

Sun City's 11th Annual

"RING THAT BELL"

July 4, 1989..... 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Del Webb Memorial Garden

Bell Recreation Center

Welcome.....Doug Morris

Invocation.....Rev. Robert V. Martz
First Presbyterian Church

Colors, and Pledge of Allegiance
American Legion, Post 101

Audience singing..... Lucy Hays, vocal
Rea Winters, piano

Introductions and acknowledgements

Keynote Address..... Jane Freeman
Sun Cities Historical Society

* * * * *

RING THAT BELL.....everyone

"America, the Beautiful"

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain;
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain.
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife,
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life.
America! America!
May God thy gold refine;
Till all success be nobleness,
And every gain divine.

"God Bless America"

God Bless America
Land that I love;
Stand beside her
And guide her
Through the night
With the light from above.
From the mountains
To the prairies
To the oceans white with foam;
God bless America
My Home Sweet Home;
God Bless America
My Home Sweet Home.

Sponsors

Recreation Centers of Sun City Host Lions Club
Sun Cities Historical Society

12th

Annual

R I N G T H A T B E L L

Celebration

July 4, 1990...8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Memorial Garden

Bell Recreation Center

Welcome.....

Invocation..... Rev. Leslie J. Ross(Ret.)
First United Methodist Church

Posting of the Colors.. American Legion
and Sun City Post 101
Pledge of Allegiance Commander: Harry Kline

Singing.*..... Leader: Lucy Hays
Accompanist: Rea Winters

Keynote Address..... Hon. William A Holohan
Chief Justice (Ret.)
Arizona Supreme Court

R I N G T H A T B E L L.....Everybody

Sponsored by Recreation Centers of Sun City
and Sun City Host Lions Club

* "America, the Beautiful"

"God Bless America"

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SUN CITY'S 13th ANNUAL

"RING THAT BELL"

July 4, 1991 ... 8:30 to 9:30 AM

Del Webb Memorial Garden

Bell Recreation Center

- Welcome Bill Lewis
Master of Ceremonies
- Invocation Dr. Douglas P. Wright
First Presbyterian Church
- Pledge of Allegiance Harry Kline, Commander
American Legion, Post 101
- "America, the Beautiful" Lucy Hays, vocal
Audience singing Rea Winters, piano
- Introductions and acknowledgements Doug Morris
- Keynote Address Carole Carpenter
Maricopa County Board of Supervisors
- "God Bless America" Lucy Hays, vocal
Audience singing Rea Winters, piano
- RING THAT BELL EVERYONE PARTICIPATING

"America, the Beautiful"
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 For purple mountain majesties
 Above the fruited plain.
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 My Home Sweet Home.

SPONSORS

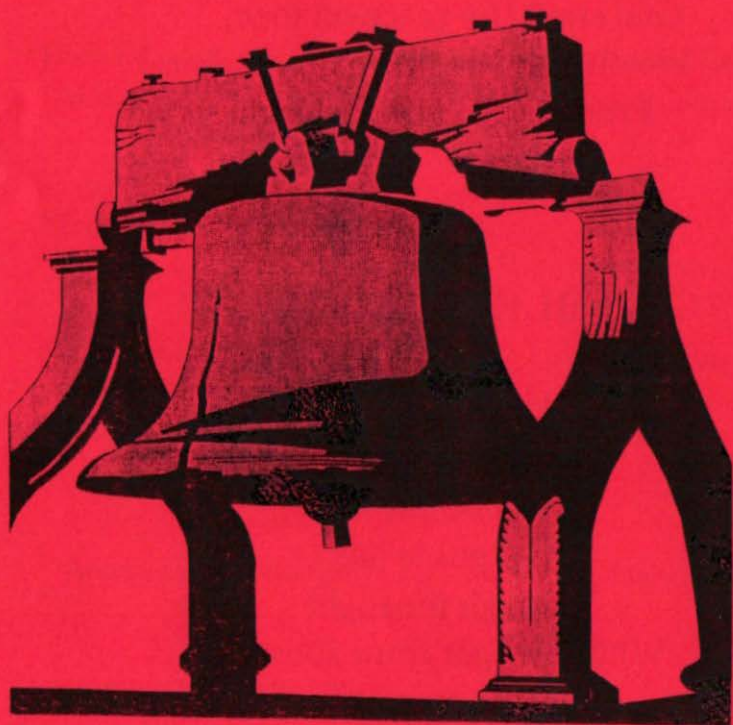
Recreation Centers of Sun City

Host Lions Club

THE RECREATION CENTERS
OF SUN CITY, INC.

