



Spring 2008

Volume 17 No. 2

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Meet Sharlot Hall *As portrayed by Jody Drake*

1:00 PM, Friday, March 28
At Heritage Traditions in Sun City West
-- Meeting Sponsored by the Arizona Humanities Council --

Sharlot Hall was an unusual woman of the frontier. Her family moved to Arizona when she was 12, and she grew up on an isolated ranch. She had a knack for poetry and a keen interest in collecting stories of other pioneers. Her interest in history led to her being appointed Territory Historian in 1909. In 1927, Sharlot Hall moved her extensive collection of artifacts and documents into the Old Governor's Mansion and opened it as a museum. After her death in 1942, a historical society continued to build the museum complex in Prescott that bears her name.



Jody Drake's portrayal of Sharlot Hall has won her many awards over the past ten years. Jody was born and raised in Prescott Arizona, and history has always been her special interest. She formed the Blue Rose Theater Company and in 1994 began a partnership with the Sharlot Hall Museum. In the life of that partnership, Drake has researched, written, and brought to production, 22 of the 72 original history plays presented. She has performed as Sharlot Hall for Ex-Governor Jane Hull, Governor Janet Napolitano, and retired



Supreme Court Judge Sandra Day O'Connor among others. Jody has been nominated for the Governors art award six times and is honored to be one of ten 2007 Arizona Culture Keeper award winners.

Heritage Traditions in Sun City West has offered to host this March 28 meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. It is free and open to the public, and will begin at 1:00 PM. Heritage Traditions is located at **19303 New Tradition Road in Sun City West**. Visitor parking is limited but attendees may park on the street or use the Mercado Travel parking lot across the way.

Meeting sponsored by:



10801 Oakmont Dr.—Sun City, AZ—85351

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

Phone: (623) 974-2568

E-mail: 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

CELEBRATION – A MARK OF HISTORY

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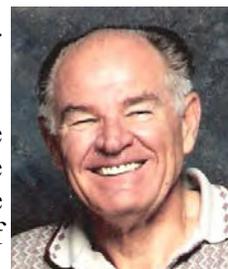
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I like to think of celebrations as a sort of delayed Newtonian reaction to a historical event.



Many centuries before Isaac Newton discovered the laws of motion, (i.e. for every action there is an opposite and equal reaction), mankind has responded to an innate impulse or desire to celebrate - generally because of some past or historical event, even in Biblical accounts.

Whether by example or by instinct is not the point of this article. Suffice it to say that we are people who love to celebrate! And how do we celebrate? We give or prepare a party! We invite our guests – family and friends or just anyone who wants to join us in a common purpose. Let’s see – birthdays, anniversaries, victories, (rarely defeats), Christmas, Hanukkah, Independence days, days of Memorial, ad infinitum, are all justification for some type of celebration. Let’s face it; a sizeable portion of the world’s economy depends on marketing of events to celebrate.

With that, we are rapidly moving into several periods that call for a special celebration. The State of Arizona is soon to acknowledge a centennial of statehood (2012). I am certain that will be a huge event.

Also, nearer to us is the mark of 50 years since the founding of Sun City in 1960 - the Del Webb development that has revolutionized the entire retirement living concept. Most of us were not even thinking about retirement when the Del Webb Corporation opened the door to “Active Retirement.” Once again we have the opportunity to look back to what makes this community so special. History is generally revealed in the 6 **W**’s – **Who**, **What**, **Where**, **When**, **Why**, and **Woh** (How backward). Much ado will be made over these factors as the plans to carry out the celebration unfold. This gives each of us an opportunity to participate in this monumental occasion and even help with the planning if so motivated. Several committees have been established to plan and implement these festivities. You may have just the touch needed to fill a vital role in the overall development of events that will mark this celebration.

Express your interest at: suncity50thanniversary@cox.net. Or you may attend a public meeting to be held at 2:00 PM, March 14th at the Lakeview Rec. Center, Social Halls 1 & 2. Meantime, the Historical Society will form an internal 50th Anniversary Committee and we will also participate in the overall planning by supporting the publication of an updated “Jubilee,” the book that recalled the first 25 years. Simultaneously, the 25th anniversary of this Historical Society will be acknowledged in 2011. There will be much to CELEBRATE! Don’t miss out on the fun. Join in.

