



Summer 2004

Volume 13 No. 2

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Society “Cuts a Rug” to Begin 15th Year Anniversary

In 1989, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society bought the home at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City to use as its headquarters. After months of cleaning, sorting, unpacking, and setting up, the home/museum was ready for visitors. On January 15, 1990, the Society opened its front door to the public for the very first time.

Since then, thousands of visitors have toured Del Webb’s first model home, and thousands of footsteps have trod the carpets in the pursuit of learning the history of the Sun Cities.

Not wanting to present a “worn-out” look to future visitors of a community known for its “active lifestyle,” the Sun Cities Area Historical Society’s Board approved the purchase of new carpeting, and a fresh coat of paint for the walls. A lavender blue rug was laid in the living room and hall recently, just after Board members Paul Graff and David Verble painted the walls a color with “just a hint of gray.”

More carpet will be laid in the front bedroom, more paint will be applied to the walls, and more “sprucing up” will go on as the anniversary continues and funds are available.

Donations for these improvements would be gratefully appreciated, so . . . if you would like to contribute to the Society’s “Cover-Up Fund,” please call us at 623-974-2568.

What Was the Year? ?????

Hot on the music scene was “*Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka-Dot Bikini*” and “*Let’s Do the Twist.*”

Arnold Palmer won the U.S. Open, and Pittsburgh beat New York to win the World Series.

Best-selling book was Harper Lee’s “*To Kill a Mockingbird.*”

On Broadway, the big hit was “*Fiorello.*” *Emily Post* and *Clark Gable* died.

U-2 pilot *Gary Powers* was shot down over Russia.

JFK was elected president . . .

. . . and the last clue is a giveaway. The year was 1960. **BUT** another important event made history . . . **SUN CITY!**

We are looking for items to restore the ‘60s look in our kitchen. We have a refrigerator and stove. Board member Jo Ruck donated a Universal coffeemaker and Sunbeam toaster, so we are off to a good start, but still need a washing machine (yes, it was in the kitchen), a small dinette table and four chairs, wall clock, table setting for four, and miscellaneous kitchen utensils.

If you have any of the above items, and would like to help us with our 1960s restoration project, we’d love to hear from you. 974-2568 is the magic number.

10801 Oakmont Dr.—Sun City, AZ—85351

Open Hours—10 am to Noon, Friday and Saturday

Phone: 623/ 974-2568

Email: scahs@frys.com

Web site: www.scazhistory.org

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Message from the President

Greetings from cool, cloudy Wisconsin!

Summer brings us back to our home on Lake Michigan in Door County—the “thumb” of the mitten that the Wisconsin map resembles. We are involved in local history here, too, as the county has a very active Historical Society. Members provide guided tours of one of the county’s earliest lighthouses, and an outdoor museum is slowly taking shape as old buildings are moved to the site and restored.

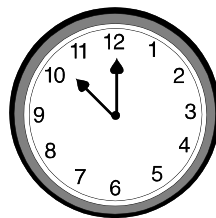
In some ways, it’s easier to get people interested in “old” history than in the recent past. But it is no less important to record history as it happens to make certain it is preserved for future generations. There are no original settlers whom one can interview in Wisconsin, but we are fortunate to still have some “pioneers” left in the Sun Cities. In working on the history of Sun City West, we had the pleasure of learning first-hand of the experiences of those who fought crickets and construction dust, and who banded together to start the Posse, PRIDES, and other ventures that benefit today’s residents.

Your Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a busy place, even during the “dog days” of summer. Some volunteers see that today’s local events find their way into the archives for future reference. Others painstakingly go through material donated to us, weeding out duplicate information and adding the new to our files. Still others serve as hosts and hostesses, giving tours of our home at 10801 Oakmont Drive, and taking visitors back to the pre-Del Webb days of Marinette, a town that preceded Sun City.

Our building is slowly being refurbished, room-by-room, as funds become available. The living room has been painted and has new carpeting. The bedroom will be next. The exterior of the “Marinette Room” has been re-caulked and painted. New exhibits are being planned to showcase our past. And, you’ll be hearing about an effort to collect appliances from the 1960s to add authenticity to our kitchen.

If you find you have time on your hands this summer and would like to work with some interesting people, give our office a call. We’d appreciate the help—and you will have the satisfaction of helping preserve history as it is happening here in the Sun Cities.

Edson Allen
President, Board of Trustees



SUMMER HOURS

June, July, August

10am to Noon
Friday and Saturday
(or by appointment)

On Wednesday, September 15, 2004 the Sun Cities Area Historical Society is privileged to host the quarterly meeting of five historical societies of the Northwest Valley. Participating societies include Youngtown, Glendale, Peoria, Sunnyslope, and the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. Members from these societies get together to discuss issues concerning each of them, such as membership, funding, volunteers, newsletters, publicity, and state certification.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society hosted the first of these meetings last year at the request of Jane Freeman. Each society has taken a turn at hosting since then, and it is time again for SCAHS to invite members to our facility. This year's program will be led by Michael McColgin of the State Archives. He will share important information regarding the proper conservation of paper and photos.

Annual Meetings . . . Spring and Fall



The Society's Annual Spring Meeting was held in April at the Quail/Coyote Room of the Sun City West Foundation Building.

