

# REBEL 5IVE



## Episode #28 - Chick and Jan Lauck

Gary:

You're listening to Rebel 5ive an interactive interview podcast with alumni, past and current parents and friends of Roncalli high school. I'm your host, Gary Armbruster, director of alumni and corporate relations at Roncalli. And each week I will ask our guests five questions regarding how their lives have evolved and how key connections of experience, opportunity and alumni networking have propelled them to where they are today. We'll talk challenges, how to overcome challenges and what they've learned along the way. Stay tuned.

Gary:

I'm Gary Armbruster and this is the rebel five podcast. Our guests this week are two lifelong Southsiders. She went to manual high school, he went to sacred heart high school and the two met. And we'll get into that in just a bit. But, uh, I'd like to thank Chick and Jan, for being here today on the rebel five podcast. Welcome. Thank you. Happy to be here. So, Jan, we'll start with you. You're off to manual. How was manual high school at that time? What, what year did you graduate?

Jan:

I graduated in 1966 and a manual was a great school then. Um, ha attendance. Uh, I think they had over probably over 2000, 2,500 students, maybe more than that. Um, it was, we had a strong band. We had good athletic programs. Great academics was good school.

Gary:

Good time. Uh, Chick You're, uh, obviously sacred heart. Um, where did you go to grade school?

Chick:

Six years at Saint Catherine and then family moved a little further South and graduated from st Roch.

Gary:

Okay. And then off to, to a sacred heart, was it always sacred heart or were there other options at that time?

Chick:

No, it was always Sacred Heart.

Gary:

And, um, how was sacred heart back then?

Chick:

Sacred heart was, um, small, uh, old. They'd been there a while. My folks both went there, uh, and uh, and their siblings. Um, but it was, um, it felt like home. It was people I knew and people that, uh, South side folks. Right. So it was comfortable.

Gary:

Where did you meet Jan Garrity? How did that work?

Chick:

A long story, but, um, met her at Indiana beach. A bunch of my buddies would go up there every 4th of July weekend. And this particular year, which would have been 67, probably, she was up there with some girlfriends. And, um, so I was standing on the boardwalk. Fella I didn't know, just came up to me in a, an older fellow, maybe 30. I'm 19. He, uh, say, how do you pick up girls around here? And I'm standing there with I think a cold one my hand and um, uh, I said like this and she comes walking by, right. And he put my arm around her. I picked her off the ground. That story. I've told that story a million times, but it's, and she has too, I think it's true. So we ran into each other later. Didn't talk at that moment at all. Of course. Not. She, although she was kind of, she was kind of put her arm around me. No, but we met later that night at a party. There were some mutual friends that had a party and we, so we exchanged names and what have you.

Gary:

That's kind of, it's kind of funny to South side. Kids from Indianapolis met. Um, yeah, what, two, two and a half hours away. Right. Chick, we all know sacred heart and playing football. Um, city champs. You're what? Senior year maybe. That was a big huge deal. I think you'd beat cathedral for the first time in a while. Talk a little bit about that.

Chick:

Well, it was, um, we had, uh, we had a good team. We knew we had a good team. There were some good talent, although there was probably maybe 21 kids on the team. We knew we had some talent and we, uh, uh, March through the schedule pretty, pretty, not easily, but with wins. Cathedral was, um, uh, 39 to 12. Uh, I'll never forget it. That's one score that I'll never forget there. The other one, I won't forget that year either was manual her school. 33 to 13. We beat them, but don't ask me any other scores. I couldn't begin to. But uh, so we beat cathedral, uh, but lost a Scecina and Scecina beat cathedral. So it was a three way city championship. The three right. Look schools,

Gary:

Not many kids from sacred heart go to Notre Dame. Ara Parseghian Legendary Notre Dame coach. He had only been there for what, a couple of years. Right.

Chick:

He got there in 1960

Gary:

for the year. I graduated in 65 and he came from Northwestern. Um, talk a little bit about that because that just, that had to be very unusual for a South side kid being recruited from Notre Dame and Ara Parseghian.

Chick:

Well, I know, yes, it was unusual. Uh, there were several other players from Indiana, uh, but none from Indianapolis. Uh, and um, yeah, I it was a dream. And um, one day I'm in class and I get called out of class and said, there's someone here wants to see you. And it was a Notre Dame coach wasn't Ara. Um, it was their offensive line coach. And first of all, before they called a class, he asked the office for my grades. And uh, so then they were okay, average, uh, enough to write the interview. Don't be modest. So he, um, we arranged a meeting to go up there and a visit and uh, I did that, uh, took a bus up there. Now I can see it was in January, December, January. And I can still recall taking a cab ride from the airport and going up Notre Dame Avenue and seeing the dome, the gold dome lit up and everything.

