

Editorials

Sun City's 22nd birthday

It doesn't seem possible that Sun City is 22 years old. "Only yesterday," this area was ranchland or desert, its future in the mind and on the drawing board of its founder, Del E. Webb.

Progressing from infant community to child to adolescent it's come through the formative years and is now grown up—finished except for an empty lot here and there—and completely on its own.

The traditional celebration will begin Saturday night, as usual, with birthday dances sponsored by the Bell, Sundial and Mountain View dance clubs. The coffee and birthday cake will be supplied by the Webb company.

The celebration will be capped Sunday by the 22nd Birthday Variety Show at 2 p.m. in the Sun Bowl, featuring the kind of hometown talent that enlivens many of Sun City's celebrational events. Entertaining will be the Aerobic Dance Girls; the Katydids; square dancers; the Posse singers; Latin Dance Club; and the popular Pom Pon Girls. The event will end with the audience dancing to the music of Jack Lowman's Combo and "Anniversary Waltz."

Sun City Pioneer Club members will be guests of honor. They have had the privilege of seeing the birth and the maturing of Sun City. Consequently, they have a special place in the community as the "elders,"

who carry the memory of its history and its traditions.

Home talent galore will make the Sunday celebration a real Sun City event and local men's clubs and the Sun City Posse will lend their help. The show, which has become a cherished custom, is under the direction for the second year of the Sun City Community Events Committee, with members Bill Lewis and Helen Vallee as co-chairmen.

The committee deserves commendation for the outstanding way in which it has picked up responsibilities that once were discharged by the Webb company as part of its development of Sun City.

We would like to suggest that this group of caring citizens might add one more project to its list.

Sun City Pioneer Club members are a remarkable source for information on the community's early days; they have memories that would lend themselves to lively, personal documentation of Sun City's history. A community project to create such a document might involve local writers in tape-recording pioneers' stories and compiling them—along with newspaper articles and other accounts—into a permanent record.

With Sun City on the threshold of a new era, those memories of past events could provide background necessary for the planning of the community's future.

Banks open

(November 24, 1960)

First National Bank of Arizona will open an office in Sun City Monday, it was announced by Sherman Hazeltine, board chairman.

The bank will occupy temporary quarters at the clinic building until the permanent structure is ready early next year.

The new office, 63rd in the bank's statewide system, is designed to provide regular bank service to the many new residents and business firms in Sun City and the fast-growing communities between Glendale and Wickenburg.....

A full-fledged Valley National Bank office will begin serving Youngtown and Sun City Dec. 1. from the bank's newly purchased site adjacent to the Youngtown Post Office on 111th Avenue.

The announcement was made by Carl A. Bimson, bank president, who said the U.S. Comptroller of Currency has authorized the new branch.

The office will be opened in a specially designed trailer bank, which the company believes is the largest and most completely equipped in the nation.

