

**HENRY C. AND BARBARA WICK**  
**July 2, 1997**

Joan Horne, former Mayor the Town of Paradise Valley, and myself, Ann Townsend, are privileged today to interview Henry C. Wick and his wife Barbara. Henry Wick is President and Director of Judson School in Paradise Valley, Arizona. Judson School opened in 1928 and is the state's oldest independent college preparatory school. Mr. Wick began teaching at Judson in 1938, and has been there ever since.

Interviewer: Thank you so much for allowing us to interview you. May we have permission to quote you on part or all of our conversation today?

Mr. Wick: Yes.

Interviewer: Thank you. Tell us a little bit about you, Mr. Wick. Where did you come from. You are a graduate of Yale and you came out to barren Arizona to teach in a small independent school.

Mr. Wick: Well, of course, that's a long story. My younger brother came out for his health many years ago. When I graduated from college, he was Head Master of one the schools he attended and offered me a position. I was there two years before I came to Judson. That was called the Calliberry Ranch School. Mr. Hutchinson was in charge there. I came to Judson after two years. I came to Judson where Mr. Judson and I played a lot of tennis.

Interviewer: I understand Judson School originally had two different campuses -- the girls on one campus and the boys on another.

Mr. Wick: Yes, that was very brief. Mr. Judson started that school for Lillian Lincoln. Mr. Lincoln wanted her to have a special education, so he recruited another girl or two, they were over at El Chorro for a short time. He built the school. Mark Gruber was the man who started it, along with Mr. Judson. Mr. Lincoln was a teetotaler and anybody who wanted a drink had to go to El Chorro for a drink. After the school, it became a restaurant.

Interviewer: They took the girls over to the main Judson School?

Mr. Wick: They felt it was even daring in those days to have girls and boys together even though they would have the classes at the Judson campus. It really didn't last. George Judson Jr. would come and get me and we get on the horses and ride over to El Chorro.

Interviewer: You've seen a big change. What subject did you teach?

Mr. Wick: I taught most everything at one point except Spanish. I never had Spanish. I had a pretty good education. I went to the University in Cleveland, right to the College Board, so I was qualified to teach. I had a good education there. Then I taught two years

at the Calliberry Ranch School. So when I got to Judson, I had quite a bit of experience. A few students took Latin or Spanish. I had French back in Ohio, we didn't have Spanish back there so I didn't have a Spanish background, so I taught French.

Interviewer: Was the population about 400 around that time?

Mr. Wick: Nearer to 200, I would say. Everybody would go to Town to get the latest news. Earll Ship had a market and Mr. Anderson had a market. Mr. Butler had the drugstore. You got your Indians come in with their carts and wagons.

Interviewer: What was the farthest north street at that time in Scottsdale? Maybe Camelback?

Mr. Wick: Camelback was paved. Mr. Lincoln paved the road from Camelback Inn to Camelback Road. Everybody rode on dirt roads –washboards.

Interviewer: Is there is anything else special you would like to tell us in your memories? Just ramble on of whatever you remember. You wanted to talk about Adobe Pete?

Mr. Wick: It was all so wonderful, the sunsets and the sunrises. People had no refrigeration, but water coolers. They slept outdoors. They put screens up.

Mrs. Wick: They had classes outdoors at Judson. I think Judson was one of the forerunners of the movement of the population because they were in the middle of this beautiful, pristine desert that nobody had ever heard of, even the family. Where was he (Henry) going? When Judson began to grow and grow, he was one of the first to take girls. Co-eds didn't exist for international students. He had English as a second language. That's why students from all over the world came. Everyday they call up and reminisce with him about the old days at Judson. They remember not only Judson, but how beautiful Arizona was. He made a big contribution in sharing that with everybody.

Mr. Wick: George Ashcourt had the Jokake School for Girls. That was the school we had our dances with. (Where was the Jokake School, was that near the Jokake Inn?)  
Right at it. Bob Evans was there.

Mrs. Wick: I always dread having one of the monuments torn down. I like things to last forever.

Mr. Wick: Don't they have the tower there still? (Yes.) Sylvia Evans and Mrs. Evans the grandmother was a famous painter. She had a lot to do with the creation of the Inn. The Jokake School for Girls and Judson had dances together. George got a divorce and disappeared. All the leading families in Arizona either went to Judsons or the Jokakes. We had the Tremane's the Kellogg's, the Loveland's, everybody. The other day I attended the opening of the Mayo Clinic and Stan Johnson gave the address. He turned out to be the Chairman of the Board and a little boy at Judson when I first taught

there. I wouldn't have known who he was if he hadn't during his speech said, "I love Arizona. I went to Judson School out here." I looked up and oh my God, I can't believe that was Stanley.

Mrs. Wick: Henry had such a love and exuberance about the students and Arizona that it carried over to them. They went home and their parents said, "Well, I might as well move out there."

Interviewer: I know that your leadership and your love of the kids that you have given them some wonderful memories that they can enjoy the rest of their lives.

