

Yavapai College Founding Father, 1968

Years Attended: 1968

Area of Study: YC Founding Father

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We are celebrating the college's 40th anniversary, so it seems most appropriate to honor



a family with close ties to the college over three generations.

As one of the founding fathers of Yavapai College, we wish to recognize Dr. Eugene Hunt. Dr. Hunt was the third employee of the College and served as the head administrator in the business office. Back in those days, the President and he shared a secretary with offices in the 3rd floor of a bank building uptown. At that time, they were having classes in the Elks Theater, churches around town, in basements, and unused buildings.

Dr. Hunt was involved in the original paper work to buy part of the campus from the VA at

Whipple, as well as buying the houses near the entrance to the campus. He arranged for the elections to float the bonds for the first four buildings plus the first dormitory. He established the accounting system and, with the President, provided the overseeing of the building plans and construction of those original buildings.

He also was involved in organizing the Yavapai College Foundation and was one of the original members. He went on to other things and a couple years later was given the job of Yavapai County School Superintendent. He saw that he could make a great difference in the county system and of course the rest is history. He and Barry Goldwater did some great things for education in Arizona. He served as Yavapai County School Superintendent fourteen years before he retired and moved to Desert Hot Springs, California.

His son, Walt Hunt (attended '73 to '75), also left his mark at Yavapai College in Student Government, as did his brother Gene Hunt who was student advisor for the vets. Walt got out of the service and came home to Yavapai in 1973. Later, Rita, (now Rita Leyva, Chief Deputy, Yavapai County Education Service Agency), his younger sister, served in Student Government too. At this time the Student Government made many changes and developed most of the student clubs and organization that are here now. It was their student government body that started that electronics department, the girl's athletics, the swimming team, the Art department and its annual trip to the LA Art show etc.

They also worked on the original design and built the fountain area in the plaza, the walkways from the dorms, the initial landscaping all around the parking areas. While they were there, some serious strides for student campus life and security were accomplished. They developed the student employment programs to coincide with the development of the student union, and worked to move the cafeteria more towards a buffet-style service.

Dr. Eugene Hunt and his family most assuredly deserve a great deal of recognition for what they have done for the college!