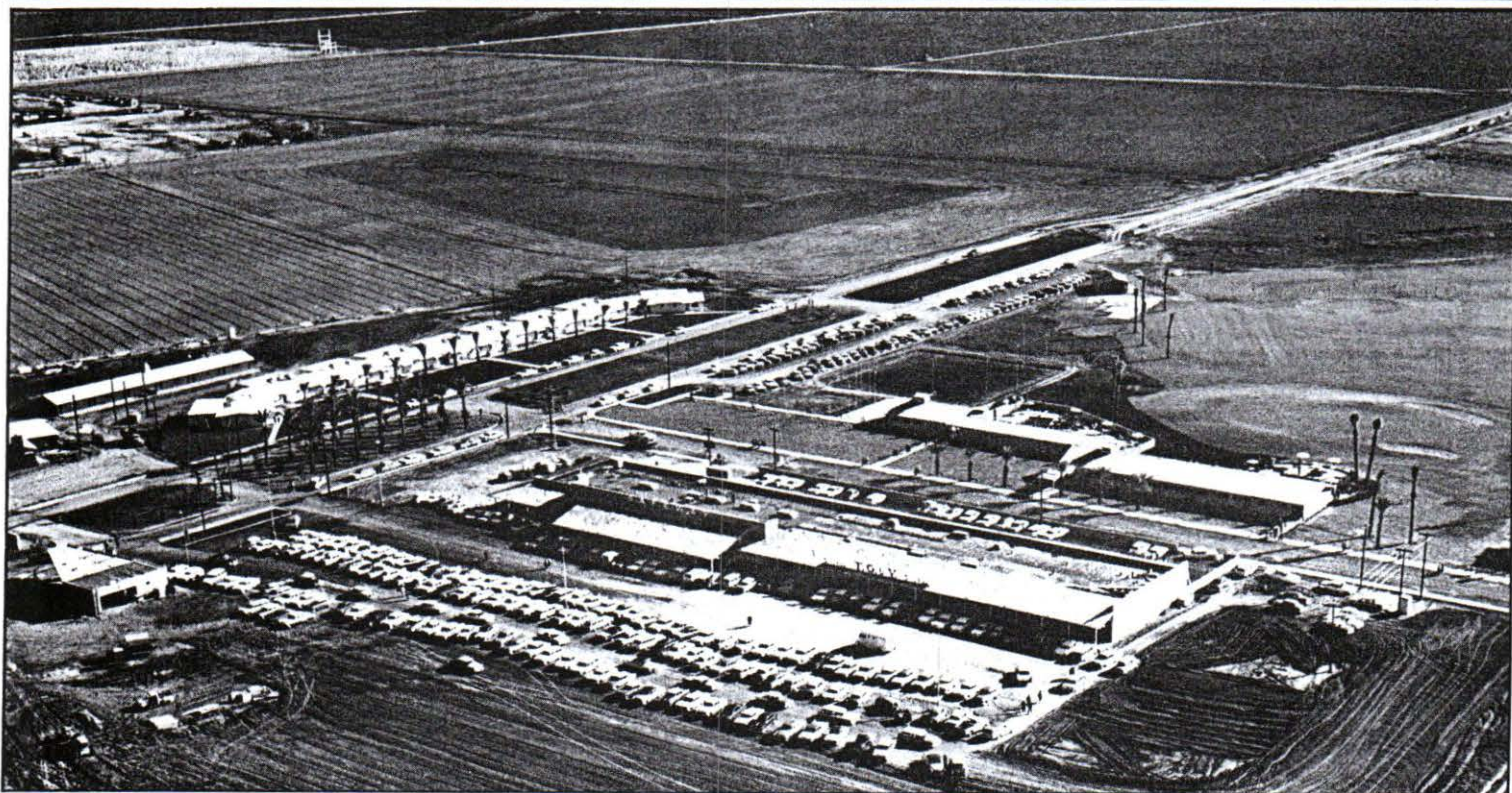
Taylor Smith, a veteran VNB executive, will head a staff of five employees at the new office.

The office, 67th in the statewide VNB system, will be known officially as the Youngtown-Sun City office.



SUN CITY'S 20th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

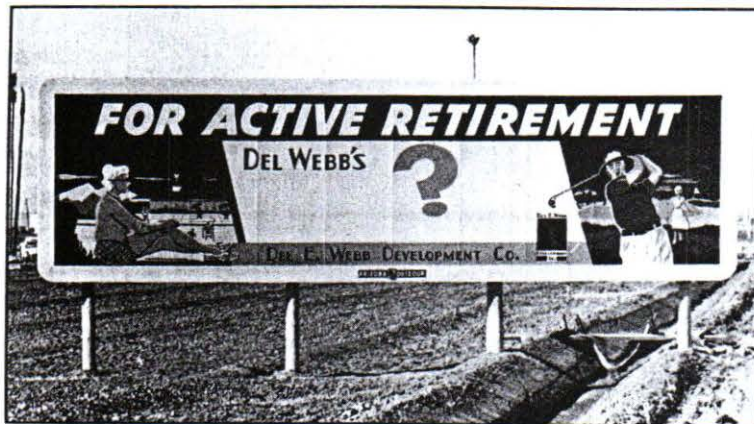
January 8 — January 27, 1980



1960 Re-visited

Back in 1960 Sun City was an oasis of activity surrounded by cotton fields. Recognizable landmarks include the King's Inn and

apartments, left, Grand shopping center, Oakmont Recreation Center and a portion of North Golf Course.