Presents

THE 23RD ANNUAL



"RING THAT BELL"

Wednesday, July 4, 2000

8am

Bell Recreation Center
DEL WEBB MEMORIAL GARDEN

"AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain.
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea.

"GOD BLESS AMERICA"

God Bless America
Land that I love;
Stand beside her
And guide her
Through the night
With the light from above.
From the mountains
To the prairies
To the ocean white with foam;
God Bless America
My Home Sweet Home,
God Bless America
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"RING THAT BELL" PROGRAM

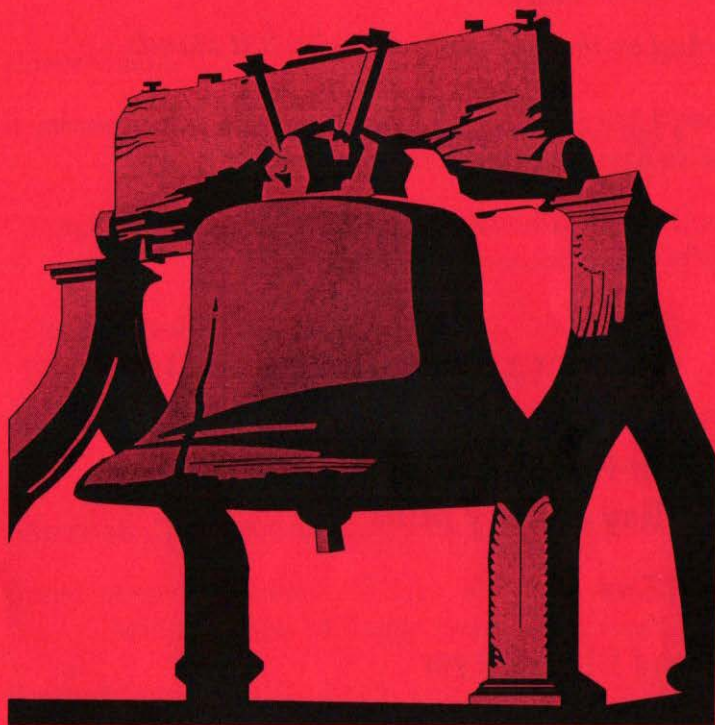
- Welcome Richard Pullen, Master of Ceremonies
Freedoms Foundation
- Invocation Pastor Ed White, Retired
The Congregational Church of Sun City
- Honor Guard The American Legion Post 101 of Sun City
Martha Albano, Paul Holt, William Privatt & James Wyckoff
- "Pledge of Allegiance" Ray Mills
Uncle Sam – Freedoms Foundation
- "The National Anthem" Lucy Hays, Vocalist
Audience Participation
- Introductions & Acknowledgment..... Richard Pullen
- "America, the Beautiful" Lucy Hays, Vocalist
Audience Participation
- Keynote Address..... Marc Spitzer
Commissioner of the Arizona Corporation Commission
- "God Bless America" Lucy Hays, Vocalist
Audience Participation

*Ring That Bell
Everyone Participating*

THE RECREATION CENTERS
OF SUN CITY, INC.

Presents

THE 25th ANNUAL



"RING THAT BELL"

Friday, July 4, 2003

8am

Bell Recreation Center

DEL WEBB MEMORIAL GARDEN

“PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE”

I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag

Of the United States of America

And to the Republic for which it stands

One Nation, under God, indivisible

With liberty and justice for all!