Chick:

And I was impressed. And, um, uh, so there were several other, uh, recruits there and, uh, we spent a night and the next day why they had us in the gym playing basketball, just checking out, you know, agility and that kind of stuff. Um, Frank Croniti, Tim Monty, uh, future teammates of mine that happened to be there the same, same weekend, but I had a, a one on one with Ara Parseghian in his office, which was mind boggling to me. Uh, so I'm sitting across from Ara and he's questions and I answer and back and forth. And he said, well, if we offered you a scholarship, would you accept it? And I said, yes, sir. Quicker than I responded just now. I'm sure. Yes sir. I would accept it. And so it went from there. Were there other schools that were recruiting you? Uh, I visited IU coach, John Pont and, uh, Purdue. Um, I, and I'll never forget the Purdue visit because they, it was a game they played Illinois cold, freezing cold myself along with the other recruits stood behind the bench on the sideline on a pile of ice and my feet, I've never been so cold, but it was an interesting game cause Dick Butkus with the Illinois and what a tremendous player he was even in, even at Illinois, uh,

Gary:

Would have been Jack Mollenkopf right at Purdue. Um, would that been a Bob Griese? Would he have been at that time? Cause you mentioned three legendary coaches and all three of those programs, John Pont, Jack Mollenkopt. It would have been Griese, Yes.

Gary:

So often Notre Dame you go the summer that she met Jan, that was after you're sophomore year, is that right? Or

Chick:

well, yeah, the summer between freshmen, I mean a sophomore and junior year. That summer between

Gary:

Jan, you're at Ball State. Yes. And so dating somebody from Notre Dame. I, is that a big deal at ball state? Does anybody really recognize that or how'd that work?

Jan:

Well, we didn't really start dating right away. Um, he, he went off to school that summer. It was funny because one of the girls, I was working at Lilly's over the summer and, um, one of the girls that I was at Indiana beach with happened to be a neighbor of his and, um, Janet Williams, who Janet Michelis at the time we worked together at Lilly's. And so after he picked me up off the ground, you know, and I said, she said, do you know who that is? And I was like, no, you know, and, and she said, well, my sister and his sister are real really good friends. And she told me his name and I still didn't know his name. It wasn't, and uh, so anyway, um, he, you know, our summer just went on. I did see him one other time during the summer. Um, just, you know, hi.

Jan:

Not any big deal. So anyway, he went back to Notre Dame. He didn't call me for a date until January of, you know, the next, like the after the holidays he was home. Yeah. After football season he was home and, and, uh, called and asked me out for date. So to answer You're question, yes, that was kind of unusual. Um, I think for ball state coed to be dating, uh, someone from Notre Dame, but what was even more unusual was my roommate that was a random roommate was also dating a guy from Notre Dame. So yeah, it was kind of convenient. I didn't know that much about Notre Dame, but I didn't know that much about him or football or

Gary:

were you raised up? Were you raised in the church or are you convert? Okay, well w w I thought that was the case and I'll get into that in a few minutes. I don't want to spend the whole episode on Chick's college experience at Notre Dame, although I've been a Notre Dame fan my whole life and I do want to spend a few minutes on this and um, anybody who's older than I am, I'm 56, almost 57 will have maybe some memory of this, especially if you're a Notre Dame fan, but Chick, you are a sophomore when you played Michigan state, um, the game of the century and there've been games of the century for a long, long time, but this was number one ranked Notre Dame against number two ranked Michigan state. 10 10 tie. You had Duffy Doherty, Michigan state's coach, Ara Parseghian Notre Dame's coach. Um, here, here's just a couple things about that game. There were 25 All-Americans on both, on, on the collective rosters. There were 10 NFL first rounders and 31 future pros on the collective rosters. I can't believe that that would ever have been duplicated since. Um, talk a little bit about that. You were a sophomore. Did you play much? Did you, how did that go? That was going into that game. Number one versus number two. That doesn't happen very often. So talk a little bit about that cause that was pretty significant.