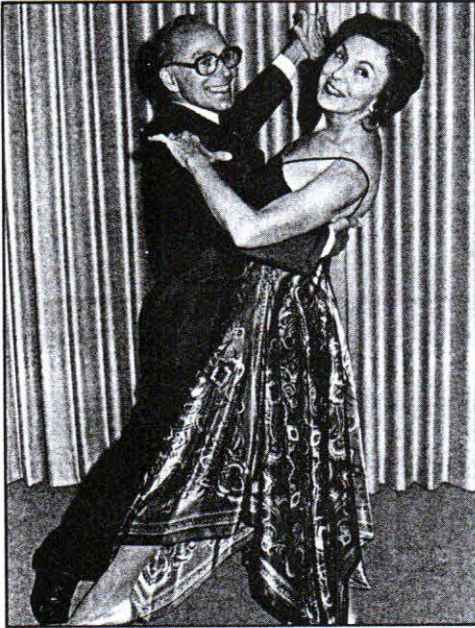
What's in a name?

A national contest was held to name Del Webb's new retirement community and the "Sun City" entry of Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Britton of Eugene, Oregon, won. Their prize — a 2-bedroom home in Sun City valued at \$10,000.

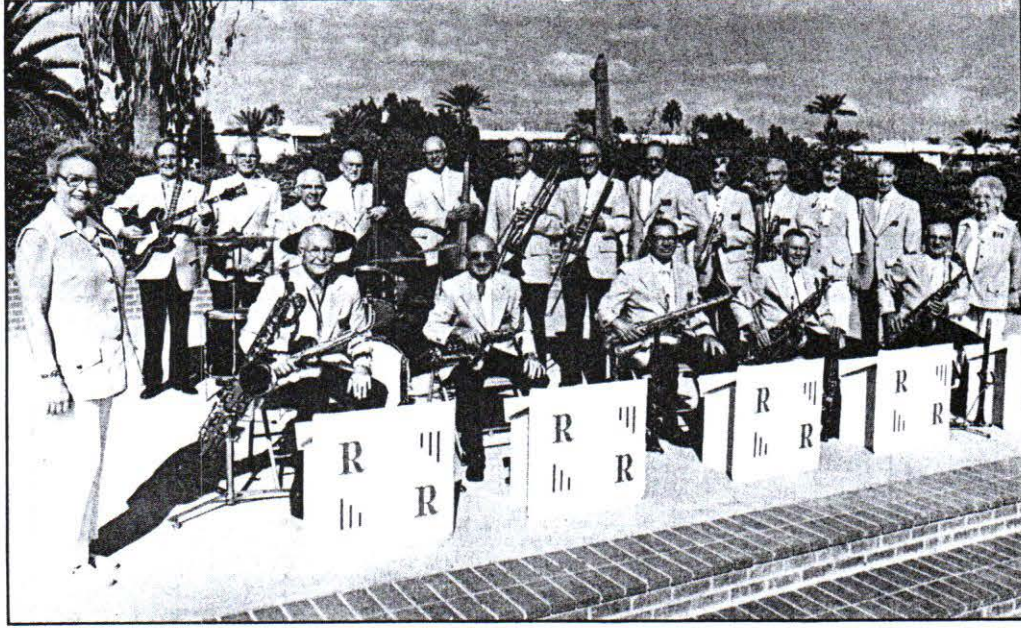


Relaxation

Sun Citians didn't normally set up their chaise lounges in the street, but that's what the Life Magazine photographer wanted back in the early 1960's. Oh, those were the days.



