

Sunland Mortuary fetes 25 years in Sun City

ERIN TURNER
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Amid all the changes since Sunland Mortuary opened in 1984, Bill Aaron said one thing has remained constant: a commitment to service.

"It's been a pleasure," said the former general manager of the Sun City funeral home. "It's been a staple of the community for all those years. You can't think about yourself. You can only think about the families you're serving, and you do your best to ease their problems."

Sunland Mortuary celebrated its 25th anniversary Saturday and Sunday with music, food, a classic car display, golf car decoration contest and an antique horse-drawn hearse from the 19th century. The Northwest Valley Veterans Association presented the colors and offered a 21-gun salute and played Taps at the start of the celebration Saturday morning.

About 100 people turned out for speeches from Aaron and current Sunland GM Joe Salyards.

"I'm really proud that we've been able to serve over 26,000 families since our inception. We're very pleased with that," Aaron said.

The Sunland campus on Del Webb Boulevard includes a cremation center, memorial park, funeral parlor and cemetery. The cemetery has been open since 1962 but the funeral parlor was added later, he said.

"It's been a lot of expansion both in the cemetery and we've enlarged the funeral home really four times in a period of 25 years," he said.

And while Aaron retired from his position as the first general manager of the funeral home eight years ago, he still serves as a liaison in the community. As he continues his work with Sunland, he said he is "pleased" with how the staff perpetuates professionalism.

"They've been very professional," he said. "They continue to show the professionalism that we started out and hoped they would be able to exceed and I've been very pleased with everything they've done."



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ken Bell, husband of Julie Bell, manager of Sunland Memorial Park and Mortuary, kept the hamburgers on the grill for visitors like Karri Hernandez of Phoenix during the Sunland's 25th anniversary celebration in Sun City Saturday.

Julie Bell, a Sunland manager, said she expected hundreds, maybe thousands of people out to celebrate the achievements and continued service of the "community cemetery."

"We want this to be a celebration," she said. "When our families come to us, we help them celebrate the lives of their loved one. This to us is giving back to the community and sharing with them and celebrating."

She believes Sunland has been a

success because of the caring and commitment of its staff.

"To us, it's a big event for Sun City," she said. "We all care about the families and our community and we're all families ourselves. We're blessed to have families entrust their loved ones to us. So we all have a place in our hearts for what we do."

For more information about Sunland Memorial Park, Mortuary and Cremation Center, 15826 Del Webb Blvd., call 623-933-0161.

Graveyard thefts perturb family

By BRUCE ELLISON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

5/5/99

When Laura Jones buried her 15-year-old daughter in Sunland Memorial Park in Sun City last year, she picked the spot in part because it was so restful, so undisturbed.

"She really could find peace there," Jones said.

But it hasn't worked out that way.

In the year since Jeanne was laid to rest, her family and other visitors have been continually troubled because the decorations and mementos of the youngster that they leave at the grave site are disturbed, or worse, simply disappear.

The thefts, if that's what they are, have occurred for months, despite Laura Jones' regular visits to the grave.

"A lot of stuff is gone. Flowers, chimes, decorations, all have been taken."

Jones said she doesn't blame the cemetery. "They can't watch things 24 hours a day, and they've assured me that their staff hasn't been removing the items," the Glendale mother said. "We don't know who's doing it."

But Jeanne Jones is hardly the only youngster buried at Sunland, said the cemetery's general manager, Pat Tachoir.

"We have a whole section for babies, and there are graves in it."

Jones said near Jeanne's grave are those of other youngsters whose markers show that they were teens and pre-teens. "They haven't had problems," Jones said.

Fortunately, nothing has been disturbed since Easter, she added.

A poem written beneath Jeanne's picture may have given pause to whoever had been disturbing her rest, her mother said.

"My name is Jeanne," it starts.

"I have but one request.

Please don't steal the little things

Left for me by my friends and family,

For this is where they come to visit

And talk to me.

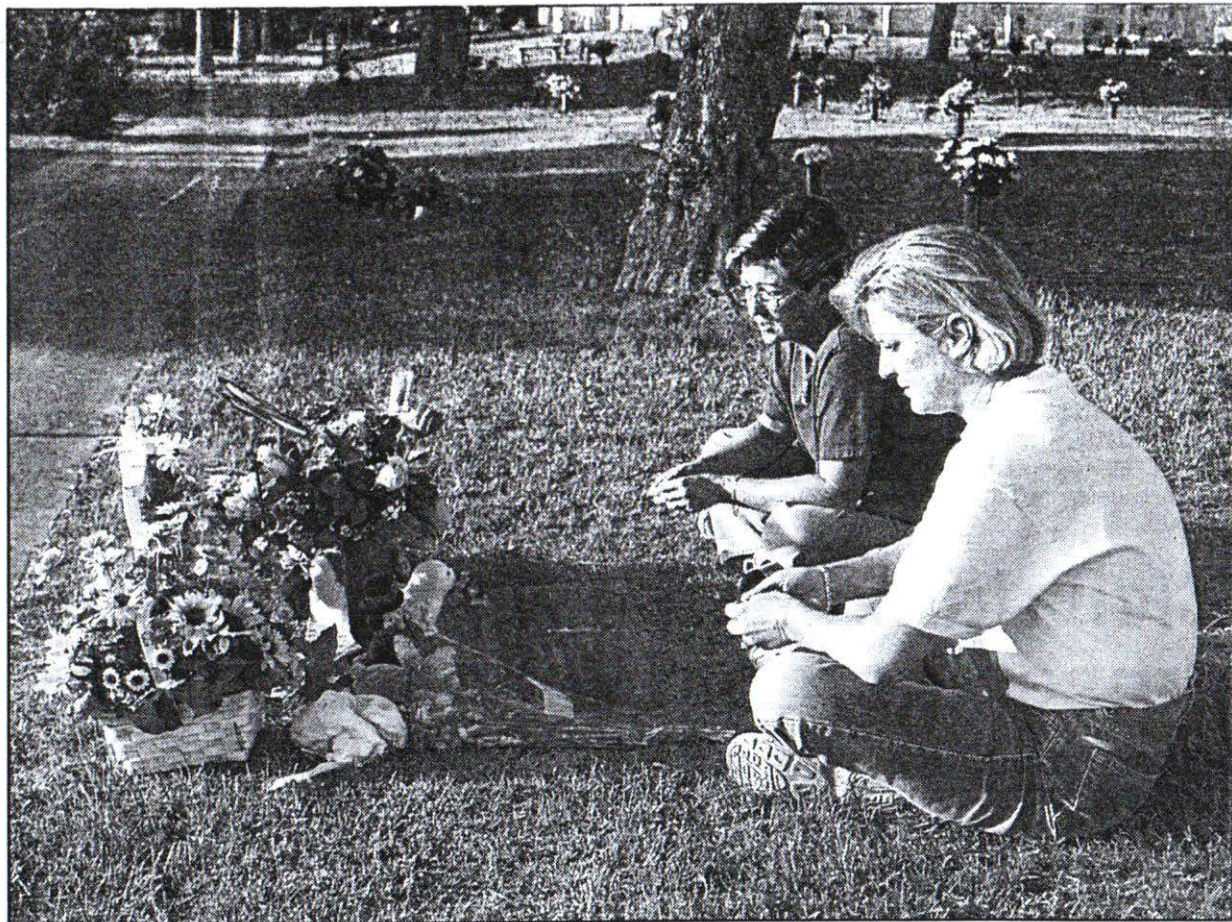
It may not be much, this little space,

But after all,

It is my final resting place."

"My husband, Steve, he's a truck driver. He doesn't know about poetry and writing. But he sat down and wrote that little verse. The words just came. We're sure that was Jeanne speaking, really her."

An earlier version of the



Lisa Goettsche/Daily News-Sun

Laura Jones, left, often visits her daughter Jeanne's grave with long-time family friend Robin Van Tussenbroek. Van tussenbroek's son, Jason, and Jeanne had been friends since kindergarten.

poetry and Jeanne's picture also disappeared, but this time, Laura Jones said, the placard has remained in place on a small flowered trellis near the headstone.

Jeanne Jones was born on Jan 11, 1983, and died unexpectedly May 29, 1998, after a blood vessel burst without warning.

"You don't know what the stress is like under those circumstances ... to have to try to

find a place to bury someone you never thought would die so soon," Laura Jones said.

