



Winter 2006

Volume 15 No. 1

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EXPLORE THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE

RETRACE THE STEPS OF LEWIS & CLARK

1:00 p.m., Thursday, January 19, 2006

Join us as we step back 200 years and explore the purchase that doubled the size of the United States, making it larger than Europe. During the course of our journey, we'll discover . . .

- *Why the Federalists objected to a purchase that amounted to 15 cents an acre.*
- *A young Indian woman who has more statues honoring her today than any other female in our nation's history.*
- *How the expedition members grew to prefer dog to other meat — and meet one dog who traveled the 8,000 miles without being eaten.*
- *How, despite extreme odds, all but one of the expedition members returned alive and well.*

In 1804, President Jefferson completed the Louisiana Purchase, nearly doubling the size of the country. To learn more about the territory, and whether it provided a passage to the Pacific Ocean, Capts. Meriwether Lewis & William Clark assembled a band of 30 men, along with a Native American and her baby, to explore the great unknown. They faced hunger, cold, illness, and hostile Indians, and came close to death on numerous occasions. But they persevered, and returned two-and-a-half years later with a treasure trove of maps, specimens of previously unknown plants and animals, and

journals describing the land and its inhabitants.

A cruise on the Columbia and Snake rivers caused **Ed Allen**, our SCAHS president, to become interested in the Lewis & Clark

expedition. He and his wife have visited many sites along the actual route, gathering information about the Corps of Discovery. As an amateur historian, Ed enjoys including lesser-known anecdotes to make the recounting of this true-life adventure both entertaining and informative.



This special program, sponsored by the Society, will be held **Thursday, January 19, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at Shepherd of the Hills Methodist Church, 13658 Meeker Blvd., Sun City West.** After parking, head for the fountain in the central court. Signs will then direct you to the meeting room. Admission is free, and light refreshments will be served.

We hope to see you there — bring a friend!

10801 Oakmont Dr.—Sun City, AZ—85351

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

Phone: (623) 974-2568

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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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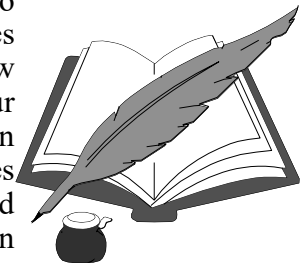
Ed Allen
Jane Freeman
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Jo Ruck
David Verble

How's Your History?

We associate the New Year with a fresh start, and often greet it with resolutions — things we hope to accomplish in the months ahead. I'd like to suggest that we use the year-end as a reason to look back at where we've been and what we've done.

History isn't just about nations, or states, or organizations — or about tens, hundreds, or thousands of years ago. It's also about people: you and me. We each have a history. We each have events that are worth recording and passing on to the family and friends with whom we've shared our lives.

How's *your* history? Have you written down or recorded the highlights of your life? It's not too late to start, and you'll be amazed at how memories begin to flow as you seek them out. How many of us wish we had histories of our parents' early lives? They were raised in another time with its own difficult challenges — and how little we know about the joys and sorrows they experienced along the way. In most cases, it's too late to ask them, but we can recall stories they told us about their lives, and jot these down before they disappear in the mists of time.



Each of us has memories of siblings, school days, early girl or boy friends, courtship, jobs, travels, children, illnesses and injuries, happy times and sad. Writing them down or recording them means they will continue to live on, even after we are long gone.

Young people seem not to appreciate the past. The future is so much more attractive. But as people age, they gain perspective and an appreciation of the past. It is then that they often want to learn more about mom and dad, grandpa and grandma — and what their lives were like. Too often, it's too late for them to ask the questions, as the people they loved are no longer alive. We can leave them our stories for when they become interested, but we must take the time to jot them down while we still remember them clearly.

Even if you do it only for yourself, think about capturing on tape or paper the events, people, and places that shaped your life and helped make you the unique individual you are today.

Maybe we should make recording our history a New Year's resolution!