Chick:

Well that was a, uh, unbelievable game. Uh, the, uh, lead up to it was, uh, unbelievable the game of the century, you know, quote unquote. But no, I was a second team defensive end behind Alan Page, who Alan Page, uh, was, uh, was a senior and all, every everything. And uh, so no, I didn't play in that game, which was okay with me. Honestly. I, yeah, if they'd had called my name to go in there, I don't know if I'd have made it off the bench, but uh, no, it was, it was a fantastic game though. The lead up to it. I know. I as a player, I got two tickets, uh, and I thought, well, maybe I'll get some, you know, maybe I'll sell them. And I thought, well no, I'll take them up. I'll take 'em up to 'em East Lansing and sell them up there.

Chick:

The market will be much bigger up there, closer to the game and everything. I'll make a whole bunch of [inaudible]. Well, I'm in my hotel room and we had no time, you know, it was meetings or eating meals or whatever. So I had no time to get out and all right, these two tickets. So in the hotel here comes walking down the hall name, you know, and uh, John Jaffe and Oh my, one of the, and a buddy of his, yeah. You got any tickets? And I said, that's hilarious. I could, I w I was them. Yeah. At that time I was going to be eaten them here. John, there are years, they were \$7 a piece.

Gary:

You probably could have gotten \$14. Yeah.

Chick:

So, um, so the game came on and we, we took a train up there and um, Nick Eddie was our all American running back, hurt his shoulder a couple of weeks prior to this. Um, so getting off the train, I'm right behind him next in line and there was ice on the, on the step Nick was going to play, but he slipped on that ice and reached over for the handrail for the guardrail there and just went down holding his shoulder and he didn't play. And then, uh, our quarterback Terry Hanretty was hurt out of, knocked out of the game. Uh, George Geticky, our center was knocked out of the game, so we had some second teamers in there that uh, uh, did well. 10 to 10 tie.

Gary:

So I know, uh, Ara was much maligned his entire life after that. About holding the ball 1:10 to go on own third one for the time. For the tie. Yeah. W w what's You're feelings on that?

Chick:

I know that, uh, was a popular line going for the tie. Um, but sitting back thinking about it, I'm thinking we're number one. They're number two. We're at their place. If we don't get beat, we don't drop. And we didn't, we stayed and we, we did state number one, but it was a head knocking game cold. It was cold that day, but it was, uh, it was a real knock down drag out game of the century.

Gary:

Well, it was a guy on the other side of, by the name of Bubba Smith who did okay too. Bubba Smith was a monster. Yeah. You mentioned there a couple of times you have a grandson named Ara. Um, I know that you remained close to him until

his death. Uh, two, a little over two years ago. Um, what, what did he kind of meaning does he have for you and You're adult life and what, what may be some lessons that you learned from Ara?

Chick:

Ara would have been a success in whatever career he chose. And he was a, a at a successful insurance business, but he had such charisma. Um, and all the coaches, the assistant coaches at Notre Dame at at that time, they all came with him from Northwestern. So he had kind of a relationship with, with people. He would just a strong, strong leader of people. Um, and I'll never forget, I, I, uh, he wore slip on shoes, um, pants with no belt, banned, Lon shirt, clip on, tie. And I figured out, you know, he's in and out of those clothes, how many times a day and quick, you know, got to go, go, go, go. And, but that's, that was, um, but he had a look about him that, you know, if you got that look, you better watch out for my first day of getting on campus, they called in some freshmen incoming freshmen, uh, from the nearby area that could make it come in a week or so early to practice against the varsity.

Chick:

So my dad dropped me off and I'm walking into Farley hall and I turned the corner and I bump into Ara and Ara's not a big man. He was maybe five foot nine, something like that. And, but we turned a corner and bumped into each other literally. And uh, he knew my name and I, I was impressed by that. Well, back then though, freshmen didn't play, no, you had to set out You're freshman year, so that was even more significant that he knew who you were. We, uh, yeah, yeah, we, uh, we practiced with the, um, amongst ourselves. But then, so I go into the dorm and don't know a soul, remembered a couple of the guys that I was on a recruiting trip with, but I go into the room, my room, and here's a guy laying on the top bunk and I, and, and he's asleep. But I look at his face and Chuck Landolphi Italian guy from the Pittsburgh area and a big full thick beard. And I thought, Oh my God, he must be at least a junior, probably a senior, um, Landolphi and, uh, you know, he was another freshman that he was, uh, he was an impressive guy

Gary:

Back then when you were in school. Um, and back to the 10, 10 tie with Michigan state, um, you know, civil rights movement was very, very, uh, involved at that time. Uh, the president, Notre Dame was Theodore Hesburgh for 35 years. Um, at that time there was only one black guy on Notre Dame's team, Alan Page, who he played behind. Uh, Michigan state had 17 black guys. Um, talk a little bit about, um, Father Hesburgh cause I know he was, he was bigger than life. And, um, back then he was probably maybe a third way through his tenure as president who had more impact at Notre Dame at that point in time. Um, Theodore Hesburgh or Ara Parseghian?