Her husband, her brother-in-law and a neighbor helped find a cemetery plot, she said. The neighbor worked at Sunland, which is why the Sun City cemetery was considered.

"We looked at cemeteries in Glendale, but it didn't seem right," Jones said.

"We didn't want problems, and we thought Sunland was

so nice, so peaceful, so well cared for. She'd be safe there, we thought."

Sunland officials, she said, "tell me there's a new kind of tombstone marker available, one that can hold a picture as well as words.

"They said they'd redo the headstone and put her picture on it if we wanted it, and there would be no cost.

"But they said if they did that, they'd want us to take the trellis down. I don't want to do that."

DAILY NEWS-SUN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 2004

Sheriff, Sunland lock horns

Water runoff sparks fray

ANNIE KARSTENS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Capt. Ron Stoner with Maricopa County Sheriff's Office is tired of listening to excuses from Sunland Mortuary administrators about the property's water runoff problems.

He said he wants to hold someone in charge

responsible, and if the problems persist, the matter may lead to a major lawsuit.

"The only thing I know is that the mortuary is allowing water to overflow on the roadway and it's a violation of all kinds of stuff," Stoner said. "The problem is that we've notified the foreman and we've cited him once. It's going to get to the point that we're going to have to cite the owners of the mortuary, and there may also be civil sanctions because it deteriorates the road and erodes the asphalt."

The Maricopa County Environmental Services Department and the Maricopa County Department of Transportation have been involved in the case that Stoner said has been investigated for about five years and is now causing legal problems for Sunland Memorial Park Mortuary and Cremation Center at 15826 Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City. Roads in the area have been damaged and some repaved, possibly due to the effects of the water runoff.

"Water runoff does cause

problems and it generally causes the wear, like the potholes or cracks," said Roger Ball, MCDOT spokesman. So far, no costly repairs have been made to the streets because of water damage, but if the runoff continues, it's possible repairs could become costly, he said.

"We have talked to the mortuary and they said they were taking steps to make sure there was no more runoff, however, the water has continued to run down the streets," Ball said.

Since MCSO officials first

alerted Sunland administrators about the problem, Stoner said they've heard a few different versions of why the water is allowed to spill onto Sunland Drive and flow north and south on Agua Fria Drive.

After the third inquiry about the leakage, MCSO officials issued Robert Vertis a criminal nuisance/traffic hazard citation March 11. Sunland officials are maintaining that an outside party

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has been tampering with the property's water valve as an act of vandalism. Stoner said that even if that is the case, Sunland failed to secure the valve site and should be accountable.

"Now, they've come up with a new scam and they're telling us that unauthorized people are opening the valve or disgruntled staff members are opening the valve," Stoner said, adding that no one with Sunland ever reported any vandalism. "I'm not buying their story. They have a problem and they're saying 'Oops, someone else did it.'"

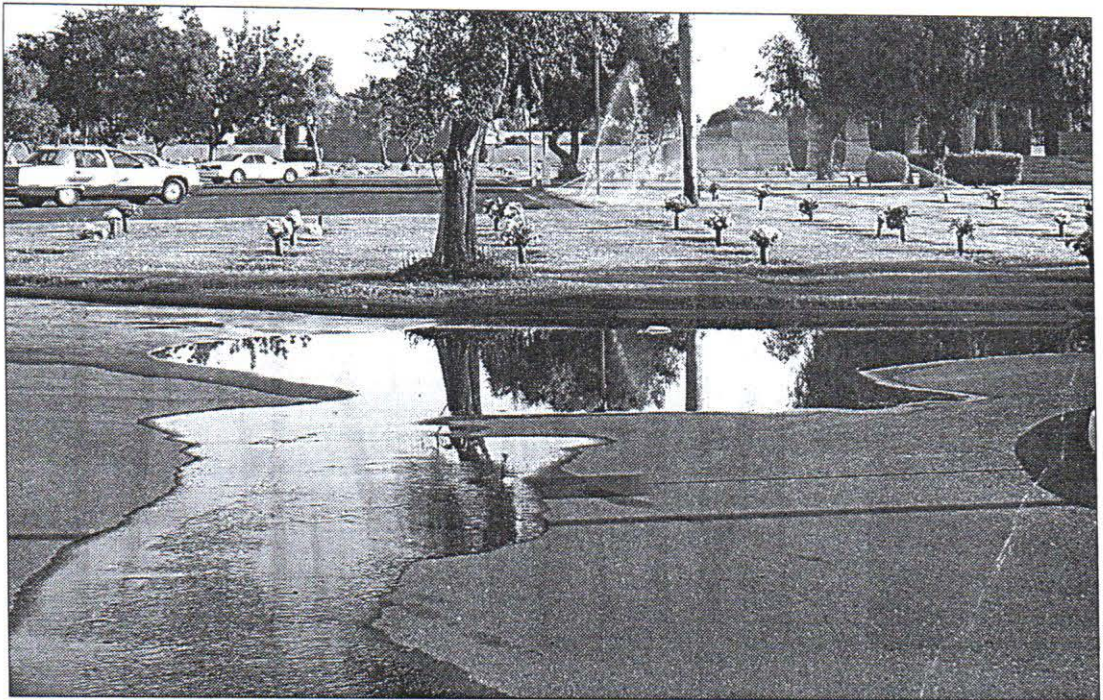
Texas-based Service Corporation International owns Sunland and other cemeteries across the country.

Greg Bolton, SCI director of corporate communications, released an official statement regarding the water runoff issues. It reads:

"For years, Sunland Memorial Park has worked to conserve our natural resources while preserving a pleasant and serene environment for visitation and remembrance. The recent water runoff problem at Sunland appears to have been the result of vandalism carried out after business hours. We are conducting our own internal investigation and have enlisted the aid of law enforcement authorities to identify those responsible for this waste. Meanwhile, we are defending what we believe to be unwarranted charges made against our grounds superintendent in connection with this issue."

Dan Salter, general manager of Sunland, said he is working closely with SCI and the company's legal department to resolve the water issues at a pre-trial hearing when they'll answer to the citation.

"I expressed to the sheriff's department that we take this matter very seriously," Salter said. "Water is a very precious resource to us and we're making every effort to try to determine the problem."



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Water from sprinklers flows onto the streets at Sunland Memorial Park Mortuary. Maricopa County officials say the water flows to public streets and causes damage.

Salter said Sunland administrators are cooperating with the MCSO as much as possible, and he hopes their investigations will clear up any uncertainty. He maintains that there is foul play involved and that the water leakage is the result of recurring vandalism.

"We believe there's been some effort to sabotage our water supply, and we're taking every reasonable attempt to find out what the cause is. At this point they're (MCSO) attempting to do their job and investigating this as best they can," he said. "There are only certain things one can do to protect themselves from saboteurs."

Stoner disagrees and said Sunland has had opportunities to secure the valve to ensure that it functions properly.

"I believe it's the owner who's responsible for the whole thing," Stoner said. "There's not been cooperation, they continually violate the law and there seems to be lack of interest in correcting it, so we will have to enforce it. This has been ongoing and it seems there's been little intent to do anything about it."

In addition to the water waste, water on public roads can be a safety hazard, Stoner said.

"Roads in Arizona aren't meant for a lot of drainage. There's water damage that occurs to the roadway, and it creates a dangerous condition as people can hydroplane," he said. "It's a possibility that the county could decide to sue them for the damage to the road and a civil lawsuit will cost them a lot of money."

Sun City resident R. Stockton lives on 111th Avenue and Brentwood Drive, right in the path of the Sunland water drainage. She has seen water flooding down her street from Sunland for about five years. Fed up with the waste of water and the effect it's had on neighborhood streets, Stockton sent a letter to several state and county agencies pleading for action to be taken.

"For one thing, it sits on our streets. We just had the streets resurfaced, but puddles are collecting, and when cars go over them, it creates potholes," Stockton said. "How can a large business like the Sunland Mortuary pump water down our streets, and why are they

doing it?"

While she is making an effort to conserve water amid Arizona's drought, Stockton is frustrated by the frequent floods of water down her street. The last occurrence she witnessed was on April 22.

"At this day in age, they're worried about watering golf courses and here is a four- to five-foot wide strip of water, about six inches deep that runs down the streets for about two and a half hours on a regular basis," she said. "This is a large volume of water we're talking about. Nobody will give me an answer, and no one has an answer."

Stoner said he hopes for a quick resolution to the problem, though he expects it will have to be battled out in court. Whoever is determined responsible for the leakage will be dealt with appropriately, he said.

