



Spring 2006

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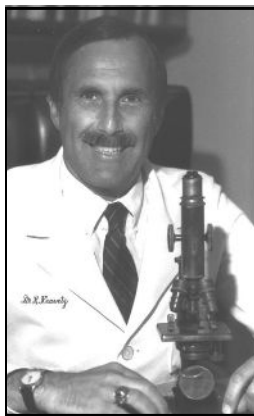
## SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### **"ARIZONA TERRITORIAL MEDICINE — HEALERS, HUCKSTERS, & HEROES"**

**1:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, 2006**

**Willowbrook United Methodist Church, Sun City**

Learn what it was like to receive medical treatment in the days of the Arizona Territory between the Civil War and statehood in 1912. Hear how pioneer doctors resorted to everything from amputation to leeches to natural plants utilized by Native Americans.



Dr. Robert E. Kravetz, retired medical doctor, educator, and nationally recognized medical historian, will trace the development of medical practices using slides and showing antique medical tools. He will cover the leading diseases of the time, the best medical care available, and how a bullet commonly substituted for anesthesia.

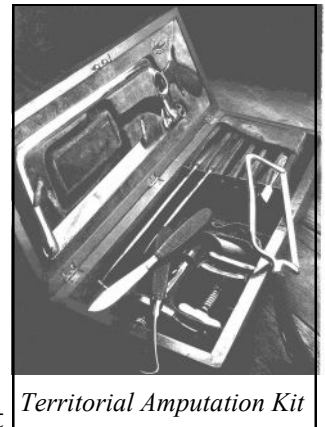
We'll also be introduced to the hucksters and their patent medicines, and the impact Arizona's climate had on bringing people to the southwest.

Dr. Kravetz has authored three books on Arizona medical history. His collection of early medical instruments has been the basis for a major exhibit at the Arizona Hall of Flame Museum in Phoenix. He has spoken statewide,

been interviewed on TV, and has appeared in several PBS specials.

Dr. Kravetz has twice been honored by the Maricopa Medical Society for his role in the preservation and recording of our state's medical history.

The program will be held at **Willowbrook United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 99th and Saddle Ridge, Sun City** (2 blocks north of Union Hills). Admission is free to the public, and light refreshments will be served.



*Territorial Amputation Kit*

*This program is being made possible by a grant from the Arizona Humanities Council.*

Arizona  
Humanities  
Council

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

Web site: www.scazhistory.org

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

## Message from the President

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### Model Home Fun!

Each time I visit the Historical Society I'm reminded that this was one of the original five Sun City model homes introduced in 1960. As the years progressed, newer model homes were built in other locations throughout the community.

1962 brought the two-story Fairview cooperative apartments. In 1966, the innovative Mediterranean Villas were built near 107th and Peoria in an enclave of their own called Villa del Sol. The room on the second floor was designed for the man of the house — a place of his own in lieu of an office.

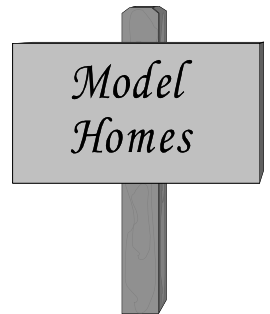
We started bringing our family to Sun City to visit my parents who moved here in 1975. Each time we came, a visit to the model homes was a part of mother's "to do" list. We always enjoyed seeing the latest architectural designs, along with the southwestern furnishings.

We have a small photo of my ten-year old son behind the wheel of a golf cart that was furnished at one of the model home sites. The carts made it easy to go from house to house, and were extremely popular with the younger set. Maybe that's why they were discontinued by the time we returned the next year.

Did you know that the first Sun City West model homes were in Sun City? The latter community was approaching sellout, and there was strong interest in the new community, but it was nothing more than a large construction site. The first buyers selected from the Heritage models located at 104th Avenue and Wheatridge Drive.

Sun City West's new Encore models opened in December of 1978, and were followed by new models every three to four years. Nearly all of them were built along Crown Ridge and Star Ridge drives on the north side of the Hillcrest Golf Course. It's a fun route to bike, walk, or drive — and a trip down memory lane.