Chick:

Father Hesburgh was, was the man and everybody knew his role. Um, his history, his, uh, connections and, uh, what he did for the university, but also for the country. Ara was a big name during football season. But Father Ted was, he was there every day. And, uh, uh, I, I never saw him around, you know, bumping into each other on the sidewalk. That didn't, didn't happen. Right. The story is, and I believe it, I can't say I was there or saw it, but that he had a light on in his fourth story office every night and the door was open for people, I read this after I'm gone. Otherwise maybe I would have got enough nerve to walk up there and say hi to him. But people did that and he welcomed him.

Gary:

Well, it was, uh, it was, uh, an interesting time in the history of that Notre Dame. Um, and, uh, but this is the rebel five podcast, not the Irish five podcasts. So I want to thank you for sharing some of those stories cause I, you know, like I said, I've been a Notre Dame fan my whole life. My brother graduated from Notre Dame. Um, and I think some of our listeners, a lot of our listeners who know, you know, where you went to school, and I hope that has some meaning to them. Um, before I go any further, uh, something I was going to start off with, you're Charles Lauck. Where In the world did Chick come from.

Chick:

Well, uh, my grandfather had that nickname where he got it from, I don't know, but, uh, he was, uh, Charles and, um, I never knew him. He died shortly, like days after I was born. Uh, so I think they gave me that nickname and, uh, it stuck with me and, uh, you know, that's, that's my name. It's people say Chuck or Charlie or, uh, but they, I don't know them or they don't know, you know, who knows You're make up by what they ask or what they call you. Right. Uh,

Gary:

We're going to take a break with Jan and Chick and we'll be right back on the rebel five podcasts.

Break:

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Gary:

We are back on the Rebel Five podcasts with Jan and Chick Lauck. So we've discussed some of You're, uh, history in college. Jan, let's bring you into the conversation a little bit. You go to ball state and then you've started dating Chick. How did you, um, decide that you were for each other?

Jan:

Well, I actually, I think I proposed to him on the third date. That's the truth. It was a leap year. Someone told me that it was okay to do that. And so, and I said, let me give me some time to think about. And um, so, um, I don't know. We, you know, we started as soon as we started dating, there really wasn't, I don't think there was anybody else for either. One of us. Um, we, we went to two Sydney Poitier a movies the weekend, the first weekend we dated. Um, he, he took me to meet his mother the second day, which I don't know if that had anything, you know, if that says anything, but, um, but we, um, even though he was at Notre Dame and I was at ball state, um, you know, we tried to see each other as much as possible. And, um, I think we just kind of were a couple.

Jan:

And I knew one of the things that I have always appreciated about Chick, and it was one of the things I think that I admired and thought of as this is somebody that's special, um, was his commitment to his, his faith, his Catholic faith. Um, but his humble nature, a lot of guys that play football at Notre Dame, if you were introduced to them before they would say their name, they might say, well, I play at Notre Dame. I'm a football player, Notre Dame. But that wouldn't be him. And I, I just appreciated that about him and I appreciated his, uh, commitment to his faith. And, um, we enjoyed each other's company and I wasn't thinking about becoming Catholic at the time, but, um, after we started dating more seriously, I kind of thought, Hmm, this might be something I need to think about. So, um, went to church with him a lot, went to mass with him a lot. And what year did you get married? 1969.

Jan:

69. So you both, so you were still in school, is that right or? Yes. And Chick. You graduated in 69. Um, I didn't finish. I didn't finish then. You get married though and, and you, Kevin comes around. Yes. Started having a family right away and,

Gary:

Then Cathy and then Dave and then Brian and then Angie that all the kids go to Saint Barnabas. Is that okay? And so was there ever a doubt where you were going to send Your kids? And then, so Kevin starts at Roncalli and the fall of 84. Um, never any doubt about that. Um, what was You're connection to Roncalli? I mean, obviously you're seeing You're kids through Saint Barnabas and there was that connection. But w do you remember You're first, uh, Roncalli event or the first time that you saw Roncalli as well? This is where my kids are going to go school.

