

Summer 2003

Volume 27

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Society Prepares Freedom Shrine for July 4th Festivities

The Declaration of Independence. The Constitution. The Bill of Rights. The Gettysburg Address. These are historical documents we have all studied in school and can all study again and appreciate even more each time we visit the Freedom Shrine, located next to the library at the Bell Recreation Center.

A six-sided kiosk, the Freedom Shrine houses reproductions of these and other historical documents and was originally presented to the Sun Cities by the Sun City and Sun City West Exchange Clubs on October 11, 1982. The late U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater served as keynote speaker at the first dedication. The Shrine was dedicated with the intention of having a celebration each year recognizing its purpose.

When the Exchange Clubs went out of existence and the Shrine was no longer maintained, the Sun City Recreation Center asked the Historical Society



to take on the responsibility of replacing the damaged documents (sunburned by the hot Arizona sun) and periodically arranging new displays. The Recreation Center installed a

protective sun screen above the Shrine and Woodworking Club members made frames to fit the panels which hold the documents. The Shrine was ready for a rededication ceremony on February 24, 1999.

Each year since then, the Historical Society has maintained the displays in the Shrine and has readied it for the annual "Ring That Bell" celebration on the 4th of July.

This year's annual "Ring That Bell" celebration will be at 8am at the Bell Recreation Center, Hutton Drive and 99th Avenue. Your Society has updated the historical displays and will be decorating the Freedom Shrine with patriotic flags, ribbons and streamers to remind us all of our precious freedoms. Hope to see you on July 4.

"Desert Cities" Exhibit Includes Society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is part of a long-term exhibit at the Arizona Historical Society called "Desert Cities". The exhibit can be viewed from 10-4 Tuesday through Saturday and 12-4 on Sunday at the Arizona Historical Society's headquarters, 1300 N. College Ave. in Tempe. Admission is \$4 for Seniors and \$5 for adults. Info: 480/929-0292.

10801 Oakmont Dr.—Sun City, AZ—85351

Summer Hours 10:00 - 12 Noon Friday and Saturday (June, July and August)
623/ 974-2568 Email: SCareaHistSoc@juno.com

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Message from the President

Summer has arrived! Some of you will be seeking cooler climates, others will be “hibernating”, and a few hearty(?) souls will brave the golf courses.

For those looking for an indoor activity, now is a good time to visit us. Our **summer hours** are **Friday and Saturday from 10am to 12noon**. The air conditioning will be on!!

The last few issues we have featured articles on preservation—photographs, paper, textiles. This month’s issue features silver preservation in honor of Sun City West’s silver celebration. We are always on the lookout for other areas of preservation which might be of interest to you. Let us hear from you and we’ll research the request.

Summer is a time when we like to plan ahead for programs and speakers of interest to you. Again, let us hear from you. This is your Society and we look to you so we may better serve your interests.

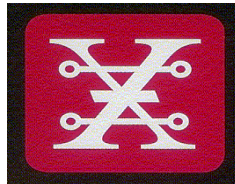
We are looking for ways to increase our membership...how about every member recruit a member? Surely each one of you must know someone who has an interest in local history and would like to support our endeavors.

You may contact us by telephone, 623/974-2568 or by E-mail: SCareaHistSoc@juno.com.

Have an enjoyable summer.

Jane Freeman
President, Board of Trustees

Certified



We are pleased to announce that the Sun Cities Area Historical Society has received Certification for the Year 2003 awarded by the Arizona Historical Society.

This is the second year we have received this distinguished recognition along with other notable museums and historical societies in our state.

Our certificate, with the Arizona Historical Society logo (left) on it, is prominently displayed in our museum. Be sure to look for it on your next visit.

Remember Summer Hours

10—12 noon

Friday and Saturday

Or by appointment

SCW 25th Anniversary Events Continue

- 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



Sun City Grand Neighbors with Trustee Connie McMillin:
(l to r)
Rose Balsley,
McMillin, Chris
Hodgden,
Nancy Nelson.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society receives requests for speakers throughout the year at a variety of locations. **Connie McMillin**, a Trustee and Immediate Past President, spoke to a large contingent of Sun City Posse members and their spouses at their monthly Roll Call Meeting on Tuesday morning, May 6. Emphasizing historic sites and little known, unusual facts about Sun City during the program, led to post-event camaraderie and information sharing. This important volunteer group within our community will no doubt continue to share the history and mention our Society.

June 4 brought a delightful group of neighbors from Sun City Grand to Our Old House for a tour and program by Connie McMillin. Two days later, on Friday morning, June 6, Connie spoke at Sun Valley Lodge, the assisted living center located at 103rd and Coggins Avenues, in Sun City, to 35 enthusiastic residents. Knowledgeable questions were mixed with stories of seeing Lawrence Welk at the opening of the Sun Bowl and watching the huge hole being dug in 1974 for the Sundial Recreation Center swimming pool, the largest indoor pool ever built.

The Society is able to provide speakers on a variety of subjects concerning Sun City, Sun City West, the life of Del Webb, what the area was like before the creation of our “Active Retirement Living Communities”; each presentation to the group’s requirements. Do let your friends, church groups, service clubs, businesses and other organizations know about our Speakers Bureau. Give them the Historical Society’s telephone number (623/974-2568) ...when they call, we will handle all the planning details.

Preserving Silver

What is sterling silver? It is a precious metal consisting of 92.5% pure silver and 7.5% of an alloy, usually copper, which adds durability.

The best tender, loving care you can give sterling silver is to USE it. Whether it be flatware, tea service, bon bon dish, or whatever, use it and enjoy it.

Following are a few guidelines recommended by the leading silversmiths.