“SPECIAL THANKS” TO:

- Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge –
Ray & Betty Mills
- Russell Dix
- Reverend Blase Meyer
- Sun City Sheriff’s Posse Honor Guard
- Lucy Hays
- Jane Freeman
- Jerry Houston
- Mike Mahoney
- Dick Stout, Sound Engineer
- Bell Center Staff

“RING THAT BELL” PROGRAM

- Greeters Uncle Sam & Betsy Ross
Ray & Betty Mills, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
- Master of Ceremonies Russell Dix, Commander
American Legion Post #101
- Honor Guard The Sun City Sheriff’s Posse
- Invocation..... Reverend Blase Meyer
St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church of Sun City
- “Pledge of Allegiance” Uncle Sam
Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge
- “The National Anthem” Lucy Hays, Vocalist
Audience Participation
- “Freedom Shrine” Jane Freeman
Sun Cities Historical Society
- “America, The Beautiful” Lucy Hays, Vocalist
- Introduction of Speaker..... Jerry Houston, Commander
Military Order of Purple Heart, Sun Cities Chapter 691
- Keynote Speaker Mike Mahoney
Past Commander, Military Order of Purple Heart
The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign War
The Northwest Valley Veterans Association
- Benediction Reverend Blase Meyer
St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church
- Retire the Colors Sun City Posse
- “God Bless America” Lucy Hays, Vocalist
Audience Participation

Ring That Bell - Everyone Participating

Sun City's Liberty Bell was "born" in September 1975, when the Bicentennial Committees met to plan some of the many Sun City celebrations for our national birthday party. One of the objectives was to find a single event or project that would have permanence and significance long after the bicentennial year festivities were over.

About 120 Sun Citians, representing many organizations, convened and were divided into 13 "brainstorming" groups. The suggestion of a Liberty Bell appeared on every list submitted by the groups, and later, put to the test of a newspaper poll; the Liberty Bell led all the other projects the Bicentennial Committees proposed.

The DEL WEBB Company offered to underwrite the cost of the bell, and one of our residents came up with the idea of a metal drive, which would enable all Sun Citians to be a part of the project. On January 15, 1976, an estimated 1,500 residents contributed to the metal drive, creating a mountain of family treasures, precious personal mementos, wedding rings and jewelry, bric-a-brac, statuary, souvenirs from our country's wars, and musical instruments, to mention just a few of the varied items that totaled some 7,000 pounds. It was explained to the donors that any metal not compatible with the casting process would be used in the base of the bell.

THEN the artists, the craftsmen, and the foundry workers took over. The metal was processed by a Pennsylvania foundry and sent to Asten, Holland, where the bell was cast, an exact replica in size and design of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. The original, however, was made by a sand cast process, which gives it a mottled surface. The Sun City Liberty Bell has a smoother finish because it was made by a lost wax and plaster casting method, treated with a sulfuric liquid to give it the same color as the original.

THE LIBERTY BELL arrived in Sun City on July 5, 1976, and it was unveiled at the Sun Bowl on July 8th. On November 15th it was officially dedicated and the time capsule in its base, containing memorabilia and messages of love from our generation to future generations, was sealed.

WHEN you visit the Sun City Liberty Bell, ring it. It has a fine, strong, and free sound.

WE, THE PEOPLE OF SUN CITY, ARIZONA, IN 1976, THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF OUR NATION DEDICATE THIS BELL TO THE FUTURE. MAY WE WITH THE WISDOM OF THOSE WHO WROTE OUR CONSTITUTION, WITH THE FAITH OF THOSE WHO PRESSED WESTWARD IN COVERED WAGONS, WITH THE COURAGE OF THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR OUR FREEDOM, BE VIGILANT THAT WE MAY PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE. MAY OUR LIBERTY BELL RING OUT FOR FREEDOM IN ALL TIME TO COME.

(Plaque on the front of the bell)

THIS LIBERTY BELL COMMEMORATES THE UNITED STATES BICENTENNIAL. SUN CITIAN DONATED THE METAL. THE BELL WAS CAST IN ASTEN, HOLLAND, BY SCHULMERICH CARILLIONS, INC. THE COST WAS UNDERWRITTEN BY THE DEL E. WEBB DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, AS A GIFT TO SUN CITY. THE TIME CAPSULE SEALED UNDER THIS PLAQUE IS TO BE OPENED IN THE YEAR 2026.

(Plaque on the back of the bell)

From the Publisher

Community bell ceremony a symbol and a tradition

By Bret McKeand
Independent Newspapers

The annual "Ring that Bell" Ceremony held each year on the Fourth of July at Bell Recreation Center has become a time-honored tradition in Sun City.