Jan:

We would go to a lot of football games when our kids were, you know, in grade school. Um, and we would go to other events that Roncalli would sponsor a summer. There was like a Summerfest and just other things like that. Um, but as far as, I mean, just a little side note here, we made the decisions for our kids because they were not, we never felt like they were capable as eighth graders to decide where they were going to go to high school. And, um, and we still believe that we still feel that way today. And, and he would say, you know, from time to time we'll went to men's club and so-and-so, you know, their child's graduating and they're going to give him a choice whether they want to go to, and then they would ask him, you know, how did you handle that? Well, our kids didn't have a choice, you know, and they didn't because we knew what was best for him and it was best for them.

Gary:

You raise your family and then a Loyola of new Orleans has this education program and you choose to, uh, to do that. Why, why, what was teaching always part of your, in the back of your mind or,

Jan:

well, I, I was in education at ball state, so that was always what I wanted to do. But when I had the opportunity to come here and teach religion, um, it was like a dream come true. And, um, but I, I didn't, I wasn't as prepared. Um, you know, as I, I wish I could have been. Um, but I stopped when I started teaching here. Um, father Steve Giannini was, um, our department head and he was the chaplain here and there was an opportunity, so I was already here. Um, there was an opportunity for this program through the archdiocese, uh, with Loyola of new Orleans. And, um, he came to see me and, and he said, um, you really need to go back to school and um, and get your degree in theology, what would be equivalent to a degree in theology and I will help you write your grant that you can, we're going to try to get this grant for you to pay for it.

Jan:

And because at the time we had two kids in college, we had two here at Roncalli and we had, you know, one coming to Roncalli . And, um, there wasn't money for me to go back to school. So he helped me. And with the help of a few other people, um, I wrote, uh, the grant and I received the grant and it paid for me to go back. And, um, it was a three and a half year program. And, um, it was not easy. It was very difficult cause I still was teaching full time and we were traveling almost every weekend in the fall with our son. Brian was playing football at UIndy and pack up all my books and do my reading and my writing, you know, in the car on the way there and back. But yes, that was, um, so I, uh, I finished through Loyola and, and w you were teaching here. Okay. So you're,

Jan:

it was a catechist, uh, certificate that I had at the time, which was okay at the time.

Gary:

Right. So when did you start [inaudible]? The very beginning. 92 92. And who did you interview with? Joe Hollowell. And so

Jan:

how did that go? Do you remember? Yes, I remember very well. He called, he called me and asked me to come in. He said, we have this, uh, opportunity, uh, for you if, if you're interested. One of our teachers, um, is going to be moving. Her husband's been transferred and it was November the, uh, so the school year had already started and um, he said, would, uh, would you consider doing that? And it would be part time. Um, and I, you know, I, I remember telling him, I, I just, I, I wanted to do it, but I just wasn't sure I was prepared. And, um, he said, well, go home, you know, after the interview he said, I want you to go home and pray about it and I, you know, and talk to Chick and, and then just get back with me. And, and I remember sitting at mass that Sunday and, um, there was a reading and it just spoke to me, go and teach what you've been taught. And, um, that was my decision.

Gary:

Kevin had already graduated. Kevin was out and Kathy has already graduated. So Brian and, and David [inaudible],

Jan:

Brian and David were here. Angie was in seventh grade at Saint Barnabas.

Gary:

Did you get any pushback from You're boys about mom being here?

Jan:

No. Um, no. I think, I think they were okay with it. Um, you have all girls and you know, girls talk, they tell you everything, you know, they're, how was your day? Well, you're going to find out how the day was w with boys, it's a little bit

different. Um, you know, how was your day? Fine. You know, it was so they, you know, there wasn't ever really any problems with me being here. They just let me know as much as they wanted me to know.

Gary:

And so for 20, 21 years, 21 years, you were a teacher, uh, a mainstay in the religion department. Do you have a favorite Roncalli memory?

Jan:

Oh, I have so many favorite Roncalli memories. Um, I mean, I, I know every year when school would start and you know, and I'd have a group of new kids. I, I had some funny memories and one of them just talked about the other day about with Eddie Keller. And I knew a lot of kid because I had been a teacher's aide at Saint Barnabas for two or three years. And uh, not right before I came to Roncalli but a few years before, but I'm S I'm standing in front of class at the beginning of this one school year and Eddie was a freshman. And, um, I always would ask the kids if they wanted me to call them by anything other than their given name, nickname, or a shortened name. And he kind of raised his hand slowly and he said, um, I'd like to be called Crunchy.