WASHING

- Rinse after each use and do not soak for a long period of time. The ideal method is hand-washing in hot sudsy water followed by rinsing in clear hot water. Hand dry with a soft cloth.
- Avoid detergents containing chlorides and lemon scents and do not sprinkle detergent directly on the silver.
- A soft toothbrush can be used to reach crevices and fork tines.
- If using a dishwasher, remove before the drying cycle and hand dry with a soft cloth.
- AVOID the method calling for a mixture of salt, baking soda and water in an aluminum pan as it removes silver.

KNIFE BLADES

- Knife blades are made of stainless steel and should be washed and hand dried immediately after each use. Do not rinse and stack to air dry...avoid soaking in water for a long time. Keep the blade away from other sterling silver parts.

TARNISHING

- To minimize tarnish use the silver on a regular basis.
- Tarnish is caused by certain foods that contain sulfur, e.g. eggs, fruit juices, salad dressings, mustard, vinegar, ketchup, tomatoes, salt and salty foods. Salt, if not washed off immediately can also cause spotting and pitting.

POLISHING

- Frequently used sterling will not require a lot of polishing.
- If there are gold accents, keep the polish away from the gold.

STORAGE

- A clean, dry place away from moisture and direct sunlight is best.
- For long term storage place silver in a treated flannel cloth or an anti tarnish chest for flatware.
- DO NOT wrap in any type of plastic or newspaper 'nor tie with a rubber band.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Reed & Barton
144 Britannia St.
Taunton, MA 02780

SYRATECH Corp
175 McClellan Highway
East Boston, MA 02128-9114

Oneida Silversmiths
181 Kenwood Ave.
Oneida, NY 13421



*For our summer issue guest columnist **Don Tuffs** does a little reminiscing. Tuffs, a former Senior Vice President of Marketing at DEVCO (Del E. Webb Development Company) and a former General Manager of the Sundome, recalls the “early days” of his career when he couldn’t get a job, who finally gave him that first chance and where it has led him. Read about his...*

NOTES FROM THE LAST 30 YEARS

I arrived in Arizona in 1971, a fresh 21 year old graduate of Illinois State University with a desire to be a part of what I knew would be the phenomenal growth in the metro Phoenix area. It was easy to like the fall, winter and spring months and the summers weren’t any worse than the heat and humidity of central Illinois. And everything was new and fresh.

With a triple major in Political Science, Speech and Radio and Television, I set out to find my first full time job. I had four years of experience as a disc jockey, but was interested in politics and public relations. I visited many local companies and sent out countless resumes.

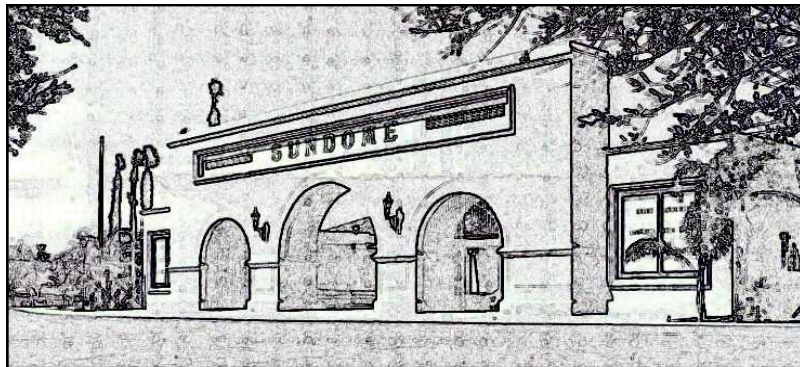
After two months of searching, I was hired as a public relations associate with the Del E. Webb Development Co. in Sun City, assisting director Jerry Svendsen with everything from photographing Sun City’s many events to emceeing at the Sun Bowl. I later moved on to become Senior Vice President of Marketing and General Manager of the Sundome for the Performing Arts.

Early marketing programs of Sun City were brilliant. Many were carried over into Sun City West. The Webb Company knew its toughest competitor would be Sun City. They needed to make Sun City West unique. So they opened the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, the largest adult community recreation center in the world. At the same time, Hillcrest became the signature golf course of the Sun Cities, hosting both Senior PGA and LPGA events. Then there was the Sundome, the largest single level performing arts facility in the world, seating 7169.

Hosting over 110 events, the Sundome entertained residents of the Sun Cities, the Valley and visitors alike. Even for those who didn’t get to attend an event, the awe of gazing into the Sundome’s cavernous interior was breathtaking... and still is today. Attendees were treated to fabulous entertainment from Lawrence Welk, Bob Hope and Red Skelton to the Vienna Symphony Orchestra.

One of my greatest memories is being instrumental in forming Sun City West’s many clubs and organizations. Because Sun City West boasted a population of more than 1,000 people before R.H. Johnson Recreation Center was completed, many clubs and organizations were established in the Crestview Restaurant. My secretary Pat Goldstein and I started pinochle, bridge and canasta clubs. We offered bus tours to Luke Air Force Base; trips to Phoenix, Tucson, San Diego and Los Angeles; and gambling junkets to Laughlin and Las Vegas. We started a square dance club at Sun City’s Heading Ranch, home to Sun City’s Sportsmens Club, featuring a rifle and pistol range, trap and skeet shooting and a desert picnic area. Unfortunately, the floods of 1978 forced the facility to close.

Even the Webb Company admits, there will never be another community like Sun City West. It’s still unique today, 25 years later. Happy Birthday Sun City West.



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

CHUCK BENNETT

JAN DALLAI

LEE & MARY VOGEL

**DAGGETT & DAGGETT,
CPA**

**MONHEIT &
ZONGOLOWICZ, CPA**

**QUESTER, OCOTILLO
#582**

**GET A FRIEND INVOLVED
BE A VOLUNTEER**

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