But many of our community's newer residents may not be aware of the story behind the Liberty Bell replica that stands as the centerpiece in Memorial Garden.

More than just a symbol of freedom and democracy, Sun City's Liberty Bell stands as a shrine to one community's efforts to memorialize its founder and celebrate the bicentennial of its country.

The year was 1975 and throughout the nation, communities such as Sun City were searching for a proper and fitting way to mark the nation's 200th birthday.

In Sun City, a group of community leaders created a committee to come up with their own bicentennial celebration. But committee members wanted to do something more than just a parade and fireworks – they wanted something

that would stand for years to come.

Del E. Webb, the founder of Sun City, had just died a year before – ironically on July 4, 1974 – and some members of the planning group thought it fitting to tie some type of memorial honoring Webb into the bicentennial project.

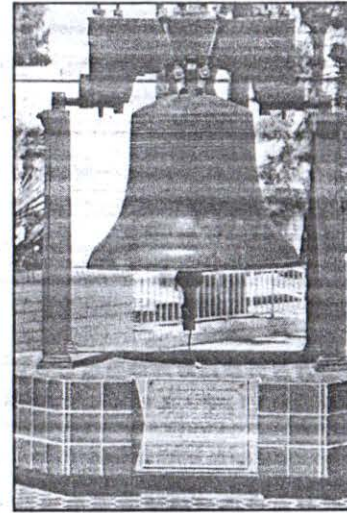
"Del Webb had just died and a mood had built up in the community that we just had to have some type of memorial for the man," recalled the late Doug Morris in a conversation with me in 1985. Mr. Morris was the longtime editor of the Sun City Citizen, the weekly newspaper that became the Independent.

A steering committee was formed and the call went out to the community: What type of memorial would work?

A number of great ideas were returned, but the most popular suggestion revolved around a "freedom bell."

At the time, there was only one other exact replica of the famed Philadelphia Liberty Bell and that sat in a farmer's market in Los Angeles. That and the Philadelphia bell were encased in glass and not allowed to be touched by human hands.

Mr. Morris said it was decided early on that Sun City's Liberty Bell would be out in the open and



accessible to the public.

The Del Webb Corp. agreed to underwrite the cost of the project with one condition: The community had to supply the metal to make the bell.

So, a communitywide drive was conducted and more than 1,500 residents dumped over 7,000 pounds of scrap metal in the parking lot of what was then Sun City Stadium.

The metal was melted down and shipped to Arsten, Holland, to be cast in the same mold used to create the original Liberty Bell (the famous crack had to be put in afterward).

The bell arrived in Sun City one

day late – July 5, 1976 – and unveiled to the community during a ceremony held July 8 at the Sun Bowl.

"Sun Citians touched it reverently, and with a special kind of pride, because something of them was merged in its being," recalled Mr. Morris.

Later that year the bell was permanently installed at Bell Center.

The "Ring that Bell" Ceremony was started the next year by Mr. Morris. In an editorial published in the Citizen, Mr. Morris encouraged all those in attendance to "ring the bell" to show their pride in their country and community.

It's a message that 30 years later still rings true.

The world has changed over the past three decades, but our values and our beliefs in democracy, our country and our sense of community are stronger than ever.

This Fourth of July – and any day you happen to walk by our Liberty Bell – give that rope a tug! Those chimes speak volumes when it comes to expressing our love for the freedoms and values we hold dearly.

Editor's note: Bret McKeand began working for the Independent as a reporter in 1983. He has served as editor and publisher and presently serves as publisher.



Bret
McKeand



Photo by Cel Parrotta

Saluting independence—

Two local veterans salute the flag of '76 in honor of our nation's 199th year since the Declaration of Independence. From left are Alfred D. Paule, who fought in World War I, and Joseph F. Grindley, who served in World War II. Independence Day holds a special

significance for veterans like these men. Both are members of the VFW, Sun City Post 6308. Paule is an organizer, charter member and past commander of the post. Grindley is the Post's present commander.

