

Efficiency propels recreation centers

Dec. 26, 1997

Daily News-Sun



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Laurie Wyman of the Sun City Clay Club says the installation of computerized kilns in the club room at Lakeview Recreation Center has cut down on utility expenses.

By DAVID MILLER
Staff writer

From the bowling greens to the bocce courts, the swimming lanes to the fitness rooms, the buzz word **More stories, for the A3** Recreation

Centers of Sun City this year was efficiency.

It was a cooperative effort, between directors musing electrical costs and club members worried that their groups might get the ax.

Instead of imploding, however, financial difficulties seemed to fizzle out as clubs and the board put their heads together, electing to turn off a few lights and save a lot of money in the process.

In the end, the Recreation Centers saved more than \$100,000 through a utility efficiency plan. It required some clubs to alter meeting times and others to share facilities. But most agreed, the savings was worth it.

RCSC Board President Don Pritchett gave the credit to the clubs. "They saved a lot of money," he said of lapidary, clay and other groups that took it upon themselves to cut costs.

Gil Haake, president of the Sun City Clay Club, said his group went high-tech to help

YEAR IN REVIEW



TODAY: SUN CITY

Weekend:

Sun City West

Monday:

Peoria, Youngtown

Tuesday:

Surprise, El Mirage

Wednesday:

Top stories of the year

slash the budget.

"We went out and bought five new kilns," he said. "They're computerized, and the cost of operating them is much less than the old kilns."

The group also began meeting at the ungodly hour of 5 a.m. Wednesdays, when electric rates are low, to fire their work.

They also had to cut sum-

► See Members resolve, A5

December 7, 2016

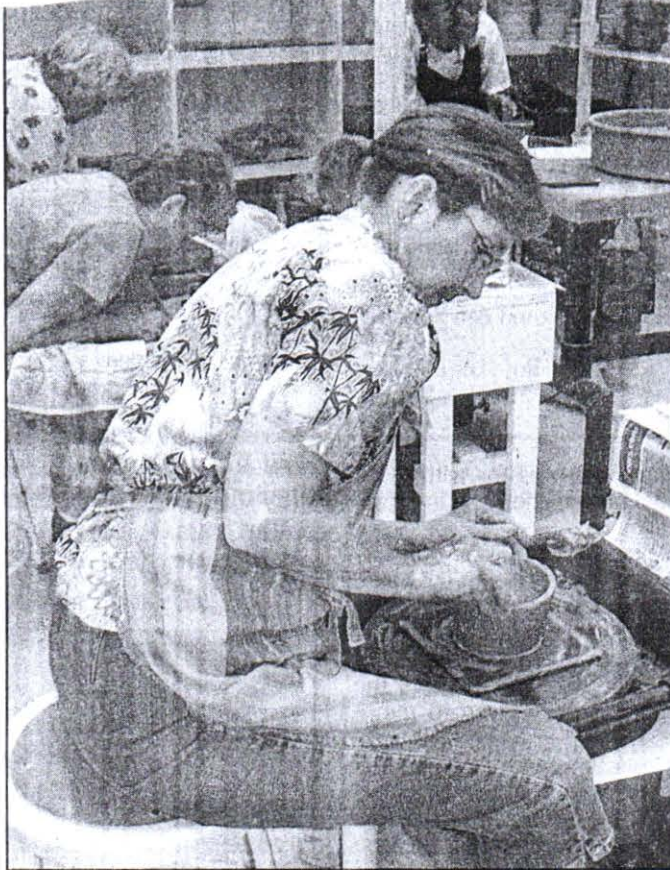
SUN CITY INDEPENDENT



Art in place

Members of the El Dorado art gallery committee and the Marionette Clay Club, creators of the above yard art, admire the piece as it is placed in the gallery garden. Pictured are Phyllis Lenik, El Dorado resident and art gallery committee member, Judy Larson, from the Clay Club, Brenda Good, from the Clay Club, Yvonne Saetre, El Dorado resident and art gallery chairperson, and Beverly Nelson, El Dorado resident and art gallery committee member. [Submitted Photo]

UF SC CLAY CLUB



Submitted to the Independent
Members of the Sun City Clay attend a workshop March 20 to start making bowls for the Empty Bowl Project. During the summer months, members volunteer to fire, glaze and package all the pre-made bowls to take to the designated restaurant sponsor. Since 1992 they have donated more than 200 bowls per year, both hand built and wheel thrown.

