



The Official Newsletter of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Fall 2013 | Volume 22 | Number 2



Special Tribute to Sun City's 'First Lady'

Friends remember museum's founder

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Fall Membership Meeting



Annual meeting shares insight into life and times of the Boswell Family. Page 2



Where It All Began

Museum expands exhibit depicting the Town of Marinette -- the cotton-farming town that existed prior to the opening of Sun City.

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On-The-Job Training



Museum guides learn by shadowing more seasoned veterans.

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Del Webb Sun Cities Museum slates fall meeting Nov. 6 at Heritage Palmeras

Sun City's hospital bears the name of Walter O. Boswell. Jim Boswell owned the land on which Sun City was built, and partnered with Del Webb in developing the new community. Yet, little more is known about the Boswell family.



Ed Allen is the author of "Sun City West Silver Celebration," the first detailed history ever written of Sun City West. Mr. Allen will be the guest speaker at the museum's annual meeting Nov. 6 in Sun City.

Few realize that Jim Boswell was the largest farmer in America, or that the Boswell Empire stretched from vast holdings in California to Arizona to Oregon to Colorado to the outback of Australia.

Ed Allen, from the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, will tell the story of the family, and of James Boswell II - a man who bent nature, government agencies, and politicians to his will -- yet never forgot his humble roots -- referring to himself as "just a cowboy."

Mr. Allen will present "The Boswell Connection" at the annual meeting of the Del Webb Sun



The WEBB Spinner
PHOENIX, ARIZONA, JUNE, 1959

Webb Co. Acquires 20,000-Acre Arizona Ranch

Property Is In Path Of Growth Pattern For City Of Phoenix

Purchase of the 20,000-acre Boswell ranches lying northwest and west of downtown Phoenix by the Del E. Webb Development Co., a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Del E. Webb Construction Co., has been announced by Executive Vice-Pres. L. C. Jacobson.

It probably was the largest financial exchange of agricultural property in Arizona history.

Various purchase prices paid to the J. G. Boswell Company for the 20,000 acres represented a total purchase price of more than \$20 million, according to J. R. Ashton, construction firm vice-president and member of Contractor Del Webb's associates in the transaction.

The big ranching spread - actually two large farms known as the Maricopa and Santa Fe and its smaller property -

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TOPPED OUT, multi-million dollar Union Bank Center being erected in Beverly Hills, Calif., by Del Webb crews reached maximum height of eight stories last month and was "topped out" with completion of steel framework and pouring of final concrete in superstructure.

Workmen 'Top Out' Union Bank Center

Webb workmen pushing toward late-fall completion of the multi-million dollar Union Bank Center in Beverly Hills, Calif., passed in their work last month to gather around a flagpole atop the building and hoist an American flag and the Union Bank's own banner.

That marked the "topping out" of the eight-story steel and concrete structure; completion of the steel superstructure and the final concrete pour stop the building.

Among some 50 invited guests.

(Continued on Page Three)

Excellent Safety Record In Construction On Atomic International Job Wins Award

Construction of office and laboratory facilities for Atomic International without a lost-time accident has brought the Del E. Webb Construction Co. its third safety award within a year.

A "Certificate of Merit" from Employers Mutual Insurance Co., of Swanton, Wis., has been presented to Webb officials in Los Angeles for the fine safety record achieved on the Atomic International project in the Santa Susana mountains of Southern California.

Over the life of the job, almost a year, Project Supt. Dale Kelley's crews worked without a lost-time injury despite hazardous and sometimes trying conditions.

Benjamin Kennell, Los Angeles manager of Employers Mutual, presented the "Certificate of Merit" plaque to Mr. Webb and Superintendent Kelley at Webb's west coast headquarters in Los Angeles.

It was another substantial boost in the Webb program of instilling upon

(Continued on Page Two)

A 1959 edition of the "Webb Spinner," an in-house newsletter published by the Del E. Webb Corporation, announced the company's purchase of land from the J.G. Boswell Company. The land would eventually be used for Sun City. Above, James Boswell, sitting on the left, and Del Webb, sitting on the right, sign the land-purchase agreement in May 1959.