"They'll soon learn that some of the people in Sun City aren't going to put up with it, and they don't have to," Stoner said.

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VF - CEMETERY - SUNLAND MEMORIAL PARK



James Garcia / Staff photographer

Pet Rest Cemetery manager Alex Neff displays some of the available caskets and markers.

Final resting place

Pet cemetery fulfills needs of animal lovers

By Connie Cone Sexton
Staff writer

Sun City

Alex Neff sometimes drops by the Salt River bed in southern Phoenix to visit the grave of his pet Pekingese.

The time he spends there might be a little more placid if it weren't for the roaring of the motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles that pass by.

But when his pet died a few years ago, Neff, who lives in central Phoenix, had few choices for burying the animal. The closest pet cemetery in the Valley was miles away in Queen Creek.

Things will be different for Panda Bear, his 13-year-old female husky.

Two months ago, Neff became manager of the Pet Rest Cemetery, a new service offered by Sunland Memorial Park and Mortuary, 15826 Del Webb Blvd.

When it's Panda Bear's time, Neff — who says the pet will be cremated — has the option of having her remains placed in an urn and kept in a niche in the pet

"So many people are very close to their pets out here. Having the cemetery is a comfort to them"

Alex Neff
pet cemetery
manager

cemetery.

He believes that the service can give animal owners comfort, knowing that they can give a dignified resting place to their pets.

About five acres are being developed for Pet Rest. About 15,000 spaces will be available for dogs, cats — any kind of animal. "We've even had some inquiries from horse owners," Neff said.

A 1,500-square-foot office is being completed that will allow pet owners to chat with Neff, discuss options for burial and pick out a casket, urn or grave marker.

Two viewing rooms also will be housed in the building, allowing families to hold services for their pets, if they wish, he said.

Until the office building is finished, Neff works out of the Sunland main office at 933-0560. About 20 people have contacted him so far about arrangements for their pets.

"So many people are very close to their pets out here. Having the cemetery is a comfort to them," he said.

Sunland officials first proposed building the pet cemetery about three years ago. The plan jolted to a stop, however, when several people protested the idea of having animals buried near human graves.

"But after the project was canceled, about 4,000 people signed petitions asking that it be started up again," Neff said.

As a compromise, Pet Rest is not near any of the human graves. The closest neighbor to the pet cemetery is a community garden that operates on

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OVER

Grieving natural for pet owners, vet says

By Connie Cone Sexton
Staff writer

CEMETERY

From Page 1

PHOENIX — At the loss of a beloved pet, many animal owners spend much of their grieving time feeling guilty.

"It's just a dog, so why do I feel so bad?" they often mutter through their tears.

Those people don't fool Kim Doane.

She and other Valley veterinarians and pet lovers operate the Pet Grief Support Service, a 24-hour hotline in Phoenix. The free service, which started about two years ago, is manned by volunteers who offer words of comfort to those who have just lost or may soon lose a pet.

Many of the calls to the number — 995-5885 — are from people who are upset at how they are taking the death of their pet, Doane said.

"People are concerned," she said. "They are afraid that they are too worked up over the death. They say, 'This is just a pet.' But that is not the case at all."

No one should be embarrassed for mourning an animal, she stressed.

"The stages of grief are exactly the same as with grieving over a person. We explain that grief for a pet may even be greater than that for a person. That is not something to be afraid of or ashamed of. We send them a lot of literature so they get a feel that what they are going through is normal," Doane said.

Doane also encourages anyone with an elderly or ailing pet to call.

Sunland property at the northwest corner of the property.

Neff said many Sun Citizens have called to say they are pleased that the service is being offered.

He enjoys his job and says offering comfort and guidance to those who have lost their pets is not much different than aiding those who have lost a family member or friend.

"Death is hard. There is the grieving process to go through," he said.

"The feeling some veterinarians have is that it is a good idea to be able to bury your pet and visit them. Some people just take their animal to the doctor and say 'Here, take care of him.' They think the vet has some magical cemetery behind his office.

"People can come to me and I'll give them an honest answer. We can sit and just talk about their pet.

"They sometimes pull out a picture of their pet and say, 'This is who we need to take care of.'"

As in human burials, those making arrangements for their

"There is someone here to talk to who can give guidance. By calling and talking with someone, then they're prepared," she said.

Doane said that when she was 10, her family sheltered her from the circumstances surrounding the death of her cat, Friskies.

"I was told that the cat ran away. Instead he had been found

pets must make choices.

In his office, Neff has a small sampling of casket and urn choices.

Pink, blue and yellow rayon velvet trimmed in lace line the caskets.

Personal preference or finances might determine whether the casket will be of wood or of polystyrene fiberglass.

A small, solid cherry casket goes for about \$400; a cat-size pink fiberglass shell runs about \$299. Neff said the least expensive shell is about \$92.

Grave or urn markers also vary in price.

Made of bronze, the markers carry the name of the pet, their birth and death dates, and sometimes a short memorial from the owner:

"Skipper. He asked for so little but gave so much. The Jones Family."

On the larger end, a 2-foot bronze marker costs about \$470. For about \$168, a 4-inch by 10-inch marker can be made, Neff said.

One of the markers comes in the

hit by car. But I had always been waiting for him to come home," she said.

It wasn't until she was a little older that she learned the truth.

"I think children should not be sheltered. They're bound to be involved in death at some point during their life," she said.

Doane is pleased that Sunland

shape of a bone; another that Neff says he has ordered and can't wait to receive is in the shape of a cat's head.

Bas-relief emblems detailing the kinds of species also can be placed on markers.

Urns run from about \$12.98 for a fiberglass model to \$145 for one made of pewter.

Currently, there are no niches for the urns, but one should be completed by the end of the year, Neff said.

The expense and choice of materials is left to the pet owner. "I don't try to buffalo or pressure them," he said.

He believes Pet Rest will not only serve as a physical place for pet owners to bury their animals but can help emotionally in the grieving process.

"There have been so many people who put their pet in a shoe box and just buried them in the back yard," he said.

"Now, they can talk with someone and have a nice place to bury their animal."

Memorial Park and Mortuary in Sun City has opened a pet cemetery.

There are those who criticize people for lavishing their pets with luxuries, but Doane does not put pet cemeteries in that category.

"Burial may not be too extreme. It's a closing period. It is in the steps of normal grieving," she said.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Sunland Pet Cemetery in Sun City buried 300 Valley pets that were displaced when a developer bought a Scottsdale cemetery. Sunland is one of two dedicated pet cemeteries in the state.

Permanent rest

Sun City pet cemetery provides final stop for displaced animals

By DEBBIE L. SKLAR
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Pet owners continue to complain about having to move their pets from a Scottsdale cemetery after a developer reclaimed the property earlier this month.

"At first some of the people were really upset because they thought they were getting a dedicated pet cemetery but found out it wasn't," said William Aaron, vice president and manager at Sunland Pet Cemetery, 15826 Del Webb Blvd. "I think the people are just happy because they know they won't have to go through this again when they move the pet here."

When Pet Rest Cemetery of Scottsdale was sold to a hotel developer several months ago, Aaron said, Sunland decided to lend a hand.

"It wasn't a dedicated cemetery, meaning the land wasn't safe from being built upon," Aaron said. "Basically, a dedicated cemetery means it is maintained by perpetual care. It also means a portion of the fee paid by pet owners for the land goes into a trust fund to keep the cemetery up."

Sunland has buried more than 300 pets from the Scottsdale cemetery since Feb. 8. "We just buried 98 pets from Scottsdale this morning," Aaron said Monday.

Aaron warns that pet owners need

to ask if a pet cemetery is dedicated and what specific services are offered.

"There are only two dedicated pet cemeteries in the state — Tucson and us," Aaron said. "We've probably got close to 1,000 pets buried here, and we've got just about any kind of pet you can imagine. Actually, just this morning we got a call about a horse that the owner wanted cremated."

More and more pet owners are choosing to bury their deceased pets, Aaron said, rather than disposing of them at a veterinarian's office or burying them in their own back yards.

"It isn't always legal to bury a pet in the yard," said Aaron. "There are so many (Environmental Protection Agency) laws and each different municipality has a different rule. Regardless, more and more people are burying their pets at a cemetery, because a pet is like a friend of the family."

Aaron said Sunland, a 4-year-old, 5-acre cemetery, will be able to accommodate pet owners for at least the next five years.