Clay club joins efforts to fight hunger

Sun City Clay Club members, at Lakeview Recreation Center have begun their many annual work days to make, glaze and donate well over 200 bowls to Empty Bowls. Following is a brief explanation of that upcoming event in October of each year.

The 16th Annual Empty Bowl Event honoring World Food Day by helping feed the hungry will be held at the Arizona Center in October. For a minimum \$12 donation, patrons select their own unique hand-crafted ceramic bowl from thousands of beautiful bowls made by members and friends of Arizona Clay Association from clay provided by Marjon Ceramics.

The bowl is then filled with a pasta lunch donated by Lombardi's Restaurant, equivalent to what a homeless person

would eat in a day. 100 percent of all donations from this event go to Waste Not which collects over 1.5 millions pounds of excess perishable food annually from restaurants, resorts, caterers and various food purveyors and delivers it to over 90 recipient agencies, including shelters, senior programs, transition homes, day care centers and after school programs.

Every year Empty Bowl events hosted by different organizations raises over \$100,000 in the valley alone to aid in the fight against hunger.

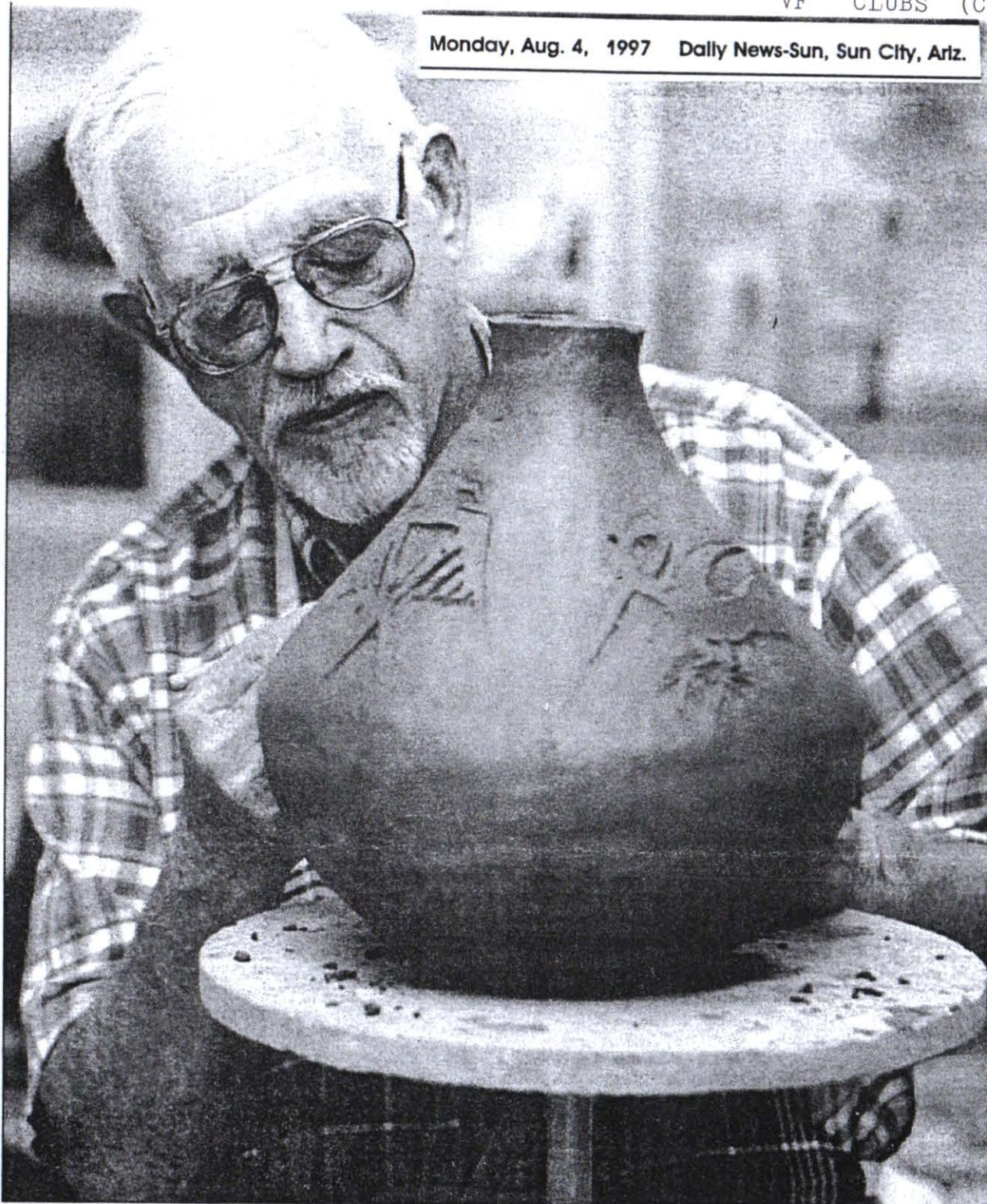
For dates and locations of other events being held locally and nationwide, visit www.emptybowls.net.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was submitted by the Sun City Clay Club.

