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31a





THE
1980'S

ARE HERE!



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für den Flugzeugba
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tlich wird das Ehepaar
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Denn die Schweiz ist
Und die Tochter ist in
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Bernhards sind zwei
8 000 Bewohnern von
ity, einem Gemeinwe
stet vor dreißig Jahren
nicht gab. Sechs auf
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Webb einem Mr. Bos
n Jahre 1958 abkaufte.
nd des Kaufs: Bau ei
Retirement communi
ner Stadt ausschließl
r Pensionäre. Die Idee
sich als zukunftsrich
50 feierte die Del Webb
ny die Einwobung
sedlung, die damals

Oct. 10, 1980

Hon Kachina Awards Banquet Honors Volunteers

Twelve organizations and individuals who have made outstanding contributions to their communities through volunteerism will be honored Oct. 10 at the 1980 "12 Who Care" Hon Kachina Award program.

The program is sponsored by the Luke's Men, an organization of business and professional men affiliated with St. Luke's Hospital Medical Center and KPNX-TV.

Presented annually since 1977, the awards program honors individuals and organizations. Past

awards have honored excellence in health care volunteerism.

The program has been expanded this year to include volunteers in all activities throughout Arizona. Honorees include both professionals who have made contributions above and beyond the normal requirements of their jobs, and volunteers who have selflessly given their energies in significant community activities.

Statewide, 106 individuals and organizations were nominated in the four subject areas of medical

care, social care, activities for the youth or aged, and public knowledge and awareness.

Awards will be made at a formal banquet Oct. 10 at the Arizona Biltmore, with Joe Garagiola as master of ceremonies.

The 12 individuals and organizations to be honored will be:

• J. Kipp Charlton, M.D., Phoenix Crisis Nursery and Special Care Clinic.

• Carol Crandall, Phoenix, New Hope for the Blind & Others Inc.

• Genevieve Ginsburg, Tucson,

Widowed to Widowed.

• The Junior League of Phoenix.

• George Miller (deceased), Phoenix Boy Scouts of America.

• Sister Alice Montgomery, Phoenix Perinatal Program, St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center.

• Professional Aid to the Handicapped.

• St. Vincent de Paul Society of Maricopa County.

• The Rev. E. Duane Thistlewood, Sun City Sunshine Service

Inc.

• Georgia Vancza, Tucson, Foster Children, Department of Economic Security.

• Alameda Wallace, Phoenix, Maricopa County Juvenile Court Center and Foundation for Blind Children.

• Mrs. John Miller Williams and Jerry Wisotsky, Phoenix, Centers of Excellence Campaign, St. Luke's Hospital Medical Center.

Tickets for the formal banquet may be obtained by calling Valerie Frazier at 258-5296.



HURRAY!

Sunshine
Service
Inc.
Sun City, AZ

Board of Directors 1980

Row 3

1 2 3

④ John
E. Lang

Virginia
Nelson



Row 2

1 2 3 ④

Margaret
Patterson

Row 1

1 2 3

④

Rev. T

⑤

Howard

⑥

Thomas

⑦

William

Gosney Fitzgerald
Gresko



Robert Howard
Kolar Pres. Gosney



John
C. Lang



1980
Executive
Board

Virginia
Nelson
Secretary





The Board of Directors
of
SUNSHINE SERVICE, Inc.
proudly presents this scroll
to

Reverend E. DUANE THISTLETHWAITE
PRESIDENT

In appreciation of his many years of
devoted service to our organization
on the occasion of his 88th birthday

Sun City Arizona
March 30, 1980

1982
Sunshine
Service
Received this award

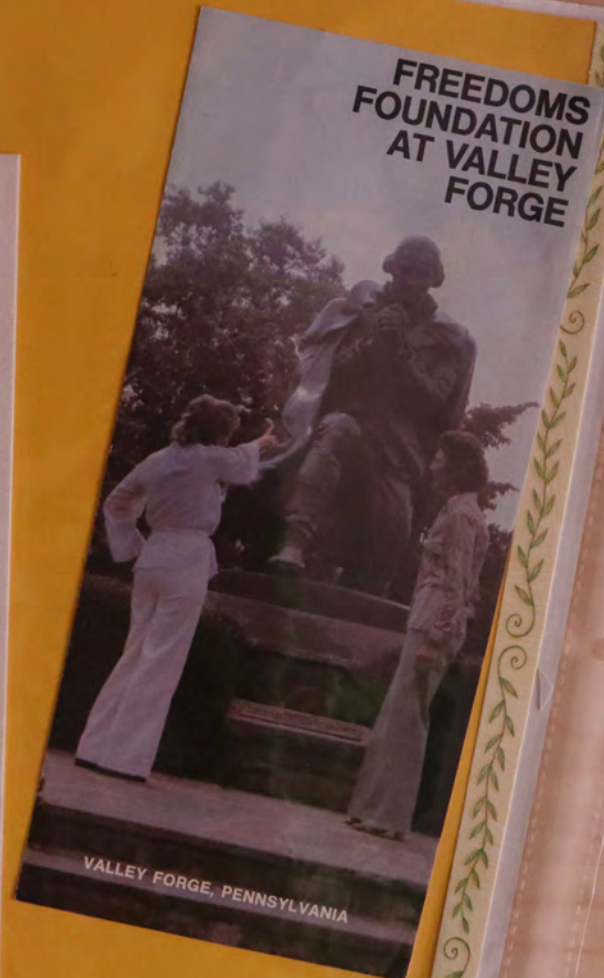


Phoenix Area Chapter
Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge

ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM

CAMELBACK INN
PEACE PIPE ROOM

APRIL 3, 1982
2:00 P.M.



Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge



Nine-foot bronze statue of General George Washington at Prayer—a gift to Freedoms Foundation of the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, State of Pennsylvania.

Purpose and Programs

THE PURPOSE

Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge is a non-profit, non-political and non-sectarian organization founded in 1949.

Operating from its 105-acre campus at historic Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, the Foundation's sole purpose is to carry out national programs of information and education that preserve our heritage of free government and traditional American values. All Foundation programs are based on the concept that in order for Americans to protect and preserve their way of life, it is vital that they understand both the historic origins of their liberty and the responsibilities of good citizenship required of them.

THE PROGRAMS

Education

American Freedom ultimately rests in the hands of its children. Whether they pass freedom's torch on to their own children or allow it to flicker out depends on whether they understand what freedom is and what basic values support it. To ensure this heritage is kept alive, the Freedoms Foundation conducts two basic programs that educate for freedom.

Teacher Seminars

The first of these programs is concerned with educating the educators—the classroom teachers most responsible for transmitting our beliefs to our children. Each year the

Robert Kolar
receiving "Freedoms
Foundation" Award

1981



November 12, 1981

Proposed list of members on committees:

Nominating Committee:

Sam J. Higginbotham, Chairman
William Maxant, Vice Chairman
Frank H. Weiner
Evelyn Conlin
William T. Wolfrey
Guy C. Sartor

Building, Grounds and Equipment Committee:

William Gresko, Chairman
Bud Eberwein, Vice Chairman
John C. Lang
Willard C. Lighter
Garnett Jones
Edythe Bregnard.

Finance Committee:

Howard Gosney, Chairman
Willard C. Lighter, Vice Chairman
E. Harold Jordan
Clara M. Sicher
Gilbert Alinder
Margaret C. Patterson

Executive Committee:

Robert J. Kolar, President
Howard Gosney, 1st Vice President
John C. Lang, 2nd Vice President
Virginia Nelson, Secretary
E. Harold Jordan, Treasurer
Thomas W. Fitzgerald, Ass't Treas.
Charlotte Bowling

Constitution and Bylaws Committee:

John C. Lang, Chairman
William Maxant, Vice Chairman
Bob Graham
Howard Gosney
Helen Quyn
Thomas W. Fitzgerald

Publicity Committee:

Charlotte Bowling, Chairman
Evelyn Conlin

Hospitality Committee:

Helen Quyn
Lucille Goodman

The President is a member of all committees without vote. When he cannot attend the Vice President should be called. Exception -- the Nominating Committee





1981



Sunshine Service officers

New officers installed Nov. 1 for Sunshine Service in the service's office. From left are, Virginia Nelson, secretary; Howard Gosney, first vice president; Thomas W. Fitzgerald, assistant treasurer;

John C. Lang, second vice president; and E. Harold Jordan, treasurer. Robert J. Kolar, who was not pictured, was installed as president. (News-Sun Photo)



1982



Lang Kolar Nelson
Dooney Fitzgerald
Howard
Dooney Thomas
Fitzgerald



1983



John
Lang Robert
Kolar
Virginia
Nelson



Dedication of
Building on
Santa Fe Drive

Rev. E. Duane Thistlewaite
Mrs. Thistlewaite



4—October 12-18, 1983—SUN CITY INDEPENDENT EVERY HOME . . .