"What makes us nice, is the fact that we are also connected to the human cemetery," he said. "There is always someone caring for the properties."

Mortuary replaces its landmark mural

By Julia Jones
Special to Community

SUN CITY — After too many weeks of letting the chips fall where they may, officers of Sunland Mortuary and Memorial Park decided to take action.

The once-lovely mural made of cut glass that distinguished the park's entry was more than 25 years old, said Bill Aaron, Sunland vice president and general manager.

Time and the elements had caused that original glass work, mounted flat on the wall, to pull away; falling glass chunks were a continuing problem. It was a hazard, Aaron said, both to groundskeepers and to the budget, since repairs cost about \$4,000 a year.

It was never a question of simply eliminating the artwork, Aaron said. Indeed, the mural on the big, curved wall has always been considered a landmark of sorts.

A new mural, designed and installed by J.R. Lupkin Designs of Mesa, was finished recently. About 12 feet high by 44 feet wide, and done in a variety of colorful domestically produced porcelain tiles, it repeats and enhances the original motif of doves of peace.

The remodeling project started in October 1993, according to Lupkin.

Lupkin created a new design, incorporating the thematic doves

and adding "a message of peace, hope and promise" with a rainbow, sunburst and clouds above the curve of the earth. It stands in relief, he said, so there's a dimensional effect.

The new installation is not a big one for Lupkin's company, which specializes in large-scale projects in both glass and mosaic tile, much of it out-of-state.

"But we did try to estimate the size of this one," Lupkin said. "We think it contains more than 25,000 pieces, although it's hard to be sure because of the way it's put together."

Lupkin remembers when mosaic tile work was the darling of amateur crafters everywhere, turning many a coffee table into "works of art."

"In this usage, though, there's still a lot of this type of mural being done, in mausoleums and churches," he said. "We do a lot of things with marble, and in imported tiles, too. But mosaic work is just not popular in residences any more."

His company didn't install the original work in glass, Lupkin said. But this one, mounted on an aluminum frame, should last a lifetime, he said.

Sunland plans to add a planter at ground level in front of the new mural, Aaron said, probably spelling out the word Sunland.

Sunland opens pet cemetery

By MIKE GARRETT
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Sunland Memorial Park has set aside five acres for the Northwest Valley's first pet cemetery.

Many area residents have expressed the feeling that their cherished pet deserves the same burial as its master, Sunland executives said. But residents have had nowhere close to bury their pets outside their back yards.

William F. Aaron, Sunland general manager and vice president, said Sunland is filling a significant void.

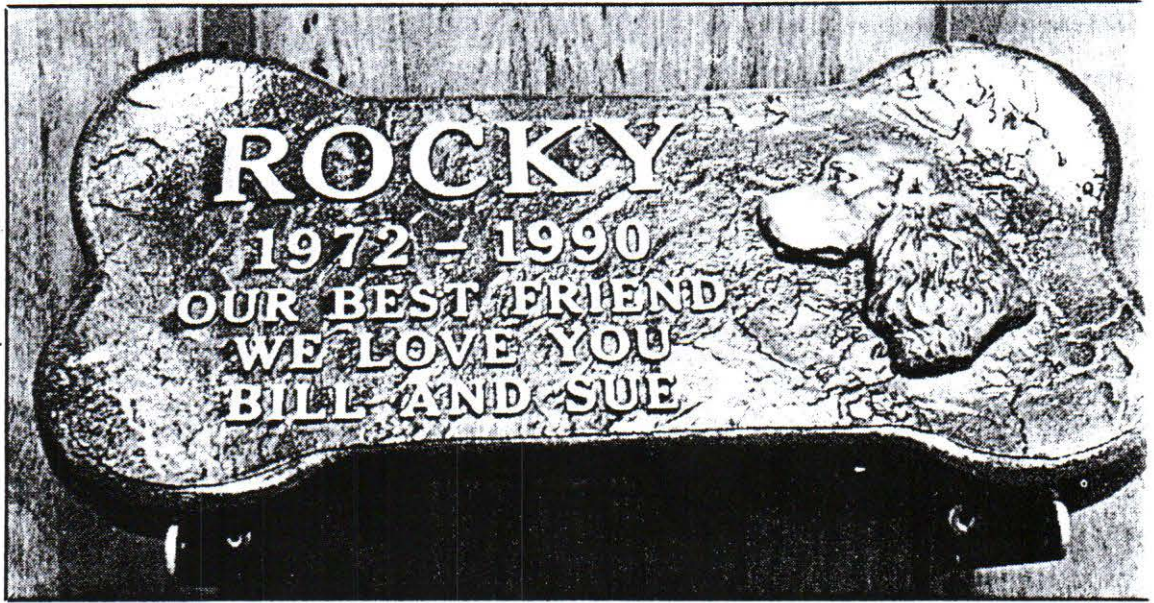
"I feel a pet cemetery can be just as important as a human cemetery," said Aaron, himself a pet owner. "I decided to start a pet cemetery because there isn't another one around here."

Aaron said he had proposed the pet cemetery a couple of years ago and Sunland's corporate office prevented him from going ahead with the project.

He did not elaborate on the issues, but a Sun Cities petition campaign was launched and thousands of signatures influenced the corporate office to resolve some legal problems and go ahead with the pet cemetery, Aaron said.

Aaron points out that pets are big business, noting four pet supermarkets are in the Valley. And, he said, most grocery stores carry a greater variety of pet foods and supplies than baby food and supplies.

Aaron and Alex J. Neff,



PET HEADSTONE — A pet owner can select a variety of bronze gravesite markers with emblems depicting various kinds and breeds of pets for a burial plot at Sunland Memorial Park.

who will manage Sunland Pet Rest, said the only other active Valley pet cemetery they know of is in Queen Creek, southeast of Chandler in the East Valley.

Neff said three or four Valley pet cremation services work with veterinarians.

"Most people take their pets to their vets and leave the disposal to them," Neff said. "I would guess the cremated remains are then taken down to the city dump."

Now the pet's master can choose among 2-by-2-, 2-by-3- or 2-by-4-foot gravesite plots, a variety of bronze gravesite markers with emblems depicting various breeds of dogs,

cats, horses and birds and a line of wooden and fiberglass caskets. Plots start at \$215, Neff said.

Adjoining spaces are available for sale at discount prices if larger plots are needed. There are no real restrictions on the kinds of pets that can be buried, Aaron said.

Now under construction with a scheduled mid-August completion date is a 1,500-square-foot building, housing an administrative office, restrooms, selection room and two visitation rooms.

He said one local couple has been holding a pet in an El Mirage freezer until the pet cemetery opens. Aaron

said burials would probably start by the end of July. Garden seeding has already started.

Pet owners also can choose cremation. Sunland has contracted cremation services to another pet cremation company because a law prevents a crematory from being used for both humans and animals. But Sunland will offer a selection of urns for ashes.

A dedication and grand opening ceremony will be held on Pet Memorial Day, Sunday, Sept. 8.

Sunland Pet Rest is a member of The International Association of Pet Cemeteries.

Memorial park altering plans on pet plots

Suits feared by relatives of humans buried nearby

By Karen Kirk
The Phoenix Gazette

SUN CITY — William Aaron was ready to bury his plans for creating Sun City's first pet cemetery after hearing that relatives of the people interred near the proposed site might come back to haunt him in court.

But instead of laying the idea to rest, Aaron decided to move the pet plots to another location.

Aaron, manager of Sunland Memorial Park on Del Webb Boulevard, began building the pet cemetery on Sunland grounds a few months ago after hearing several pet owners complain that the closest animal cemetery is outside of Chandler.

He put about 200 to 300 hours of work into preparing the one-acre pet cemetery when his attorney warned him that relatives of the people buried in Sunland might be offended and file a lawsuit against him.

"I don't know whether I will be able to continue it or not," said Aaron. "My attorney has known about it for six months. I don't know why he just told me this.

We've had nothing but positive responses from people. We've had inquiries from people who live up to 25 miles away, and I'd say 50 people from Avondale, Scottsdale and Phoenix have called me about this."

The original site of the pet cemetery was within 60 feet of the human cemetery at its closest point. In most places it is 600 feet away, Aaron said.

After talking to his attorney, Aaron decided to move the pet plots to an area in another part of the cemetery. However, he is awaiting final word from the attorney before he begins preparing the new site.

