



Spring 2003

Volume 26

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Don Tuffs Speaks April 9 at Annual Spring Meeting

Don Tuffs will take center stage as the Sun Cities Area Historical Society holds its Annual Spring Meeting on Wednesday April 9, 1 pm at the Community Services Building in Sun City West.

Tuffs is a former Vice President of Public Affairs and Community Relations at DEVCO (Del E. Webb Development Company). He also was Manager of the Sundome and in that capacity made arrangements for many of the celebrities playing there over the years. He plans to take his listeners on a “behind the scenes” adventure and enlighten them on everything they wanted to know about the Sundome.

Several of Sun City West’s early residents, members of the Pioneers of Sun City West Club, will be on hand to recall their first days in the community and some of their more memorable adventures as “pioneers”.

Many of the Society’s historical books will be on sale including *Jubilee; Del Webb A Man, A Company; Along the Old Vulture Road* and *SUN CITY WEST Silver Celebration The First Twenty-five Years*, the newly-published book sponsored by the Society.

Join us in the Quail Room at 1pm for light refreshments, fond reminiscing and for what promises to be a most memorable Annual Spring Meeting.

Reservations would be appreciated. Please

call 623/974-2568 or 623/584-0323.

Ice Cream Social Fetes Early SCW Leaders

As part of Sun City West’s 25th anniversary celebration, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and The Madison are hosting an opportunity for today’s residents to meet the early community leaders, the ones who shaped today’s Sun City West.

At an ice cream social at The Madison on Wednesday, March 26 from 1-3pm, these early leaders will be presented and their contributions acknowledged. **Joan Barnett**, founder of the Sun City West PRIDES will be there, as will **Neal Coffman**, third Commander of the Sun City West Posse and one of the early Posse members. **Bob Williams**, a member of the first Advisory Board (today’s Governing Board), is coming, too, and this ice cream social will be your opportunity to meet **R.H. Johnson**, former President of the Del Webb Corporation, current President of the Del E. Webb Foundation in Wickenburg and the man R.H. Johnson Boulevard is named after.

The Madison is located at 18626 Spanish Garden Drive in Sun City West. The Social is open to the public. Information: 623/974-2568.

10801 Oakmont Dr.—Sun City, AZ—85351

Open Hours—1:30 to 3:30 pm Tuesday—Wednesday—Thursday—Friday
623/ 974-2568 Email: SCareaHistSoc@juno.com

- Jane Freeman
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Message from the President

As the East is digging out from under not inches but feet of snow, we have been enjoying balmy weather and yes, even rain!

The big event of the year is Sun City West's 25th anniversary with its many events. The twenty-five years have been chronicled with the publication of *SUN CITY WEST Silver Celebration The First Twenty-five Years*, edited by Ed Allen, one of our Board members, and sponsored by the Society. It's a must read for everyone and will become an important addition to our archives.

Speaking of archives, we are constantly on the lookout for items of historical significance as related to the Sun Cities. Our motto, "Today is tomorrow's history", speaks volumes. If we don't capture these items now, they are lost forever. Yesterday will never come again.

Anyone having early photographs, memorabilia, etc., do contact us to see if such will fit into our archives.

On a more recent note, over 222 people visited us at our February 22 Open House. How about that! 2/22/222! We hope for an equally fine attendance at our two upcoming events in Sun City West— our March 26 Madison House Ice Cream Social and our April 9 Annual Spring Meeting.

Do come visit us at the Society Tuesday through Friday, from 1:30-3:30pm. Better yet, be a volunteer!

Jane Freeman
President, Board of Trustees

Are You An Active Member?

Are you an active member,
the kind who would be missed?
Or are you just contented that
your NAME is on the list?

Do you take an active part
to help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be
the kind who just belongs?

Do come visit us often:
help with hand and heart.
Don't just be a member- - -
but take an active part.

Anonymous

Barbara Brozman
Phyllis Street
Editors

SCW 25th Anniversary Events Continue

- April 6 1-3 pm Churches Open House
 3-5 pm Free Ice Cream Social in Beardsley Park for all residents.
 Sun City West History books available for sale at this event.
- May 3 Reception for Posse and PRIDES, 2-4 pm Palm Ridge Recreation Center
- May 10 Silver Celebration Golf Tournament, Pebblebrook
- May 15 High Tea 2-4 pm Briarwood Country Club at a cost of \$30 per person.
- June 2 Kiva West National Championship Bridge Tournament, 12:15 pm Beardsley Recreation Center.
- June 28 Bowling tournament, 1 pm, Johnson Lanes.
- Sept. 20 Silver Celebration Stardust Revue, 10 am-4 pm.
- Oct. 25 Grand finale with a parade and bands, dignitaries and a decorated golf-car parade, 10 am.
- Oct. 25 Lawrence Welk Personalities and drawing for Holland America cruise and Bromm Buick LeSabre, 3 pm.
- Nov. 13-15 “Celebration” Variety Show at the Sundome.