Many thanks!

Editor:

The problem was immediate and drastic.

A lot of people to the south of us were suddenly devastated by flood waters. Homes disappeared, whole communities were obliterated, families lost every physical possession, productive farms became mud flats, washed-out roads and bridges prevented rescue.

It was a little hard to visualize, except for those of us who have been through floods. When some people are reduced to zero, all people are challenged.

Lions Clubs of the Sun Cities reacted immediately. Acting through its clubs, in Maricopa and Pima Counties, information about areas of stress was coordinated.

The first need pinpointed the need for beds in Stanfield, west of Casa Grande, where the schoolhouse had been established as a rescue center. It's not very comfortable sleeping on muddy floors.

A phone call to Wil Stevenor, director of Sunshine Service, started things moving. Their Board of Directors met Oct. 4, and approved the donation of 50 roll-away beds. Within a half hour, Lions volunteers were on hand to load the beds on a truck made available by Del E. Webb Development Company.

However, there was no way to get the truck from Sun City to Stanfield. All roads were closed, and there were no helicopters available to handle the assignment. Late Tuesday night, the DPS

informed the Lions that a circuitous route through Florence and Eloy could be made passable; and, at 7 a.m. on Wednesday the truck took off for Stanfield. Many people will sleep more comfortably tonight.

The response to this emergency effort indicates that our Sun Cities are, indeed, a community that cares. Committees will be established to coordinate the activities of churches, service and social organizations, and all concerned citizens in a continuous drive to raise food, clothing and money for the victims of flood devastation.

This is just to say thanks to the many who have helped, and will help. It's a good feeling to be a Sun Citian.

Doug Morris
Sun City





Thistlethwaite honored

The Sunshine Service building will be dedicated to Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, who served as the first chairman of the organization's founding committee. Displaying a plaque to be installed next to the building's main entrance are, from left, Bill Maxant,

Charlotte Bowling and Tom Fitzgerald, dedication committee members. Thistlethwaite, who is a resident of Sun Valley Lodge, will be honored in a dedication ceremony at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 10 in the Sunshine Service building. (News-Sun) Ph





Harold E.
Johnson

Thomas
Fitzgerald

Evelyn
Conlin

Eleanor
Cottingham

1983

1984 - 1985



Robert Kolar
Past Pres.

Thomas
Fitzgerald
Pres.

EXECUTIVE BOARD 1986



Tom
Clowes

Laverne
Weimer

Byron
"Bud"
Eberwein

Evelyn
Conlin

Harold
Johnson

Eleanor
Cottingham

Byron
Eberwein

Evelyn
Conlin

Laverne
Weimer

Harold
Johnson



1987



MEMBERS
OF
THE
BOARD-
1987



HERSCHEL ANNETTE BILL CHARLES HERSCHEL DONALD PAUL BOB RALPH
McMANUS BICKEL Keenan WHITE Perlman REES Fiske JR. GERBER

Lower Row

HOWARD DOLORES THOS. ROSE RAY JOHN ELEANOR ROBERT
GOSNEY MORRIS CLEWES LARSEN POTTER LANG COTTINGHAM HOFF

John, S.V.P.
LANG

Eleanor
Cottingham

Thos.

RAY POTTER PRES.

S.V.P.

Clewes TREAS.

Executive
Board

Bob Hoff
Asst Treasurer



Rose Larson
Sect.





1988 Executive Board



E. Harold Jordan

Thomas Fitzgerald

Eleanor Cottingham



Officers - 1988



Robert
Noh

Annette
Bicket

Ray
Potter

1988 Board of Directors





Robert
Hob

John
Lang

Eleanor
Cottingham
Ray
Potter

Rose
Larson

Tom
Cleaves





Patricia Harris-Vickers Helen Vallee Erney John Long Rose Larsen Robert Hoh



*Sunshine Board
Members
1980's*





Sunshine Board
Members
1980's



SUN CITY SALUTES

A SUN THAT NEVER SETS



Fern & E. Duane Thistlethwaite

This salute to Sunshine Service Inc. honors its history and the many,

many men and women who made it a reality --- most notably the Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite

and his wife Fern, who founded the service; Del E. Webb who gave it a home, and Wilfred Stevener, who has helped it grow up. It also hails the help it will bring in the years ahead.



We're Here When You Need Us



Open House

You're invited to a celebration recognizing
25 years of service to the community

SUNDAY, APRIL 2nd

2:00 to 5:00 P.M.

9980 Santa Fe Drive Sun City, Arizona
974-2561

Awards Event

3:00 - 3:30 P.M.
• ENTERTAINMENT
• REFRESHMENTS

Awards



Event

Sunshine Service to mark Silver Anniversary Sunday

News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — There's going to be a party at 9980 Santa Fe Drive Sunday and the whole town is invited.

That's when Sunshine Service celebrates its Silver Anniversary. Since it incorporated Oct. 19, 1964, the service has been providing sickroom and guest-room equipment free of charge.

And since none of it would be possible without the gifts and donations of Sun Citizens, Sunshine Service wants to say "thanks" with free refreshments, music and tours from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Festivities include guided tours of the 24,038-square-foot facility, musical entertainment by a combo drawn from the azbeaus, Bob Henke Trio, Bob Dennis Band and the Don Nicholas Trio. Lucy Hays and Company will sing selections from "Annie Get Your Gun."

Until other groups, such as Ending Hands in Sun City West and Solecito in Peoria, followed, Sunshine Service probably was the only place in the country where people could borrow needed equipment without paying a dime. All that is ever required is a valid recreation center card.

The service began as a Home Owners Association project in



COMPANY'S GONE — Charles Novak, a Sunshine Service employee, moves baby strollers inside the SunShine Service at 9980 Santa Fe Drive.

1961, but it has been an independent non-profit corporation for 25 years. And where it once had only a few donated used hospital beds and other wornout items for loan, today it has an inventory of some 10,000 items spanning 87 categories of equipment.

Administrator Wilfred Stevener said recently that more than 3,500 homes are using Sunshine Service equipment. And there is enough left to supply everyone in Sun City who may need it.

Because borrowers don't have to pay for the loan, the service

has saved its community and purchase fees amounting to an estimated \$1.25 million year since 1966.

On hand to help celebrate are community leaders, and state officials, and representatives of Del Webb Corp. Health Corp.

Service maintains more than 10,000 items

The organization began with a few donated articles that, for many years, were housed in and loaned from Rev. Thistlethwaite's garage.

Today, Sunshine Services maintains a 24,000-square-foot warehouse containing more than 10,000 items (more than 2,000 designed for visiting grandchildren -- cribs, car seats, beds and highchairs).

The inventory list is staggering: 1,097 wheelchairs, 833 folding walkers, 690 straight walkers, 792 straight canes, 640 four-prong canes, 210 high chairs.

Wilfred Stevener, administrator since 1975, says the organization's inventory is worth more than \$750,000.

The organization is staffed by both paid employees and volunteers.

Sunshine Services, however, has never charged for its services. It is financed solely through private donations, trusts, memorial gifts and contributions from clubs and other organizations.

"We have sufficient equipment now to take care of everybody in Sun City," says Mr. Stevener.

Early days: Struggle to keep up with demand

A member of the Sunshine Services Board of Directors since 1971, Mr. Stevener can recall the days when residents had to call months in advance in order to reserve needed items.

