

"What If" # 1

With each visit to your Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, the changing displays highlight interesting people, groups, and notable events from the history of the Sun Cities. But there are many other interesting stories that are generally unknown and untold. Following is just one of our favorites. Enjoy!

During the week of February 16, 1961, famed cowboy Roy Rogers toured Sun City. After his visit, Rogers and Del Webb Development Co. (DEVCO) officials announced an "agreement in principle" for Rogers to develop a Disneyland type entertainment venue in Sun City on a chunk of DEVCO's 8,000 acres that became the Sun City we know. The proposed complex was envisioned as having a Western theme and would be called "Frontierland."

The announcement certainly got the attention of the 1,500 residents who eagerly awaited further developments. There were no subsequent press releases, and none of the principals involved left notes of explanation of why the proposal never materialized. We can only now speculate the impact "Frontierland" would have had on Sun City's Development or whether the mega-sized active, adult community we know as Sun City would ever have been completed.

We hope you found the above possibility interesting and that the proposal may have tweaked your imagination as to what might have been. Check out future newsletters from President Don Tuffs. The plan is to share a similar proposal next time but one that was many times larger in scale than Frontierland.

Ben Roloff, Historian