

## ‘All business’

“Hey you birds, get to class!” Mrs. Chick was often heard yelling down the hall.

Now decades after her retirement and four years after her death, former students lovingly recall their beloved teacher’s trademark approach for keeping a watch on her flock at Sanford High School for 29 years.

### Students recall Mrs. Chick as a tough but tremendous teacher

“That motherly, stern voice offered compassion, concern, friendship, instilled confidence and she taught accountability to those she was speaking,” said Stephen Cabana, Realtor and owner of Town Square Realty Group, who had Mrs. Chick for accounting his junior and senior years.

“Those two years helped set the course for the rest of my life. It was her knowledge, wisdom, teaching methods and ability to make you want to do your best during class (and outside of the classroom as well) that helped me discover my love for accounting.

“She saw something in me that others didn’t, and made sure that I lived up to what I was capable of,” said Cabana, who with his business partner Ann Lapierre has donated to the Legacy Foundation to name a classroom in Chick’s memory. “Long after I was out of school she would always check in to see how I was doing.”

Lorraine Chick taught business classes at Sanford High from 1954 to 1983, such as bookkeeping I and II, to at least two generations in town. She was married to Howard and raised two daughters, Janice (Class of 1971) and Joanne (Class of 1972). Lorraine was 94 when she died in 2018. The Sanford Schools Legacy Foundation is a nonprofit in charge of naming rights at Sanford schools, and in turn funds education-based projects to benefit students above and beyond taxpayer support.

Mrs. Chick was stern, but fun, recalled Mark Patterson, Class of 1978, who took Mrs. Chick’s class. “She was an incredible teacher and taught me excellent skills I have used throughout my entire life.”

Also in gratitude and tribute, Mark and his brother Greg Patterson, co-owners of Patco Construction in Sanford, have donated \$1,000 to the Legacy Foundation in her memory.



Mrs. Lorraine Chick taught business classes at Sanford High School for 29 years. Students lovingly dedicated the Distaff yearbook to Mrs. Chick in 1959, left, and also in 1978, right.



### Join the flock!

The Sanford Schools Legacy Foundation is raising funds to honor Mrs. Chick. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit [www.sanordschoolslegacyfoundation.org/give](http://www.sanordschoolslegacyfoundation.org/give) or mail a check to the foundation at 917 Main St., Suite 200, Sanford, ME 04073.

“She was one of my favorite teachers,” agreed the Patterson brothers, who both had her for bookkeeping class. Dozens of former students echoed their sentiments on a Facebook alumni page.

“She was my favorite teacher,” wrote Christine Cote.

“Me too!” said Sheri Frechette.

“Me too!” said Aurelie Pfohl.

The list of former students praising “the tough old bird” herself goes on and on.

“Loved her!” wrote Sharon DelGenio. “She came across as being strict and mean, but she was actually wonderful.”

Playing off her love of using the “birds” term, Suze Garv’n said Chick was “the best ‘tough old bird.’ Lorraine Chick was the best teacher I ever had, and I had a lot of great teachers in Sanford Schools. I learned more from her than from any other. I learned some valuable life lessons, such as accuracy, meeting deadlines, and managing people — who may be challenging to manage!”

Garv’n, Class of 1982, said she saw Chick many times in the community, years after graduation. “She always remembered me, and I always told her she taught me more than any other teacher, and not just about accounting. She’d always chuckle and joke, but I think she appreciated my comment because she knew it was true.”

Judie Shain said she was fortunate to teach with Chick from 1981 to 2001. “She was tough as they come on the outside, but with a warm heart of gold. She was a very straightforward lady who meant what she said and said what she meant. She always expected the best from her students and got it. She was much loved and respected,” said Shain, who also knew her outside of school.

“On the personal side, she had a great sense of humor and really cared about the life challenges of her friends. She was a great Mom, and if you were fortunate enough to really get to know her, she was also a dear and supportive friend. She never was anxious to show her soft side underneath her “all business” exterior.”

She was helpful to students both in and out of the classroom.

“She referred me to my employer nine months after I graduated from high school, and I have been employed with them for 42 years,” said Carol Lovejoy. “My favorite teacher of all time!”

She was sweet, but also had a spicy side. “She was my favorite teacher. She gave me some kitchen towels when I graduated from high school. I was getting married in two weeks,” said Betty St. Laurent. “That was so sweet. She was also very sassy.”

When Mrs. Chick found out Teresa Moriarty wanted to become a hairdresser, “she asked if I wanted to practice on her dog!”

Funny, smart and practical, Mrs. Chick made an impression on her students.

“She was a great teacher,” said Kelly Raymond Atwood. “She actually taught us life skills, how to balance a checkbook and how create a balance sheet. I loved that she called us all “birds.”