Those days are over. Today, Sunshine Services is well-stocked and "never" runs out of anything. Reservations, he says, are no longer needed nor accepted.

The holidays -- Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter -- are the busiest times of the year for Sunshine Services (because of the requests for items for visiting grandchildren).

Gertrude Stevener, who has worked for the organization the past 12 years, says, at one time, "around the holidays the warehouse would always be empty."

During the 1960s and 70s, says Mrs. Stevener, much of the equipment was donated. Today, nearly all of the items maintained by Sunshine Services are purchased by the organization.

"Residents moved here to Sun City and they had all this stuff left over -- highchairs, toys, beds. They weren't ever going to use them again so they gave them to us," she says.

Unfortunately, she says, many of the items donated were in poor



Brat McKeand/Independent

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. Sunshine Services, Inc. will mark its 25th anniversary with a special open house April 2. The organization, which loans health care equipment to residents at no charge, was founded by the late Rev. Duane E. Thistlethwaite and is now headed by Wilfred Stevener.

condition. Much to their credit, the Steveners spent a great deal of their own money and time repairing the items so that they would be acceptable to area residents.

Mrs. Stevener would take highchairs home and reupholster them. The organization had 51 then. Today, they have 210.

"You see, we thought that if we had nice things to loan, then people would be happy with Sunshine Services," says Mr. Stevener.

"They would come back again and again and hopefully show their appreciation with a nice donation," he adds.

"Nobody wants to borrow junk."

The Steveners aren't the only ones dedicated to serving Sunshine Services.

The continual growth and suc-

cess of the organization is due to the efforts of a number of devoted residents, many of whom now sit on the Board of Directors.

Overcoming obstacles; facing new challenges

Throughout the years, Sunshine Services has received numerous awards for its service to the community.

The organization's greatest challenge in the past was to keep up with community demand.

That challenge, thankfully, has been met.

The new challenge confronting Sunshine Services, says Mr. Stevener, will be to keep the organization financially stable in the face of rising insurance costs.

Four years ago, Sunshine Services faced its first insurance crisis. The organization's insurance

premium increased from \$5,400 a year to \$19,000. The following year it jumped to \$24,000.

"I spent nearly the entire year looking for the best possible rate for us," recalls Mr. Stevener.

"We have sufficient equipment now to take care of everybody in Sun City."

— Wilfred Stevener

Rising insurance costs have forced the organization to make changes. A number of items, such as electric hospital beds and breathing machines, have been taken out of their inventory at the request of their insurance carrier.

"We have an excellent record," says Mr. Stevener.

"I don't think an insurance company has had to pay out more than \$2,000 in claims since we started."

"I hope that people using our services refrain from suing Sunshine Services. It would be devastating to us."

Mr. Stevener is, however, confident that Sunshine Services will still be around 25 years from now.

"Twenty-five years from now I don't expect to see much difference other than the type of equipment we have," he says.

"Let's face it, we still have people here who retired in 1960. The average age of Sun City is going up so I don't expect the demand on us to change in the very near future."

April 2, 1989



Sunshine

Service

in

the



1990's

Jack
Harper

Adam
Selman

Ralph
Berber



Bill
Rexman

Roe
Larson

Jim
Hauer

Patricia
Terrio
Veckers

Donald
Ross

John
Lang

Laurie
Brown

Helen
Valley Elway

Board - 1990 **Sunshine**

is

happiness

No act
of kindness
however small,
is ever wasted.
Stacy

Rose Helen Jim Patricia Donald
Larsen Valley Hauer Jenis Vickers Ross
Elwong



Directors 1990

NEW Members



Jack Louise
Harper Brown

Sunshine



Board 1991

Opportunity of a Lifetime



Jack Bryan
Harper Edelwein
Donald Rees
Joim Hauver
Adam Sellman



Officers 1991



New Members 1991



9980 Santa Fe Drive, Sun City, Arizona 85351-3197
974-2561

OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.





To All Sun City Residents:

We hope that you will read this new Sunshine Service information booklet and keep it available for reference in your home. This new booklet has been prepared and is being distributed to all homes in Sun City so that all residents in Sun City know about Sunshine Service, the sick room, medical equipment and children's equipment that it makes available on a loan basis from its warehouse, located on Santa Fe Drive.

Sunshine Service is a non-profit Arizona corporation and is funded by voluntary contributions and memorial gifts. No federal, state or municipal funds have ever been requested or received.

The day-to-day operations of the Sunshine Service are handled by a paid administrator and staff. The administrator is hired by and reports to a Board of Directors who are elected for five-year terms by board members and serve in a non-paid voluntary capacity. The board nominates and elects directors, approves the articles of incorporation and bylaws, establishes policies, approves budgets and major expenditures and monitors overall operation of the corporation. Any resident of Sun City who has a paid-up Sun City recreation center card is eligible to be nominated to serve as a director of the Sunshine Service.

While Sunshine Service equipment is available for the use of all residents or visitors staying with residents, the equipment must not be taken out of Sun City on a permanent basis. As a matter of control, equipment may be loaned only to Sun City residents.

We hope that you will find this new information booklet helpful, and we hope that when necessary you will avail yourself and your family and visitors of the many items of equipment provided by Sunshine Service.

Sincerely,
Your Sunshine Service Board of Directors



Sick Room Equipment

Weights:

- 1# Ankle weight
- 2# Ankle weight
- 3# Ankle weight
- 4# Ankle weight
- 5# Ankle weight
- 7.5# Ankle weight
- 10# Ankle weight

Alternating pressure pad

Amigo carrier

Arm exerciser

Bath bench

Bathtub support

Bed blocks

Bed board

Bedpan

Bed rail

Bed rest

Bed-hospital

Bedside table

Blanket support

Dumbbell

Call bell



Canes:
Cane-four prong
Cane-straight
Cane-straight w/seat

Card holder

Cervical traction

Chairs:

Chair-folding

Chair-geriatric

Chair-lift

Chairs-stationary

Commode

Crutches:

Crutches

Crutches-Canadian

Crutches-platform

Exercise bicycle

Foam wedge

Foot massager

Fracture pan

Hand grip

Hand truck

Hydro tub lift

I.V. stand



Continued



Sick Room Equipment

Jacuzzi
 Mattress raiser
 Pacer mat
 Platform arms
 Posey belt
 Posey jacket
 Ramp
 Restorator
 Rings:
 Ring-foam
 Ring-rubber
 Shampoo tray
 Sheepskin
 Shoe horn
 Slide board
 Slip-on aid
 Stools:
 Stool-bar
 Stool-foot
 Surgical shoe
 Tables
 Talking computer
 Toilet arms



Toilet seat-elevated
 Tong
 Transfer tub bench
 Trapeze
 Trapeze stand
 Trays:
 Tray-arm
 Tray-bed
 Tray-T.V.



Walkers:
 Walker with seat
 Walker-folding
 Walker-four-wheeled
 Walker-one hand
 Walker-straight
 Walker-walking
 Wheelchair
 Wheelchair cushion
 Wheelchair tray

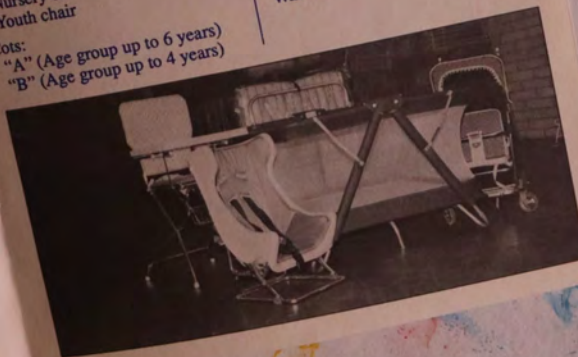


Rollaways & Children's Equipment

Bassinets
 Bathtub
 Bumper pads
 Carriers
 Carseats
 Chairs:
 Booster chair
 Folding chair
 High chair
 Nursery chair
 Youth chair

Cots:
 "A" (Age group up to 6 years)
 "B" (Age group up to 4 years)

Cribs:
 Porta crib
 Regular crib
 Diaper pails
 Nursery seat
 Playpens
 Rollaway Beds:
 "C" (30")
 "D" (39")
 "E" (48")
 Strollers
 Walkers





In 1961, The Sun City Home Owners appointed a Sunshine Committee to help residents who were unable to pay the then annual recreation dues of \$40 per home. A Sick and Visiting Committee was also named and a board member, the Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite was named chairman of both.