Social activities have always been an important part of the Sun Cities lifestyle. Today, each community has well over 100-chartered clubs, plus state clubs, and service organizations. The question for you to be thinking about is:

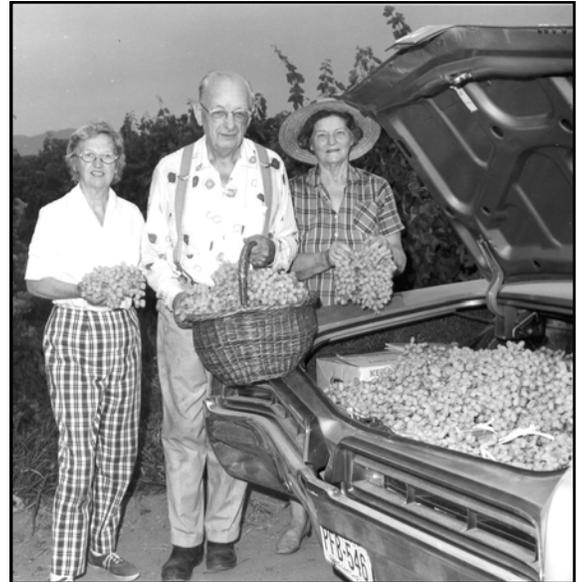
What were the first clubs formed in Sun City and in Sun City West?

The answers will appear in the summer newsletter.



Now, here are the answers to the questions asked in the last newsletter.

The first question asked where the Annual Grape Festival was held. From 1965 to 1981, the J. G. Boswell vineyards were opened in late July to Sun City residents, as well as to the early Sun City Westers. Residents were able to pick the ripe, tasty Thompson Seedless, Perlette, and Exotic Grapes at the Cactus Lane Ranch on Cotton Lane. Car-pooling was encouraged to reduce traffic into the area, but long lines of thousands of autos entered before daylight. All were guests of the Boswell family and DEVCO, which put their own employees into the fields to direct the picking and to provide refreshments. "It was like a grown-up Easter Egg hunt," said one picker as he watched men and women carrying buckets, sacks and cans as they searched the long lines of vines for the tasty grapes. 1981 marked the last year for this annual event.



The second question asked where the trap and skeet shooting facility was located. This was found at the Heading Ranch that the Webb Corporation owned west of 99th Avenue on Jomax Road. The ranch also offered a rifle and pistol range, an archery range, and a picnic area with covered cabanas, dance floor, and stage. This was a popular location for square dancing parties. The facilities were washed out by the same flood that destroyed the Bell Road Bridge in February 1980, and were never rebuilt. It was one of the few facilities used by both Sun Cities.

Special Thanks

We extend our sincere appreciation to Windermere Real Estate for their generous support of the Society in underwriting the cost of this newsletter.

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A MODEL OPEN HOUSE



It was a scene reminiscent of those opening days in 1960...throng of people visiting our "model" home. Only in this case, it was not a new home they were viewing, but the oldest Sun City home and even older automobiles.



While people elsewhere were watching the groundhog predict six more weeks of winter, we in the Sun Cities were outdoors enjoying beautiful spring weather, music provided by Fletcher Organ Studios and refreshments compliments of Safeway, Basha's, Fry's, and Entenmanns.



Inside the SCAHS house, docents were sharing their favorite stories of early life in the Sun Cities.



Club founders Bebe Lovitt and Ruth Martin enjoyed the show along with current C.A.R.S. President Joe Livingston.



Twenty-five immaculately restored antique cars representing more than 90 years of automotive history lined the parking lot made available to us by Grand Center owners, Reshat and Minnie Hassan.



If you missed seeing these glorious relics of the past, we have good news. Event organizer Ed Allen, surveying the results of his efforts with satisfaction, says, "We are already working on another C.A.R.S. show for next year."



This 1963 Thunderbird would have looked right at home in those first Sun City driveways...and it still looks great today! The C.A.R.S. Club logo is on the side.



Providing an appropriate "closure" to this century of the automobile, event sponsor Liberty Buick showed off three of their 2008 models.

Get acquainted with volunteer *Ed Allen*

How Ed Allen Discovered the Historical Society

Many of you know Ed Allen, as he has been a member and trustee since 2001, and president for the past four years. We set out to learn more about his professional life prior to retirement, and here's what we learned.



Ed was Vice President of Corporate Communications for Rockwell Automation and responsible for explaining the company's direction to customers and prospects, as well as to employees. To tell the story of the evolving company, Ed headed a department of graphic designers, video producers, advertising and public relations personnel, and employee communications specialists for 15 years.

