



Memo to Members

*Latest happenings at your museum from
Ed Allen, president of the Board of Trustees*



From cows and cattle to an adult community ...

Our March 15 general meeting drew people from Youngtown, Sun City, and Sun City West. While Sun City grew up on cotton fields, and Youngtown on a dairy and cattle operation, they had one thing in common. The Boswell Company had originally owned the land under each. SCAHS Trustee Heidi Speed gave us an overview of the community's history. Margaret Chittenden shared her experiences working for the Webb Corp., living in both Sun City and Youngtown, and as the first female police officer in Youngtown. Sun City resident Amanda Durand, who grew up in Marinette, told how her mother opened the first post office in Youngtown. The meeting was followed by a tour of the clubhouse, library, and museum.

Del E. Webb biographer visits the museum

Author Margaret Finnerty contacted the museum, offering it photos she had from her project of writing the Del Webb biography published in 1991. She was hired by Philip Dion, who had become president in 1987, and given a spacious office at headquarters. Over a two-year period, she interviewed more than 100 people in Arizona, Las Vegas and Los Angeles. It was the job of a lifetime. In addition to adding a number of photos to the museum's collections, she brought nine, brand-new copies of the first edition, which has been out-of-print since the late 1990s. Margaret signed each of them, and we will be offering these in future silent auctions to attract donations from collectors. A quick search of Amazon.com shows the Webb biography commanding prices of \$35 to \$135 per used copy! And these are in mint condition! Thank you, Margaret!



A Mystery of History ... West Beardsley



This sign stands along the railroad track just west of where Meeker Blvd. meets Grand Avenue. William Beardsley started a small community just south of here along Grand Ave. in the early 1900s. It was to be the center of the farming area within the Agua Fria Water and Land Company service area. Its peak was probably in the late 1930s when it had a post office for a few years. But it's doubtful it ever was large enough to have a "West Beardsley" suburb. Is there a history detective out there who would like to solve the "mystery of history" this sign presents?



New display panel tells the story of the house's history
Graphic designer Dan Seabridge offered to update the handmade display, which told about the ownership of our house and the changes made by the MacDonalds over the years. We are fortunate to have a granddaughter, Barb Wagers, as a docent at the museum, as she visited the home many times over the years and knows it well. Next time you're in the museum, take a close look at this display and see if you can spot the outside stairway that allowed guests (children only) to go up onto the flat rear roof to enjoy the sweeping view of the golf course.

National Association of American Planners visits the museum

Pulte Homes sponsored a meeting of this group of community planners at the Phoenix Convention Center. Pulte contacted former board President Bill Pearson to arrange a tour of Sun City, Sun City Grand, and Sun City Festival as a part of their discussion on the "evolution of age-restricted communities." It was only natural that they visit the model for active adult communities, and where better to learn of its history than the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum? Thirty-two visited the museum, Saturday, April 2.

We have the first building in Sun City on the National Register of Historic Places!

We first applied for historic designation for our house in 2012, and it took nearly two years to win approval from the state. They then recommended us for inclusion and passed the nomination on to the federal government. Governor Ducey recently notified us that our building had been accepted for the National Register of Historic Places. We had a special commemorative plaque cast, and its weight made it a two-man installation. Members Hal Lind and David Verble secured it to the front of the house where it will be visible to visitors. We hope to learn soon that Questers will pay for the plaque – we'll share that news with you when we learn it for sure.



What was unusual about spring training in 1951, 65 years ago?

With spring training 2016 a matter for the history books, here's a bit of baseball trivia... As you know, Del Webb became an owner of the New York Yankees in 1945. He wanted to show off his team to friends in the Phoenix area, and convinced his good friend, Giant's owner Stoneham, to a one-year swap of training sites in 1951. The Yankees came to Phoenix while the giants went to St. Petersburg, FL. The year was unique in another way, in that it marked the end of Joe DiMaggio's career – and the beginning of Mickey Mantle's. For that one year, both were Yankees.

Tell your friends about the museum! Open 1-4, M-W-F. And it's FREE!!