If the models could talk, what stories they'd have to tell! Fortunately, one "model" is still open for view — your Historical Society headquarters at 10801 Oakmont Drive. Come visit us!



Edson Allen  
President, Board of Trustees

### Special Thanks to . . .



We extend our sincere appreciation to **Ken Meade Realty** for their generous support of the Society in underwriting the cost of this newsletter.

## Apple Leather Draws a Crowd!

Publicity for the January 19 general meeting on Lewis & Clark promised attendees a taste from that time, as well as a recounting of the Corps of Discovery's epic journey. Apple Leather could have been among the provisions, as it was easy to carry and lasted a long time without spoiling.

What does it taste like? To begin with, it looks just like leather — medium-brown in color, flat, and supple. Cut into small pieces, you either chewed it vigorously like beef jerky, or let it slowly dissolve on your tongue. The taste was definitely apple, as that was the only ingredient.

Ed Allen, Society president, took us on a “voyage of discovery” as we followed Lewis & Clark, plus 30 men and a young, Indian woman and her baby across the northern U.S. to the Pacific Ocean — and back. The expedition covered more than 8,000 miles and lasted 2 1/2 years. Amazingly, despite near starvation, illness, and hostile Indians, only one member of the expedition died, and that was probably due to a burst appendix.

2006 marks the final year in our nations' celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Lewis & Clark expedition — one of the all-time great American adventure stories.

*Refreshments at this event were provided by Bashas' and Fry's supermarkets.  
We appreciate the support of these local businesses.*



*While sheets of Apple Leather looked like hides of small animals, attendees were eager to try a taste, and found it delicious! Copies of the recipe were available for those who wanted to try making it.*



A drawing was held for a copy of the book about the visionary behind the Sun Cities: Del Webb. Society President **Ed Allen** presents the book to winner **Evelyn Gundlach**. Trustees **Jo Ruck** and **Jane Freeman** assisted with the draw-

*Want to make Apple Leather? See the recipe on Page 5.*

Driving through the Sun Cities, we pass buildings and houses that have stories to tell about the past. Beginning with this issue, we plan to send you on a search for little known facts about the past — and offer prizes to the first person with the correct answers. In this issue, we'll address two subjects:

- 1) *At one time, Sun City had a movie theater. What was its name, where was it located, and in what year did it cease operation?*
- 2) *What is the name of the largest model home ever offered in Sun City West, what was its base selling price, and how many of that model were built?*

One way to find the answers is to visit the Historical Society, where the questions and answers will be displayed. You'll have to search for them, but they'll be out in the open.

Be the first to call the Society at 623-974-2568 with the correct answer to one or both of these questions and you will win a set of 26 "Memories of the Sun Cities."

You can call at any time of the day as the answering machine provides a time and date for all calls. Good luck!

### When is a City Not a "City"?

The term "city" is generally associated with a large municipality (or a village or town that hopes to be large), which holds a limited self-government charter of some form from a state or national government. It is an established process that traces its history to at least the time of the Roman Empire.

Sun City and Sun City West, despite inclusion of "City" in their names, do not have a Charter or Articles of Incorporation which provides a foundation for governance. Consequently, neither of these communities is a city in the usual sense of the word. They are, instead, non-incorporated communities located in Maricopa County. They are sometimes described as county islands surrounded by the sea of incorporated communities that make up the Phoenix Metropolitan Area.

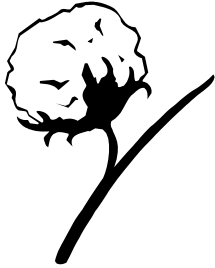
As a county island, neither Sun City or Sun City West has a mayor or elected council, nor departments characteristic of an actual city, and do not levy municipal taxes. Governmental services, such as police protection and street maintenance, are provided by departments of Maricopa County. Fire protection and certain other needs are met through special districts organized under state law. These special tax districts are listed on the home owners' annual tax statement.

So then, how did the original Sun City become a "City" with an international reputation? In 1959, the Webb Corp. hired the Reuben Donnelly Co. of Chicago to conduct a nationwide contest to name the new community. Less than a month before it was to open, the entries were being reviewed by Donnelly representatives and Webb executives. Del Webb walked in, examined some of the names and said, "That's it!" much to the exasperation of the Donnelly people who hadn't finished their presentation.

