



Winter 2003

Volume 25

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Open House Saturday, February 22

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will host its annual Open House on Saturday, February 22 from 9am to 2pm. That same day its neighbor, the Oakmont Recreation Center has its annual Fun Fair. Both events are free. "Come visit both," says Society President Jane Freeman, "it's like getting 2 for the price of 1!"

This year's Open House will, as always, include stories and exhibits of the sister cities, Sun City and Sun City West. Sun City West's 25th anniversary officially begins on February 15, 2003, so special exhibits at the Society will chronicle Sun City West from its very beginnings in 1978 to the present day. Early residents, many of whom are members of the Pioneers Club of Sun City West, will be on hand to recall their first days in the community and regale you with accounts of some of their more memorable adventures.

Of special note at the Open House will be the sale of the newly published *SUN CITY WEST Silver Celebration The First 25 Years*, a history book about the community. The book is under the auspices of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and several Society Board members are on the history book committee that worked for the past two years to complete it. Proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit the Society.

Also available for sale will be the books, *Del Webb, A Man, A Company* by Margaret Finnerty, *Along the Old Vulture Road* by local

author Al Tudor, and *Jubilee*, a book commemorating the 25th anniversary of Sun City. All three books recount the rich history of the area and are nice gifts for "history buffs" or as coffee table conversation pieces.

So mark your calendar for February 22—the birthday of our first president—and a day for you to come to the Society's Open House to learn the history of Del Webb's fabulous Sun Cities.

Annual Spring Meeting Wednesday, April 9

After you've marked your calendar for Open House on February 22, continue on to April 9 and write in 1pm for our Annual Spring Meeting in Sun City West at the Community Services Building.

Don Tuffs, former Vice President of Public Affairs and Community Relations at DEVCO (Del E Webb Development Company), will be this year's guest speaker. Mr. Tuffs made arrangements for many of the celebrities at the Sundome over the years. His talk will take you on a "behind the scenes" adventure and enlighten you on "everything you wanted to know about the Sundome."

10801 Oakmont Dr.—Sun City, AZ—85351
Open Hours—1:30 to 3:30 pm
Tuesday—Wednesday—Thursday—Friday
623/974-2568

Jane Freeman
President

Paul Graff
Vice President

Don Seigel
Treasurer

David Verble
Assistant Treasurer

Virginia Simmons
Secretary

Ed Allen

Barbara Brozman

Mary Callahan

Mary Hawthorne

Constance W. McMillin

Ruth Morton

Sale Randle

Jo Ruck

Phyllis Street

Al Tudor

Barbara Brozman
Phyllis Street
Editors

Message from the President

As we enter the New Year we take on challenges and exciting projects. Perhaps the biggest challenge is increasing memberships—individual, business and professional. Exciting projects? The biggest one is Sun City West's 25th anniversary. Several of our Board members have been actively involved for many months in the writing of Sun City West's 25-year history. Your Society will be actively participating in many of the anniversary activities and we will have a special Sun City West exhibit at the house.

I'm happy to report we have a strong board this year with excellent representation from Sun City West, which means a nice balance between the two communities.

Every effort will be made to carry on the work of our outgoing president, Connie McMillin, and we are fortunate we will continue to have her expertise, as she will be continuing on the Board. And, thanks to Connie, we are getting "computerized."

My wish for the New Year? All of you who read this, please help us increase membership, let your friends know of our existence and that we are available for programs.

Happy New Year!

Jane Freeman
President, Board of Trustees

A New Acquisition



A recent acquisition of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a Del Webb Logo lapel pin with a bright yellow jewel in the center and "Sun City" inscribed at the base. Stuart Weinland's father had two of them and Stuart presented one to be preserved in our archives. This is the first time we have seen one of these pins.

We are curious if anyone else has been the recipient of such a pin. Visit us or give us a call if you have such information.

623/974-2568.

Meet Your New Trustees

Don Seigel, after retiring from a faculty position at Northeastern Illinois University, moved to Sun City in 1994 from Nanjing University in China where he served as an exchange professor. Don is active in the Hiking Club, Aerobics Club and enjoys working with Meals on Wheels, golf and swimming.