Jan:

And I couldn't help but laugh. And everybody else of course laughed too. And I guess there was a, I didn't know about this, but on the football team, um, he had a brother that was a few years older than him and his brother was chewy and so he was crunchy. So, you know, just fun memories. Um, with my students. So many of them it's hard to, but that one I just, we just talked about that the other night with one of the kids because we played his team. The freshman played Indian Creek and he's coaching them. So that story crunchy. I did, I tried to remember to go, I'm Crunchy. I don't know if I did every time, but

Gary:

When you interviewed with Joe, Joe Hollowell, he was our principal at the time. Um, and I'll bring you in to this conversation Chick. But, um, in your wildest dreams back in 92, 93, um, the school really, we hadn't had a capital campaign yet. No. Um, we were just getting ready to think about one. Um, in your wildest dreams, did you ever think Roncalli would become the school that it is when you started teaching?

Jan:

No, but I, but I knew that Joe Hollowell was the person to bring Roncalli to where it is today. Um, he, he, he's a visionary and, um, I knew that he had ideas and he had plans for Roncalli. Uh, but I do remember coming to school the year that we built the chapel, which was something I wanted for a long time. And, um, coming up Prague road on a pretty, it wasn't fall yet, of course, cause school's starting in August, but it was first time I had actually seen the, the, you know, chapel and the bell and it took my breath away and I just started bawling. I was crying all the way in and um, no, I, I don't think I ever thought about it, but I knew that Joe had plans in that. He makes sure those things got done.

Gary:

Well, you, you talk about the chapel and, um, it's one of my favorite things on campus and, and, uh, being a religion teacher, you know, you come down Prague road and the first thing you see in our, on our building is our, our chapel. So talk a little bit about that because I mean, you just hinted on it a little bit, you know, it was your favorite thing that we've done, but, um, uh, why is it so significant?

Jan:

Well, I mean, I think it's a huge part of our Catholic identity, uh, to have this beautiful chapel and, uh, the stained glass windows and all the history, um, that, that we have here with, um, st, you know, St. John Roncalli is, I mean, we, we can't, we can't take that for granted. We, we, we need to appreciate the fact that we are a Catholic school. And that chapel defines, helps define who we are. And I personally, I think every year when we would talk about what we hoped for, you know, I, that was the one thing I, I wanted to see. I wanted to see us have a chapel more than just a little room, which is what we had when I was, you know, teaching here for the most part, for most of the years we had a little room that was supposed to be an office and you know, they know when I first started here, we did have a chapel and it was across from across the hall from the main office. But when we started to grow, they needed that space. And so that's when it



changed. But I mean there's a lot of things that make Roncalli the great school that it is. But that chapel is definitely the cornerstone.

Gary:

No argument from me. And I haven't been to a lot of school chapels, especially any many high school chapels, but I can't imagine that there's any more. Beautiful, no, I don't think so. Yeah. We're going to take another break with Jan and Chick and we'll be right back on the Rebel five podcasts.

Break:

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Gary:

I'm Gary Armbruster and welcome back to the rebel five podcast. We are visiting today with Jan and Chick Lauck. Jan Chick, thanks for being here. Appreciate you sharing some of your, uh, Roncalli memories Chick. The last segment I ask Jan what her favorite Ron calling moment was, I'll throw that out to you. Do you have a favorite Roncalli moment?

Chick:

One would be one of my very early Roncalli memories. And that was when our oldest son Kevin was in freshmen orientation. [inaudible] and of course we parents were invited. It was in the gym and we were sitting up high and, and um, all the freshmen were sitting down on the basketball court. And, um, I don't know. It just, uh, seeing him freshman, young kid, all these other kids that we knew eventually he would get to know, didn't know, but a handful of them at that time. Um, but um, that was a, well, it's still a very vivid memory and that's been many, many, many years ago. Almost 31. That's a memory. Uh, and uh, watching the kids in their, uh, athletic events. Kathy in basketball was always exciting for us. Um, David and baseball. So on Brian and football, we were just fans. Angie and cheerleading. Um, David show choir. Yeah, a lot of good memories. All of those things.

Gary:

You have 19 grandkids. Um, most of those grandkids will be rebels. There's a, Kevin's family lives in, in Louisville. Um, talk about that a little bit because that's legacy. That's a, you started at sacred heart. Um, Jan, you thought, um, as much, um, about Chicks, faith, faith, life that you converted to Catholicism. I says, that says a lot. So talk a little bit about that. You've got 19 grandkids, most of them are going to be rebels. Uh, what does that mean for you? And either one of you can answer. Um, as far as the legacy goes.