To submit your photos and stories about club events and activities, visit www.newszap.com/suncity.

Monday, Aug. 4, 1997 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

Around town



Gregory Harris/Daily News-Sun



Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

In the photo above, instructor Phyllis Stringer, right, helps Arlene Ohnstad with her strip pot during class at the Sun City Clay Club at Lakeview Recreation Center Friday. Strip pots are similar to coil pots. At left, Gerald Smeenge finishes up a pot that he started the day before in his clay potting class at the Lakeview Recreation Center.

They like to play with clay

HAYLEY RINGLE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A lump of clay becomes a soup bowl in beautiful shades of blues and reds, or a piggy bank that clinks when change hits its belly or a decorative vase holding a single long-stemmed rose at the Sun City Clay Club.

More than 200 members roll out their clay and make unique pieces by hand. In their workshop at Lakeview Recreation Center, members can make thrown pieces on eight potter's wheels, including a new "stand-up" wheel, create hand-built items in several work areas and finish their products in one of the five kilns available.

"I wanted to do something different," said Jean Brownell of Sun City, who painted before joining the club 15 years ago. "I walked in here and never walked out."

Members pay an annual \$5 fee, and pay for their own clay and glaze. "Firing fees" are earned by volunteering for various club jobs. Tools and accessories are always available for members to use while creating pieces.

"It's a great hobby club," said LoRay TeWalt, president of the Sun City Clay Club. "Years ago I had done ceramics, but I like hand-building so much better."

There are several different kinds of clay, from white stoneware to Moroccan sand. All the glaze is handmade within the club, with colors such as sapphire blue, white satin and mountain brown.

"It's a means of expression for me," said Jim Cunningham of Sun City, a member since 1973 who is blind. "It's something I can do with my hands without seeing."

The Sun City Clay Club, which began in 1969, meets the first Thursday of every month, except in June, July and August, and the workshop is open throughout the day to give members time to sculpt their next piece.

Cunningham has made hundreds of pieces over the years, including spoon rests, soap dishes, bread pans and angels. He was currently working on a bowl with the name Dorie on it, for a friend.

Sun City residents who have never touched clay are invited to join. Classes are taught for both beginners and advanced clay artists.

"It's always an adventure because you never know when things will turn out," said Mary McKinnon, a member for 10 years. Pieces can crack or collapse under the heat of the kiln.

McKinnon is working on a large bowl with leaves draped over the edge that she hopes will be a fountain if all goes well.

Classes are taught on various subjects, such as Southwestern pottery, birdhouses and chip-and-dip sets.

The Sun City Clay Club participates in the Arizona Clay Clubs Empty Bowl Project for Waste Not and has donated 200 bowls a year for the past three years. People buy the bowls with a donated dinner in them for \$10,

and the money goes toward feeding the hungry.

Those interested in joining the club can come in during business hours and talk to the monitor on duty, or call 933-0899.

"The club is a very creative medium," said Brownell, who teaches a beginning pottery class. "You can make whatever you want."