Since its introduction in January 1960, "Sun City" has become a hallmark of the finest adult communities nationwide, and an extremely valuable trademark for the Webb organization.

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

## HOW COTTON IS GROWN AND HARVESTED



After cotton has been harvested in the fall, the stalks are cut down and plowed back into the soil. In the spring, the land is plowed again and the soil broken up and formed into rows.

Seeding is done with mechanical planters that cover as many as 10 to 12 rows at a time. The planter opens a small trench or furrow in each row, drops in the right amount of seeds, covers them, and packs the earth on top of them. During the growing season, cultivators are used to uproot weeds and grass.

About two months after planting, flower buds called squares appear on the plants. In another three weeks, the blossoms open. The petals then change from creamy white to yellow, pink, and finally dark red. After three days, they wither and fall, leaving green pods which are called cotton bolls.

Inside the boll, which is shaped like a tiny football, moist fibers grow and push out from the newly formed seeds. As the boll ripens, it turns brown. The fibers continue to expand under the hot sun. Finally, they split the boll apart and the fluffy cotton bursts forth. It looks like white cotton candy.

The crop is harvested by cotton stripping machines, which use rollers equipped with alternating bats and brushes to knock open the bolls from the plants into the conveyors. Air is used to convey and elevate the seed cotton into a storage bin referred to as a basket. Once the basket is full, the stored cotton seed is dumped into a boll buggy or trailer.

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

### Recipes



### APPLE LEATHER

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Peel, core, and cut up apples of your choice into a saucepan. Cover halfway with water. Heat and then mash the apples when they are soft. Keep mixture simmering to drive off excess moisture. When thickened, spread on a cookie sheet and set in the sun. Allow three days for it to dry. When dried, peel it off the sheet. Roll it up, or cut it up with a scissors.

*Such was the advice of many experts that the Webb organization consulted prior to launching Sun City. “Oldsters will never leave their families,” and “More will die than will move in,” were frequent criticisms of the adult community concept. A resident of Sun City contributed the following account of her conversion from doubt to delight . . .*

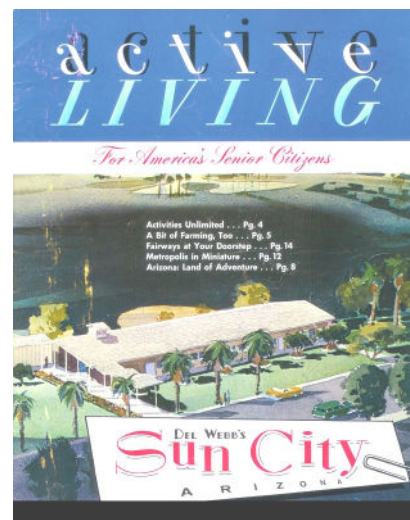
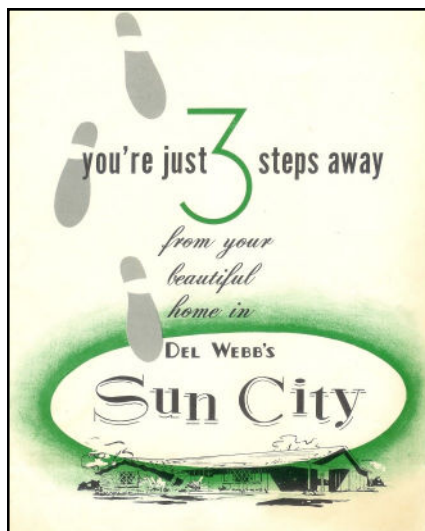
Vera Bradshaw Fisher and her husband were travel writers for BETTER HOMES & GARDENS. Del Webb invited them to visit the new Sun City in hopes they would write an article about it. Vera and her husband usually traveled to California in January to visit parents, and decided to stop on their way.

Webb arranged for them to stay at a motel in Phoenix, and to tour the new community. Vera recalls it being treeless, with the wind blowing and whipping sand through the air. The air was filled with the stench of manure. Still, there were many people about, and the banners flying along Oakmont Drive provided a festive air.