Chick:

Well, my family, my parents went to sacred heart and my mom was one of nine and they all went there. My dad was one of the eight or nine. And, uh, so they, um, that was back in the very, very early days of, of the, of the parish, actually sacred heart parish.

Chick:

And there's a lot of, still a lot of history in that parish and in that neighborhood, um, that, um, you know, bears a Lauck name. And, uh, so it's, um, my dad would take me to school every morning, drive up Meridian street. He had a business, uh, just a few blocks away from the school. So it was never, uh, as it was with our kids, uh, it was never any question what we were going to do or where we were gonna go. It was going to be sacred heart. That's where the roots are and they go deep. Um, and so that's a, that's interesting to me to look at the history of the sacred heart parish because of those deep roots.

Gary:

If you go back to, um, really any of the early classes, uh, graduating classes from sacred heart, there's lots of labs. There's this, uh, that's one name that, um, when people look back, they, that's very prominent with the schots and, and uh, just lots of names that are old South side names that are still still around, um, today and, um, making huge contributions.

Gary:

Um, I asked Jan, uh, earlier about in 1992, when she interviewed with Joe, whether she thought Roncalli would become the school and I, I'll throw it out to you as well. Um, in the last 25 years we've raised 30 plus million dollars. I know you guys have been involved in campaigns in the past and been very instrumental in raising money for Roncalli and being part of that. So talk a little bit about that because, um, not only is your family a part of a legacy, but Roncalli, the building the campus is part of that legacy as well. Talk a little bit about that.

Chick:

Well, we're just thankful for the leadership that has been in place at Roncalli over the years. Those were not timid steps that were taken back then. Uh, they were bold steps, but the community had faith and trust in the leadership. And that's on the board level as well, I'm sure. Although I didn't know a lot of the board people, but Joe and Chuck, um, grew this thing with a plan like Jan had mentioned and uh, uh, and even prior to them, but, um, I think the growth has come, uh, since they've been in, in their current positions. And I hate to see Joe and make his announcement, but, um, uh, good for him and in the whoever's chosen to follow his footsteps, I'm sure it will be a good choice, but, um, we're just happy to be a part of the community. And yes, there'd been a lot of money raised and, uh, but it's been spent very wisely and I think, uh, anyway, and, um, um, so I'm just thankful to be a part of the community.

Gary:

You mentioned Kathy playing basketball and she went off to, uh, USI. Is that right? And uh, I think she's in the hall of fame at USI. Um, we're getting ready to open a new gym and just really a couple months. Um, you've got some grandkids coming. Are they going to be a, uh, using that gym, do you think down the road?

Chick:

Oh, I think probably so. At least at least a few of them. Yes. It, uh, wouldn't, you mentioned new gym makes me go back and think about the sacred heart gym. Yeah. I can still visualize it. Um, maybe 15 rows of bleachers on the one side and five rows of bleachers on the other side and none on the end on either a stage stage was there, there was a stage where no, there was no stage, no, no. And the doors on one end led into the cafeteria, which was the gym when my dad went to school there in that cafeteria that had maybe a 14 or 15 foot ceiling. Yeah. They played basketball in there with the pillars and all. And, and that's where, uh, he developed, we had a basketball goal when I was a kid. He would shoot like underhanded from out outside, but they had to because the ceiling was so limiting.

Gary:

Yeah. That's a great point. I played in that gym, uh, when I was in grade school cause it was obviously it hadn't torn down yet. Um, but that, that's an interesting, uh, scenario because, uh, I've been in our new gym, I've played in the old, the sacred heart gym and uh, it's amazing. Um, what we're going to be able to offer our students, not just from athletics but, uh, just across the board, uh, physical education. Um, just lots of different opportunities. So, uh, that's an interesting point that you bring up.

Chick:

Well, the expansion here has gone the way that it should have gone. Uh, the education space, um, which was needed badly needed the auditorium and, and, and now probably the final major piece is, uh, the gym. But you mentioned the, um, the chapel earlier and uh, being a sacred heart person where I heard it was going to be named the chapel of the sacred heart. Um, a lot of pride and uh, but that knowing the leadership here, making that connection was a very, very wise choice. And the only choice it could have been made.