For information on the Clay Club at Lakeview Recreation Center, call 933-0899.

OVER



LISA GOETTSCH/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Mary McKinnon, a member of the Clay Club, gives all of her clay creations away as gifts. She plans on making a fountain of her latest three-legged pot.

When the late Parke W. Soule and his wife, Jean arrived in Sun City in the summer of 1969 they started attending South, now Fairway, Ceramic Club. Ceramics were new here and interesting but the forming of clay objects from just a ball of clay was more appealing to the Soules. As newcomers, formation of a new club was a challenge but it was obvious that there was interest in and a need for a stoneware group.

After some informal discussion among various members a meeting was held on October 15, 1969 with Jean Wheeler as temporary chairman. Recreation Centers Manager Jay S.M. Titus became interested in seeing a new club formed and advised the group that if the proposed club by-laws were broadened to include all forms of ceramics rather than being limited to freeform, wheel, sculpture, etc., it could expect to be assigned the ceramic rooms at Lakeview Center. Lakeview Center was scheduled to be completed and hold a "grand opening" for the public by Webb on January 1970.

The proposed by-laws were approved and on October 16 the first chairman, Althea Lahn submitted the formal request for a club charter, complete with a list of officers and charter members. Since the petitioning group was particularly interested in freedom to work in stoneware and handbuilding, the term, "ceramic," which in Sun City seems normally accepted to be cast pottery, was avoided and the name "Sun City Clay Club" was deemed most appropriate and all-inclusive. On December 8, 1969 Manager Titus advised Mrs. Lahn that the Board at their December 8 meeting "welcomed the Sun City Clay Club as a chartered club."

The number of members in this first club is unknown but the club did well financially and bought equipment, materials and supplies as needed. An early fund-raising project to make "executive ashtrays" for the Thunderbird Bank was initiated by Dorothy Kuehn. More than fifty were made; they were seven inches across and had the bank logo at the bottom.

A controversy soon developed regarding the name of the club. In 1973 the name was changed to Lakeview Clay Club, then to Lakeview Ceramics, followed by Clay Club in May, 1978. A scattering of loyal members, preferring to work in clay in the 1970's were happy with the name, Clay Club. But others were not satisfied and were determined to have full replacement of Clay Club with Ceramics. Ultimately separation of casting and hand-forming could no longer be avoided. So in 1978 a small group decided to form the Sun City Clay Club and Recreation Centers Management gave the club a room next to the rest rooms on the upper floor at Lakeview Center.

This small, determined group had very little equipment -- one wheel and two kilns, one of which had to be replaced in a short time.

Some members enrolled in clay classes at Glendale Community College. Professor Bob Lundeen, head of the Ceramic Department, gave a lot of help, advising, visiting and eventually teaching a Saturday group of Sun Citizens at the College. These members in return became teachers for the club. Park Soule taught wheel; Ev Peterkin taught beginning handbuilding; Sally Lipp taught sculpture; Blanche Schopp taught glazing and wheel, and Jean Soule taught glazing. Harriet Lewallen supervised the glazing techniques.

The first chairman of the re-organized club was Lee Van Gordon and the name, Sun City Clay Club was kept since the club's purpose was to work in freeform. New members joined as Sun City grew. Olive Linder suggested that a newsletter was needed, so beginning in January 1983 the first letter went out. By the end of 1983 attendance totaled 6,203, averaging a daily attendance of 23 members, keeping the club room open five and one-half days a week.

By the end of January 1984 club membership totaled 233. More space was needed and Recreation Center Manager Tritz agreed to help: In July he decided to move the club back to the area ^{first} assigned to the club at the opening of Lakeview Center in 1970.

Thus on Monday, September 24, 1984 Sun City Clay Club officially opened its doors to the newly renovated quarters. The club immediately got ready for the Arts and Crafts festival the following Thanksgiving.

The club got its first telephone in 1985, a safety measure as well as a convenience.

Late in 1988 the club decided to produce a Juried Clay Show. The date was set for the weekend of January 28 and 29 with judging on Saturday afternoon, awards party on Saturday evening, and the public invited to view the show on Sunday. The show was a huge success and has become a yearly event.