Annual Fireworks Display To Spotlight United States

"A Salute To These United States" will be the theme of Sun City's spectacular Fourth of July Celebration at 8 p.m. Friday, July 4, at Sun City Stadium.

Following the raising of the American and Bicentennial flags, the Sun City Concert Band, under the direction of Les Felton, Jr., will present a 30-minute pops concert.

As darkness settles over the stadium, the skies will be filled with flashing color as the first barrage of aerial rockets lights up

the landscape.

The United States salute will be highlighted with flaming ground displays, including the Boston Tea Party, Robert Fulton's steamboat, the Alamo, Abraham Lincoln, the Monitor-Merrimac battle, and the Wright brothers' airplane.

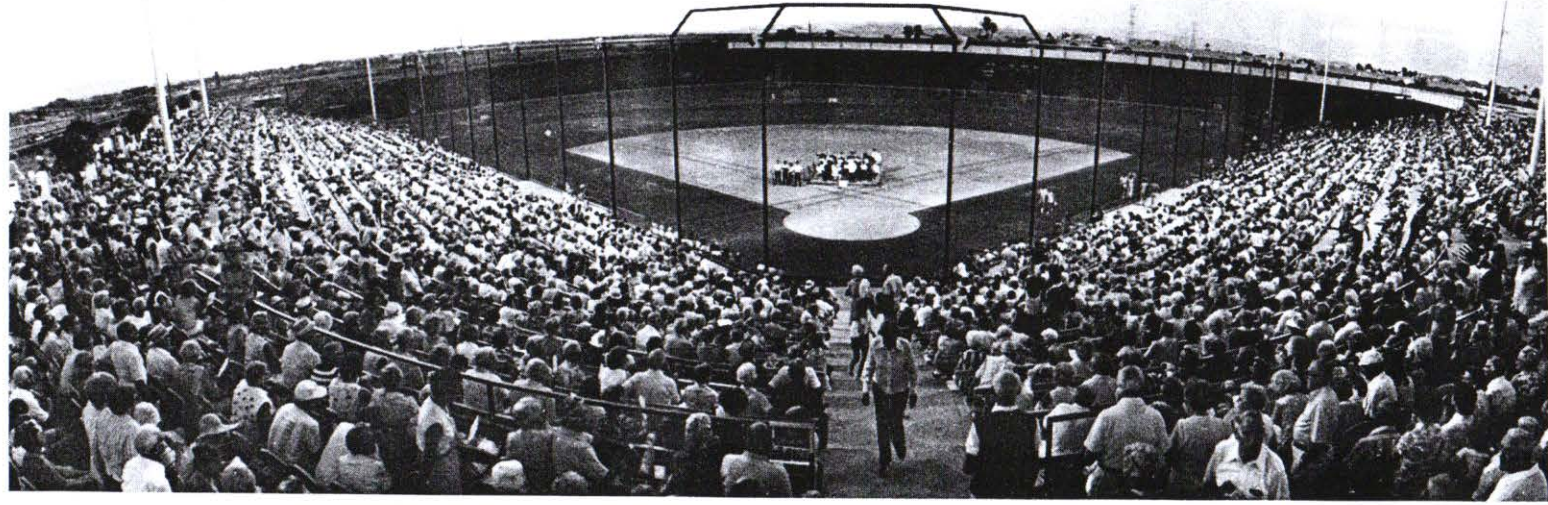
The stadium concession stand will be open during the concert, but will be closed during the fireworks show. Soft drinks, beer, hot dogs and popcorn will be on sale.

The Independence Day celebra-

tion is presented admission-free by the Del E. Webb Development Co. and is limited to residents and their guests. Recreation center and visitor activity cards will be checked at the gate, and all guests must be accompanied by a Sun Citian with an activity card.

The Sun City Concert Band is presented in part through a grant from the Music Performers Trust Funds of the Recording and Transcription Industries in cooperation of Local 586 Phoenix Federation of Musicians.

