



Fall 2005

Volume 14 No. 4

## SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Noted Historian to Speak at Annual Fall Meeting

The annual fall meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society will be held Wednesday, November 2, at 1:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Sun City. The church is located at 12225 N. 103rd Avenue, south of Grand Avenue and next to the Sun Valley Lodge. The meeting is open to all.



Our guest speaker will be **Dr. Reba Wells Grandrud**, who will present a slide show titled, *"In Their Own Words."* The presentation utilizes the overland diaries of women who went west in the 19th century, and answers these questions:

- *What was the Overland Experience of the mid-19th century?*
- *What was it like to be a woman on the Oregon Trail, the California Trail, or the Southern Route to California that came through Arizona?*
- *Who were these women?*
- *How did they feel about uprooting their lives?*
- *How did the process work?*

This was a major transplanting of young families; most of the women were married, men and women viewed the experience with different eyes, women were driven by a passion to keep

their families together, and hope for a better life was a common thread.

Hear in their own words what they endured, and some of their experiences in moving through uncharted territory.

Since retirement in 1998 as National Register Coordinator for the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office, and in 2000 as Director of the Arizona Historical Society Museum in Papago Park, Dr. Grandrud has continued her devotion to the preservation of history: local, state, and regional.

She works as a consultant in historic preservation and oral history, and is an active board member for a wide range of non-profits, including the Arizona History Convention, Arizona State Committee on Trails, Anza National Historic Trail Advisory Council, the Old Spanish Trail Association, Sunnyslope Historical Society, and Pioneer Cemetery Association.

A native of New Mexico, Dr. Grandrud holds degrees from the University of New Mexico in education, Southwest History, and History of the American West. She has lived in Arizona since January 1982.

10801 Oakmont Dr.—Sun City, AZ—85351

**Open Hours—1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday—Wednesday—Thursday—Friday**

Phone: (623) 974-2568

Email: [scahs@frys.com](mailto:scahs@frys.com)

Web site: [www.scazhistory.org](http://www.scazhistory.org)

*The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is certified by the Arizona Historical Society*

Edson Allen  
*President*

Paul Graff  
*Vice President*

Jane Freeman  
*Secretary*

Don Seigel  
*Treasurer*

David Verble  
*Assistant Treasurer*

Jan Dallai

James R. Green

Eugene Jensen

Constance W. McMillin

Ruth Morton

Dorothy Rucker

### **CONTRIBUTORS**

Ed Allen  
Jane Freeman  
Connie McMillin  
Jo Ruck  
David Verble  
Ruby Wells

## **Message from the President**

### **The Other King Ludwig**

When I mention King Ludwig, what word comes to mind? If you said “Mad,” then you’re thinking about Ludwig II. We were surprised to learn there was another King Ludwig — and he, too, was a builder.

My wife and I had the pleasure of spending three days in Prague, followed by a week on a cruise ship in early August. We joined the ship in Nuremberg, Germany, and visited various cities along the Danube River through Austria to Budapest where our trip ended.

To get from Nuremberg to the Danube River, we took the Main-Danube canal which was completed in 1992. The dream of a canal to allow ships to go from the North Sea to the Black Sea began with Charlemagne in 793. It wasn’t until 1836, however, that one was planned and built under the sponsorship of King Ludwig I. Not the least of the challenges was that the canal route crossed the continental divide, and a way had to be found to make water run uphill to fill the highest locks! The Ludwig canal was 107 miles long and had 101 locks, making for slow travel. The canal was used up through WWI and still exists today.

We also visited Liberation Hall, high atop a hill at Kelheim in Bavaria. This huge memorial commemorates victorious battles against Napoleon in the Wars of Liberation, 1813-1815 — and it, too, was built by King Ludwig I. Around the outside of the cylindrical structure were 18 huge statues, each representing one of the victorious generals. Inside, 34 Goddesses of Victory, carved from white marble, are arranged in a huge circle. Between each pair of goddesses is a shield cast from captured gun metal.

King Ludwig I must have been an intelligent, industrious ruler. It’s too bad that we don’t know more about him. History has passed him by, and instead has focused on his grandson, King Ludwig II, who we know as “Mad King Ludwig.”