Prior to Rockwell, Ed was Director of Advertising for Master Lock, and responsible for a TV commercial that some of you may remember. It involved shooting a lock with a high-powered rifle. The commercial was first shown on the Super Bowl in 1974, and for several years afterwards it was Master Lock's only national advertising. If you go into the hardware store today, you'll find a "Tough Under Fire" lock logo on the packaging of the top-of-the-line padlocks. Thirty-four years is a long time for an advertising idea to remain in use!

When Ed retired at the end of 1996, he and Loretta knew where they would spend future winters. Ed's parents had moved to Sun City in 1975, and annual visits had caused Ed and Loretta to appreciate the winter warmth of the desert southwest. Over the years, they had watched Sun City West unfold, and liked what they saw. Two weeks after retiring, the Allens bought a home in Sun City West. They continue to split the year between Arizona and Wisconsin where their son and daughter's families live.

The first full winter that they were in SCW, Ed became involved with the Visitors Center. He gradually assumed responsibility for marketing and advertising of the community. In preparing a new brochure about SCW, Ed learned from the Del Webb people that they had given all their photos and files to the Historical Society. "Where is that?" he asked.

His first visit to SCAHS brought him in contact with Phyllis Street, president of the board, and a long-time volunteer at the society. Each time that Ed came to look over photos for the new SCW brochure, Phyllis would comment, "We have to get started on the SCW 25th history, as it's coming up in three years." Finally, Ed accepted the hint, volunteering to work on a history. In his mind, a 24-page brochure would no doubt cover the story. To his surprise, Phyllis produced a copy of the 272-page JUBILEE, saying, "We want something just like this!"

With the help of a dedicated committee, the SCW history became a reality in time for the 25th anniversary in 2003. Ed is much more careful about volunteering without all the facts! The book turned out to be a great experience, and gave Ed an appreciation for local history. As a result, he became active in SCAHS. While currently retired from the board, Ed still heads the Speakers Bureau. Call him if your group needs a speaker!

Take Me Out to the Ball Game...

...then visit the Historical Society to see the role baseball has played in our past beginning with Del Webb and his life-long love of the game. The first Sun City field was built in 1962, and four fields later, a first-class stadium was built for the major league Milwaukee Brewers spring training and for the popular local Saints team. Young women made up the Saints roster, and they played teams from the area, from surrounding states, and even other countries. In 1979, they won a National Championship. That same year, the present Men's Softball League was started. Today more than 400 men and women in Sun City and Sun City West are involved year-around in softball.

If you're having visitors for spring training, be sure to bring them in to see our new exhibit on baseball in the Sun Cities. For more "behind the scenes" stories of Sun Cities ball, come to our Members Coffee, 10 a.m. Monday March 10th..



RESCHEDULED...On April 14, Mr. Don Tuffs, former VP of Public Relations for DEVCO, will be at the house to talk about his experiences booking entertainment for the Sundome, now known as the Maricopa Events Center. We will have cookies and coffee starting at 10:00 AM.

Join the Legacy Circle

Since the Historical Society's founding in 1986, several individuals have made major gifts that we treat as an Endowment – preserving the capital and using the interest to underwrite operating expenses.

The most recent gift came from the estate of Ruth B. Morton – a long-time Board member, volunteer, and supporter of the Historical Society. Her name has been added to the roster of Legacy Circle members.

Sun City and Sun City West are models of master-planned communities designed for active adult living. As such, researchers from around the globe visit our cities to learn from our experience. The Historical Society serves as a connection to the past through the records and artifacts that it preserves.

Any friend of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society can join the Legacy Circle by making an individual or accumulated gift of \$10,000 or more, or a deferred gift of \$20,000 or more as part of your estate plan. You can name SCAHS in your will, establish or change the beneficiary on a permanent life insurance policy, create a trust fund, or make a donation of stock or real estate.

Please consider joining the SCAHS Legacy Circle.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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REMINDER

Don't miss our next newsletter.
If you haven't already done so,
send in your 2008 dues now



SPRING MEETING

Friday, March 28

1:00 p.m.

***Meet Sharlot Hall
Heritage Traditions
Sun City West***

MEMBER COFFEES

2nd Mondays—10 a.m.

March 10

Playing Ball in the Sun Cities

April 14

Events at the Sundome

Call 974-2567 for reservations
as seating is limited.

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10801 Oakmont Dr.
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