Aaron's plans for the pet cemetery include landscaping and grave sites that are of comparable quality to the area where humans are buried. Plots will be two-by-two and two-by-three square feet. No restrictions will be placed on the types of animals that can be buried there, he said.

Aaron has not yet decided upon a price for the plots, but a similar facility in Tucson charges \$175.

Sunland cemetery sold by Del E. Webb Corp.

W.W.
Matthews International Corporation of Pittsburgh, Pa., has announced the purchase of Sunland Memorial Park and Mortuary, Sun City, from the Del E. Webb Development Co.

It will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Matthews International.

Sunland Memorial Park and Mortuary, one of the nation's finest cemeteries, was established in 1961. It consists of 31 developed acres which include a mausoleum, garden crypts, crematory, mortuary and beautifully designed garden sections.

Matthews International Corporation plans to expand the cemetery to encompass

the adjoining 54 acres, to better serve the Sun City, Sun City West and other nearby communities of Maricopa County.

A new mausoleum will be constructed, as well as lawn crypts and a columbarium. New garden sections also will be developed.

Matthews International, established in 1850, is the nation's oldest and largest producer of bronze memorials and other identification products. They will operate Sunland Memorial Park and Mortuary as a model operation for other cemeteries throughout the United States and Canada.

Pittsburgh firm buys Sunland Memorial

3-13-82

Del E. Webb Development Co. has sold Sun City's Sunland Memorial Park and Mortuary to Matthews International Corp. of Pittsburgh.

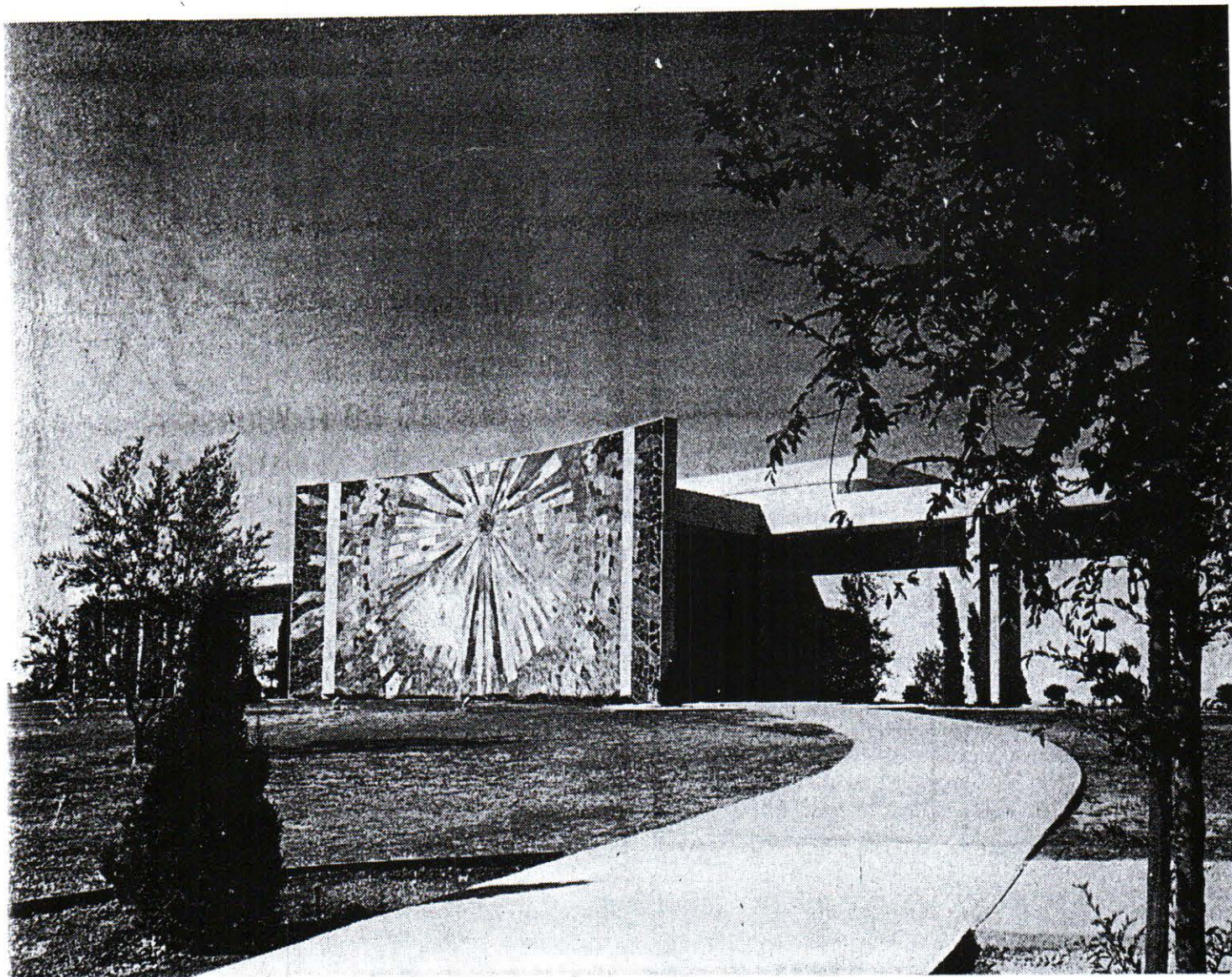
Terms of the agreement and the sale price of the property have not been disclosed by either party.

Matthews International, the nation's oldest and largest manufacturer of bronze memorials and other funeral-related items, said Friday it plans to expand the site by developing an adjoining 54 acres.

The cemetery, established in 1961, currently consists of 31 developed acres which include a mausoleum, garden crypts, crematory, mortuary and garden sections.

Plans call for Sunland, which will be a wholly-owned subsidiary of Matthews International, to construct a new mausoleum, lawn crypts, and columbarium and develop new garden sections.

DAILY NEWS-SUN



New Mausoleum of Peace features colorful sunburst mosaic of glass.

Mausoleum of Peace now open

The new Mausoleum of Peace at Sunland Memorial Park is now open for public inspection from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 15826 Del Webb Blvd.

The building is constructed of concrete faced

with Travertine marble of the type used by Michelangelo in his sculpturing.

Dominating the front entrance is a 1,000 square foot mosaic composed of over 12,000 handcut pieces of glass. Handblown antique, cathedral and handcast glass dalles, were obtained for the mosaic from France, Germany, Belgium, and some domestic sources.

THE DESIGN centers around a symbolic sun, flanked by a white dove of peace and silver dove representing purity of the soul. The glass in the silver bire has been glazed with liquid platinum, liquid gold

and gold essence also are fired onto other types of glass to provide a radiant effect from the reflective surfaces.

Inside the mausoleum, a central chapel is lighted by subdued stained glass skylights, and has seating

for more than 200 people.

The Mausoleum contains 1,900 crypts and will have approximately 480 wall niches available in the near future. Crema marble is used on the facing of couch crypts in the chapel, with black and gold marble separating tiers. Perlato marble is used for the corridor crypts. All marble used for interior and exterior was quarried in Italy.

SUNLAND Memorial Park is a member of the National Association of Cemeteries lot exchange program. This makes possible the trade-in of burial space owned in another state on crypts in Sunland.

SUN CITY, ARIZONA

Sunland Memorial Park

Location: 15826 North Del Webb Blvd.

Acres: 54.00 - undeveloped
30.37 - developed

Description: Cemetery with five single-story buildings consisting of an office, maintenance/crematory building, chapel/mortuary complex, and mausoleum. (contains a second chapel).

History: Office and chapel were opened in August, 1964. Initial columbarium and garden crypt unit were opened in 1966. Subsequent garden crypt units were opened in 1967, 1971, and 1972. An additional columbarium was opened in 1972. Crematory opened in 1972. Mausoleum opened in 1973, as did new office building. Additional garden crypts now in progress.

Zoning, Evaluation, Present Status and Future Plans: Rural, Density 43 (R-43). Lowest restrictive value. No less than 43,560 sq. ft. for each dwelling unit. Special use permit for cemetery. The Maricopa County Fair Market Value, Assessed Valuation, and Taxes for the years indicated are as follows:

	<u>FMV</u>	<u>Assessed</u>	<u>Taxes</u>
1972	\$ 94,245	\$23,560	\$1,628
1973	168,934	42,235	2,517
1974	224,334	58,760	4,637
1975	222,674	58,330	3,929

Principals: Sunland Memorial Park, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Del E. Webb Development Co. - Owner and Operator.