Guest speaker Nancy Gilkeson Root, long-time supporter of the Arts in the Sun Cities, discussed "Cultural Arts in the Sun Cities" with her audience. Mrs. Root mentioned the many cultural opportunities for Sun Citians, including Theater Works, the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society, the Butterfield Musicales, Igor's Jazz Cowboys, the Mayflower Players, and the West Valley Art Museum.

Mrs. Root is on the board of the Business Volunteers of the Arts in Phoenix. She and her husband, Dr. Robert Root, chairman of the board of Sun Health, are on the West Valley Fine Arts Council Advisory Committee.

Wednesday, November 3, 2004 has been reserved at Palmbrook Country Club in Sun City for the Society's Annual Fall Meeting. Guest speaker will be Jim Turner, historian and community outreach representative from the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson. Jim has been working closely with our Board on strategic planning, certification, fundraising, and grant writing.

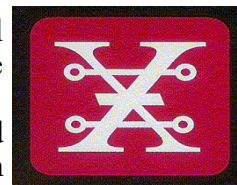
The meeting is open to the public. Mark your calendar now!

Certified

We are pleased to announce that the Sun Cities Area Historical Society has received Certification for the Year 2004 awarded by the Arizona Historical Society.

This is the third year we have received this distinguished recognition along with other notable museums and historical societies in our state. Our Web site is now linked with the Arizona Historical Society's site.

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



Society Welcomes Newest Volunteer

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is pleased to welcome our new host, Sam Femia. Sam has been taking visitors to Del Webb's first model home on tours for several weeks, now, and appears to be a "natural" for the job.

Yes, we need volunteers! Beginning in September, we will be open Tuesday through Friday, 1:30-3:30, and host/hostesses are needed. Training is provided. There is also a need for those with expertise in planning displays and exhibits.

If you are willing to share your time and talents, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Questers' Garage Sale Benefits Historical Society

Quester Chapter Lysiloma No. 782 presented a check for \$500 to our Sun Cities Area Historical Society in May. The Questers raised the money from a garage sale they held in Sun City West. Questers is a non-profit, international organization whose goals are to further the study and collection of antiques, and to encourage the preservation and restoration of historical landmarks. The Questers' generous contribution will help the Society carry on its work of preserving the history of the Sun Cities.



Society VP Paul Graff happily accepts the check from Lysiloma President Ginny Goodwin. Left to right are Lyn Dunham, Nancy Wyatt, Paul Graff, Ginny Goodwin, and Sylvia Patrick.

"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. Group rates are available.

For information, call Kyle McCoy, Curator of Education, at 480/929-0292 Ext. 132.



2004 marks the 15th year that the Sun Cities Area Historical Society has been at its 10801 Oakmont Drive address. Prior to being housed here, Society members met in homes, then in a rented office space.

Jane Freeman, one of the Society's founders, takes us back in time to that rented office space, and gives us a glimpse of the start-up of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society:

January 6, 1989 was a momentous day for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. It was on that date that Jane Freeman and Glenn Sanberg signed a letter of agreement for the use of temporary quarters.

It might be said that SCAHS got off to a "healthy" start when it moved into office space F-2 at the Plaza del Rio Medical Complex on January 14, 1989.

Thanks to the cooperation of Harold Gries, M.D., and Sharon Harper, partners, office space F-2 was made available for a very modest monthly fee. Quoting from the letter of agreement: "Mrs. Harper and myself are happy to be of assistance to your organization and are happy to have the opportunity to lend support to it."

Having this space provided us the opportunity to unpack boxes and cartons, and to see what we had collected while writing *Jubilee The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona*. It served us very well until October 10, 1989, when we moved to 10801 Oakmont Drive.

Thank you Dr. Gries and Mrs. Harper for getting us off to a healthy start!

History Buffs

If you haven't already discovered the program "History Detectives," be sure to tune in PBS, Channel 8, Monday nights at 9:00 pm.

History Time-Line

August 1960—Burt & Ursula Freireich purchase the *Youngtown News* and the *Sun City Sun*,

which then became the *NEWS-SUN*.

August 1979—Sun City West Recreation Center opens.

August 1989—Sun City Visitors Center opens.

August 1992—Groundbreaking for Sun City West expansion.

September 1960—Host Lions Club forms; first service club.

September 1970—Lakes East Golf Course opens for play.

September 1973—Lakes Club opens.

September 1979—Pebblebrook Golf Course opens in Sun City West.

September 1980—The Sundome opens with a Lawrence Welk concert.

Thanks for Renewing

Many thanks to those who have already renewed their memberships for 2004.

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.

Help us preserve your Sun Cities Area Historical Society and the artifacts showing Del Webb's innovative concept of "active retirement communities." If you haven't already renewed your membership, please send your renewal today to the address below. And come visit us soon!

*Get a Friend Involved
Be a Volunteer*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

SHARON BARTLETT

VICTORIA CLARK

RUTH & SAM FEMIA

NANCY LASKA

LEONARD LAZOFF

MARJORIE MAST

CONNIE & DARELL

O'NEIL

NANCY & ROBERT ROOT

EL DORADO OF SUN CITY

HERITAGE PALMERAS



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