Sale Randle, a retired professor of educational administration and supervision at the University of Mississippi, and president of Wood Junior College in Mathiston, MS, moved to Sun City in 1989. Sale is an active volunteer in the Society serving as host on Thursday afternoons.

Mary Hawthorne is returning to the Board for a one-year term. Before moving to Sun City West in 1979, she served as executive secretary in public and professional relations with the Ford Motor Company for seventeen years. She is currently active as a Boswell Hospital volunteer and serves on the R.H. Johnson Library Endowment Fund Committee.

Mary Callahan moved to Sun City from Rochester, New York in 1974. She served as Night Supervisor for 15 years at Valley View Hospital in Youngtown. When the hospital closed she went with Sun Health's Home Nursing Services for 5 years. She has been active as a community volunteer, as a Board member with Sun City Library, Sunshine Service, Meals on Wheels and is active in her church.

Jo Ruck moved to Sun City West in 1993 from the Mt. Prospect and Crystal Lake areas of Illinois. Jo has a real penchant for books and libraries. She assisted in an elementary school library, set up two church libraries and was curriculum consultant for a Christian book store. Jo enjoyed her work on the Sun City West 25th Anniversary Book Committee. She is a very active member of the Stardust Bible Church, where she continues to update the website and serves as Church Librarian and Director of Community Relations.

David Verble, a '56 BSME graduate of Texas A&M, began a distinguished career with the U. S. Air Force that lasted 24 years, awarding him the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Legion of Merit. David's career spans some 3,700 hours in the air and in management roles in space and missile systems development and operations. Retiring as a command pilot colonel, his second career in the aerospace industry lasted 15 years before retiring to Sun City West in 1995. David has been active as building chairman for the Stardust Bible Church and enjoys golf, church activities and serving as webmaster for his church.

A Special Thanks

The Society wishes to extend a special thanks to those Board members who served in 2002. Those leaving the Board are Judy Schoeberle and Julia Manspeaker. We also acknowledge the contributions of Bette Smith, James Vivian and Lorraine Feagans and appreciate their help.

A Repeat at R.I.S.E.

The Rio Institute of Senior Education in Surprise, AZ requested a repeat presentation of "The History of the Sun Cities" for its Winter 2002-2003 schedule. Facilitators Connie McMillin and Phyllis Street, who presented the program last year, gave the first of the two-part presentation this year on January 13.

Session two continues on January 27 from 1-3pm when facilitators McMillin and Street will focus on Sun City West history, softball/baseball and, of course, the man himself, Del E. Webb.

For more information please contact R.I.S.E. at 480/517-8770.

The term ‘textiles’ covers a wide range of objects made of fiber: wedding gowns, christening gowns, samplers, quilts, costumes, household items linens, handkerchiefs, to mention a few. Unfortunately, textiles are among the most fragile of all artifacts. Insects, mold, handling and exposure to light, heat and humidity easily damage textiles.

THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

1. Temperature and humidity: the storage area should be consistently dark, cool and with moderate humidity. Forget the attic and basement areas.
2. Light: this causes fading and deterioration Watch those hot light bulbs.
3. Pest control: be sure the item is clean Any soiled spot will attract insects and promote mold.

PREPARING THE ITEM.

Body and oils can cause staining—be sure hands are free of lotions and creams. Wash your hands and/or wear clean cotton gloves. Keep the work area free from food and drink, tobacco smoke, pens and markers. The item should be cleaned immediately after wearing e.g. a wedding gown. This will remove any stain or soil, often not visible to the eye. Some items can be safely laundered, others dry cleaned. If in doubt, ask a reputable dry cleaner.

STORING

Cotton, flax, jute, ramie and rayon can be stored in either buffered (acid free) or unbuffered paper. Silk and wool are sensitive to alkali and cannot be stored in alkaline buffered products. If not sure of the fiber content, be on the safe side and choose unbuffered material.