Date Acquired: August, 1964

Purchase Price: \$58,713 (original)

Book Value:

Land	\$ 2,011
Land Improvements	2,869
Buildings and Structures	221,602
Equipment	79,629
	<u>306,111</u>
Less Depreciation	99,952
Net Book Value	<u>\$206,159</u>

DYNAMIC BUSINESS
PITTSBURGH, PA.
MONTHLY 4,300

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1982

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Sunland Memorial Park And Mortuary Acquired By Matthews International Corporation

Matthews International Corporation of Pittsburgh, PA, has announced the purchase of Sunland Memorial Park and Mortuary, Sun City, AZ, from the Del E. Webb Development Co. It will be a wholly owned subsidiary of Matthews International.

Sunland Memorial Park and Mortuary, one of the nation's finest cemeteries, was established in 1961. It consists of 31 developed acres which include a mausoleum, garden crypts, crematory, mortuary and beautifully designed garden sections.

Matthews International Corporation plans to expand the cemetery to encompass the adjoining 54 acres to better serve Sun City, Sun City West, and other nearby communities of Maricopa County.

A new mausoleum will be constructed, as well as, lawn crypts and a columbarium. New garden sections will also be developed.

Matthews International, established in 1850, is the nation's oldest and largest producer of bronze memorials and other identification products. They will operate Sunland Memorial Park and Mortuary as a model operation for other cemeteries throughout the United States and Canada.

Planned Near Sun City

MEMORIAL PARK

A series of religious floral gardens will be the feature of Sunland Memorial Park, a cemetery to be located one and a half-miles north of the entrance to Sun City. The beautifully-designed project will be opened early in 1963, officials for the Del E. Webb development Co. announced.

General manager, Richard Dodson, said that the county zoning and planing commission and the Arizona Real Estate Commission had given their approval for the park. Dodson predicts that the cemetery will be one of the most modern and decorative in the country.

The first area of the 164 acres zoned for the park will be four and a half acres. Included in this

portion will be the Garden of Prayer. Numerous shade, palm and flowering trees will be set out along with evergreens, shrubs, hedges and flowers. A large granite Bible with inscriptions from the Lord's Prayer will be the first in a series depicting scenes from the life of Christ.

As the areas develop the same landscaping motive will be carried out. Dodson stated that roads in the cemetery will be hard surfaced and the park "will contain statuary, complete irrigation system, and illuminated fountains."



Sunland Memorial Park
Sun City

SUNLAND MEMORIAL PARK, A PROPERTY OF THE DEL E. WEBB DEVELOPMENT CO.

VF - SEMETERY - SUNLAND MEMORIAL PARK

0140



Sunland's Mausoleum of Peace

Facts About Sunland Memorial Park

The appeal of Sun City, weather aside, lies in its environment: delightful dwellings, lavish recreational facilities, arts-crafts studios and friendly people enjoying a sociable life. Everything seems fresh, clean and new here. One is struck by the pastoral serenity of the landscaped streets and homes. You see people walking, cycling or driving golf carts to their purpose of the moment. The atmosphere is almost like that of some idyllic village. The sacred grounds of Sunland Memorial Park belong in this setting.

Sunland Memorial Park, like the rest of Sun City, enjoys the benefits of thoughtful planning and the newest services and facilities. For instance, Sunland Memorial Park has:

- 1) four beautiful Cemetery Gardens: Prayer, Gethsemane, Faith and Peace;
- 2) a sacred Mausoleum of noble design, Sunland's Mausoleum of Peace;
- 3) a new Crematory;

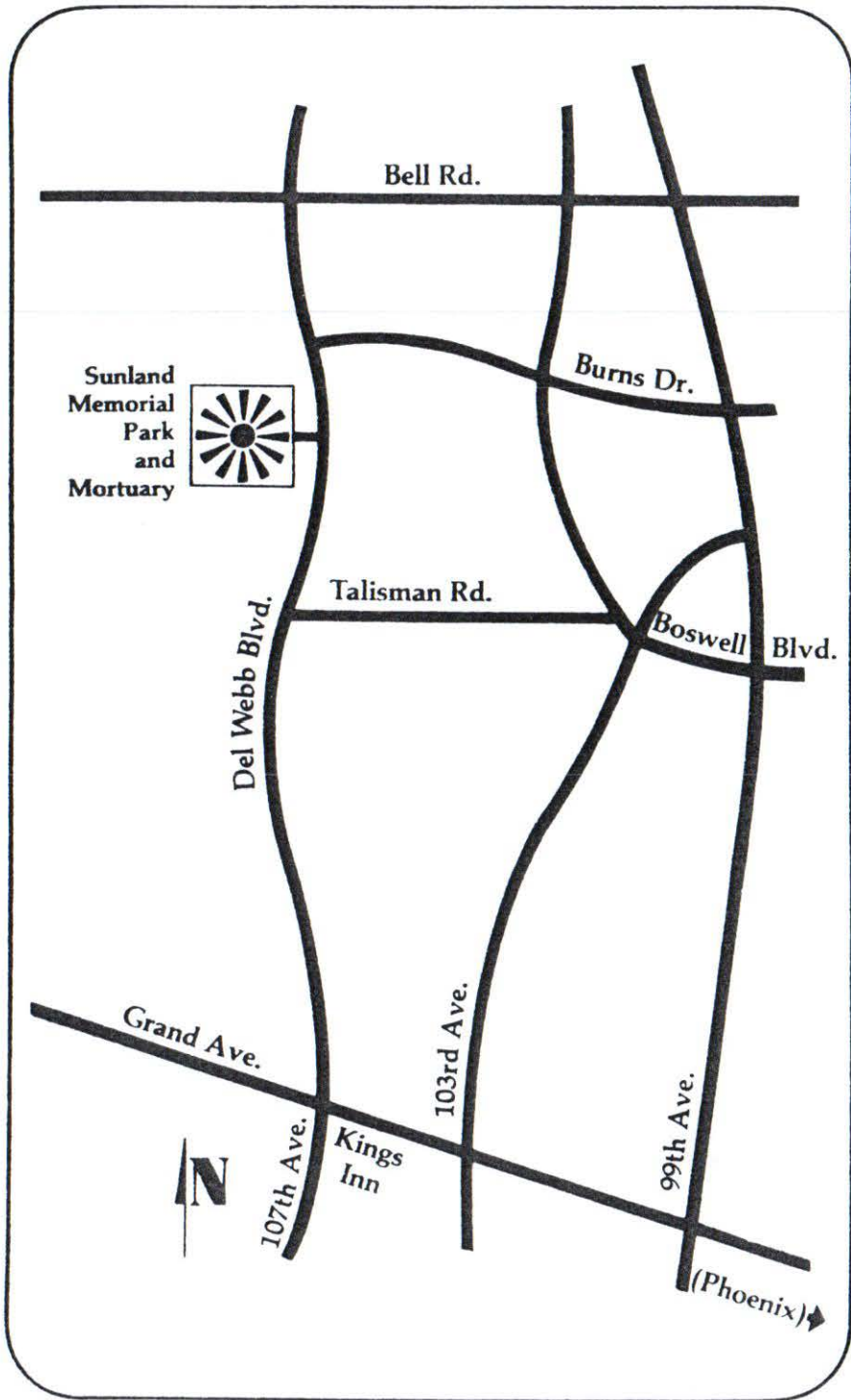
- 4) a Columbarium for niches to house cremated remains;
- 5) Garden Crypts;
- 6) two holy chapels for services.

Sunland Memorial Park is an endowed care Cemetery. It is non-sectarian.

You are invited to see its beauty, its facilities and to avail yourself of its services which are open to the public as well as to Sun City residents.