In that first year, the Sunshine Committee learned a resident had to



Our warehouse enables us to store large amounts of equipment, making it easily accessible to Sun City residents.

History of the Sunshine Service

pay \$35 for a hospital bed for one month. The committee then purchased hospital beds from Memorial Hospital in Phoenix for \$25 each, as well as second-hand equipment and walkers. Residents also donated items, and the first bed and wheelchair were loaned on April 2, 1962. All the equipment was kept at Rev. Thistlethwaite's apartment.

In October 1964 the Sunshine

Committee became an independent chartered organization and the name was changed to Sunshine Service, Inc. Rev. Thistlethwaite was elected president, a position he held until ill health forced his resignation in 1981.

The Del Webb Company donated a building site and constructed the first Sunshine Building at 10307 Coggins Drive. It was occupied in July 1965 with \$8,000 worth of equipment. In 1968, an addition was constructed by Del Webb Company and interested citizens. In 1973 it moved to the present location at 9980 Santa Fe Drive, courtesy of Snyder Transfer Company and volunteers. In 1985, another addition brought it to the present capacity of more than 22,000 square feet. The inventory is valued at \$750,000.

Records show that as the population of Sun City grew, so did use of the equipment. Savings have been calculated periodically; in 1988, for instance, it was estimated that more than \$1,305,000 was effected for Sun City residents.

In 1982, help was provided to start a separate and independent unit in

Sun City West.

Sunshine Services, Inc., has received local, state and national recognition. Awards received include the George Washington Honor Medal for services to the sick and handicapped from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge in Pennsylvania.



Our Sunshine Services office, located on Santa Fe between 103rd and 99th avenues, is staffed by experienced women and men who can help you find what you need.



We even inspire
unknown poets.

Written some time
after 1977.



SUNSHINE SERVICE

At the head of Sunshine Service
Is a man who's dear to me.
His name's a real tongue twister
So he's known as "Reverend T".

He came to this Sun City.
Yes, came and saw a need.
He started Sunshine Service
To fill a void indeed.

Back in the early days, I hear,
His little bride named Fern
Handled all the office chores.
Not a penny did they earn.

Hospital bed needed?
Don't go and get all nervous.
Just get on the telephone
And dial Sunshine Service.

Crutches, canes, and walkers,
Commodos and all that gear
Is available to you now
And all throughout the year.

Got a call from the children?
The grandkids coming soon?
Rollaways, cribs and playpens
Sure are a real boon.

Two hundred fifty thousand bucks *
Is a lot of cash, I fear.
That's what rentals would have cost
Sun Citians last year!

But we are, oh so lucky
'Cause we can use it free!
That's why Sunshine Service
Means so very much to me!

Catastrophic illness hits.
It's surely nice to know
All that expensive equipment
Won't eat up all your dough!

Visit Sunshine Service.
See what's available there.
When you talk to God tonight
Include them in your prayer.

* The figure for
1977 was over
\$425,000.00.



1992

Board
Officers

Bryon
Eberwein

Marion
Young

Louise
Brown

Robert
Hok



HURRAY!

Bob Marion Byron Jim Louise Hazel Ann
 Noh Young Eberwein Hauer Brown Phillips



1992
 Board



Rev. Ralph Kerber Bill Reineman Byron Eberwein Louise Brown Bob Hoh
Fred Curtis Jim Hauer



1993

Officers

New
Members



Rev. Gerber Bill Reineman Fr. Frank Similk Mary Callahan Colonel Vause McCleester



1993 Board

Colonel Russell Rev. Bryan Bob Fe.
 Vause Jensen Gerber Eberwein Hoh Similk Hazel Ann
 Bill Reineman Perlman Phillips

me
 Cleester



Mary
 Callahan

Jim
 Hauer

Louise
 Brown



1994 Board

Col. L. Fr. Frank
Dause Linalik



Sydney Florence Russell Robert Paul
Jacobs Jerousck Jensen Bruce McClaster
Maing Bob Louise Marguerite Kerber Bill
Callahan Hoh Brown Perlman Battie Reinman
Bama

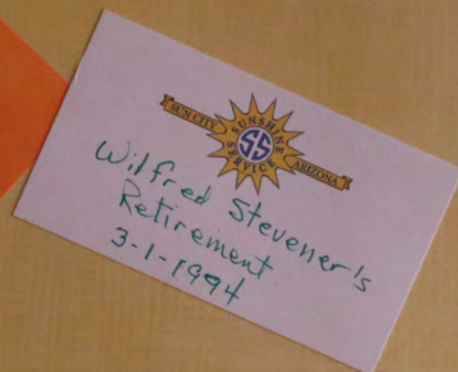
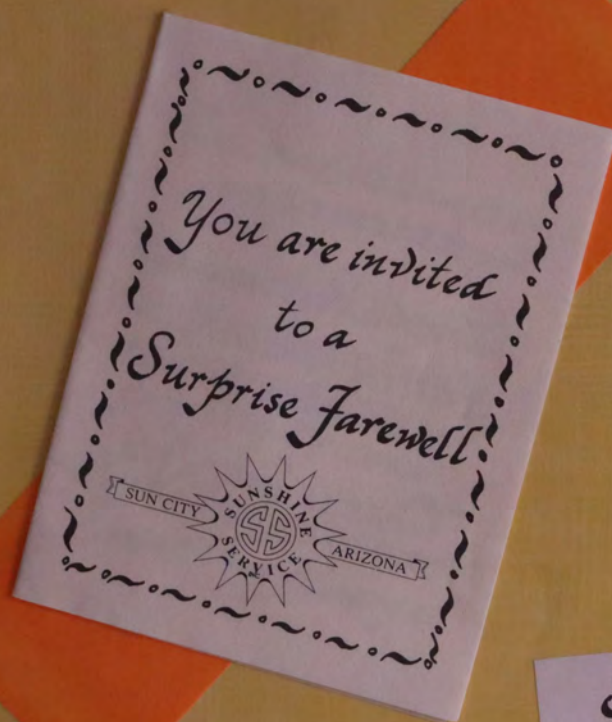
Fred Curtis



New Members 1994



1994 Officers



1995 Board



Bill Reineman James Hauer Dottie Barna Fred Curtis Anna McMillen Colonel Vause Bob Briscoe Mary Callahan Rev. Ralph Gerber Mitz Perlman Sidney Jacobs Russell Jensen Florence Jerousek
Bob Hoh



1995 Officers



Bill Reineman Colonel Vause Bob Briscoe Bob Hoh Mary Callahan Rev. Ralph Gerber Florence Jerousek



Colored
Printed in China



9980 Santa Fe Drive, Sun City, Arizona 85351-3197

974-2561

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday 9 am to 12 pm - 1 pm to 4 pm

Q. What is Sunshine Service?

A. **Sunshine Service** is an independent non-profit organization.

Q. What is the purpose of Sunshine Service?

A. They loan equipment for use in the Sun City homes.

Q. Who is served by this service?

A. Residents and visitors of Sun City.

Q. What type of equipment do they loan?

- A. 1. Medical equipment, such as walkers, wheelchairs, commodes, etc.
2. Folding beds of various sizes for adults and children.
3. Children's equipment, such as high chairs, car seats, strollers, etc.

Q. Where is this service located?

A. 9980 Santa Fe Drive, Sun City (west of 99th Avenue and 1 blk. north of Grand)

Q. How is this service funded?

A. Totally by voluntary contributions. We never tell anyone using our equipment what amount to contribute, but leave it to the individual.

Q. Is this service part of the recreation centers?

A. No, **Sunshine Service** is not connected to the recreation centers. However, we request to see proof of residency in Sun City, and often use the recreation cards for this purpose.