Photos: Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

Cities Museum. The meeting will be held 1 p.m. Nov. 6 at the Heritage Palmeras, 10101 W. Palmeras Drive, Sun City, and include a special salute to Jane Freeman. Refreshments will be served.

Admission is free. Call (623) 974-2568 for information.

Museum expands Marinette exhibit

By P. Atwood Fenner

Visitors to the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum now walk first past images of the early community located on land, which was to become Sun City, as they enter the small 1960s model home at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive.

The Museum has just unveiled “Where It All Began - Marinette,” an expanded exhibit covering the years from 1895 to 1959. The new display, in the living room, was mounted after the museum closed for the summer in June.

The display, designed by Museum trustee Ed Allen, is divided into three time periods and is illustrated with old photos, many of which were provided by Amanda Durand, who grew up in Phoenix and Marinette and still lives in Sun City.

The last panel describes the area in which her parents ran the General Store, and many family photos add a personal touch to the displays. A grant from the Arizona Historical Society made the display possible.

Amanda (Mandy) visited the museum recently, a lithe-figured little lady dressed in red and wearing a red hat. She really seemed to enjoy the new exhibit which includes her 1947 wedding photo. Always eager to talk about the old days, she recounted much about her life here where John Durand, her early childhood friend, then her husband, managed cotton gin operations for “Jimmy” Boswell, who sold his fields to Del Webb. Mandy was charged with keeping track of the



Mandy Durand studies the last panel in the new Marinette exhibit on the living room wall in the Museum. She is pictured there with her husband John on their wedding day in 1947, and is the source for much of the material about the cotton town of Marinette where Sun City is now located.

locations from which the cotton being ginned had been harvested. She still has the charts she used for that work.

At one point after Sun City builders had been working on Phase II, she and John had planned to move to San Diego, but “Jimmy” couldn’t spare John who was setting up a new cotton gin. And in spite of the fact that both John and Mandy were too young to own a home here, “Jimmie” managed to arrange for the Durands to buy a home in Sun City. He would have loaned them money, but they had enough to pay cash for their home on Sarabande. This was only a few blocks from Mandy’s mother’s home on 111th Avenue near Grand Avenue.

And so the Durands never moved to San Diego, but after John’s retirement they did go there on vacation every year and rented a place near the ocean.

Mandy has been one of the main sources for the Museum’s materials on Marinette, and John drew the area map which is featured in the display. The late Jane Freeman, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society founder, first contacted her in 1976, when Mandy sold real estate and Jane was president of the Questers, who were trying to locate the early post offices in the area. Mandy still gives talks on the history of the area and contributed material to “Jubilee, the 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona.”



An official publication of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society © 2013 SCAHS 10801 W. Oakmont Drive Sun City, AZ 85351 (623) 974-2568 email: scahsm@gmail.com www.delwebbsuncities-museum.org

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



The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the preservation and presentation of the records and artifacts for Sun City, Arizona, (the world's first Active Adult Retirement Community), and its sister city, Sun City West. The Society's headquarters are located in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, in one of the five original Sun City model homes.

Museum Hours: 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday Or by appointment Office Manager: Julie Glass

Board of Trustees

Edward Cirillo President Don Tuffs Vice President Norm Dickson Treasurer Bill Pearson Past President

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Newsletter Editor:

Bret McKeand

Contributors:

Edson Allen, Priscilla Fenner. Barbara Brozman Layout and composition courtesy of the Sun City Independent

Message from the President

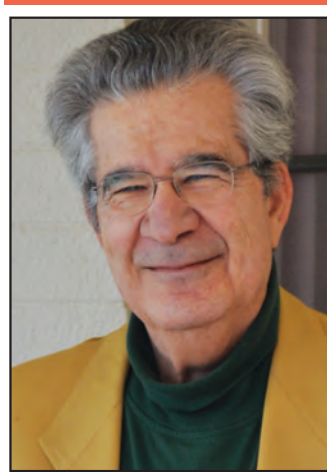
State of Arizona grants historical status to museum

As we approach the holiday season, let me thank you for your support.