For several years some members have gone to neighboring schools, working with children making "clay treasures,"

In the past few years the club has joined a Valley-wide "Waste Not" project to feed the hungry. ^{Each year} ~~several~~ hundred clay bowls are made and filled at a Phoenix restaurant with food similar to the meals furnished the needy. The bowls and food are then sold to the public as a fund-raising program.

The club also collects canned food in its clubroom to donate to the local food bank.

The present officers of the Clay Club at Lakeview are:

President: Laura Wyman

First Vice-President: Joyce Oehlerking

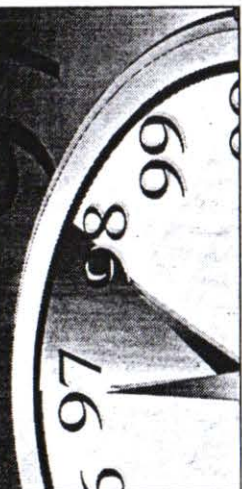
Second Vice-president: Carolyn Waits

Secretary: Helen LaBuda

Treasurers: Gloria Stark and Helen Fisher

(From the files of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society)

YEAR IN REVIEW



Rec Centers fire over 100 in 1997

By DAVID MILLER
Staff writer

One hundred-seventy-nine employees were terminated by the Recreation Centers of Sun City in 1997, ranging from those who "didn't want to clean bathrooms" to those let go for taking more than a month's vacation.

The numbers included 14 workers who quit without notice and one who left to go to school, said General Manager Jim Warfield.

Some workers, Warfield said in a report given recently to the Recreation Center board, quit when they found they couldn't live the snowbird lifestyle, by fleeing Sun City in hot summer months.

"Some want to work eight months and travel four," Warfield said. "We said 'You can have 30 days. If you take more, you can resign.'"

Some workers take long holidays and find employment when they return. But the most valued are those committing to year-round labor, said the board president.

"You can't run a ship like that," said President Don Pritchett of trying to accommodate workers taking lengthy vacations.

The numbers of those terminated ranged from 14 fired or let go at Bell Recreation Center to 3 at Oakmont center.

Thirty-three food service workers lost or left their jobs this year.

Some found other jobs, resigned for health reasons or moved out of state, Warfield said.

Members resolve problems

◀ From A1

mer hours — something that didn't sit well with every member. "Not too many people were happy about that, because we have a large membership," Haake said. "But it saved a lot of money on electricity. So more power to 'em."

"Basically, income is where we projected it would be," said Pritchett of the '97 budget. "But our expenses are way down."

Along the way, the centers encountered few bumps in a relatively quiet year. A couple of sore points roused public ire, however, including a communications tower that went up over Marinette Recreation Center and a drop in Viewpoint Lake water levels.

The cellular phone tower, a "monopole" erected by U S WEST Communications, went up in the summer and loomed over the recreation center

pool. Swimmers called the tower an eyesore; homeowners said it hurt property values.

Loud, sometimes combative meetings ensued, and U S WEST eventually agreed to put in a slimmed-down spire. Communication between officials and the public has since been restored.

Pritchett notes that what was once a local problem will soon envelope other cities — part of an increasingly technological age. "(The towers) are popping up all over," Pritchett said. "It's a sign of the times."

The Viewpoint Lake dilemma, too, ended with water back to its original mark, through the installation of new equipment and the purchase of extra water from Citizens Utilities.

Though water levels are back to normal, however, next summer may see another

purchase of several million gallons. "We lose 20 million gallons a month through evaporation," Pritchett said.

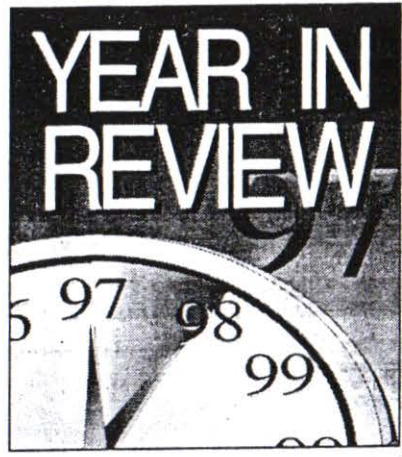
The centers also revamped fitness rooms in 1997 and pondered a bailout for the struggling Sun City Library, hurt this year by lagging donations.