THE BELGARBOS



THE RHYTHM RAMBLERS BAND

Acts of Vaudeville

(Organ Prelude Before Each Show)

Sunday, January 13
2PM and 8PM

Monday, January 14
8PM

Sundial Auditorium

- Musical Antics by Parker
- The Magic of Hackman
- Manny and the Girl Friends
- The Belgarbos
- Kinsey "Klassic"
- Stage Band
- "Golden Throat," Healy
- Comedy by Sun City Players
- Katydid
- Surprise Finale. "Viva Saints"

Festival of Music

Saturday, January 26
10AM

- Polka Band
- The Sun City Chorus, directed by Willis Walley
- The Ray Teidel Trio

(Noon Break)

- Rhythm Ramblers
- The Harmonettes Glee Club
- "Dixieland" by the Tunespinner

Sunday, January 27
1PM

- The Statesmen Band
- Sun City Desert Aires
- Sun City Concert Band
- Invitational "Jam Session"

Both Shows at Sun Bowl

Festival of Dance

1-4PM Sun Bowl
Sunday, January 20

- The Bell Ringers,
- Ballroom Dances by the Bell Dance Club
- Square Dances by the Sunsets
- Square Dances by the Squarettes
- Round Dances by the Fairway Dance Club
- Ballroom Dances by the Fairway Dance Club
- Square Dances by the Sun Dancers
- Square Dances by the North Stars

Sing Along with Lucy Hayes
(Acc. by Manny Grodman)

- Round Dances by the Sundial Dance Club
- Hula Dances by the "Leilani's"
- Ballroom dances by the Mountain View Club
- Square Dances by the Spinners
- Square Dances by the Twirlers
- Round Dances by the Rhythm Club