Q. How long has Sunshine Service been in operation?

A. The service was begun on a very small scale in 1962. Since that time, it has expanded until we now occupy 22,000 sq. ft. and have over 12,000 pieces of equipment.

SUN CITY 1995
DIRECTORY



Q. How many residents of Sun City use our equipment?

A. Approximately 4,000 homes have our equipment in use at any given time.

Q. How do you know who has equipment?

A. Each piece of equipment is numbered and strict records are kept of each item.

Q. Who determines the method of operation for the service?

A. A board of directors sets the policies for the organization. An administrator supervises 10 part time employees. Hours are Monday thru Friday, 9 am to noon and 1 pm to 4 pm.

Q. How can I, as a Sun City resident or visitor, make use of this service?

A. It can be picked up at **Sunshine Service** and most items will fit in a car. Large items such as hospital beds are delivered and set up in the home.

Q. Are there any special rules regarding the equipment?

A. Yes, Hospital beds and lift chairs need a prescription from a local practicing physician. Lift chair prescription is good for 6 months. Hospital beds and lift chairs are delivered by **Sunshine Service** Tuesdays and Thursdays. Exercise bikes need a prescription with the reason for using same and good for 6 months. This item fits in the trunk of your car.

Q. Can I tour Sunshine Service?

A. Yes, individually!

Yes, as clubs!

Yes, as tour groups!

Daily News-Sun

and the Northwest

Vol. 39 No. 16

WEDNESDAY
Aug. 9, 1995

Service saves \$1.5 million

Rental equipment aids residents

By J.J. McCORMACK
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Ruth Clark is sure she'd be on welfare if she had to buy or rent the thousands of dollars worth of medical equipment she has needed from time to time to care for her husband at home.

Instead, the Sun City woman has been able to borrow from Sunshine Service. The hospital beds she used for months at a time and wheelchairs and walkers she borrowed for three years would have been free and clear except that Clark donates what she can to the medical equipment lending bank.

"I appreciate this here. I don't know what I'd do without it," Clark said while borrowing a couple of

items from Sunshine Service earlier this week.

"When I get anything and come back, I always write a check out. I know it wouldn't begin to cover it (the cost), but I still donate," she said.

Clark's testament to the value of Sunshine Service came as the non-profit organization released a report indicating Sun City residents saved more than \$1.5 million in 1994 by borrowing, instead of buying or renting, medical equipment.

The report prepared by Sunshine Service Administrator Tom Denning compares the monthly rental and purchase costs of a variety of medical equipment people need at home while recuperating from surgery or because of an illness or injury that

► See Rental savings, A5

leaves them infirm.

The report shows, for example, that 111 electric lift chairs were used in 97 homes in 1994. Users saved an estimated \$110 each in rent on the chairs they borrowed from Sunshine Service. The total savings for the year on the borrowed chairs, Denning reported, was about \$128,000.

The amount also represents a potential savings to Medicare and private insurers that pay the full or partial cost of medical equipment.

Denning said he prepared the cost comparison to show "how much money Sunshine Service actually saves Medicare and the rest of Sun City." He said he was surprised by the report's bottom line.

"It's unbelievable. But there it is. It's in black and white and there are records to back it up, so it's not fiction," he said of the \$1.5 million value of medical equipment loaned in 1994.

Congress is exploring Medicare reforms in an attempt to curb skyrocketing costs of the health-care program for disabled people or those age 65 and older.

Medical equipment lending banks such as Sunshine Service, Lending Hands in Sun City West and Solecito Services in Peoria, are quietly making a dent in Medicare costs. But many communities don't have the service.

Some churches have lending banks for their own congrega-

tions, Denning said.

Clark said she would have had to rent a lot of the medical equipment she borrowed over the years if her insurance company refused to pay.

"A lot of times, insurance companies don't think you need it and won't pay," she said.

Before moving to Sun City and taking advantage of Sunshine Service, Clark said she paid 20 percent of the cost of medical equipment and her insurer paid 80 percent. Even with that 80-20 split, her share of one bill amounted to over \$1,000.

"I'd be on relief without Sunshine Service. Really, as much as my husband was sick, I would have been," she said.



Program brings a little Sunshine to retirees

By Luna I. Shyr
Associated Press Writer

SUN CITY, Ariz. — For residents of this retirement community, getting medical equipment can be as simple as checking out a book at the local library. Hospital beds, wheelchairs, bath supports and lift chairs are just some of the items available for loan at Sunshine Service Inc., which has served this town on the outskirts of Phoenix for the past 30 years.

A signature promising to return the items and an optional donation are all that are required in return.

"I would be in the poor house if it wasn't around," said Ruth Clark, 81, who borrowed a hospital bed, walker and wheelchair while caring for her sick husband for eight years. "I'm afraid if I had not had that, I would have had to put him in a retirement home."

Program saves seniors money

Sunshine Service subsists entirely on donations, many of which are left in the wills and trusts of Sun City residents.

"The wills and trusts keep us going," said administrator Tom Denning. "If it wasn't for that, we'd have to shut the door."

Denning declined to disclose the company's annual budget, but said the average donation from residents at the door is \$25. It's estimated that the service saves residents more than \$1.5 million a year in rental costs.

Nestled near the entrance of this community marked by lawns of cactus and painted rocks, Sunshine Service offers everything from surgical shoes and mattress raisers to playpens and diaper pails for visiting children.

There's no limit on the checkout peri-



AP photo

AS EASY AS CHECKING OUT A LIBRARY BOOK — Tom Denning, manager of Sunshine Service Medical Supply Co. in Sun City, Ariz., kneels next to some of the loaner wheelchairs his company makes available to senior citizens on an as-needed basis.

od for medical equipment, and some items have been on loan for almost 10 years, Denning said.

Convenience items, those used for family visits and house guests, must be returned within 30 days. The high chairs, strollers and rollaway beds usually disappear quickly around Thanksgiving and Christmas, Denning said.

Over a thousand available

Willis Reineman, 82, and his wife, Marian, 82, have used Sunshine Service throughout their 17 years as Sun City residents.

"It dates back to our grandchildren," Reineman said. "We had cribs, strollers, everything you could think of to take care of their needs when they were here for a week or two."

The company started as a tiny

operation in 1961 out of the home carport of the Rev. Duane Thistlewaite, who offered hospital beds and wheelchairs to residents unable to afford the \$35 monthly rent for such equipment.

The operation quickly blossomed and became Sunshine Service, Inc. in 1964. The company moved into its current 22,000-square-foot warehouse in 1973.

Its inventory, which includes 1,160 wheelchairs and some 800 bath benches, is neatly stacked and numbered on rows of shelves that line the warehouse.

The company rarely has problems with people failing to return borrowed equipment, which are sanitized and fixed up at the warehouse before going back on the shelves.

This article was
printed in the
following newspapers
we know about:

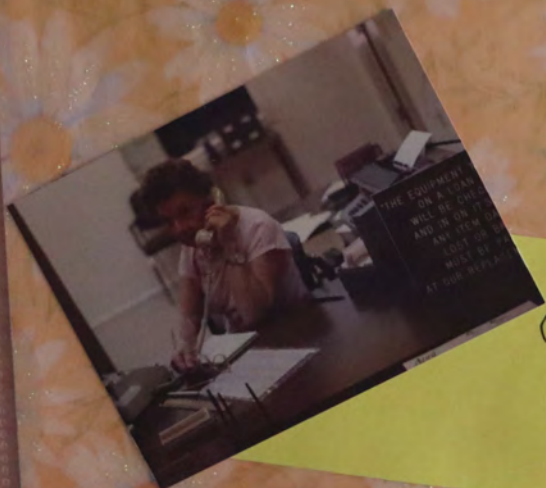
Council Bluffs, Iowa
Virginia, Minnesota
Charleston, W.Va.
Blenois, Michigan
St. Joseph, Mo.
Bay City, N.J.
Schenectady, N.Y.
Piqua, N.Y.
Lansing, MI.
Detroit, MI. and
Fitchburg, Mass.

