
Signs of Sun City's Past by Ed Allen

Kings Inn CENTER

Did you ever notice that our nearby Fry's is located in the Kings Inn Center? The sign is a reminder of an earlier business that was a center of activity for Sun City.

When Sun City opened in 1960, the site was home to a Del Webb Hiway House, one of a chain of motor hotels the Webb Corp. owned throughout the West. It had a restaurant cleverly named the "Coffee Brake."



Converted to a luxurious Kings Inn in 1962, it served as a convenient place for prospects to stay while they checked out the new community. Ten years later, it was completely remodeled. To add to the old-English motif, two elaborate carvings were purchased from the castle of a royal family in England. One was a knight on horseback for the lobby, the other a 5'x7' coat of arms for the dining room.

We started coming to Sun City in 1975 to visit my parents who had moved here to escape Wisconsin winters. While they invited us to stay with them, we soon found that our two active children needed an outlet for their energy. A visit to Lakeview pool resulted in their being scolded by an older woman who, while in the pool, didn't appreciate being splashed by kids jumping into the water.

Kings Inn came to our rescue! They had a large pool and it was full of other youngsters whose parents, like us, had found the motel a great place to stay while visiting relatives.

The motel portion of the inn was purchased in 1989 to be replaced by a Smith's Food & Drug store. The restaurant was to remain, but a year later it was acquired in order to add space to the parking lot. Ten years later, the Smith's stores were acquired by Kroger, and rebranded as Fry's Food & Drug – the store we shop at today.