THE SUN CITY POM PONS



**SUN CITY CONCERT BAND
(TRUMPET SECTION)**

Sun City's 20th Birthday

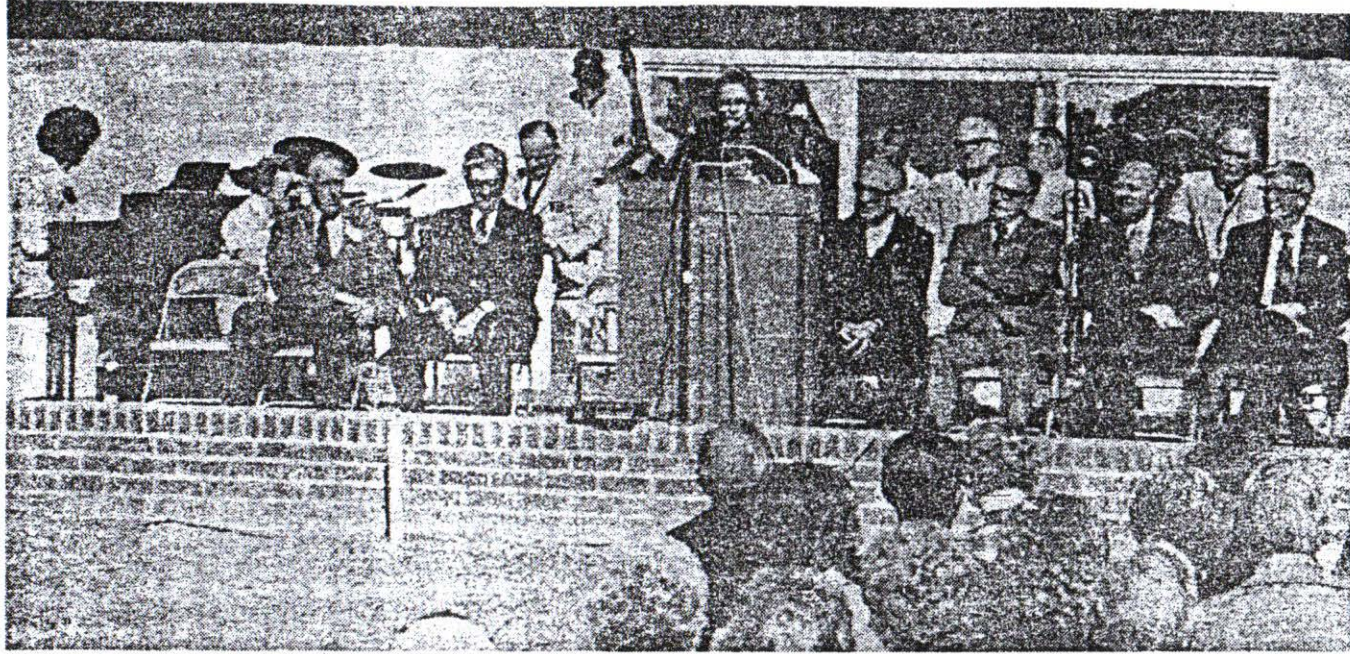


20 Days of Celebration

January 1960

January 1980

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This calendar includes highlights of Sun City's 20th Birthday Celebration. There's also space for you to pencil in the special activities of your own Church, clubs and organizations. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tickets for the January 13-14 Vaudeville Show will be available from 10AM to 2PM at Sundial. The tickets are free; simply choose which of the three Vaudeville performances you'd like to see. 		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Fitness In The 80's Walk-Jog-Bike Ride" from Grand Center to the Sun Bowl. Registration begins at 12:45PM in Grand's West Parking Lot. Entry fee \$1. Event free to Fitness Festival participants. Special buttons to first 500 persons registering. Dixieland music by the Tunespinner will lead the procession to the Bowl. Program at 2PM at Bowl, with refreshments to follow. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening ceremonies of the 20th Birthday Celebration, 11AM, Oakmont Center. Coffee and donuts, music by Rhythm Ramblers Band, 10-11AM, Oakmont. Oakmont Open House, 10AM-2PM. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountain View Rec Center Open House, 10AM-2PM. Fairway Rec Center Open House, 10AM-2PM. Fairway Library Open House, 10AM-2PM (music by The Weismans Duo). Sunshine Service Open House, 10:30AM-1PM. Sun Valley Lodge Open House, 2-4PM. Good Shepherd - La Hacienda Apartments Open House, 2-4PM. Rio Salado Community College Anniversary Sampler 8AM-5PM. 		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> U.S. Post Office Open House, 11AM-1PM. Acts of Vaudeville Show, 2PM and 8PM, Sundial Auditorium (see Page 4 for show details). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acts of Vaudeville Show, 8PM, Sundial Auditorium (see Page 4 for show details). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lakeview Rec Center Open House, 10AM-2PM. Boswell Hospital Open House/Tours, 2PM. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sundial Rec Center Open House, 10AM-2PM. Boswell Hospital Open House/Tours, 2PM. Beverly Manor Open House, 1-3PM. The Carillons Open House, 2-4PM; piano music by Ray Teidel. Camelot Manor Open House, 1:30-3:30PM. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20th Birthday Dances, 8-11PM, Mountain View, Sundial and Bell Rec Centers; Cake and coffee served at 9:30PM.
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Festival of Dance, 1-4PM, Sun Bowl (see Page 4 for show details). Sun City-Youngtown Ministerial Association-sponsored ecumenical worship service at St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, 4PM. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sun City Area Community Council, First Annual Charter Meeting, 1:30PM, Lakes Club. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bell Rec Center Open House, 10AM-2PM. Bell Center Library Open House, 10AM-2PM (music by Ted Dzubiek Ensemble). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marinette Rec Center Open House, 10AM-2PM. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Festival of Music, 10AM-Noon and 1-3:30PM, Sun Bowl (see Page 4 for show details).
27	28	29	30	31		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Festival of Music, 1-4PM, Sun Bowl (see Page 4 for show details). Sun City Symphony Orchestra Concert, 8PM, Sundial Auditorium. Sun City Phoenix Art Museum Open House, 2-4PM. 						



It all started here

Opening the first event in the 20-day 20th Anniversary Celebration, Tuesday, Jan. 8, at Oakmont Center — the first of Sun City's recreation centers — Jane Freeman, Rec Board member and member of the Celebration Activities Committee, introduces, left to right, Senator Paul Fannin, principal speaker for the occasion; John Meeker, president of Del Webb

Development Co., who gave the welcoming address; the Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, founder of Sunshine Services; Sam Higginbotham, chairman of the committee to build new reading for the blind studios; the Rev. Walter Witt, founder of Sun City's first church and of Sun Valley Lodge; Wendell Pierce, chairman of the 20th Celebration Committee.