We have received historical recognition from the State of Arizona and hope to receive the same from the federal government soon.

We continue to pursue grants to help us in our work and have had good success.

Our office manager, Julie Glass, continues to



Ed Cirillo 2013 President Del Webb Sun Cities Museum

be a "Jane of all trades."

In the coming months we will launch both membership and fund-raising drives. Your support of these efforts would be greatly appreciated.

I would be remiss not to mention our society's great loss this year of Jane Freeman. Jane was our founder, diligent worker, mastermind and soul. May she rest in God's Peace.

Note to members: Use the form on Page 5 to submit your 2014 annual membership dues. Please submit your membership renewal by Dec. 31, 2013. Please call Office Manager Julie Glass if you have questions.



Open for business. The museum has returned to its fall and winter hours -- 1-4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Tours are also available by appointment.



Unlock the _____ Mystery _____ of History

The past comes to life at the only museum in the nation devoted to the world's very first active adult retirement communities! Located in the first of five model homes built in Sun City, the museum offers a living tribute to the history of Sun City and Sun City West, and to the enduring spirit of those who pioneered an exciting new lifestyle!

Become a Member!

Show your support for the museum and its efforts to preserve our community's unique heritage!

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Make checks payable to Sun Cities Area Historical Society, and mail to 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351. SCAHS is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization.

Special introductory offer

Join at the Gold Level (\$100) and receive a FREE copy of "Sun City: Images of America" photographic history book. (Limited offer; while supplies last.)



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10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, Arizona
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This advertisement made possible in part due to a generous gift from Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
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Thank You to our Members!

Our thanks to everyone who has supported the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. The following is a list of our 2013 membership. If your name was inadvertently omitted, please let us know.

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Betty Shults

Don Tuffs

David Verble

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Thank You to our Members!

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See information,
Page 5

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we play here
we work here
we volunteer here
and
we help people buy
and sell their homes here



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Jane Freeman, one of the founding members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, noted historian and the driving force behind the purchase of the home that now houses the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum -- and the creation of the museum itself -- passed away May 17. The museum will honor Jane at its annual meeting Nov. 6 at the Heritage Palmeras in Sun City.

A salute to Sun City's First Lady

Friends, co-workers share memories of Jane Freeman

Throughout Sun City's 53-year history, there have been many who have gone above and beyond the call of duty when it came time to giving back to the community.

There have been few, if any, whose contributions will ever equal those made by Jane Freeman.

Referred to by many as "The First Lady of Sun City," Jane Freeman passed away May 17 in Sun City.

As one of the founders of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society -- operators of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum -- Jane was one of the first to appreciate the role Sun City played in changing the way Americans viewed retirement. Pre-

serving Sun City's history became an obsession for Jane, and thanks to her efforts, the community's past is well preserved for future generations.

The SCAHS will pay tribute to Ms. Freeman at its annual meeting planned for 1 p.m. Nov. 6 at the Heritage Palmeras, 10101 W. Palmeras Drive, Sun City.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Other than a room named in her honor at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, there are few monuments that recognize her contribution to

Sun City. Yet, her work, her passion and her love for Sun City can be seen and felt throughout the entire community.

Jane moved to Sun City in 1970 and quickly embraced the lifestyle -- and volunteer spirit -- that was already prevalent in Del Webb's "experiment" of a community. Few knew at the time that Jane would not only perpetuate that spirit, but take it to a level few would ever match.

One of the first to recognize the significance of Sun City's title as the nation's first active adult retirement community, in 1985 Jane spearheaded the first in-depth history of the community. The result was "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary

**By Bret McKeand
and P. Atwood Fenner**



As the community's most noted historian, Jane was often called upon to emcee popular community events, such as the annual Ring the Bell Ceremony held on the Fourth of July (opposite page). The museum's sales theater is dedicated to Jane (above). She is also listed on a plaque honoring the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's founding members (right).



of Sun City,” a book co-written by Glenn Sanberg and released in time for the community’s silver anniversary celebration. The book is still popular among history buffs and a popular item at the museum.

