.

“It just is not enough, though. I think the YMCA Youth Foundation needs to grow to at least \$10 million in today's and, certainly, tomorrow's economy,” Lope says. “There are great needs for children in Tucson and the YMCA can help fill them. Our Youth Foundation means the Y always will be able to serve Tucson's kids.” ■

'It's All Been Definitely Worth It' Says Longtime YMCA Supporter

Art Martin is very clear about the future of our community and the nation. He also knows the YMCA has an important role to play.

"The future of Tucson and the country is with our youth," Art says. "I'm involved because it's my contribution back to the community. Youth programs in the YMCA are very important and I can do my part as a volunteer leader and contributor."

Art first moved to Tucson nearly a half-century ago and got involved with the YMCA on the east side of town when the Y operated from a house in El Con. A friend invited him to participate in an after-work Lighthouse YMCA Men's Club volleyball program. He's been involved at one level or another ever since.

He's been a member of the Ott Family YMCA Board of Managers since 1968 and has been a part of the YMCA Foundation of Tucson Board for many of those years, as well.

"I encourage people to get involved with the YMCA for the same reasons I'm involved," he says. "It's the best way I know to enhance the opportunities for youth in this community. It ensures good citizenship and leadership for tomorrow."

He believes people can make a difference if they volunteer to be on a YMCA committee or board. "Helping kids is just a good thing to

do," he said.

The rewards are there, too. "I consider being part of the YMCA a very important personal experience and an accomplishment," he said. "I



Art and Ginny Martin are longtime YMCA volunteers and supporters.

get a big kick out of going to the Y and watching the kids enjoy it. The more they use the Y, the better I like it. It's been a fun and rewarding experience."

Art's wife, Ginny, also is involved. She volunteers on the YMCA's *Changing Lives* campaign that raises funds for scholarships for those who can't afford fees, and has attended the YMCA's special dinner event for its Chairman's Round Table donors (those who give at least \$1,000) and the Foundation Heritage Club. Art and Ginny have been Chairman's Round Table donors for many years.

"I support the *Changing Lives* campaign because of the numbers of kids and families that benefit from the scholarships."

Art and Ginny are also legacy donors. We refer to these people as our YMCA Heritage Club members, a special group of YMCA friends and supporters who have pledged to support the Foundation through their wills or who have made meaningful outright gifts. Art and Ginny enjoy their association with this friendly group as well. "We have

made and continued friendships with some wonderful people who share our passion for the YMCA and the programs it offers today's children and families.

"My wife and I established a Charitable Remainder Trust years ago; the YMCA Foundation is one of the beneficiaries. Since then, Ginny and I receive the income from the trust.

When we pass on, the trust assets will be distributed to the charities we selected and they will benefit in perpetuity. I'll continue my support for the YMCA Foundation because it ensures YMCA programs will be here for future generations of Tucson kids," he said.

Art currently chairs the Foundation's Heritage Club Committee. He said he hopes more and more Tucsonans will consider a legacy gift to the YMCA by making sure the Y is part of their wills. If you would like additional information on YMCA's Heritage Club, you can contact Art through the YMCA, or call Kerry Dufour, Vice President, at (520) 5511, ext. 256. ■

Around the World and Back to Tucson

Roy Morey has been all over the world working with international development programs, but for him, there is no place quite like Tucson, and no organization quite like the YMCA.

A graduate of Marana High School and Northern Arizona University, Roy holds a PhD from the Department of Political Science at The University of Arizona. He began his career on a fellowship program working in the U.S. Congress, then taught political science for six years at Denison University in Granville, Ohio.

In 1971, he was appointed as a staff assistant to President Richard Nixon. That position led to six years of service as a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State.

While in Washington, Roy and his wife Delores became active at the Bethesda YMCA. “My two daughters, Diana Ditmanson and Carolyn Edds, learned to swim there,” he says. “That’s where I learned the YMCA is important for families.”

In 1979, Roy joined the United Nations Development Programme and was assigned to Thailand (Bangkok). Subsequently, he was appointed head of UN operations in the South Pacific (Samoa), China (Beijing), and Vietnam (Hanoi)—the first American in that position. Roy retired as Director of the UN office in Washington in 2000 when he and Delores moved back home to Tucson. Over the years, Roy had kept in contact with his dissertation advisor, Dr. Conrad Joyner, an active YMCA

volunteer. In 2001 Dr. Joyner nominated Roy to the board of the YMCA of Metropolitan Tucson.