History is a gold mine of surprises. It’s no telling what we’ll discover with a little digging!

Edson Allen  
President, Board of Trustees

**COME SEE US!**

**Now open Tuesday through Friday  
1:30—3:30**



. . . for making our newsletters possible.

**Steve Meade**, president of Ken Meade Realty, has graciously offered to underwrite the cost of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society’s quarterly newsletter for the coming year.

As a leading firm in our community, the Ken Meade organization has long encouraged the effort to record and preserve the history of the Sun Cities. We are grateful for their continued support.

## The “INDY 500” and SUN CITY?

To get Sun City up and running, Del Webb conducted an extensive advertising campaign introducing a new concept of retirement. The “blitz” started in 1959, and the Del Webb communities are still being advertised to this day.

The early advertising relied very heavily on newspapers, radio, and television across the country. Only Del Webb would think of a “speedy” approach — sponsor a car at the Indy 500!

Nothing but the best would do, and Webb signed on owner Ralph Wilkie of the Leader Cards Team. A. J. Watson was the mechanic, and the driver was Roger Ward.



On May 2, 1961, racing fans throughout the world probably heard the name Sun City for the first time, for emblazoned on the side of the car was “Sun City Special.” Ward brought the Sun City colors in at third place with an average speed of 138.539 mph, and was awarded \$26,500. Ward carried the Sun City banner to the winner’s circle three times that season, at Milwaukee, Syracuse, and Sacramento.

Yes, the advertising campaign continued to roll along at high speed!

## Speaking Out!

Do you know of a club, fellowship group, or organization -- local chapters with active, curious people such as AAUW, Red Hatters, Questers, etc. -- who are interested in an unusual program with an appropriate “themed” presentation? Tell them about us!

Our Society has qualified people ready to speak to small gatherings or large events anywhere in the West Valley. We adapt the presentation to fit the time you specify. It can be “formal,” or “interactive” with visual artifacts.

*“What Was Here Before the Sun Cities?”* ... *“A Unique Place in the World: Sun City”* ... *“From Lizard Acres to Lush Oasis: Sun City West”* ... *“Del Webb: A Visionary and an Interesting Character”* ... and *“The Story of the Sun Cities”* are just a few titles for special programs that are available. Tours of the Society’s headquarters are also available.

Please call us or pass this newsletter on to a program coordinator. We look forward to sharing the history and myths of the Sun Cities with each of you. Call the Society, 623-974-2568, or the Speakers Bureau Chairperson, Connie McMillin, at 634-977-5894.

Medical care wasn't always around the corner or within a few miles from home! In 1962, the nearest hospital was in Glendale, and only a very few doctors were the serving the Youngtown area.

But Del Webb officials and some of the early pioneers could foresee the future growth of Sun City, and they began the process to obtain better medical care for residents. On September 1, 1966, the Sun City Community Hospital Corporation was formed to pursue the establishment of a hospital.

The James G. Boswell Foundation agreed to donate \$1.2 million to the newly-formed corporation, with three conditions: (1) the hospital would serve the entire Northwest Valley, not just Sun City; (2) the hospital must have the finest medical facilities available at the time; and (3) the hospital must be named Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital. Walter was one of three brothers who originally farmed the land where Sun City was being built. Fortunately, those terms weren't tough to live with and were happily and eagerly accepted.

The Del E. Webb Company (DEVCO), donated 10.6 acres of land and offered to build the hospital at cost. The residents of Sun City opened their hearts and wallets to donate nearly one million dollars for the new hospital!

Groundbreaking for the hospital was held January 1969. The design called for two towers with 52 rooms each. Each tower comprised four stories of circular floors. The towers were dedicated November 6, 1970, and on November 16, 1970, the first patient, Sun Citian Stuart Beecher, was admitted.

That was just the beginning of the excellent health care that has grown along with Sun City. Today, the hospital offers a full range of services. Space does not permit a description of all of them; however, two have received national recognition. The Sun Health Heart Center is recognized by Solucient as one of the Top 100 Cardiovascular Hospitals in the nation. The American Stroke Association's Operation Stroke Initiative and the Arizona Emergency Medical System have designated Boswell as a *Primary Stroke Center*, which is acknowledged valley-wide.