Jane earned the title of “Dumper Diving Diva” around this same time when she climbed into a large trash bin to rescue old Sun City photographs, brochures and other memorabilia discarded by the Del Webb Development Company after it closed its Sun City office and shifted its focus on the newly created community of Sun City West.

Jane’s efforts saved over 3,000 historic photographs dating back to the very beginning of Sun City. Those photographs and archives served as the foundation for the beginning of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, an organization Jane helped create and operate.

Those photographs today are housed in the Del Webb Sun Cities

Museum, which is located in one of the very first model homes ever constructed in Sun City. The home became available in 1989, and it was Jane who convinced James Boswell II -- Del Webb’s early partner in the development of Sun City -- to donate the \$50,000 needed for the society to purchase the house.

During the SCAHS’s annual meeting, friends and fellow residents will share their recollections and memories of working with Ms. Freeman.

A Del Webb Sun Cities Museum volunteer in the early 2000s and again volunteering in the office, **Barbara Brozman** fondly remembers Jane when the two were working alone on several occasions. From time to time, while working on a project on the conference table, Jane would bring in two cups of Tully’s coffee from Fry’s, just down the street. Then she would

set down a bag with two pastries in it.

“Help yourself,” said Jane, and Barb would be embarrassed that Jane had paid for all of this.

“I didn’t pay for the pastries.”

“You stole the pastries,” Barb gasped.

“Heavens no. I merely borrowed the pastries,” she replied.

“You ‘borrowed’ the pastries from Tully’s?” Barb squeaked.

“No, no, no, I borrowed the pastries from the Heritage Palermas where I live. They put out a tray of pastries in the dining room after breakfast and let us help ourselves, and I helped myself to two pastries – one for you and one for me.”

Barb says this happened several times, and she always thought “it was very kind and considerate of Jane to remember my sweet tooth.”

Mary Ellen Danley remembers when Jane volunteered during book

sales at the Library. Jane had been on the Sun City Library Board, and when Mary Ellen asked her to go on the board again, Jane hesitated. "But she finally made a deal to work again, if I would be on the museum board," says Mary Ellen.

"She was such a bright, smart lady," she added. "Once, while working at the reference desk, I needed the translation for a Latin quotation but couldn't find it. Finally, I asked a group of people in the work room, and Jane knew the quotation off the top of her head."

Amanda Durand, a Sun City resident, who had lived in the community of Marinette which preceded Sun City, was contacted in 1976 by Jane after Amanda had been featured in a news story about the first talk she had given about Marinette.

Amanda remembers Jane as a "really hard working lady," because she worked with her and Glenn Sanberg on the Marinette chapter of "Jubilee, the 25th Anniversary of Sun City."

"So much material had been gathered for that history book, and for awhile Jane had to store it under her bed," she recalls.

Marcia Case, a longtime Museum docent, misses Jane because she was always typing away and processing new materials when Marcia was at the Museum. Sometimes the docents helped her with a project.

"Jane was there rain or shine. The Museum was her baby! She was incredible - nice and helpful, never grumpy, and a delight to be around. If you had a question, boy, could she answer it!" she said.



Jane and former Del Webb Sun Cities Museum President Bill Pearson prepare to take part in the Sun City 50th Anniversary Parade in 2010.

Pris Fenner, board member and guide, remembers when Jane "twisted her arm years ago" to join the community board at Boswell Hospital. And later she joined the museum just in time to be considered a charter member, because of Jane's enthusiasm.

"She was really thoughtful as well as persuasive," said Pris, recalling that Jane had given her a wedding present even though the event was out of town and only for family and a few friends.

"Even after Jane left the museum, we would take materials over to her. One summer she searched through all the Webb Spinners, the Del E. Webb Corp. newsletters, and made lists of the company's construction projects. This information is now incorporated in a large U.S. map showing where these projects were. And Museum visitors can search a printed directory by state to find these projects also. All this work was done after

she had retired from daily service to her museum." says Pris.

Bret McKeand, president of Independent Newspapers, recalls first meeting Jane in the mid-1980s while he was editor of the Sun Cities Independent newspaper.