Gary:

I'm just going to say that it just ties everything in. Makes the circle complete. We're going to take one last break with Jan and Chick and we'll be right back on the Rebel Five podcasts,

Break:

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Gary:

We're back on the Rebel Five podcast with Jan and Chick Lauck. I say Jan and Chick because a lot of people say Chicken. Jan, I always think you know, Chicken, Chicken Jan never sounds right. So that's why I said Jan and Chicken level whole episode. We've talked about your family a little bit. We've talked about your uh, Roncalli experience. Um, this is usually the time that I ask for final thoughts and so I'll throw it out to you. Jan, some final thoughts on Roncalli high school and your experience over the years.

Jan:

First of all, I want to reiterate what my husband said about when you asked me my, some of my favorite memories. I went right to as a teacher in my classroom, but many of my favorite memories, most of them have to do with our children and grandchildren. The, um, you know, the things we've gotten to experience with them. Um, show choir opportunities, you know, in show choir and basketball and volleyball and football, just all the, all the special moments. But there's one thing that, um, man, when I retired back in 2013, we had a breakfast, um, kind of our final meeting, you know, and, and um, Chuck gave us our, uh, Mary Hall also had retired and he gave us those beautiful head statues. And, um, I told a little story that had just happened a few weeks before that. And I'd had a conversation at lunch with, uh, Jim Ratliff and he was telling me how he had just been out to, um, Seattle to help his son move in.

Jan:

Uh, cause he got his dream job out there. And, and so I was telling this story, I said that it was really funny because, um, I only had to drive 20 minutes for my dream job. Um, and it was the opportunity to be here at Roncalli for 21 years. The, the people that impacted my life, um, of course my students, but two people that I will forever be grateful to Joe Hollowell and Chuck Weisenbach, two people that, um, helped build my confidence, uh, wasn't a real confident person confident in myself when I came here. And, um, they really helped me become a better person. Definitely. Uh, a better teacher. I'll forever be grateful to those two men and friends. Uh, the friendship that, that I have with them. When I would start a school year, I would tell the parents that, um, I thought God blessed me with this opportunity. And then I realized that it wasn't so much that he blessed me with this opportunity, but he was saying to me, Jan, you don't know me well enough yet. And with every student that walked into my class, my relationship with God changed and was better. So I'm forever grateful for that.

Gary:

Thanks Jan for sharing. Appreciate that. Any final thoughts, Chick?

Chick:

Well, yes, I think that, um, I owe Jan a lot because she's brought and changed me and my life. Uh, and I've mentioned this one other time I think, and that is her family. When she grew up, they were, um, close emotionally and, and, um, my family was more, um, of German origin and, uh, there was a lot of love there, but it was not expressed all that much and which I think is part of that heritage. Uh, but I've learned because of her and because of her, I'm different than what I was accustomed to growing up with our kids. Uh, I'm still not as outgoing and loving I guess, but, um, uh, I, I think I'm a lot better than what I would have been had I not learned from her. And uh, I remember when she started at Roncalli, that was, uh, well, let me go back further than that.

Jan:

When she turned Catholic and that was, she was a good Christian. Her family was good Christian people, church going people, but she decided to turn Catholic, um, with no prodding or suggestion from me. Um, so I appreciate that. And then to teach religion in a Catholic high school, um, I've believe, and I've said it before, she knows more about the Bible and, uh, Christianity than what I do. I'm born and raised cradle Catholic and she's not afraid, not only not afraid to express it, but she's very good at her expression as a teacher in the religion class or at home, more talking with the kids, grandkids. So I appreciate that from her, but I appreciate Roncalli giving her the opportunity. And I know that, um, the school is better off to for having her in here for 21 years.

Gary:

Well, to just sum it all up, uh, Jan, obviously, uh, Joe and Chuck are huge, uh, fans of yours and have been for a long, long time. And I know that's mutual, obviously. Um, we just appreciate everything that both of you have done for Roncalli and our community for many, many years. Uh, not only from yourself, but, um, what you've taught your kids and, and now, um, your grandkids. So thank you very much for being here, sharing your memories, your thoughts, and, um, I say sometimes when the show's over, Go Rebels and, uh, Go Laucks. Thank you. Thank you. Thanks. We appreciate it.

Break:

I'm Gary Armbruster and thanks for joining us today for this episode of the Rebel Five podcasts. To find out more information about the podcast, please visit [50.roncalli.org/podcast.php](http://50.roncalli.org/podcast.php). Again, thanks so much for joining us today and until next time we'll fight ahead.