The hospital has come to be known throughout the state for its Orthopedic Services, Women's Diagnostic Services, Wound Management, Sleep Disorders, and Rehabilitation, to mention a few. Even today, the hospital continues to have the "finest medical facilities" available.

Boswell celebrates its 35th anniversary in December, and the Historical Society will have on display some of the hospital's historical highlights.

**CONGRATULATIONS, WALTER O. BOSWELL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL**

**THANKS FOR 35 WONDERFUL YEARS!**

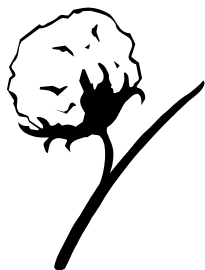


Boswell Hospital, 1970

## The Story of Cotton

*This is the second in our series on cotton, tracing its history from seed to final product.*

### THE IMPORTANCE OF COTTON



Today, the world uses more cotton fiber than any other fiber, and cotton is a leading cash crop in the United States. At the farm level alone, the production of each year's crop involves the purchase of more than four billion dollars' worth of supplies and services. Processing and handling of cotton after it leaves the farm generates even more business activity. Altogether, business revenue stimulated by cotton is the greatest of any U.S. crop.

Cotton is part of our daily lives from the time we dry our faces on a soft cotton towel in the morning, until we slide between fresh cotton sheets at night. It has hundreds of uses, from blue jeans to shoestrings. Clothing and household items are the largest uses, but industrial uses account for many thousand bales.

All parts of the cotton plant are useful. The most important is the fiber or lint, which is used in making cotton cloth. Linters, the short fuzz on the seed, provides cellulose for making plastics, explosives, and other products, and is processed in top batting for padding mattresses, furniture, and automobile cushions.

The cotton seed is crushed in order to separate its three products — oil, meal, and hulls. Cottonseed oil is used primarily for shortening, cooking oil, and salad dressing. The meal and hulls that remain are used either separately or in combination as livestock, poultry, and fish feed, and as a fertilizer. The stalks and leaves of the cotton plant are plowed under to enrich the soil.

Some cottonseed also is used as a high-protein concentrate in baked goods and other food products.

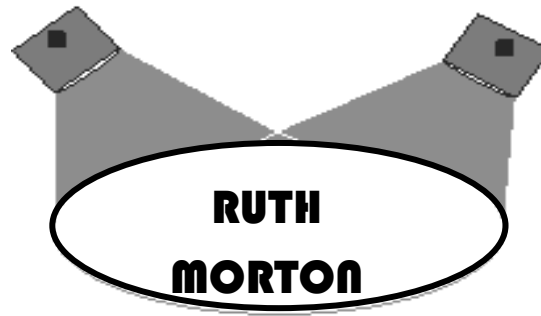
*Future issues will present articles on how cotton is grown, ginned, spun, and woven, and PIMA cotton. We hope you enjoy this special feature.*

**VOL \_\_\_\_ NTEE \_\_\_\_**

**What's missing?**

**U - R**

!



**Adieu ... Farewell ... Bon Voyage ... Adios ... Good-Bye**

**Ruth and John Morton** moved to the Phoenix area when John came out of the military service and joined the Del E. Webb Corporation in the accounting department. Ruth went to work for the Walsh Bros. Office Equipment Company. They moved to Sun City in January 1981, when John retired after 35 years with Del Webb, and Ruth after 34 1/2 years with Walsh Bros.

Long fascinated with the Del Webb phenomenon, Ruth became interested in the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. She has served several terms as a member of the Board of Trustees, and with her long association with Del Webb (through her husband), was a font of information when it came to the corporation as well as Del Webb, the man.

With her interest in preserving the history of the Sun Cities, she took on the responsibility of clipping newspaper items of interest, and filing them in what is call the vertical file. It is through her diligence that our Society has a wealth of information on file.

Ruth has “retired” again and has moved to Henderson, Nevada to be closer to family. Bon voyage, Ruth . . . you will be missed!