Speakers Bureau Speaks Out

Once again members of our Speakers Bureau have been out and about telling the stories of the Sun Cities. In February Board members Jane Freeman and Ed Allen shared their knowledge with receptive groups in their own unique ways.

Ed Allen used a quiz on Sun City West history to pique the curiosity of his listeners and get them involved when he gave his presentations. Ed, editor of the new Sun City West history book, gave presentations on the history of Sun City West to the Ken Meade sales personnel and to the residents at the Grandview Terrace and Heritage Traditions. At the latter two presentations, some of the Sun City West pioneers or early residents were present, adding to the lively discussions.

Jane Freeman gave the “grand tour” of the Society to the SPIN OFFS, A Sun City women’s social club, when they visited the facility on February 25. Jane likes to take her listeners back to the early days and early starts of Sun City as she explains the exhibits at the Society, which is located in the first model home built by Del Webb.

Our speakers are available for your club, church group or organization on request. For more information, please call the Society at 623/974-2568.

*In Memory
Of
Albert Tudor
1918-2003
Longtime Board Member
Faithful Host
Sun Cities Area Historical Society
Author of Along the Old Vulture Road
And other publications*



*In Memory
Of
Glenn Sanberg
1918-2003
Co-Author of Jubilee
The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona
Writer of "Retired in Style"
Column published in Daily News-Sun
A Founder of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society*

*The Spring, 2003 issue marks the debut of this new column for our newsletter. The column, appearing in every issue, will focus on some aspect of Sun City / Sun City West history and will be written by a guest columnist. This issue's guest columnist, **Phyllis Street**, reveals to us the whereabouts of an easily overlooked historic site right here in Sun City.*

Where, oh where has Marinette gone?

Have you heard of Marinette and wondered why the Recreation Center on Union Hills and 99th was given that name? If you really want to know, you can answer your questions by taking a slow drive going north from Coggins on 105th Ave. toward Grand Ave. On your right is the West Valley Christian Fellowship Community Church. Between the oleander bushes along 105th Ave. you will see a large rock marker with an impressive bronze plaque. Dedicated by the Arizona Questers in 1985, this plaque commemorates the site of the town of Marinette, founded by R. P. Davie from Marinette, Wisconsin.

Mr. Davie had a large acreage extending from New River to the Aqua Fria River. He invested heavily in trying to raise sugar beets. The soil was not productive for beets and he sold out to the Southwest Cotton Company, a subsidiary of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Litchfield Park. Cotton became the main crop and lots of laborers were needed to pick the cotton. Marinette became a lively little town including farmers and business people. It had its official Post Office in 1912, the year Arizona became a State.

By 1936, when cotton was no longer needed for tires, the J. G. Boswell Company bought the acreage, brought in machinery to pick the cotton, and with fewer laborers needed to harvest the cotton, the town slowly dwindled in population. Subsequently Boswell sold to the Del Webb Corporation and in **January, 1960 Marinette became Sun City**. At the Sun Cities Area Historical Society you can see aerial views of what was left of Marinette when Sun City opened on January 1, 1960. And in the oleander bushes along 105th, you can see the commemorative bronze plaque on the marker.

So you don't need to travel to Philadelphia or Washington D.C. or even around the world to see an historic site. You can see an important one right here in Sun City, Arizona.



Del Webb Logo Pin Researched

Our Board member, Ruth Morton, did further research on the Del Webb Logo Pin we recently acquired. She was informed by Jerry Svendsen that he has a pin, given him by Del Webb Corp. for a certain number of years of faithful employment. Other former employees reported the same information, adding that men were awarded the tie pin and women received a necklace.



Stuart Weinland, who donated the tie pin, reported that his father had never been an employee for Del Webb. "When he moved to Sun City he really retired." His father had never explained from whom he had received the pin.

MEMBERSHIP

Thanks for Renewing

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.

If you have not yet sent in your renewal, please send it today to the address below. It is the best way to keep your name on our membership roster!

Remember, members are welcome at all Board of Trustees meetings.

NEW MEMBERS

Dorothy Balaker

Walter & Marcia Jorgensen

**YOUR NAME
WOULD LOOK
NICE HERE**

**GET A FRIEND INVOLVED
BE A VOLUNTEER**

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10801 Oakmont Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351