Through it all, board members sometimes squabbled and punctuated themselves with the occasional outburst. Mostly, though, they worked seamlessly together, spending much time in debate over contentious issues.

"This board has really worked well together," Pritchett said.

Add to that the workings of the public. In all, about 130 citizens gave their time staffing standing committees. They advised the board on everything from bowling to engineering to law.

"I think few people understand all the work that these



committees put in," said the president. "We have 15 major committees. It's a lot of effort. But that's what marks Sun City."

If citizens came to advise, however, they didn't stay to vote. Only 5 percent of the electorate turned out for December's Recreation Board election.

Still, three new members joined the board. Officials, meanwhile contemplated ways to spur a greater turnout. It's an issue that likely will return in 1998.



Lakeview Clay Club member Neoma Moulds, above at left, along with her daughter Carroll Menges, center, of Phoenix and fellow club member Marie Wallingford look at this sculpture of a little boy titled "Here I Am" by Kay Smith at the juried clay show sponsored by the Lakeview Clay Club Sunday. The event was held at the Lakeview Club and Kay Smith's piece took best of show honors. Lakeview Clay Club member Dick Cole, left, checks out the work at the juried clay show sponsored by the Lakeview Clay Club on Sunday.

LAKEVIEW CLAY CLUB

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DAILY NEWS-SUN FEB. 16, 1998

Wednesday, Oct. 13, 1999 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.