STORAGE MATERIALS

Interleaving buffered tissue should be used if you want more body. Other tissue is softer and suitable for more fragile items. Choose your paper according to the qualities your fabric needs (body vs. softness) and the type of fabric you will be storing—heavy velvet gown, needlepoint or lace, etc.

CLOTH:

Soft material such as undyed cotton can be used in place of paper. First wash the fabric in a neutral detergent (not soap) and iron prior to use. Cotton muslin is unsized and tightly woven and is a good selection.

BOXES

Acid free paperboard boxes are best. Textile should be wrapped in tissue or cloth before placing in box to avoid problems of condensation.

PLASTIC

Avoid plastic bags used by dry cleaners. They release gasses as they age and can trap moisture which promotes mold.

THE LAST STEP

Clearly mark the outside of the box or container as to contents so it is easily identified.

Archival supplies can be obtained from:

Gaylord Bros.
P.O. Box 4901

Metal Edge, Inc.
6340 Bandini Blvd.

Syracuse, NY 13221-4901

Commerce, CA 90040

University Products
P.O. Box 101
Holyoke, MA 01041-0101

Light Impressions
439 Monroe
Rochester, NY 14607

Jim Turner Visits

In early January Jim Turner, Field Services Officer from the Tucson headquarters of the Arizona Historical Society, visited our facility as part of a state-wide tour to many of the certified museums that “contribute to the preservation of history throughout the State of Arizona”.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society was awarded this prestigious designation in March, 2002 and joins a distinguished group of notable museums in our State.

During his visit Mr. Turner met with Board members Jane Freeman and Connie McMillin and computer consultant Jim Davis. On the same day, he also made visits and toured Saguro Ranch, Manistee Ranch, Peoria Historical Society and Buckeye Historical Society.

The Arizona Historical Society, founded in 1884, and the network of State certified museums’ mission is “to collect, preserve, interpret and disseminate the history of Arizona, the West and Northern Mexico as it pertains to Arizona”.

Speakers Bureau Speaks Out

Our Board members have been busy giving presentations of the history of the Sun Cities to various groups. On December 5, 2002 Edson Allen gave a program on the new Sun City West history book to the Palo Verde Questers group at the home of Sally Van Wert of Sun City West.

On January 9, Phyllis Street shared the history of the Sun Cities with approximately 25 members of the Alpha Chi Omega Alumnae at the home of Jane Garcia in Sun City West.

On January 23, 2003 Edson Allen will present the story of Sun City West to the Crescent #1 Friendship Group from Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, meeting at Heritage Traditions.

Speakers are available for your clubs on request. Call 623/974-2568 or 623/974-5377.

SCW 25th Anniversary Events Begin

The Silver Celebration Committee has planned many exciting events during the 25th Anniversary. At the following events our history book, *SUN CITY WEST Silver Celebration The First 25 Years*, will be available for purchase:

- **February 15**, at the Kick-off Birthday Party at R. H. Johnson & Palm Ridge Recreation Centers.
- **April 6**, at the Ice Cream Social at Beardsley Park following the Church Open House.

The books will also be available at the Sun City West Visitors Center and at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society in Sun City.

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks for Renewing

Everybody enjoys getting mail. Your Sun Cities Area Historical Society is no exception, especially when the mail includes renewals. And renewals we have been receiving. So many thanks to those who have already renewed their memberships for 2003.

Keep in mind that your annual membership contribution is tax deductible and that these funds make it possible to meet the monthly bills of maintaining our house/museum, purchasing supplies, and supporting the daily activities required to preserve the extensive volume of historical artifacts of the Sun Cities.

Help us preserve your Sun Cities Area Historical Society and the artifacts showing Del Webb's innovative concept of "active retirement communities." Send your renewal today to the address below. And come visit us soon!

NEW MEMBERS

Mary E. Callahan

Rita L. Deakin

Anne B. Goddard

Lucille Rethford

Jo Ruck

Howard and Elza Urban

David Verble

Stuart L. Weinland

**Get A Friend Involved
Be A Volunteer**

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