As Vera and her husband were leaving, Del Webb asked them how they liked the new community. She told him it would never go over. He was convinced it would, and even offered to sell them the last lot available at that time on the golf course. When they said they weren’t 55, Webb suggested they buy it for their parents. It would be a great gift, and an even better investment. They turned him down.

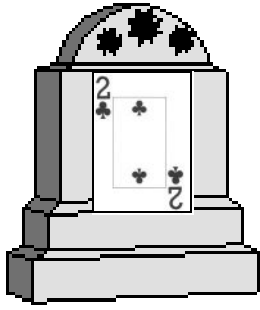
Years later, Vera’s husband died and she eventually remarried. As luck would have it, the man she married had a condo in Sun City! He insisted she visit — and she found a whole new story!

While going through her files of travels throughout the world, Vera recently found the brochures given to her by Del Webb back in 1960. She has donated them, including the ones pictured, to the Historical Society, and they add to our records of the earliest years.



*If you have brochures, souvenirs, or other memorabilia from the early days of Sun City or Sun City West, please consider giving them to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. That way, they can be preserved for future generations to study and enjoy!*

## What's in a Name?



Lots of chuckles and a generous serving of history — if it's for a town in Arizona. You likely have heard of *Show Low*, the White Mountains community whose name sprung from a gambling marathon in which a famous Indian scout named Corydon E. Cooley cut the deck for low in a high stakes game. The game had gone all night and to end it, he and cattleman Marion Clark agreed to one last cut. When Cooley showed the deuce of clubs, Clark proclaimed, "You *show low*, and you win." Today, the letterhead of the town is graced by an illustration of the famous winning card. Main street in the town is "Deuce of Clubs."

The violent mining town that earned the name *Tombstone* is the locale of the famed OK Corral. Located between Benson and Bisbee, the precise naming of the present tourist town came when a prospector named Ed Schieffelin started tramping the hills with a pickax, seeking riches. Friends warned him that the only thing he'd find would be his own *tombstone*. But instead of an Apache bullet, he found ledges of silver that eventually reached a \$37 million find, and left his fate for a name.

You might guess how the ghost town of *Two Guns* got its handle. The area between Flagstaff and Winslow has a bloody history. The town site was the scene of a nasty shootout between the Apache and Navajo tribes. No one knows which *two guns* left its name there but with massacres, gunfights, and train robberies, it earned the name many shots over.

In a happier vein is *Christmas*, Arizona. But the name did come from the rowdy copper days when a prospector, George B. Chittenden, was working to get a land claim between what is now Globe and Hayden. He received good news on Christmas evening, his birthday. He staked his claim and named it for the day.

*Burnt Ranch*, on a dirt road northeast of Prescott, has a logical name. Various altercations between Indians and whites led to the killing of an Indian chief. This was followed by an Indian raid and the burning of a cabin and corral. From then on, it was *Burnt Ranch*.

Arizona town-naming has run into modern times. Now a suburb on the northeast edge of Phoenix, its two developers, Tom Darlington and K.T. Palmer, bought a 400-acre tract and gave it a name that was sure to attract the retirees that helped make Phoenix the major city it is today — *Carefree*.

## Kitchen "Wish List"



Set of mixing bowls



Bread Box



Tea Kettle

*The Historical Society is looking for a few more items to help make our kitchen appear as it did in the 1960s. If you have these items, or others that can add to the authenticity of our kitchen, we'd love to hear from you.*

*Stop in at 10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City, or call us at 623-974-2568.*

## Annual Dues are Due

**MEMBERSHIP**

Our heartfelt thanks to you who have renewed your membership. Your support is greatly appreciated.

If you are asking yourself, "Did I or didn't I?," all you need to do is check the address label on this newsletter. Is there a RED DOT? Your answer is "Time to renew." Remember, your membership contribution is tax deductible.

If you are not a member, and have received a complimentary copy of this newsletter, won't you consider being a member? A membership form is enclosed; just fill out and return with your payment.



### *In Memoriam*

**Ruth Morton  
Ruth Skinner**

*A memorial contribution for Ruth Skinner  
has been given by  
Cactus Wren Quartz Chapter of Arizona Questers*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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BRUCE POSEY  
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### CONTRIBUTORS

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