AUGUST 1, 1976



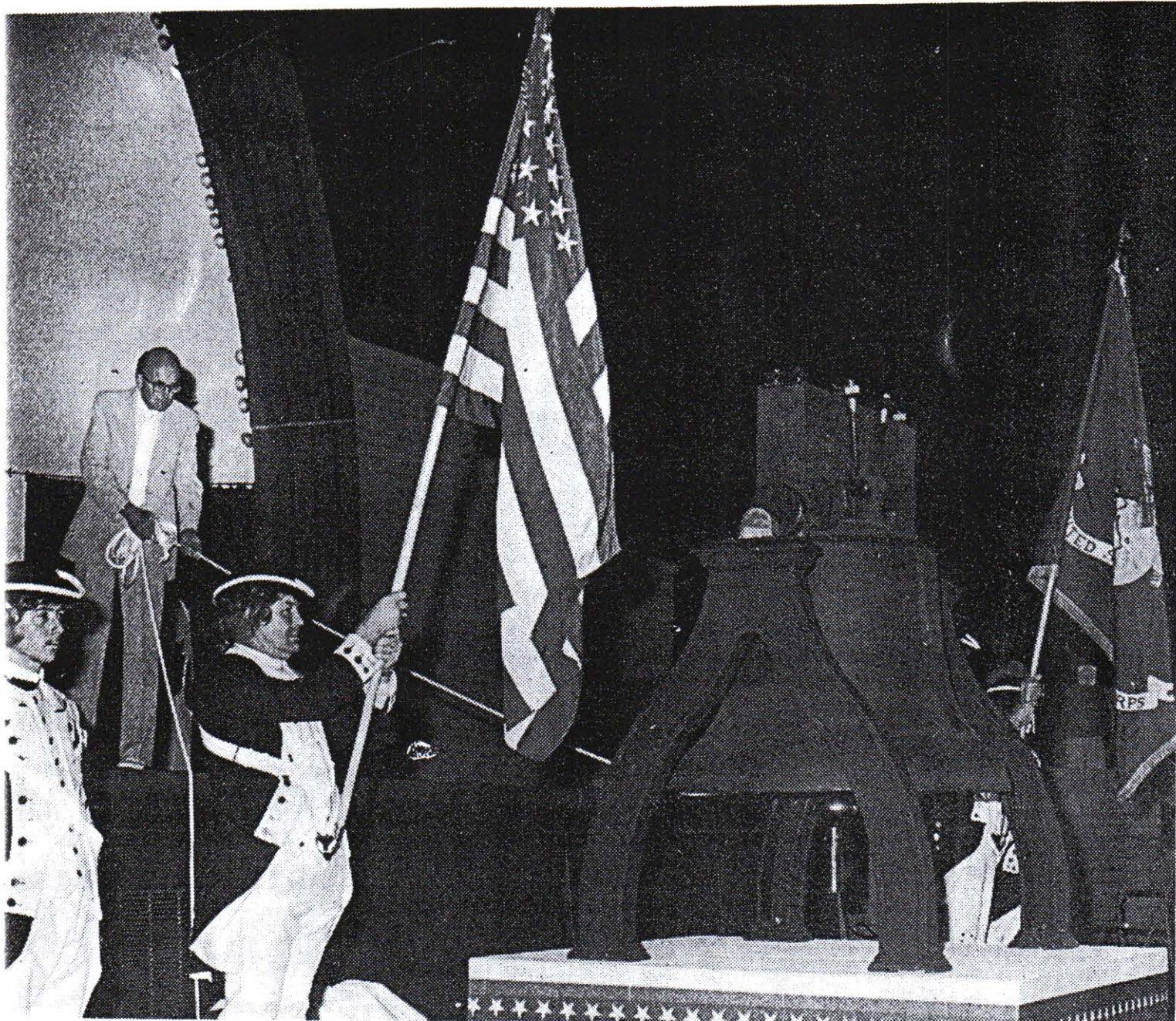
JULY 4TH SPECTACULAR

Sun City Stadium was filled to capacity for the community's 9th annual fireworks show (picture above.) The evening started with a 30-minute patriotic concert featuring Jennings Butterfield and the Sun City Concert Band. Also on hand was Miss Bess Stinson (picture left) from the Arizona Bicentennial Commission. She presented Jerry Svendsen, Steering Committee Chairman, with a framed certificate and flag proclaiming Sun City an official Bicentennial community. Color guard was courtesy of Luke Air Force Base.