Mrs. Wick: And they come back. Everyday either in person or call, no matter what they've done in the world. They come back with their special memories of Henry, of Judson, and of Arizona.

Mr. Wick: Yes, we had Warner Phillips of Phillips Electric , the brother of the King of Sweden , the Wrigleys' , Wrigley Sullivan, the Biltmores had their children there.

Merrill Cheney developed most of the Valley there at one point. He bought all the land for \$45.00 an acre and then put water on it and sold it. He named all the roads, all pretty bird names. One man didn't like the bird names and called his road Stallion Road.

Interviewer: How does Adobe Pete fit in?

Mr. Wick: That was right in there somewhere, all at the same time.

Mrs. Wick: It was incorporated in May, 1961.

Mr. Wick: Before that, Adobe Pete came over and I didn't know they wanted to have a Paradise Valley town. He said, "If you will come in (Judson School had so property and paid so much taxes), that will bring in all the land almost to Scottsdale Road and Lincoln Drive." I thought that would be good for everybody, but a lot of people resented it. They didn't want to come in. They wanted to be with Scottsdale. So I helped him. They incorporated and Judson School was part of it.

Interviewer: So Judson School came in at incorporation. Did you work on the Incorporation Committee?

Mr. Wick: No, I didn't have much to do with it. Adobe Pete was the one that was doing all the work. He was going around getting people to sign the petition. I got into it and they used my name a lot. Then we started the Phoenix Symphony at that time, no, that was later.

Interviewer: Tell me how the Town of Paradise Valley treated Judson School. Have they been good to you?

Mr. Wick: Oh, I think so. We see different people all the time. The new people that were on the Committees really didn't know what the big picture was. They didn't have any idea of how it was fathered or anything. They thought of their own little places and how it would affect their home. It was a great thing. Then the roads came in.

Interviewer: I know you've been a busy man with Judson School, but did you participate on the Council in any way?

Mr. Wick: No, but my son Kent, of course, was Mayor. He got in it and whenever I could help, I did.

Mrs. Wick: Henry has always had one focus and that has been the school. We've been married for 30 years. When I was about to get married, some of the boys came in and said he's not going to make it to the church. I say, "Why?" They said, "Because when a child asks him to go somewhere, he'll go." That has been his focus and his priority are those students. Well, as it turned out, he took the whole school to the wedding.

Interviewer: Just so he didn't take the whole school with you on your honeymoon.

Mrs. Wick: We have more children, nearly 10 or 12 between us, if we count the ones at Judson.

Interviewer: You raised your own school.

Mrs. Wick: When you're on the Judson campus, you always see the Camelback Mountains. They're so magnificent. You're not aware of the building. That's the way it was, I'm sure, in 1928 when it was first built. The tower is still there. The horses are grazing. The children are one happy family. I think that is the very principle that Paradise Valley was founded. The beauty of the area, the healthy life style, the family.

Mr. Wick: Mr. Judson is a wonderful person. He was a former Superintendent of the \_\_\_ School System. He decided that what Arizona needed was a good private school for boys. That's how it started. He was a great, big man, about 6-4, had a booming voice and everybody liked him. They also respected him. He did a lot for Judson School and Paradise Valley.

Interviewer: How many students are at Judson School?

Mrs. Wick: Approximately, 150 students. We have a summer camp.

Interviewer: I didn't mean the summer camp, I mean your normal school year.

Mrs. Wick: 138. (From what, about 40 students when it began.) We had less than that. We had about 8 boys.

Joan Horne: Two of my granddaughters go there.



Mrs. Wick: Isn't that a wonderful place. They love it.

Mr. Wick: They love the riding, especially the little girls.

Joan Horne: They say it's a very interesting place. I knew most of it, but I didn't know about Adobe Pete. Does he have a last name?

Mr. Wick: I don't have any idea. He sort of disappeared. He came to me and then he apparently persuaded a lot of people in the Town. He came to see me just for that purpose to get me to come in. The main reason he wanted me was because of Judson, which was on a tax basis. Judson had about 50 acres. He squeezed in a lot of people between Judson and Scottsdale Road. I didn't realize it at the time, but a lot of them didn't want to come in. That wasn't very happy. I didn't find out about that until it was too late.

Interviewer: I'm glad you didn't find out about that or we may not be talking with you today and enjoying the wonderful peaceful life in Paradise Valley.

Mrs. Wick: I hope it will continue forever.

Interviewer: It seems to be a continuing struggle to keep it at a people level.

Mr. Wick: Well, Paradise Valley had all the leading people in the country come here. Jokake Inn, Paradise Inn, Camelback Inn. The Lincolns were from Cleveland. He was Lincoln Electric there. The Wrigleys' son went to Judson.

Mrs. Wick: Did you see that documentary on the dam was opened in Arizona and all the controversy that went in with the Hoover Dam? They were struggling but they keep saying the name \_\_\_\_ the way they should be.

Interviewer: Well, because the people that come later don't have the history or the laws. It doesn't mean anything. They only look at their greed level. That seem to be very apparent right now.