Roy now spends his volunteer time serving on the boards of three organizations: The Foundation Board for NAU, the Tucson Committee on Foreign Relations and the YMCA of

It was this policy that inspired Roy and Delores to set up part of their estate as a gift to the YMCA Foundation, specifically to provide scholarship funding for kids in need. “We hope the revenues from the bequest will enable generations of kids to take advantage of the Y,” he says.



Roy and Delores Morey at the Waikato River Falls, North Island, New Zealand

Roy believes the YMCA teaches a child much more than how to swim or play basketball. “The YMCA teaches kids about values,” he says, “the very basic values of respect, honesty, teamwork, learning to live with others, and above all, the values of equality and tolerance. It equips kids to

Metropolitan Tucson. “My main focus, though, is the YMCA,” he says.

After 22 years of international development work, Roy wondered at first if his experience was relevant in his home town. He soon had his answer. “The conclusion I came to was a kid in need, is a kid in need. A kid in Tucson will have some of the same needs as the kids do in Hanoi and Beijing.”

Roy was surprised to learn that the YMCA is the largest provider of childcare in the United States. “I was especially impressed with the Y’s policy that “as long as resources are available, no child will be deprived of participating in any of our programs for a lack of funding.”

lead happy and productive lives.” The YMCA also promotes the kinds of family values he admired in other cultures around the world, especially in Asia. There, he says, a child’s identity begins with the family, giving them a sense of pride and belonging. “That’s one reason I like to spend time and money helping the YMCA,” he says. “The family is recognized as the basic building block to everything.” ■

For more information about how you can support future generations of Tucson families, call Kerry Dufour, Vice President, at (520) 623-5511 ext. 256.

‘Who Better To Serve Kids?’ Tom And Ginny Roof Say ‘The Y’

The legacy of Tom Roof and the YMCA began in Hackensack N.J., and traveled across the country with him to Tucson. Tom’s parents thought that it would be a good idea if he and his best friends learned how to swim. The boys did exactly that by taking the bus to the nearest Y in Hackensack.

They were in their early teens. They not only learned about swimming but, as Tom puts it, “a little bit about pool and billiards.”

Because the experience was so positive, when Tom and Ginny became aware of the Y-Indian Guide program, there was no question about being a part of the YMCA again.

Their two sons, Tom and Tim, were nine and six years old when they got involved with the father-son program then called Y-Indian Guides. Tom liked the fact that the Guides gave him and other busy dads the chance to spend quality time with their kids. Tom went on to become the “chief” of the longhouse. Their daughter, Suzi, also attended the Triangle Y camp and had an equally good experience, returning as a counselor for several summers.

Tom grew to know and respect Camp Director Chick Hawkins through the entire Y experience. “Chick helped me appreciate the importance of enabling others to enjoy the YMCA’s quality programs,” he said.

It was with this philosophy that Tom became more and more active in YMCA work. He first served on the Triangle Y Ranch Camp Board of Managers. Tom tapped his business and construction background to

teach a group of young Peace Corps volunteers how to build a “ground up” structure using only hand tools. These young people were preparing to go into remote areas in other countries and assist people to better



Tom and Ginny Roof say the YMCA is doing the best job of helping kids.

themselves. He said it was fun observing and guiding them as they constructed a couple of the bath houses at camp.

He spent many weekends as a member of the camp board repairing and building some of the existing structures. Later, he involved T. L. Roof and Associates Construction, the company he founded, in building the Lois C. Green Conference Center and helping to remodel Hawkins Hall. His company also completed the remodeling of the Ott Family YMCA’s health and fitness area. Tom joined the Metro board in the 1980s and has served on numerous committees since.

Today Ginny and Tom derive great pleasure from seeing their grandkids growing up belonging to YMCAs in various parts of the country.

That long-ago first connection with the Hackensack YMCA led to a much longer association with the Tucson YMCA. So, when it came time to consider their legacy, Tom and Ginny’s decision was easy.

“We wanted to do something beneficial and help kids,” Tom says. “Who is best at doing that job? The YMCA.”

“Now, the YMCA Foundation will receive part of our estate and will administer that aspect of it. It’s an option available to anyone in the community,” he explained. “I know there are many worthwhile organizations in Tucson, but I would urge people to consider the Y for part of their legacy. The YMCA really does change lives, not just with kids, but with families and adults.

“I’ve been part of a lot of organizations over the years,” Tom says. “But the YMCA has made me a better person. The Y helped me develop in both my business and personal life.” ■

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