GIGANTIC INDEPENDENCE DAY SPECTACULAR PLANNED

"Around the World in 80 Days" will be the theme of Sun City's spectacular Fourth of July Celebration, 8 PM, Monday, July 4 at Sun City Stadium. Following the raising of the American flag by the Luke Air Force Base color guard, the Desert City Six, official Dixieland band of the Phoenix Suns, will present a 30-minute concert. As darkness settles over the stadium, the skies will be filled with flashing color as the first barrage of fancy aerial rockets light up the landscape. The completely scripted show will be highlighted with beautiful flaming ground displays, including a 30-foot Eiffel Tower, the tallest fireworks display ever assembled in Arizona. Two concession stands will be open during the concert, but will close during the fireworks show. Soft drinks, beer, ice cream bars and popcorn will be on sale. The Del E. Webb Development Co., sponsor of the event, asks that residents bring house guests and/or immediate family members only, as seating is limited. Recreation Center Activity Cards will be checked at the gate. To help alleviate the usual congested traffic, Sun City's Sheriff's Posse asks that residents double up, reducing the number of autos in the area.

7-4-78
J. Hill



To Charles Crabb, Bicentennial Planning and Development Committee member, went honor of ringing Sun City's Liberty Bell for first time. Crabb

also sketched history of original Liberty Bell for thousands at unveiling of Sun City copy Thursday. (News-Sun Photo)

Editor's Chair —

6/27/79
le. citizen

Doug Morris

Ring that bell



In the Memorial Garden at Bell Recreation Center stands Sun City's Liberty Bell.

In Liberty Pavilion, a block north of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, stands the Liberty Bell.

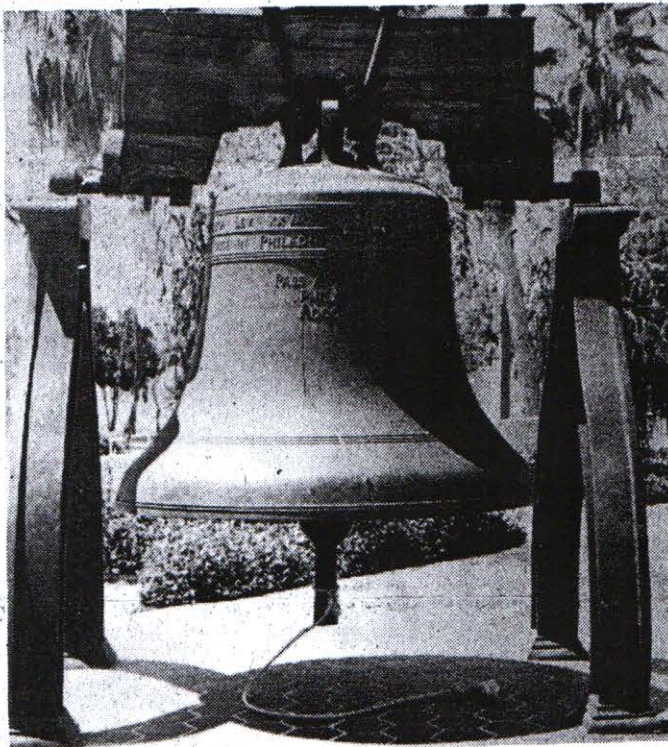
The two are virtually identical. One difference...the Bell in Philadelphia is mute. A yawning crack in its side forbids its ever speaking clearly again.

The Sun City Bell's simulated fracture is cosmetic and allows full-throated resonance whenever its tongue wags.

But, how seldom it is heard. Occasionally, the stillness of the pavilion is interrupted as a venturesome visitor tentatively pulls the clapper, and shies away from the reverberations of his derring-do.

Mostly, day on day, our Bell is silent...consigned by timidity or apathy to the voicelessness of its muted ancestor.

A bell is for ringing. The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia—loudly proclaimed support of the painted patriots who dumped tea in Boston Harbor...summoned fire fighters to conflagrations, and citizens to town meetings...enthusiastically backgrounded first public reading of the Declaration of Independence in the yard of the State House at 12 o'clock noon, Monday, July 8, 1776...acknowledged the surrender of Cornwallis...welcomed Washington on November 17, 1781...heralded the coming of peace on April 16, 1783...mourned the death of Washington on December 17, 1799...observed the coming of Lafayette to Philadelphia in 1824...and cracked its throat in wailing the death of Chief Justice John Marshall on July 8, 1835.