"We used to conduct a holiday lights contest every year and give out prizes to the best-decorated homes. Jane always enjoyed helping us judge that contest," recalls Bret.

"Each year in December, we would pick a night and just drive around Sun City to look at all the entries and select a few winners.

"During those drives she would point out all the historical landmarks, and share interesting tidbits about Sun City -- when this home was built or when that shopping center opened. Just little things that I found fascinating," recalls Bret.

"I learned a lot about Sun City during those trips, and I certainly learned it from the Master. Jane and I remained close friends from that point on, but I'll always treasure those drives."

Bret also recalls another interesting moment with Jane -- when the two of them drove out to the middle of a desert in Surprise to be on hand for the Del Webb Company's latest announcement: The birth of Sun City Grand.

The event was not open to the public -- media only -- so Bret invited Jane along as his photographer.

"Honestly, we both looked at each other and were sort of awestruck. We thought the Webb Company may have over-reached on this one. We really didn't think anyone would buy a home this far



Photos by Bret McKeand/Independent Newspapers
Jane, far left, was one of four community leaders to be honored during a special awards ceremony at the Sun Bowl in 1990 to celebrate Sun City's 30th anniversary.



Jane and former Del Webb Sun Cities Museum President Bill Pearson celebrating Del E. Webb's 100th birthday in May 2010.

out in the Phoenix desert.

"OK, we were wrong on that one!"

Bret recalls Webb officials handing him a special commemorative tool kit bearing, for the first time ever, the Sun City Grand logo (it was the first time they had announced the name of the community).

"I gave that tool kit to Jane thinking it might be something she'll want for historical purposes. Knowing Jane, she filed it away properly and it is sitting somewhere in a drawer or file cabinet at the museum!"

Bill Pearson, former Museum Board President, reminisced about the Sun Cities Area Historical Society founder by reminding us that Jane was a "wee tiny little thing, at least in stature."

"I, on the other hand am stout, known to be abrasive to a fault and willing to get into it with almost anyone," said Bill.

He adds that his fondest memory of Jane is just how "darned intimidated" he was by her mere presence.

"No matter how comfortable I was hanging around the museum, when she walked through those back doors I near on trembled." He added that she was never mean, but that he just knew what she expected when handling pictures, filing or working around her museum.

"She was fussy and meticulous,



while I was... well, a guy who could barely get those goofy rubber gloves on my hands.

"All this is said with nothing but love for the little lady who helped us all be better for having known her," he adds.



January 1960

Residents recall attending Sun City's opening day event

By Barbara Brozman,
Museum volunteer

"The place was packed! I think everyone in the Valley wanted to see it! We didn't know just what to expect. It was all so exciting!"

That's how Sun City resident Ethel Stack recalls Sun City's Opening Weekend, Jan. 1-3, 1960.

"I don't remember exactly which day of the weekend we were here, but it was a pleasant day," she added.

She says she and her husband Frank visited three model homes and they were all "so cute and efficient." And she added they were "simple and lovely, just right for retirees who were downsizing."

"The Community Center (now Oakmont) was open, and there was a nice little restaurant (The Coffee Brake, later The Kings' Inn Restaurant), which we used a lot when we finally moved here," she added.

Moving time finally came around 1993 when Ethel retired from a CPA firm in Glendale. Her husband Frank was already a retired Senior Master Sergeant in the Air Force. He had been a radio gunner in B-24s in World War II and had retired from his second profession as a teacher.

Frank knew exactly where he wanted to move – Sun City.

"Del Webb had allowed active and retired military to use Sun City golf courses, so I had golfed at the



Ethel and Frank Stack are longtime residents of Sun City, who were at its opening weekend in January, 1960, and who now call The Carillons home.

North Golf Course, and have, since moving to Sun City, golfed at all its courses," boasted the once-avid golfer.

Ethel, on the other hand, wasn't so keen about living in Sun City at first.

"I didn't want to be around all those old people," she confessed. Frank persisted, and the couple moved to Thunderbird Boulevard. Ethel soon got into water aerobics and line dancing and changed her mind about Sun City Life.