Edson Allen
President, Board of Trustees

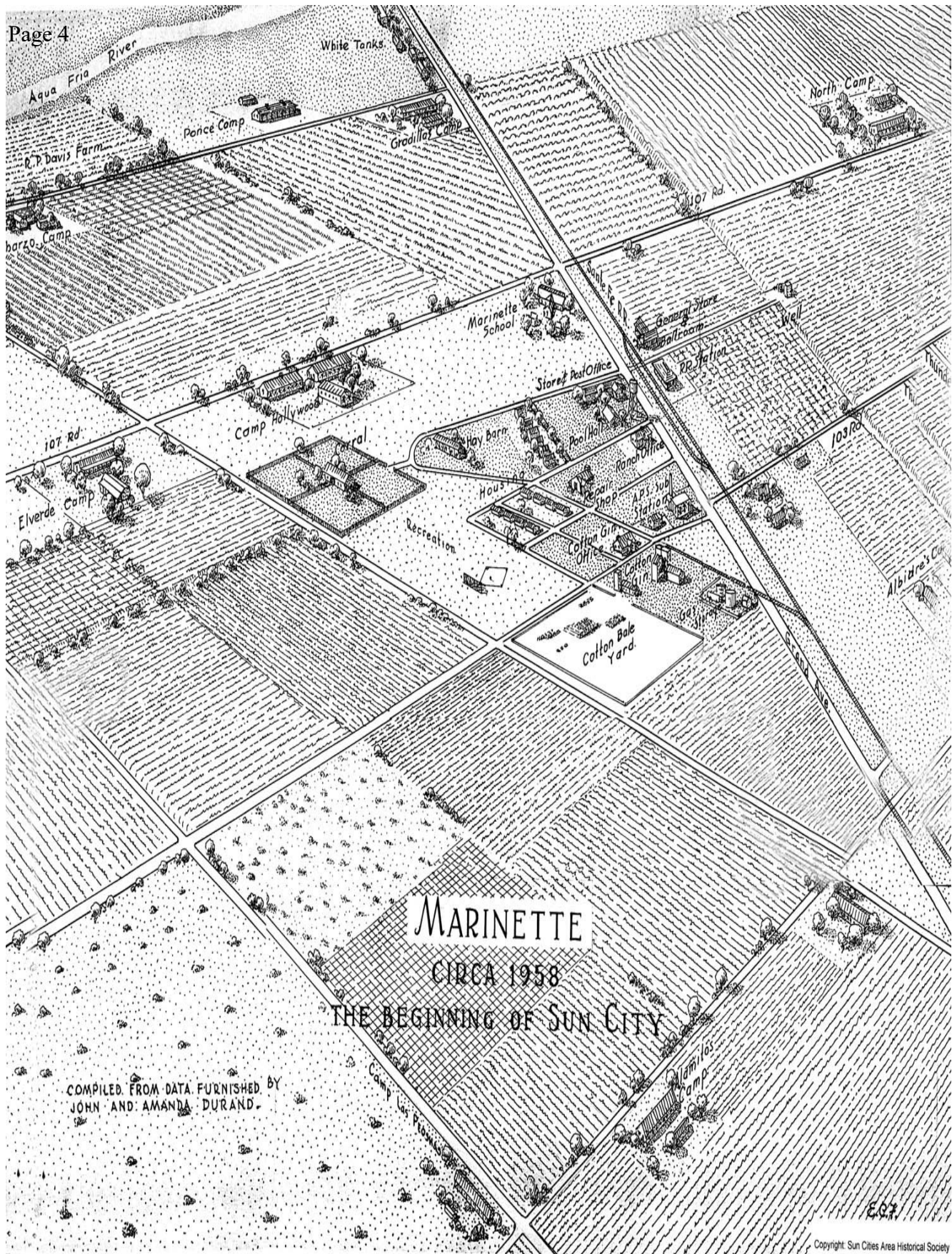
Name That Town . . .



The following clues are definitions, puns, and historical facts that will enable you to name the town or city in Arizona.