1995





Employees



April
1995



You Are Invited
35th Anniversary



Sunshine Service, Inc.
9980 Santa Fe Drive
974-2561

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, October 17, 1996
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Free Tours and Refreshments

Sunshine Service reaches milestone

Open house marks 35th anniversary

By J.J. McCORMACK
Senior staff writer

The four-pronged cane with the tips showing years of wear stands as a symbol of Sunshine Service's mission to lend free medical equipment to Sun City residents for a week, a year or longer.

The heavy steel cane on loan for 21 years is displayed in the agency's lending library board room.

The woman who borrowed it on March 17, 1975, used it until the day she died.

Twenty-one years is by far the longest Sunshine Service has loaned a piece of equipment, said Bernie Zielinski, assistant administrator of the non-profit organization. It's not unusual for a hospital bed to be out 10 to 12 years.

The cane will not be returned to the Sunshine Service inventory because of its age and because the agency now stocks lighter-weight, four-pronged canes.

The cane will be among the myriad items displayed during an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursday in Sunshine Service, 9980 W. Santa Fe Drive. The open house marks the medical equipment lending library's 35th anniversary.

Canes comprise part of the Sunshine Service's stock of some 12,000 pieces of medical equipment and childcare items in the agency's 22,000-square-foot warehouse-office. The items are loaned free to Sun City residents and visiting family members.

About 9,000 items currently are in use in Sun City homes.

"If all the equipment came back

tomorrow, we wouldn't have any place to put it," Zielinski said.

Sunshine Service's vast inventory includes wheelchairs, electric hospital beds, commodes, bath benches and the latest addition — four-wheeled walkers.

About 100 of the four-wheeled walkers were acquired about six months ago and all but about 10 of them are on loan, Zielinski said.

"We expect to have 1,000 of them out in a couple years," he said.

The agency's medical equipment inventory represents \$1.6 million worth of annual health-care savings to borrowers.

"Think of the savings to Medicare," said Tom Denning, administrator of Sunshine Service the last three years.

Sunshine Service started in 1961 as a committee working to help needy residents under the auspices of the Sun City Civic Association, the forerunner of the Sun City Home Owners Association.

The Rev. Duane Thistlewaite, who is now deceased, chaired the committee, which used private contributions to buy three hospital beds to lend to people who couldn't afford the \$35 monthly bed rental. The first bed was borrowed in April 1962.

When the Sunshine Committee's demand and inventory grew to the point that a building was needed, the Del Webb Corp. built an office-warehouse on Coggins Drive. By 1973, when expansion was no longer an option, Webb donated the Santa Fe Drive lot and built the current headquarters at cost.

Among the honored guests at the open house Thursday will be Wilfred E. Stevener, now of Michigan, who steered Sunshine Service for 21 years.



Mollie J. Hopper/Daily News-Sun

Bernie Zielinski, Sunshine Service's assistant administrator, shows the improvements made in four-pronged canes in the past 30 years. The newer models are lighter and have a lower center of gravity.

Invitations to the open house have gone out to hundreds of past volunteer board members and patrons of Sunshine Service. Tours and refreshments are planned.

The open house is being organized in part to make the public aware of Sunshine Service, its place in Sun

City history and its role as a vital community resource.

"It's surprising the number of people who, the first time they come in, say, 'I didn't know Sunshine Service was here,' or, 'I didn't know you had all this equipment,'" Denning said.

Executive Board

1996

Bob Arisco

Bill Reineman

Colonel Vause

Anna
McMillon



Florence
Jerousele

Mary
Callahan

dreams
Fullfilled

1996

Board of Directors



Joy



Rev. Frank Simlik Bill Reineman Robert Briscoe Anna McMillen Florence Jerousek Colonel Vause Mitz Perlman Russell Jensen Mary Callahan



1997
Executive
Board



Bob
Briscoe

Colonel
Vause

Russell
Jensen

Mary
Callahan

1997 Board of Directors



Dottie Florence
Barna Jerousek

Rev. Frank
Simlik
Colonel
Vause

Bob Mary Russell
Beisese Jensen
Callahan

Dr. Martha
Dale
Jim
Hauer

1998 Executive Board
of the Board of Directors
Florence Jerusak



Jim
Hauer

Dr.
Martha
Dale

Bob Briscoe



ANNUAL COST OF LOANER EQUIPMENT IF RENTED OR PURCHASED 1998

	TOTAL	IN HOMES	COST PURCHASE	MONTHLY RENT	SAVINGS PER MONTH	SAVINGS ANNUAL
WHEELCHAIRS	1136	966	\$460.00	\$80.00	\$57,960.00	\$695,520.00
WALKER/WHEELS	458	380	\$300.00	\$35.00	\$13,330.00	\$159,600.00
WALKER FOLDING	733	611	\$110.00	\$35.00	\$21,385.00	\$256,620.00
ST. CANE	838	740	\$22.00			\$16,280.00
4-PRONG CANE	506	301	\$59.00	\$15.00	\$4,515.00	\$54,180.00
CRUTCHES	82	29	\$46.00	\$15.00	\$435.00	\$5,220.00
COMMODOES	460	401	\$219.00	\$35.00	\$14,035.00	\$168,420.00
EL. TOILET SEAT	947	708	\$40.00			\$28,320.00
TOILET ARMS	785	580	\$63.00			\$36,540.00
BATH BENCH	770	639	\$62.00			\$39,618.00
TRANS. TUB BENCH	273	187	\$120.00			\$22,440.00
ALT. PRESSURE PAD	32	24	\$144.00	\$45.00	\$1,080.00	\$12,960.00
HOSPITAL BED	128	113	\$1,400.00	\$155.00	\$17,515.00	\$210,180.00
BEDSIDE TABLE	149	93	\$179.00	\$23.00	\$2,139.00	\$25,668.00
TRAPEZE	93	38	\$207.00	\$25.00	\$950.00	\$11,400.00
EXERCISE BIKE	193	60	\$225.00	\$35.00	\$2,100.00	\$25,200.00
LIFT CHAIRS	187	161	\$650.00	\$110.00	\$17,710.00	\$212,520.00
ARM EXERCISER	56	50	\$49.00			\$2,450.00
TONG	326	286	\$14.00			\$4,004.00
BAR STOOL	26	15	\$135.00			\$2,025.00
WEIGHTS 1#	123	74	\$11.00			\$814.00
WEIGHTS 2#	143	79	\$13.00			\$1,027.00
WEIGHTS 3#	114	58	\$15.00			\$870.00
WEIGHTS 4#	50	22	\$17.00			\$374.00
WEIGHTS 5#	80	29	\$22.00			\$638.00
WEIGHTS 7 1/2#	35	5	\$25.00			\$125.00
WEIGHTS 10#	10	4	\$31.00			\$124.00
CERVICAL TRACTION	53	8	\$92.50			\$740.00
DRESSING STICK	47	32	\$9.20			\$294.20
POSEY BELT	85	41	\$19.60			\$803.60
RUBBER RING	31	25	\$10.00			\$250.00
RESTORATOR	34	24	\$60.00			\$1,440.00
BED RAILS	45	35	\$158.00			\$5,530.00
FOAM WEDGE	88	30	\$37.00			\$1,110.00
RAMP	179	67	\$40.00			\$2,680.00
SHOE HORN	106	52	\$10.00			\$520.00
TRAPEZE STAND	34	15	\$75.00			\$1,125.00
SLIP ON AID	160	52	\$11.80			\$613.60

TOTAL

\$2,008,243.40

SUNSHINE SERVICE EQUIPMENT IS IN MORE THAN 10,000 HOMES IN SUN CITY.
NOTE: Items indicated as cost purchases are items that are sold and not rented due to deterioration of the equipment during use.

Above list covers only items that are in constant demand. There are a number of small items that do not appear on the list, such as Fracture Pans, Mattress Raiser, Blanket Supports, Bath Tub Supports and numerous others that are available at Sunshine Service Inc.

This list is for medical equipment only, it does not take into account any of the childrens equipment or rollaway beds.

If convenience items such as Rollaway Beds, Cribs, Carseats, Strollers and all items for Guests it would no doubt add another \$500,000.00 to savings for Sun City Residents.