Sun City Recalls 20 Years Of Growth

(Concluded from Page A-1)

recreational facilities and shopping center."

The Webb firm reported 237 homes already had been sold. And the prices were up a little.

Homes sold ranged in price from \$6,500 to \$11,300 with the average being close to \$10,000. The ones bordering the grassy fairways were going for \$9,750.

In November, 1959, the Webb Co. announced a nationwide contest to name the retirement community. Advertisements seeking a name appeared in 27 of the nation's largest newspapers.

The three top prizes were a two-bedroom home on the golf course, a fully improved fairway lot and a two-week vacation at the Hiway House Motor Hotel.

Participation was limited to persons 50 years of age or older.

"Sun City," the winning name, was suggested by five contestants. E.A. Britton of Eugene, Ore., won the two-bedroom house on the basis of a 25-word statement as to why Sun City was suggested. Second prize, a fairway lot, went to Sally Benson, then of Youngtown. Tied for third and each receiving a two-week vacation were Mrs. M.B. Shurber, of Flagstaff, Mae Culley, of Medicine Lodge, Kan., and Herbert Lindeman of Fort Wayne.

Phoenix and Arizona senior citizens were among the majority of the original buyers. However, a surprisingly

large number came from California. They also came from New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Colorado, Minnesota, Michigan, Texas, Iowa and New Mexico.

The first tenant of Sun City's original shopping center was Safeway.

By early April 1960, Sun City had its own post office. The first cacheted cover bearing the Sun City postmark was given by then Gov. Paul Fannin.

Thirty-one states were represented among Sun City's homeowners by May 1960. The first out-of-state resi-

dents to occupy their new home were George and Mae Bayne, formerly of Seattle, Wash., and more recently of Morro Bay, Calif. Bayne had retired after more than 35 years with Tide-water Oil Co.

By July 1960, more than 1,200 homes and cooperative apartments had been sold.

"The success of Sun City is undoubtedly due to the fact that recreation and service attractions were built before the homes," one writer pointed out.

"There is a community center with a swimming pool, shuffleboard courts, a bowling lawn, handicraft work rooms, and an 18-hole golf course.

"There is a restaurant and a shopping center..."

Cost of the homes was now between \$8,500 and \$12,250. Forty to 50 percent of the home sales were for cash.

"Of the people living in Sun City," the writer continued, "60 percent are completely retired. The average income of the retired group is \$5,450. Of the retired families, more than

half have an income higher than \$5,000, and only 14 percent have incomes of less than \$3,000. The average net worth of these retired families is \$50,000. The average family group in Sun City has a bank account containing more than \$6,000. The average age of these people is 62.5 years."

Sun City may have begun as a dream.

But who dreamed that on its 20th anniversary, the retirement "village" would consist of nearly 26,000 homes occupied by 48,000 or more retirees?

Sun City: 20 Years Of Growth

BY KENNETH ARLINE
Gazette Reporter

Sun City Column, Page C-1

Sun City:

It began as a dream in a cotton patch and an alfalfa field.

In the beginning, it didn't even have a name.

"A retirement community that will eventually have more than 1,600 homes" is the way one writer described the proposed development in September, 1959.

For \$8,000 to \$10,500, retirees could buy their dream house. One model was said to be the only \$9,000 home in America bordering on grassy fairways of a regulation golf course.

The houses would vary from two-

bedroom and bath with 900 square feet of living space to three bedrooms with two baths and 1,200 square feet of living area.

The Del E. Webb Construction Co. said the "village" would be a complete community for senior citizens, who, though retired or semi-retired, still are comparatively young and seeking a place to live in a community which will provide the facilities necessary to enjoy their "privileged years."

The initial development, the Webb firm stated, was to be on part of 20,000 acres recently acquired from the Boswell Farms.

Initially, 555 homes would be constructed.

Also, the first nine holes of an 18-hole golf course were already under construction and "land for the second nine holes" had been set aside.

"The commercial center, fronting in the main highway, will place shops and medical facilities within walking distance of the retirees' homes," a story noted. "Two nationally known firms already have contracted for space..."