Joan Horne: Unfortunately, there isn't an easy answer on the subject. When I represented the Town, my perspective was mainly on the traffic issue, and yet I was very candid, there isn't an easy answer to. I know people before me were working on this where we are geographically and trying to do certain measures, but there is no \_\_\_\_ with that. I don't see where the answer is.

Mrs. Wick: I think people should respect the land and preserve the beauty of it.

Mr. Wick: I've ridden a horse out in this area and never saw anything out here. I couldn't agree that this was going to happen. Tom Darlington and his group when they

developed Carefree, everybody thought they were crazy. They went way out in the desert to build a Town out there. Now look at it, beautiful!

Interviewer: When you came out here to teach, did any of your family come out to see where you lived and could they believe it?

Mr. Wick: There were beautiful estates all over. Dick Kelloggs the Tremanes, the Lovelands and all those people. They had big ranches and Polo fields and things like that. They were all very wealthy and retired.

Mrs. Wick: ?? Well there was one that might have gone to school in Tucson.

Interviewer: I wondered if any of the family came just to visit.

Mrs. Wick: I doubt it.

Mr. Wick: One of our sons went back to \_\_\_ Mills where he is Chairman of the Board there and they developed a Committee. They are in Cleveland, mostly.

Interviewer: I think you've been very happy here in Arizona.

Mrs. Wick: Henry loves to work. When Mr. Judson retired, he said, “\_\_\_\_, mountain, after dinner, help you with your homework, and help him with this.” We knew that was a luxury to do all that.

Interviewer: What are your future plans for Judson?

Mr. Wick: I have to get to walk first.

Interviewer: Just set your mind to it, even if that doesn't happen, I know you're planning. I can just see it in your eyes, you're planning.

Mrs. Wick: We're trying to get to everything in \_\_\_?\_\_\_, for everything we do and the love and compassion.

Interviewer: I wonder what he's dreaming of for tomorrow for Judson?

Mr. Wick: Walking and using my arms. The automobile accident cut me right off. It's amazing that I can walk. I went quite a ways the other day.

Mrs. Wick: As far as Judson, I think that it will be exactly the way it is.

Interviewer: He is so lucky to have you. Other than Kent, are there any other of your children that work there, or teach at Judson?

Mrs. Wick: Hank is in the business office. Then we have \_\_\_?\_\_\_.

Mr. Wick: We do pretty good. They ranked 26 in a class of 800 at U of A. We've left them alone. They've got to do what they want to do. They applied for law school. They drop by and see me at night. You know it can be very lonely out here. They come over and have dinner with me. Barbara comes over and makes special dinners for me. So, I have it pretty good.

Mrs. Wick: He would never complain about anything. To him, the glass is always half full.

Interviewer: What a beautiful spirit you have. What a wonderful model for all of us.

Mr. Wick: I had a boy come back a few years ago and he said, "Mr. Wick, I was here 30 years ago." I said, (lapse in tape) He was the type that would say that, truly enough. When I got out of Yale, in '34, things were rough. I got a job at the department store mainly through a girl who was in my dancing school class. I knew her father. He gave me a job as a floor boy. Here I was a \_\_\_ year-old man working as a floor boy in a department store where they called me "boy." That was quite an experience. I worked up to store manager of the 4th, 5th and 6th floor in two years. Then I got a chance to come out to Arizona and one year in Arizona did it.

Mrs. Wick: I met him one Sunday night when I came back and of course, he was the only one working on a weekend and then we met. I drove Cindy, the nice girl from Singapore who was visiting us, to the airport this morning at six. She's going to New York on her way back.

Mr. Wick: That girl came from Singapore and she had always straight A's, always. She finished in two years.

Interviewer: That's impressive.

Mr. Wick: That's hard work. \_\_\_?\_\_\_ scholarships.

Interviewer: What percentage of your 350 students at Judson are from foreign countries?

Mrs. Wick: Well, I would think over 50 percent.

Interviewer: Are there more from one country, like the Asian area.

Mrs. Wick: Asian are countries that include Taiwan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Japan. One great group from Brazil, another year Canada.

Mr. Wick: I would say Japan. Saudi Arabia had more at one time. And even Iran when Iran was going strong. Barbara brought back about 20 students from Iran at one time, several years ago, before the Ayatollah Khomeini took control.

Mrs. Wick: You can usually tell the conditions of the world by the enrollment at Judson. Students are so knowledgeable about their home countries. Polynesia.

Interviewer: What a wonderful place to learn that we are a world community. I feel strong about that and try to teach my children as they were growing that we are a world community and we have to think that way and operate that way.

Mrs. Wick: I always feel very fortunate but I'm sad, very sad, and cry at graduation. They live far from each other. They like all countries. They will go out in the world and make their mark.

Interviewer: At least you've begun there, you've planted the seed.

Mrs. Wick: It is very exciting.

Interviewer: Thank you very much for coming to Arizona and creating a wonderful oasis of humanity to grow and learn to understand each other. We'll all be the richer for it. We thank you so much.

Mr. Wick: I can thank God for that and my kid brother who came out here in the first place. He was in Tucson for awhile.