Some
Interest-
ing
Informa-
tion

The Value of Sunshine!

1999



Board Members

Left to right: Rev. Frank Simlik, Ted Olson,
Jamer Hauer, Rev. Ralph Gerber,
Ronald Powell, Dr. Martha Dale,
Colonel Vause

Seated: Arlene Porter

Absent: Anna McMillen and Audrey Hanks



1999

Executive Committee Members

Left to right: Ted Olson, James Hauer,
Rev. Ralph Gerber,
Dr. Martha Dale

Seated: Arlene Porter





A Few



Supplies





MOMENTS

Just a normal



Moments

day
at



Sunshine

Sunshine Service 1999

We
even made
it into
the foreign
press.

ZEIT & WELT

IHRE SEITEN ZUM WOCHENENDE

Samstag, 29. Juni 1991

Schwäbische Zeitung

Teusch so sauber da-
lobt Marie Bernhard,
aufgewachsen in Gsteig-
wiler bei Interlaken. Seit
mehr als einem Dutzend
Jahren wohnt sie mit ih-
rem aus Winterthur

stammenden Mann Ro-
bert in Sun City, der
weit aus größten „Senio-
ren-Stadt“ der USA.
Anstiedlungen, die nur
für Pensionäre reserviert
sind, werden dort in zu-

nehmendem Maße aus
dem Boden gestampft,
damit die rüstigen Herr-
schaften ein gepflegtes
Haus erwerben und ihr
Ersparnis in Ruhe genie-
ßen können.

Disneyland nur für Senioren

riedlung.

Im 46 000 Einwohner zählenden Sun-City in Arizona,
gibt es keine Kinder und keine Zweifler
— und außerdem scheint hier jeden Tag die Sonne



E
WO

Als Be-
ster Ha-
warf er il-
nung Lob-
einer, ein-
dachte, das sei in
Werbesendung.
malige Ministerpr-
thar Spath ihm
Spaichingen schick-
te der Brief zwisch-
kartons und alten Z-
ten. Aus Versehen
so unscheinbar.
Und als ihm Bunde-
dent Richard von Weiz-
lassen wollte, da war es
dem Zufall, da war es
daß Walter Weiss nicht
aus der Tageszeitung er-
ren mußte, welche Verdie-
ste um das Deutsche Volk
sich nun wieder erworben
hatte. Der Bundespräsi-
dient hatte sich vorber-
lich an den Spaichinger Bür-
germeister gewandt. Der
kennt den Walter und hat ihn
flugs zu sich geladen, um ihm
die ehrenden Worte aus
Bonn, zusammen mit einem
Wappen der Stadt Spaichin-
gen, persönlich in die Hand
zu drücken.
Meine Demut ist klein
ist b-

Sun-City ab-
sind blumenform-
mäßig in die Wüste in-



Unerbittlich brennt die Sonne Arizonas auf uns nieder. Die Auswanderer führen stolz ihren Garten vor, wo ein Orangenbaum beinahe unter dem Gewicht seiner Früchte zusammenbricht. Von außen gleicht das Heim der Wahl-Amerikaner einem typischen nordamerikanischen Vorstadthaus, von innen ist es ein gepflegtes und vollklimatisiertes Stück Schweiz. Die Neuenburger Pendeluhr fehlt ebenso wenig wie das Alpenpanorama.

Robert Bernhard, gelernter Feinmechaniker, der sich in den USA in der Zulieferindustrie für den Flugzeugbau hocharbeitete, wäre auf seine alten Tage eigentlich lieber in die Schweiz gegangen. Doch vermutlich wird das Ehepaar wohl doch in Sun City bleiben. Denn die Schweiz ist weit. Und die Tochter ist in der nahen Stadt Phoenix verheiratet.

Die Bernhards sind zwei von 46.000 Bewohnern von Sun City, einem Gemeinwesen, das vor dreißig Jahren noch nicht gab. Sechs auf sechs Kilometer mißt das Wüstengrundstück, das ein Mr. Del Webb einem Mr. Boswell im Jahre 1958 abkaufte. Grund des Kaufs: Bau einer "Retirement community", einer Stadt ausschließlich für Pensionäre. Die Idee erwies sich als zukunftsreich: 1960 feierte die Del Webb Company die Einweihung der Siedlung, die dazumal

erst aus wenigen an ringförmigen Straßen angeordneten Häusern bestand.

Bereits wenige Tage, nachdem das Siedlungsband zur förmlichen Eröffnung durchschnitten worden war, unterschrieben dreihundert Senioren den Vertrag für den Bau eines Hauses auf dem Areal. Womit sie sich verpflichteten, eine ganze Reihe von Vorschriften einzuhalten: Wer in Sun City einziehen will, darf zum Beispiel keine schulpflichtigen Kinder haben, denn in dieser Stadt gibt es keine Schulen (was sie unter ande-

Die Straßen sind klinisch sauber

rem zu einem Steuerparadies macht). Den Bewohnern ist untersagt, hier ein Geschäft zu betreiben. Detaillierte Anweisungen regeln die Gestaltung der Gärten; der Rasen muß immer tadellos gemacht sein. Naturgarten mit wild sprießender Vegetation passen nicht in das propre Bild dieser Stadt; Haustiere auch nur in bestimmten Quartieren.

Statt Schulen sind eine ganze Reihe von Erholungszentren mit Schwimmbädern, Bowlingbahnen und Töpferwerkstätten und so weiter gebaut worden. Arbeit ist in der Stadt verpönt; von "activities" jedoch, den hobbymäßigen Beschäftigungen,

können die Senioren offensichtlich nicht genug bekommen.

Da versuchen sich pensionierte Zahnärzte an Holzarbeiten, ehemalige Manager malen Wüstenlandschaften, Altherrinnen drapieren Blumen zu Ikebana. Die Werke werden zugunsten des örtlichen Spitals in einem eigens gebauten Laden verkauft.

Fast jeder Bewohner bekleidet in Sun City einen Posten als freiwilliger Helfer. Sie lesen Papierfretchen von den geradezu klinisch sauberen Straßen auf, leiten Turnstunden, besuchen Kranke, backen Kuchen oder helfen liegengeliebten Straßenkreuzern auf die Sprünge.

Das inmitten der Seniorenstadt auftragende Boswell-Spital kann auf die Hilfe von 1600 Freiwilligen zählen, die hier zwei bis vier Stunden pro Woche kostenlos Hilfsarbeit leisten. Wie eine Trutzburg steht das Hospital am Santa Fe Drive; eine Gegenwelt zu den Golfplätzen, den Jogging-Trails und den Gymnastikhallen, wo man den alternden Körpern ein Maximum an Jugendlichkeit abzutrotzen versucht. Viele Patienten liegen mit Herzinfarkten, Arthritis und Krebs im Spital, geschlagen mit all den Altersleiden, über die man sich auch in Sun City auf Dauer nicht hinwegmogeln kann.

"Wir sind nicht reich", klären vier strahlend lachende Damen auf einem der riesigen Golfplätze der Stadt, während sie ihre beiden Elektromobile besteigen, "wir haben nur das, was wir brauchen".

Zynisch war das nicht gemeint, höchstens naiv gesagt. 800 Liter Wasser werden hier am Tag pro Person verbraucht (das Bewässern der Golfplätze noch nicht einmal eingerechnet). Pumpen holen das Grundwasser aus immer größeren Tiefen herauf. Zwei Stauseen, die auch die Hauptstadt Phoenix versorgen, vermögen nur beschränkt Wasser in das Senioren-El-Dorado in der Wüste zu liefern; darum wird jetzt zusätzlich der ferne Colorado River angezapft.

Der Wasserbedarf steigt stetig, und in der Nachbarschaft wird gerade die Schwesterstadt "Sun City West" aus dem Boden gestampft.

Wer in Del Webb's Städten seinen Lebensabend verbringen will, gehört zumindest dem Mittelstand an, oft jedoch auch der reichen Oberschicht. Der Preis der Häuser ist seit den Gründerjahren von 20 000 Dollar je nach Lage bis auf den fünf- bis zehnfachen Betrag gestiegen. Tophauser mit Blick auf einen Golfplatz oder gar einen der künstlichen Seen sind heute nicht mehr unter 350 000 Dollar zu haben.