Photo by MIKE RUSSO/Independent Newspapers

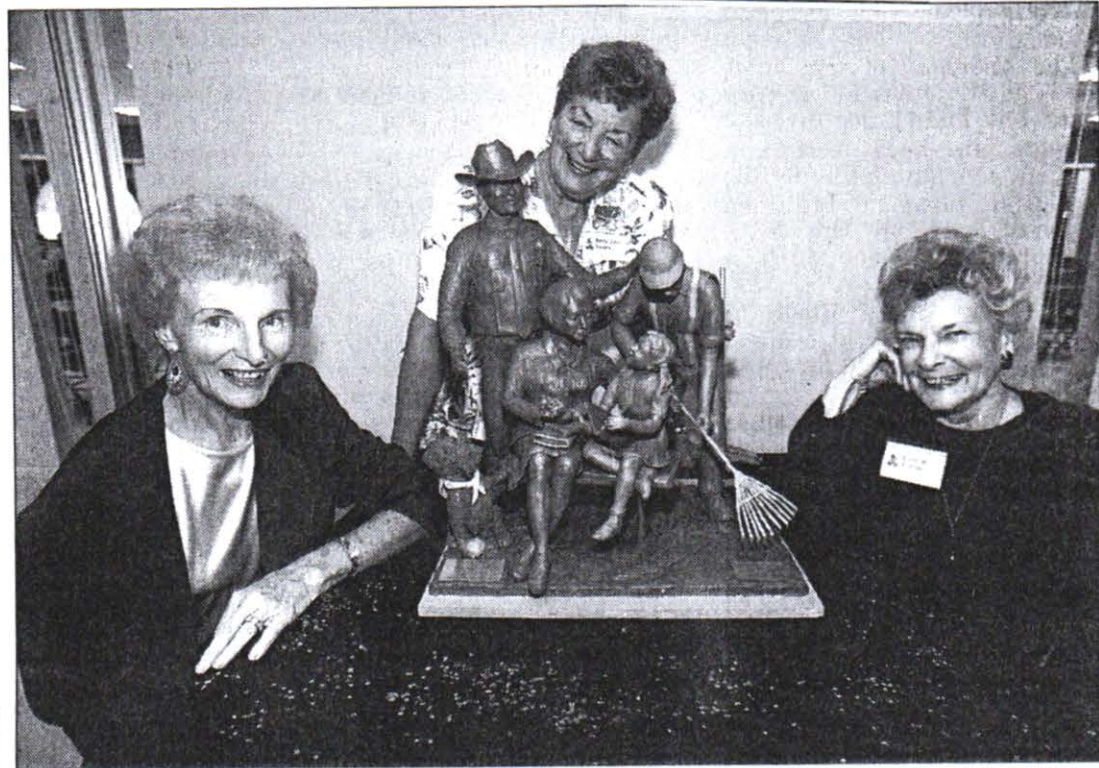
Validating volunteers

A public unveiling of the maquette of a proposed statute to honor Sun City's volunteers was held Oct. 1 at Marinette Recreation Center. Among those attending were, from left, Bev Davis, member of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors; Marge Murphy, RCSC director; Betty Jane Peters, president of the Sun City Clay Club and one of the maquette's sculptors; Connie Turner, sculptor; Kay Smith, sculptor; and Dorothy Hertzal, RCSC director. The Clay Club is trying to raise \$100,000 to erect the statue. Donations may be sent to: Sun City Foundation, 10626 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City, AZ 85351.

Feat of clay

10-19-99

Daily News-Sun



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Kay Smith, left, Betty Jane Peters and Connie Turner, members of the Clay Corner at Marinette Recreation Center, made a maquette honoring Sun City volunteers. The artist fees have been donated, but the cost of bronzing and installation will likely exceed \$100,000. Donations are welcome.

HISTORY OF SUN CITY CLAY CLUB

(Concerning the history of organized activities by enthusiasts of handbuilding on clay in Sun City, as recalled by Parke W. Soule, assisted by his wife, Jean, August 23, 1984)

Jean and I arrived in Sun City in the summer of 1969. Shortly thereafter, we started attending South, now Fairway, Ceramic Club. Ceramics were new here in Sun City and interesting, but the forming of clay objects from just a ball of clay appealed to us even more. As newcomers, the events leading up to the formation of a separate club, primarily concerned with hand-forming clay are mostly hearsay. However, interest in, and need for a stoneware group was apparent.

Thus, discussion progressed to action. Ultimately, a formal meeting was held on October 15, 1969, under the temporary Chairman, Jean Wheeler; officers were elected and necessary business was transacted. Manager Jay S. M. Titus, interested in seeing the new club formed, by then, had advised that if the proposed club by-laws were broadened to include all forms of ceramics rather than being limited to freeform, wheel, sculpture, etc., it could expect to be assigned the ceramic rooms at Lakeview Center. The Center was programmed for completion and "grand opening" for the public by Webb as of January 1970.

Accordingly, the proposed club approved by-laws, and on October 16, the first Chairman, Althea Lahn, submitted the formal request for a club charter, complete with a list of officers, charter members, etc. The letter specified the club "will need space not available at this time;" and also requested that if space at Lakeview were assigned, the words "at Lakeview Center" be added.

Since the petitioning group was particularly interested in freedom to work in stoneware handbuilding, the term Ceramic (which in Sun City seems normally accepted to be cast pottery) was avoided and the name Sun City Clay Club was deemed by all as most appropriate and all-inclusive. On December 8, 1969, Manager Titus advised "Mrs. Frederick Lahn, Chairman, Sun City Clay Club" that the Board at their December 8 meeting "welcomed the Sun City Clay Club as a chartered Club."

Thus was the SUN CITY CLAY CLUB born in 1969. Organized club activities began. Good potters in the charter included Lahn, Wheeler, Milko, Djerf, Fredericks, Mullineaux, Houille, Towne, Drummond, Steward, Sheldon, Peterkin, and Jean and Parke Soule. The first chairman, Althea Lahn was followed in 1971 by Jean Soule, then Mickey Hanna, Parke Soule, Walt Hine, Mary Mary Martin and in 1977 Ann Seward.

The Club did well financially and bought things as needed. Incidentally, an early fund raising project was initiated by Dorothy Kuehn; it was for "executive ashtrays" for the Thunderbird Bank. They were about 7" across and had the bank logo in the bottom. There were over fifty I'm sure and it seemed like 100 before the order was completed. I threw them and Jean decorated most of them.

A deep undercurrent developed over the name of the club. In 1973 the name became Lakeview Clay Club to Lakeview Ceramics and Clay Club as of May 2, 1978..

A scattering of loyal members preferring to work in clay in the '70's we remember with joy and now recall: Blanche Schopp, Doris Lamb, Maury and Bette Gray, Helen Frisbie, Fay LeDrew, Mary Brennan, Grace Corey, Catherine Reanny, Liz Smith, Dorothy Fair, Wilbur Habluetzel, Corrine Nelson, Zona Hopkins, and others whose names escape me..