Now that Ethel is a "young" 91 and Frank an "even younger" 89, the couple has moved to the Carillons, where they can't stop singing enough praises about their apartment, the residents and employees. They've been married 68 years.

"We've led a blessed life. We've traveled all over, and now we're very happy to be living right where we are – in Sun City," Ethel reflects.

Editor's note: The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum has never found anyone who recognizes a relative in the photo taken on Jan. 1, 1960, which has become the signature photo for Sun City since the 50th Anniversary three years ago. Recently however, Guide Carol Dearen was conducting a group of Carillons' residents through the Museum, and their trip leader, Cindy Grace, commented that two residents (not present) had been here during Sun City's opening weekend. The above story is the result of that remark.



Welcome to Sunshine Service

People, meeting needs of people is what Sunshine Service is all about. Sunshine Service lends medical and children's equipment to residents of Sun City and we have been doing so for over **51** years. We are a non-profit Arizona corporation and are funded by voluntary contributions and memorial gifts.

While the equipment is available for the use of all residents or visitors staying with residents, the equipment must not be taken out of Sun City on a permanent basis. As a matter of control, equipment is loaned only to Sun City residents.

Records show that as the population of Sun City grew. So did use of our medical equipment. Savings for Sun City residents have been calculated periodically; in **2012**, it was estimated that residents saved over two million dollars in cost of equipment for that year alone.

Sunshine Service, Inc has received local, state and national recognition. Awards received include the George Washington Honor Medal for services to the sick and handicapped from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge in Pennsylvania

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New guides train by shadowing seasoned ones

By P. Atwood Fenner

Gail Warmath, the Museum's new Volunteer Coordinator, is busy these days training a few new guides.

"The training mostly involves shadowing a seasoned guide. Newcomers will always be paired with another who knows the ropes for the first few months," says Gail.

On a recent Monday, Gail was training Marion West and Hoppi Lilien. They shadowed her as she welcomed guests and gave brief information about the new Marinette exhibit, the opening days in Sun City, The Del Webb, Sun City Sports and Sun City West exhibits, each in its own room.

And then the two newcomers joined the visitors for a showing of the short film distributed by the Del E. Webb Corp. to TV stations all over the country in the 1960s.

Gail brings years of experience as a volunteer at the Sun City Library to her new volunteer position at the Museum, where she still is a docent and now also serves as a Trustee. And she has a background as a social worker.

Marion West moved to Sun City in 1987 and remembers being a guest before that at the King's Inn. During that visit she was tempted and picked a luscious orange hanging on a tree on the motel grounds.

"It was awful – so sour!" she laughed, admitting that she didn't know then about sour oranges, which are used mainly to make marmalade. She has had volunteer experience at an early Interfaith Services Day Care Center and also at Boswell Hospital. In both volunteer situations she says that she really likes people, and that kept her motivated. She remem-



bers how much fun it was to go the games when Sun City had a ball park at 111th and Grand Avenues.

The other new volunteer, **Hoppi Lilien**, has lived in Sun City less than a year. She also is a "people person" and once owned her own restaurant. She meets people easily (some of them in the new dog park at Thunderbird Road and Del Webb Boulevard) and likes to help them with their extraordinary needs – finding a mover or matching a playwright with someone with editing skills, for examples.

One of the interesting highlights of Gail's years as a Museum Guide came this summer when she conducted a private tour for a small group of mixed-ages Chinese people through the museum. She was surprised at the nature of their questions, which she answered through an interpreter.

"They wanted to know who owned things like our hospital, the businesses, utility companies and so on," she says.

When asked what is the most difficult aspect of her guiding, she admits it upsets her if she gets a question that she cannot answer. She had had a background answering reference questions and loves history, and when she is stumped she always tells the person, she will ask someone else and get back to them.

Gail admits the Museum is a "fascinating place to work because so many neat people come through it."

And sometimes life goes in circles. Many years ago while working for Interfaith Services, she found a home for an 82-year old African American. And while she was doing this, he told her that he had once worked for the Boswells, picking cotton in Marinette.

"Marinette, what's that?" she asked.

Today she answers the questions about Marinette as visitors first enter the Museum.

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