"Alle, die hier wohnen, haben jahrzehntlang wirklich die meisten Bewohner der Seniorenstadt sind rüstig und unternehmungslustig. Aber auch an die gebrechlichen Mitbewohner ist gedacht. Der Rollstuhlverleiher gehört zum Alltag in Sun City."

hart gearbeitet", sagt Alois Maag, ein weiterer Schweizer in Sun City, der mit seiner Frau schon seit fünfzehn Jahren hier lebt. Der emigrierte Züricher arbeitete bei Eastman Kodak in Rochester als Chef der Firmenkantine. "25 Jahre lang bin ich täglich um halb fünf aufgestanden, bis mich ein Herzinfarkt fast niederwarf." Er sei keine Aus-

Ist es Rache der Älteren?

nahme, bekräftigt Maag; die allermeisten hier hätten vorher verantwortungsvolle Jobs gehabt.

Im Telefonbuch von Sun City steht hinter jedem Namen der Beruf – obwohl man ihn hier nicht mehr ausüben darf. Ehemalige Diplomaten sind vertreten, Ärzte, Kaufleute und Piloten. Ein riesiges Potential an Know-how, das in Sun City nicht nur zum Teil zum Tragen kommt.

"It is beautiful here, einfach wunderbar!" rühmt Alois Maag seine Wahlheimat ein übers andere Mal. Frieda Maag erinnert sich, daß man sie vor dem Umzug warnte: "Wir hörten mehrmals, hier sei jedes zweite Vehikel eine Ambulanz oder ein Leichenwagen. Das stimmt überhaupt nicht. Man hilft sich hier, es ist beautiful!"

Kinder und Enkelkinder der Stadtbewohner können zwar jederzeit zu Besuch kommen, sind aber – sogar zu bestimmten Zeiten in den Swimmingpools baden, doch mit ihren Großeltern über längere Zeit zusammenleben, das dürfen sie nicht. Um nicht mit dem amerikani-

"wir sind freiwillig hier". Bei einem Glas Schnaps wird Alois Maag dann doch etwas nachdenklicher: "Wissen Sie, mit uns alten Leuten wird hier auch immer wieder Schindluderei getrieben." Viele Geschäftsmänner haben sich Sun City als Tumfeld auserkoren. Sie übertölpeln Ahnungslose, drehen ihnen Dinge an, die sie nicht brauchen oder bringen sie gar um ihr Vermögen.

Das böse Wort "Diskriminierung" laucht immer wieder in Berichten über Sun City und die anderen Seniorenstädten auf. Eine Stadt, die nur für eine Rasse, eine Volks- oder Menschengruppe geöffnet ist, widerspricht nämlich der amerikanischen Verfassung.

Ist es Rache der Älteren an einer auf Jugend fixierten Gesellschaft? Sun City diskriminiert die Jungen, keine Frage. Keiner der Mitarbeiterinnen und Mitarbeiter in den 45 Banken, den Shopping-Centers, den vielen Garagen, darf in Sun City wohnen. Gegen große Widerstände der Bewohner konnte schließlich auf Stadtgebiet eine Kinderkrippe für Mitarbeiterinnen des Spitals eingerichtet werden, die ihre Babys zum Arbeitsort mitnehmen.

Kinder und Enkelkinder der Stadtbewohner können zwar jederzeit zu Besuch kommen, sind aber – sogar zu bestimmten Zeiten in den Swimmingpools baden, doch mit ihren Großeltern über längere Zeit zusammenleben, das dürfen sie nicht. Um nicht mit dem amerikani-

sehen Gesetz in Konflikt zu kommen, das solche Einschränkungen seitens einer Stadt nicht zuläßt, deklariert sich Sun City nicht als Gemeinwesen im politischen Sinn und hat auch keinen Stadtpräsidenten.

Aus allen Teilen der Vereinigten Staaten strömen sie hierher, um abgeschieden von der komplizierten, dreckigen, normalen, streßgepeitschten, von Generationenkonflikten geplagten amerikanischen Wirklichkeit ihr erarbeitetes Vermögen zu genießen. Vertreter des Bürgertums füllen hier Sonntag für Sonntag die Kirchen, sie machen sich in Sozialprogrammen nützlich

Eine durch und durch verrückte Wirklichkeit

und gehören praktisch ausschließlich der weißen Rasse an. Alle schwören sie auf ein Amerika, wo jeder es zu etwas bringen kann, wenn er nur will. Kein Zufall, daß diese Alten-Stadt viele Sympathisanten hat.

Während ich zum Auftanken an eine Garage fahre will, kreuzt ein Mädchen mit blonden, fliegenden Haaren auf Rollschuhen meinen Weg. Schlagartig wird mir klar, wie fremd dieses junge Geschöpf unter den 45 000 Senioren wirkt, und wie verrückt die Welt hier in Wirklichkeit ist. Ich drücke auf Gas; nichts wie weg aus diesem Senioren-Diasporaland! Werner Cohn



SO GESEHEN

Tonangebend: der Rasenmäher

Das Lied des Sommers – wie geht es an? Wohl denn, ich will's euch sagen: Verhalten erst, fast schamhaft und sehr früh. Ein einzeln Stimmchen, weit entfernt noch. Und doch für den, der recht zu lauschen nur versteht, bereits von Energie getragen, von verborgener Kraft. Und nicht allein, oh nein! Erntet die Stimm' zum zweiten Mal, stimmt eine andre schon mit ein. Und dann noch eine. Und noch eine. Das Andante schwillt im Verein zum munteren Crescendo. Und am Ende von einem vielstimmigen Chor zum Fortissimo geformt zu werden.

Der Chor der Rasenmäher. Cantate mobile. Von März bis November. Musik, die der Fortschritt gebär. Wer sie vernimmt, wird Zeuge eines ökonomischen Lehrstücks: Wachstum kann nur durch regelmäßige Eindämmung desselben eine anhaltend gute Konjunktur garantieren. Diese

wird mittels Rückschnitt erlangt. Was zu einer Rasen-Rezeption führt, in der paar Worten ist sie überwinden.

Früher langten wir mit der Sense hin. Das ging geräuschlos vor sich. Dann trat der Rasenmäher seinen Siegeszug durchs wachsende Gras an. Wahlweise mit Pferden, oder Kilowattstärken. Und dann, als die ersten Modelle der manchen taten alsbald die Ohren weh. Es bleibt nämlich, wir erwähnten es schon, kein Rasenmäher lang allein. Rasenmäher sind gesellige Haushaltsgeräte. Jeder für sich ein Individuum zwar, eigenständig in Tonart und Klangwirkung, aber erst im Verbund so richtig zu akustischer Vollkommenheit fähig. Exakt aus diesem Grund sendet ein Rasenmäher auch unwillkürliche Reizsignale aus, die unter Nachbarn eine Kettenreaktion zur Folge haben: Läßt du deinen Rasenmäher laufen, laß ich meinen laufen. Woran sich

zeigt: Diese Instrumente fördern die Kommunikation, ohne daß man miteinander reden aktiviert den Gemeinschaftssinn, spiegeln Übereinstimmung wider und sind Beweis für soziale Integrität.

Der Rasenmäher ist eine stete Herausforderung an unsere Toleranz. Wenn er zu falschen Zeit betrieben wird. Das heißt, außerhalb der Chorstunden. Vor sieben in der Frühe beispielsweise. Beim Mittagsschlafchen. Während der Tagesschau. Oder an Sonn- und Feiertagen. Jeder Rasenmäher, so scheint's, birgt einen anarchischen Anspruch, welcher hin und wieder befriedigt werden muß. Man kann sich darüber aufregen. Oder sich mit dem Slogan der Ökonomie trösten: Die nächste Winter kommt bestimmt. Und solange sich Rasenmäher nicht in Schneepflüge umfunktionieren lassen, ist das ein hoffnungsvoller Ausblick. Britta Merk