Four months later, the community had a name and more than 100,000 senior citizens "jammed" the new development to "tour the model homes,

Turn to SUN CITY, Page A-18

Oakmont will begin birthday festivities

Sun City's 20th birthday celebration will be kicked off with an open-house Jan. 8 in Oakmont Center to commemorate the first rec center built in the community.

Members of the Pioneer Club will be recognized at the ceremony set for 11 a.m. on the outdoor patio at Oakmont. Wendell Pierce, 20th birthday committee chairman, will serve as master of ceremonies. Participants will include Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, John Meeker, president of Del E. Webb

Development Co., Owen Childress, DEVCO executive vice president and treasurer and Sam Higginbotham of the club.

THE EVENTS OF the following 20 days will be listed on a special "birthday calendar" available at shops in Bell Camino Center, Grand Center, Greenway Terrace, LaRonde Centre, Sun Bowl Plaza and Thunderbird Plaza. At least 24 open houses, commemorative and entertainment events are planned during the celebration.

Highlights include a vaudeville show Jan. 13 and 14 in Sundial Auditorium. Tickets will be required, issued on a first-come, first-serve basis from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday and Friday in Sundial.

Recreation centers and libraries will be the sites of open house events as well as the Sunshine Services, Bell Road Post Office, and the museum.

AN ECUMENICAL service under the auspices of the Sun City-Youngtown Ministerial Association is planned.

Dances, coffee and cake "get-togethers" and further performances are scheduled. A festival of music in the Sun Bowl will be one of the final events. Choral and instrumental music by several Sun City groups will be featured as will a display of antique cars.

Members of the 20th birthday celebration committee are Don Bragg, Bill and Genevieve Lewis, Jane Freeman, Mary Girard, Joe Amery, Glenn Sandberg, Helen Vallee and Wendell Pierce.

Festive 20 days to mark Sun City's 20th

By BRENDA SHOUN
Staff Writer

Twenty days of festivities will celebrate Sun City's 20th birthday.

Plans are to fill those 20 days with activities ranging from serious to frivolous, prayerful to playful, education to relaxing and from spectating to participating.

Themed "The Coming of Age" the celebration's ultimate goal is to

recognize Sun City's maturity, the positive aspects of age and a new decade that may promise dramatic progress in the lives of mature citizens.

The birthday party plan begins with a sweeping invitation to all Sun Citians to join in the festivities. The 20th anniversary committee is extending to churches, community clubs and social and recreational groups the op-

portunity to enter into the spirit of the celebration.

ACTIVITIES will begin Jan. 8 with an open house at Oakmont Center, the first recreational facility built in Sun City. Each of the other six recreation centers will sponsor a similar open house — dates to be designated — with local organizations assisting in making Sun City's 20th birthday party one to remember.

Also scheduled for the celebration will be open houses at several of Sun City's community service facilities such as Boswell Hospital, nursing homes, Sun City library, post office, fire department and art museum as well as Rio Salado Community College.

A vaudeville show, directed by Don Bragg, is planned for Jan. 12 — 13 in Sundial Center.

Details on how to obtain the free tickets will be announced by the committee later.

THE ANNUAL anniversary dances, open free of charge to all residents, will be held Jan. 19 simultaneously at Bell, Sundial and Mountain View centers.

The 20 days of celebration will culminate Jan. 26 — 27 with the traditional

Sun Bowl Arts and Crafts Fair, highlighted by a festival of bands that will feature at least six Sun City musical aggregations.

Sun City's 20th anniversary goals, as determined by the committee, are:

— **TO CREATE** a sense of unity among Sun Citians by focusing on the celebration.

— To expose the talents, skills and imagination

possessed by residents of the community.

— To give recognition to pioneers and leaders who have contributed to the successful development of Sun City.

— **TO EXAMINE** the contribution that Sun City's residents can make to better understand the aging process and the achievement of happiness while growing older in retirement.

"In an effort to determine our objectives," Wendell Pierce, committee chairman, said, "we had a series of brainstorming sessions involving some 40 residents with widely varied interests. We also asked for suggestions through the newspapers and the input was terrific."

Pierce said the calendar of events will be available in late December.