If you wish additional information about Sunland Memorial Park, please telephone:

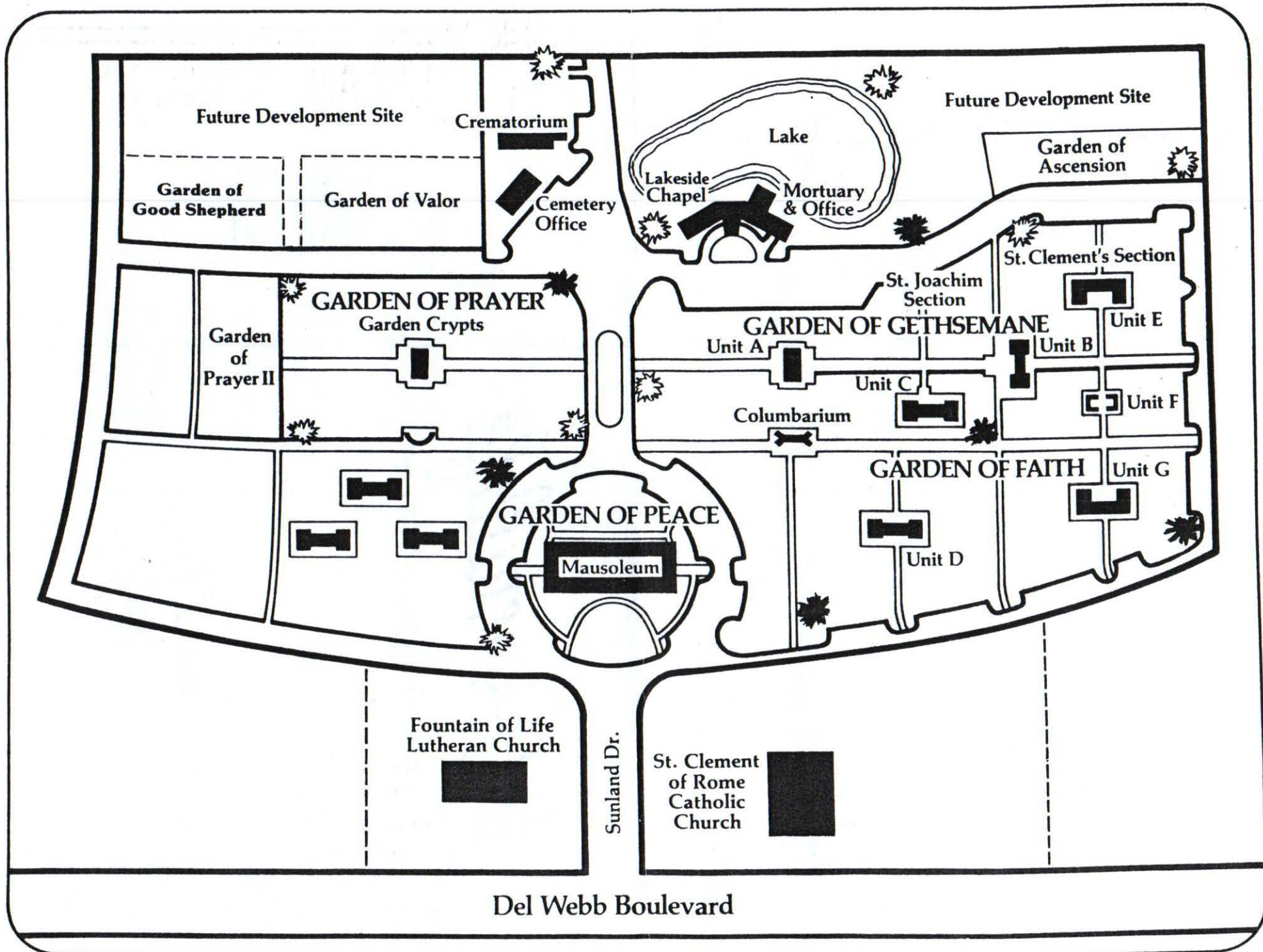
933-0161, or write to:
Sunland Memorial Park
15826 Del Webb Boulevard
Sun City, Arizona 85351



SUNLAND Memorial Park and Mortuary
 Sun City, Arizona 85351 • Telephone: 933-0161

Sun City's beautiful Sunland Memorial Park is an endowed care, non-sectarian cemetery dedicated to serve the needs of all Valley families.
"Everything in one Beautiful Place"

(See directional map on the back of this folder for the location of Sunland Memorial Park and Mortuary.)



Future Development Site

Crematorium

Future Development Site

Garden of Good Shepherd

Garden of Valor

Cemetery Office

Lake

Lakeside Chapel

Mortuary & Office

Garden of Ascension

GARDEN OF PRAYER

Garden Crypts

Garden of Prayer II

St. Joachim Section

St. Clement's Section

GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Unit A

Unit E

Garden of Prayer II

Columbarium

Unit C

Unit B

GARDEN OF FAITH

Unit G

GARDEN OF PEACE

Mausoleum

Unit D

Fountain of Life Lutheran Church

Sunland Dr.

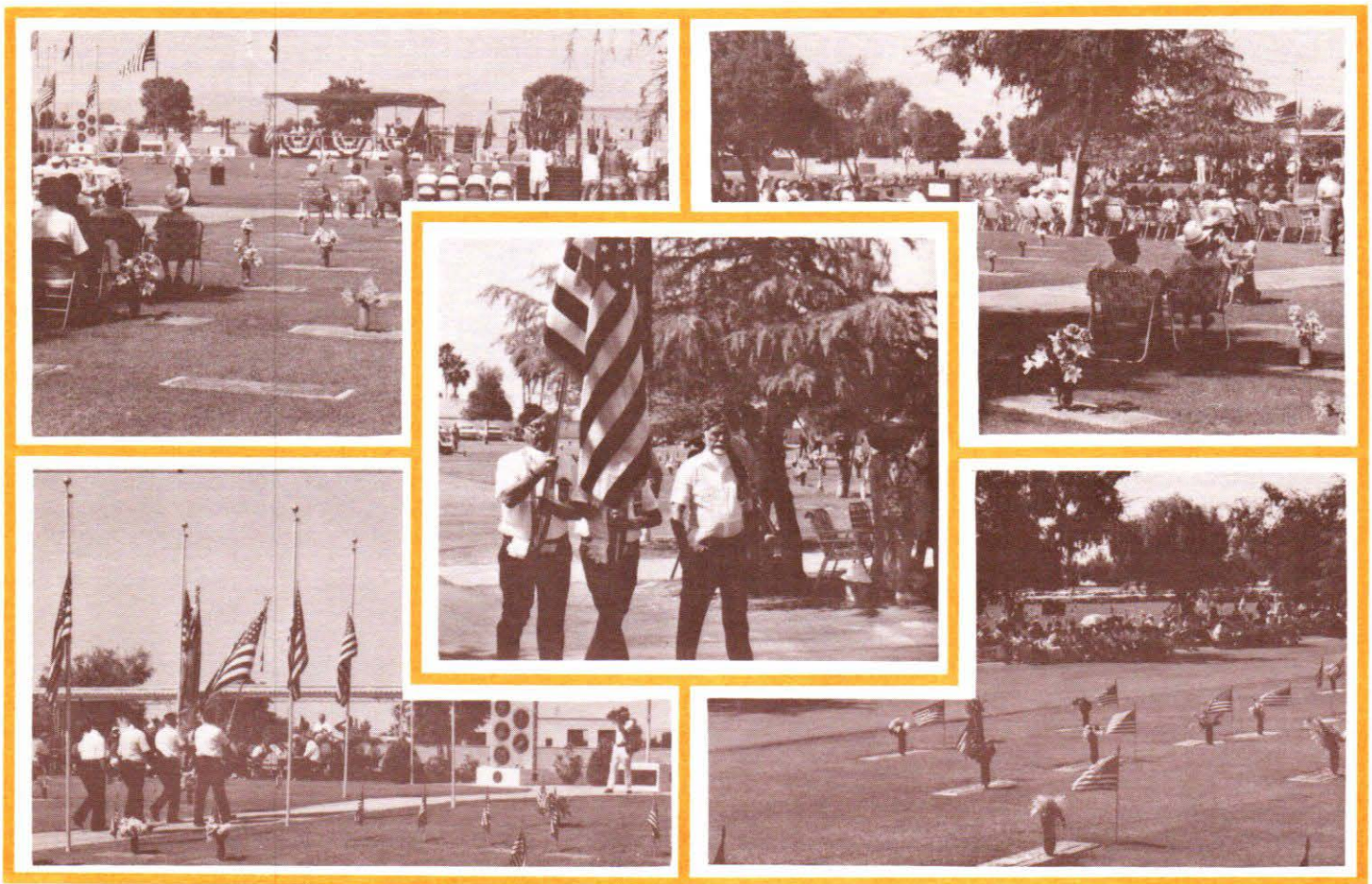
St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church

Del Webb Boulevard

SUNLAND Reporter

A Community Service Newsletter from Sunland Memorial Park and Mortuary Summer 1989

Annual Memorial Day Program



The Annual Memorial Day Program was held in the Garden of Valor, at Sunland Memorial Park on Monday, May 29th.