Various appeasement did not work. Name changes were apparently aimed at full replacement of Clay Club by Ceramics. Ultimately, separation of casting and hand-forming could no longer be avoided. So in 1978 Sun City Clay Club was given the Club room next to the rest rooms on the upper floor at Lakeview Center. We were a small but determined group who did not know the word failure! We had very little equipment--one wheel and two kilns, one of which had to be replaced within a short time. Some of our members enrolled in Clay classes at Glendale Community College. Mr. Bob Lundeen who was the head of the Ceramic department helped the club, advising, visiting and eventually teaching a Saturday group of Sun Citians at the college. They, in return became teachers for the club. Parke Soule taught Wheel; Ev Peterkin taught beginning handbuilding; Sally Lipp taught Sculpture; Blanche Schopp taught glazing and wheel; Jean Soule taught glazing; and Harriet Lewellen supervised the glazing techniques.

The first chairman of the re-organized club was Lee Van Gordon and the original name SUN CITY CLAY CLUB was kept, the club's purpose being to work in freeform. Following are the names of the club chairmen who served after Lee: Kit Reaney, Roger Dubler, Ledah Bullock, Carlton Devries, Jean Brownell, Joan Smith, Peg Hughes, Verva Huff, Carole Snell, and Gil Haake, who is the present chairman.

Sun City Clay Club has been an active part of the Sun City Retirement dream. First, and foremost we are one of the friendliest clubs, ever eager to welcome new members. To keep the members aware of what is happening at club, Olive Linder, an ambitious potter suggested that we send out a Newsletter each month; so beginning in January of 1983 we did just that. Olive was our first editor and always had a bit extra in every issue. By the end of 1983 attendance in our club room totaled 6,203, averaging a daily attendance of 23 members, and keeping our club room open 5½ days a week.

By the end of January of 1984 the club membership totaled 233. We were bursting the seams of our space. We met with Manager Tritz to see if something could be done to enlarge our area. He promised to look into the problem.. We heard nothing more until in July when the decision was made to move us back to the area first assigned to Sun City Clay Club for the 1970 opening of Lakeview Center.

With the help of very dedicated members, on Monday, September 24, 1984 Sun City Clay Club officially opened its doors to the newly renovated quarters. We had little time to appreciate the gift of space, for fall means getting ready for the Arts and Crafts Festival immediately following Thanksgiving. And this year the committee had added something extra-- a contest; make some kind of a scarecrow. Of course we'd enter! And "Crafty Clayton" was our man, a life-sized scarecrow made of clay, wood, straw and a broomstick. We won Best-of-Show (a 5 pound box of Hard Candy! which we shared with our visitors to the club.) We brought Crafty Clayton back to live with us for several months.

Beginning in 1985 we got our first telephone for the club --one of our best investments, a safety measure as well as a needed convenience.

Late in 1988 Sun City Clay Club decided to undertake something new for the members and a first for the club. We attempted our very first Juried Clay Show. The date was set for the weekend of January 28 and January 29, with judging to be accomplished on Saturday afternoon, a preview and awards party Saturday evening, and the public to be invited to view the show on Sunday. A committee of four, namely: Howard Kalt, Lois Ambrasevich, Doris Lamb, and Ledah Bullock volunteered to chair the event. With much help from the members, oodles of well-wishers and a goodly number of excellent pottery entries, the show was a huge success. In fact, this has become our biggest yearly event.

In addition to the pleasure that working with clay brings to each of us, we do participate in volunteer work. For the past several years some of our members have ^{been} going to the neighboring schools and working with the children making clay "treasures". Just this past week we worked with a group of first graders from a school located out beyond Wickenburg. We had as much fun helping them as they had accomplishing the making of a gift for their mothers. And for the past several years we have joined in the making of soup bowls to feed the hungry.

Each day someone in the club has seen something that he /she wants to make, or someone may have a question that needs answering. Working in clay keeps us young in heart, and who knows what is waiting to be discovered in that clump of clay.

May, 1996