1. Map of the world _____
2. Table lands _____
3. Big House _____
4. Give your son an allowance _____
5. A poker game _____
6. Indian chief _____
7. Pure liquid _____
8. Unexpected _____
9. Unbranded calf _____
10. Memorial to the dead _____
11. Fabulous bird _____
12. A wise king _____
13. Indian tribe _____
14. Pole for banner _____
15. Better than most _____
16. Part of a book _____
17. A city's highest office _____
18. Brilliant idea _____
19. Coronation _____
20. City of 1001 lights _____
21. Not your short son _____
22. Not old _____
23. A question _____
24. Unconcerned _____
25. "The Star-Spangled Banner" _____
26. As the day ends _____

Answers on Page 7

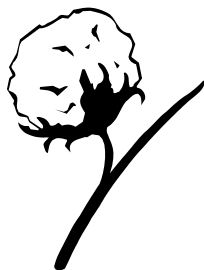


Back in the 1920s, Marinette was a bustling farming and cotton community concentrated primarily between 101st and 111th Avenues along Grand Avenue. Outlying areas were utilized for various activities, as shown in the schematic drawing above. To learn more about Marinette, visit our Marinette Room at the Society and see photographs from the '20s. You'll be surprised!

The Story of Cotton

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

WHERE COTTON GROWS



Cotton grows in warm climates, and most of the world's cotton is grown in the United States, the Soviet Union, the People's Republic of China, and India. Other leading cotton growing countries are Brazil, Pakistan, and Turkey.

In this country, the major cotton producing states are Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas.

The origin of extra-long staple (ELS) cotton in the United States can be traced to the introduction of Sea Island cotton from seed received from the Bahama Islands. It was produced on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, in 1790. A severe boll weevil infestation in 1920 brought about the demise of cotton in Hilton Head. The government then began the production of cotton in the desert of Arizona and Maricopa County. The location was based on the success of the Pima Indians who first harvested their cotton in 1912. The Pima had a special intimacy with the land and understood the soil and climate conditions necessary to raise the finest cotton in the world. Present day cotton farmers carry on this knowledge.

The staple length of cotton determines the ultimate strength and durability of the end product. Extra-long staple cotton fiber must be at least 1 3/8 inches in length. PIMA cotton, for which Arizona is famous, and which is named for the Pima Indians, has an average length of 1 7/16 inches, and is among the longest staple cotton in the world.

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

Whatever Happened to Marinette?

Soon after the turn of the century, R.P. Davie, a business adventurer from Marinette, Wisconsin, bought and leased acreage between the New River and Agua Fria River. Marinette Ranch became a small village — Marinette, Arizona.

Whatever happened to Marinette? It became Sun City, Arizona!

Interestingly enough, Sun City and Sun City West each have three households occupied by former residents of Marinette, Wisconsin, (according to the SC/SCW telephone directory):

From Sun City:

William and Bernice Gill, Grace Johnston, Julius and Isabel Rettke

From Sun City West:

Daniel and Ida Kerski, Albert and Alice Mau, Eugene and Eleanor Wilson

If we have missed anyone, please let us know.

\$\$\$ Treasurer Needed \$\$\$

Trustee **Don Siegel** has served as treasurer for the past three years, and the Board has greatly appreciated his dedication and ability. Don will be leaving the board at year end, and we need someone to take his place.

Don has graciously offered to help with the transition and to introduce the new treasurer to the computer-based system that we use. The job consists primarily of writing checks to pay bills, depositing income from membership fees and other sources, entering the amounts into the computer, and printing out the monthly statement for the Board. The treasurer is a member of the Board and participates in all its deliberations.

If you have some accounting experience, we could sure use you! Please call Board President **Ed Allen** at 623-975-1815 — or if you have questions regarding the work involved, call Don Siegel at 623-815-9742.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Kitchen “Wish List”

The Historical Society is looking for items to help make our kitchen appear as it did in the 1960s. Among the things we’d like to obtain are:

- Set of mixing bowls
- Bread box
- Small kitchen radio
- Cookie jar
- Spice jars and rack



Stop in at 10810 Oakmont in Sun City to see a 1960-era kitchen. Maybe you’ll think of other items that can add to its authenticity. Think of us when you’re preparing for the next rummage sale!