The host Post for this year's service was Disabled American Veterans, Sun City Star Chapter #24. The Commander is Victor Burkhart and Florence Brien, Auxilliary Commander.

The program started at 9:30 a.m. with patriotic music furnished by the Sun City Concert Band under the direction of Walter Moeck. Master of Ceremonies, Charles Jackson of DAV #24 gave the welcome address and introduced dignitaries in attendance.

This most moving service was capped off by the remarks of Chaplin

Col. David E. Rathgen (retired), the speaker of the day, and by the playing of Taps at close of service by Herbert Parrott and Lua Syckes.

The event was covered by all the local news media and by Channel 12 of Phoenix. A crowd of approximately 950 attended the service.

From The Desk of Bill Aaron



By now you have received the first edition of the *Sunland Reporter*. We hope that you enjoyed it as much as we enjoyed preparing it for you.

As we promised you, we would keep you up-to-date on the activities that are happening here at Sunland. First and foremost, we would like to announce the expansion of our Garden of Valor and Garden of Good Shepherd. Approximately 6500 grave spaces are involved in this expansion.

Our plans call for the removal of the concrete wall to the west of the gardens. This has already been com-

pleted. Following grading and installation of the irrigation system, we would expect to start seeding in September or October. The plans call for an elaborate feature area; the focal point will be an American Eagle on a granite pillar. Eventually, concrete walks and a paved drive will be added, along with all landscaping.

We are looking forward to this addition as it will better enable us to meet the demands of our customers for choice burial spaces in the Garden of Valor and Garden of Good Shepherd.

Second Annual Christmas Remembrance Service



The second annual Christmas Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday, December 10, 1989 in the Sunland Memorial Mausoleum Chapel. The time will be announced.

This service is designed to honor those interred in Sunland Memorial Park. As we did last year, families will be contacted to offer them the opportunity to purchase a poinsettia remembrance. The poinsettias will form a memorial tree. At the end of the service the poinsettias can be taken home or they can be left to be donated to local

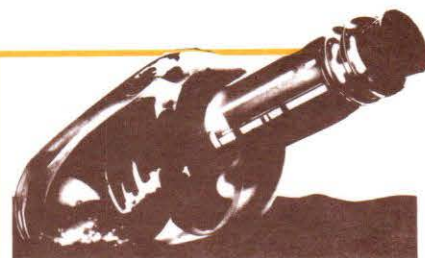
hospitals or hospices.

More details on this service will be announced later.

Sunland's Circle of Service

Sunland is pleased to offer our services to any family in need. We honestly do have "Everything In One Beautiful Place" as our slogan implies.

From the traditional cemetery concept to the specialized gardens and mausoleums, to our own funeral home, crematory and family reception center, we can meet any family's need for specialized service within the boundaries of Sunland Memorial Park.



A Note In A Bottle

A common practice, among sailors of olde, was to put a handwritten note in a bottle, and send it adrift in hopes that someone, somewhere, might retrieve it. Occasionally, these notes were the only account of the fate of the vessel. Some scrawlings were actually the dying wishes of the doomed author. A final good-bye and disposition of any possessions were often combined in one sentence. "Farewell to all my friends and I leave my worldly goods to my darling wife".

Today it requires some thought and planning regarding our final wishes. There are those of us who have everything written down, leaving our survivors some guidance. But, alas, these pages are sent adrift, in dresser drawers, shoe boxes with other records, safety deposit boxes that no one can open, closet shelves, and wills that are kept in locked offices.

Leaving final instructions that are incomplete, hidden, or unattainable is leaving them in a bottle for survivors to chance upon them weeks or months after the funeral.

Most cemeteries and funeral homes have planning guides and wallet cards to carry on your person. Ask for extra cards to send to all your immediate survivors. Fill out the executor's guide and make several copies. Tell your family where it is. Don't leave your family adrift.

Ed Steklenski
Director of Sales

Family Reception Center

The main purpose or function of this 28' x 32' room will be for families that are served by Sunland Mortuary to greet their friends following the close of a service. Sunland Mortuary will employ a full time attendant that will arrange for any type refreshment desired by the family and will also serve as the hostess during that time.

The room will be used by "The Good Mourning Group" for its weekly meetings. This is the grief recovery group that is sponsored free of charge to anyone that needs help in overcoming his or her loss of a loved one.

In addition, the room will be available for public meetings on a reservation type basis. Anyone wishing to reserve the room should call 933-0161 to make a reservation.



Mortuary Expansion



Ground was broken on June 26th for the approximate 3,000 square foot addition to Sunland Mortuary. The architectural firm for the project is Stover Associates of Phoenix. The general contractor will be Herrscher Construction, also of Phoenix, with interior furnishings by Freed's of Sun City.

The new addition will have three new visitation rooms that can be divided into separate areas if needed, an enlarged casket selection room, gen-

eral office space, family reception room and garage.

Sunland Mortuary was opened in April 1983 and has been well received over the years. The new addition should cover the growth trend of Sunland for the next 3 to 4 years.

Completion is scheduled for October with another Open House to be scheduled at that time to showcase our new facility to the area residents.

Sunland's Pet Rest

Work has begun on an area of ground to the west of Sunland Memorial Park that will be used as a pet cemetery. The area designated is located directly across from the area that is being used by the Sun City Agricultural Club. The area will be 4-5 acres in size. A prominent land developer familiar with land design of pet cemeteries was hired in May to design the area for Sunland.

Sunland announced approximately two years ago that it planned a pet cemetery, but that plan was halted due to legal problems. Those problems have now been cleared and anticipated opening is scheduled for October or November.

The area will accommodate any size pet and will be of the same quality in appearance as the rest of the park. At some point in time, a pet funeral home will be added to the office building that will be located on the site.

Dedication Ceremony to be Held

A service of Dedication and Consecration will be held on Sunday, November 5, 1989 in Beth Chayim Section of Sunland Memorial Park. This program will be held in order to consecrate the additional ground involved with this section and to dedicate a new feature for this area.

The feature, a bronze and granite memorial, will be erected to pay homage to the 6,000,000 Jews who perished in World War II and to those presently interred in the Jewish Section.

A committee, made up of local Rabbis and members of the respective temples and Jewish organizations, was formed to help design the memorial and plan the ceremony.

The Reader Asks?

"What Is Cremation, and Is Anything Left?"

Mr. A.L. - Sun City

Cremation is where the body is placed in an enclosed chamber, called a Retort, and reduced to its basic elements through heat and evaporation. The basic elements are commonly referred to as cremated remains. Many people consider the cremated remains to be ashes. However, these remains, normally three to nine pounds depending on the size of the body, have neither the appearance nor the chemical properties of ashes. In fact, they are bone fragments. These remains are then placed in an urn

for disposition and memorialization.

Mr. A.L.

We are pleased to respond to you, our reader, to make not only you, but all readers a better informed consumer.

If you have a specific question that you would like answered, send your questions to Sunland Memorial Park, 15826 Del Webb Boulevard, Sun City, Arizona 85351, c/o William Aaron.



Buyer Beware!

Families in this area are being asked to invest large sums of money in new burial and funeral merchandise. Our only concern is that before you purchase anything, you fully understand what you are buying. If you have any doubts or concerns, check with local funeral establishments or call Sunland at 933-0161.

Sunland's New Neighbor

Sunland welcomes its new neighbor to the west; the Sun City Sheriff's Posse. Sunland sold land early in 1989 to the Sheriff's Posse that would house its Headquarters. At this writing, the construction is nearly complete.

There will be no direct access to the posse building through Sunland Memorial Park, but rather by way of Aquia Fria Drive. Having the posse as a neighbor will afford Sunland added security.

A Reminder

In our first issue of the Sunland Reporter, we expressed the desire to publish a cookbook that would eventually be sold and the profit given to a local charity.

We have had a good response in the number of recipes received, but we still need more. So send in your favorite family recipe, and you will be recognized in our Keepsake Cookbook.

A New Service



Sunland now has an assortment of silk flower arrangements that are available for purchase. Special holiday arrangements include Poinsettias for Christmas, and Lilies for Easter.

These arrangements are competitively priced with any local florist. Feel free to call our office, 933-0161, for price and type information, and our office will be glad to place a floral tribute at the resting place of a loved one.

**SUNLAND**
Memorial Park and Mortuary
15826 Del Webb Boulevard
Sun City, Arizona 85351