Speakers Bureau Continues to Speak Out!

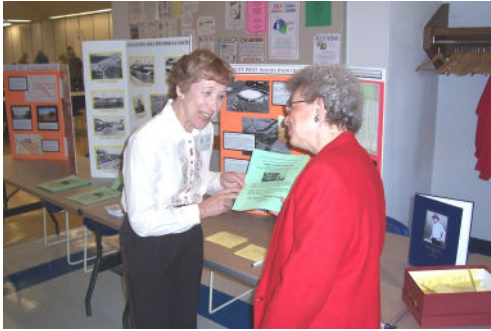
Have you attended a presentation by a SCAHS speaker on the history of the Sun Cities? Are you curious? Do you want to clarify the facts and separate them from myths and legends about our active retirement communities? Give us a call, and we will provide a speaker at any location in the West Valley!

Perhaps you know of a club, church, or organization seeking programs during the new year. Consider getting neighbors together . . . a condominium or homeowners group, Red Hatters, country club, business colleagues, or a social committee seeking a special program. We will adapt presentations to fit your time frame, and utilize “inter-active” formats to encourage audience involvement. Programs may also be held at the Society’s headquarters, including a tour of the house — the first model home in Sun City.

Please pass this newsletter on to a program coordinator and help us “Speak Out,” and share the history of the Sun Cities with many other people. Call the Speakers Bureau Chairperson, **Connie McMillin**, at 623-977-5894, or the Society, 623-974-2568.

On the first Saturday of the month, the Sun City West Recreation Centers sponsor a get-together for residents called “In Your Own Backyard.” Outside speakers are brought in, and various clubs and organizations prepare displays around R.H. Johnson Social Hall.

At the December meeting, Trustee **Jo Ruck** set up displays on the history of the Sun Cities. Attendees were invited to enter a drawing for a hardcover copy of the biography of Del Webb.



Jo Ruck (left), greeted attendees and gave them a flyer about the Society’s January meeting on Lewis & Clark, as well as information about the Society.



Barbara DuPonte (right), a member of the Governing Board, drew the name of the winner of the Del Webb biography. Board President **Ed Allen** joined in presenting the book to winner **Ed Stroming**.

A “Thank You” to



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

Answers to Quiz

1. Globe
2. Mesa
3. Casa Grande
4. Payson
5. Show Low
6. Geronimo
7. Goodwater
8. Surprise
9. Maverick
10. Tombstone
11. Phoenix
12. Solomon
13. Apache Junction
14. Flagstaff
15. Superior
16. Page
17. Mayer
18. Inspiration
19. Crown King
20. Bagdad
21. Tolleson
22. Youngtown
23. Why
24. Carefree
25. Anthem
26. Sunset

An important reminder . . .



Yes, we've tied a string around your finger to remind you that it's time to renew your membership for 2006. Dues are now based on a calendar year, January 1 to December 31. However, a new member who joined after September 1 will be considered paid through the following year.

If you haven't already renewed your membership, please send your renewal today. If you are not presently a member, we invite you to consider joining this worthwhile organization. Help us preserve your Sun Cities Area Historical Society and the artifacts showing Del Webb's innovative concept of "active retirement communities."

Keep in mind that your annual membership contribution is tax deductible. For your convenience, we have enclosed a Renewal/New Member form with this newsletter. Note that there are several levels of membership.

Thank you for your interest and support.

*Get a Friend Involved
Be a Volunteer*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CARL & IRMA MAE CUE

BEVERLY KELLER MEEK

LEMUEL NASEIMENTO

SALLY PAVIA

ANNE R. PHILLIPS

ETHEL SANDERS

CATHERINE SCHOTT

BETTY J. SPAINHOUD



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