We the people of Sun City, Arizona, in 1976, the Bicentennial anniversary of the birth of our nation, dedicate this bell to the future.

May we with the wisdom of those who wrote our Constitution, with the faith of those who pressed westward in covered wagons, with the courage of those who gave their lives for our freedom, be vigilant that we may preserve our heritage.

May our Liberty Bell ring out for freedom in all time to come.

Myrtle Toutges

OVER

Sun City's Liberty Bell first took shape in the minds of our Bicentennial Committee. Its physical reality began on January 15, 1976, at 9 a.m., in the parking lot of Sun City Stadium. The call had gone out for metal for our bell.

Bicycles, Cadillacs, golf carts, mobile homes, motorcycles, trailers, three-wheelers and hand carts brought heirlooms, bridgework, bedsprings, memorial plaques, prosthetic devices, garden tools, medallions, jewelry, lawn mowers, corset stays, coins, auto frames—a motley melange of memorabilia. By 4 p.m., well over 7,000 pounds of metal piled high to be the body of our Bell.

Melted into ingots, each donation lost its individuality in a greater identity. Far away, in Asten, Holland, Sun City's Liberty Bell emerged from the hot mold of Schulmerich-Carillons, Inc., and began its destined voyage home.

At noon on July 8, 1976, exactly 200 years from the intoning of the Declaration of Independence, the Liberty Bell was unveiled in the Sun Bowl. Sun Citians touched it reverently, and with a special kind of pride—because something of them was merged in its being.

On November 15, 1976, a crowd-packed Memorial Garden accepted the Liberty Bell into its heart. In its base, a time-capsule carried messages from that day to Sun Citians of 2026. Each member of the audience was privileged to sound the bell. There were tears in proud eyes.

Only infrequently since then, its throaty tone has been heard. Why? Is its presence not felt? Is its meaning not understood or appreciated? Are we timid about activating its challenge? Has such a symbol of Freedom and Patriotism and sheer love of country lost its symbolism, its actuality? Does ringing that bell make us feel the prankster, rather than the patriot?

Let's ring that bell. On July 4th, from early light to darkness and beyond, **let's ring that bell!** Let's gather friends and family around us and **ring that bell**—loudly, proudly.

What will that do? Who knows? Maybe each note will sound briefly and fade into nothingness. **Or, maybe each note will sound forever in our memories.**

What do you think would happen if each of us had somebody take a picture of us ringing that bell, to send to your children and grandchildren? Do you suppose it might get them thinking a little more deliberately and thoughtfully about the country whose history and uniqueness an inadequate system has permitted them to take for granted—if, indeed, they are prompted to think about it at all?

And, when we take a few moments on this 4th of July to ask our Sun City Liberty Bell to voice our faith in our land, and our protest against its detractors and enemies, why not take an extra moment and sign your name to a copy of the Declaration of Independence that will be there, too. Let's inscribe our names alongside those 56 signatures as affirmation of what they did—and still needs doing.

I don't know what your plans are for the 4th; but I'm sure going to ring that bell!

By DOUG MORRIS

Sounding the chimes of freedom

Note: The following editorial is written by Doug Morris, former editor of the Sun City Citizen newspaper, and was first published in the July 2, 1978, issue of the Citizen. It is reprinted here in celebration of the "Ring That Bell" ceremony to be held July 4 at Bell Recreation Center.

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Rain doesn't deter bell-ringing Fourth

By SUSAN HEROLD
Staff Writer

SUN CITY—A rain-dampened crowd of 250 area residents withstood morning downpours to participate in the eighth annual "Ring That Bell" ceremony Friday in Bell Center.

The clouds opened as 50 Sun Citians carrying a flag from each state paraded to the 20-foot by 30-foot American flag which hung soggily across the garden.

Each flag was to be carried by a representative of each state, but Bob Neill, who controls the sound for the event, said some substitutions had to be made at the last minute.

"Because of the weather, not everyone showed up. This is the smallest crowd I've seen in the five years I've worked the show," Neill said.

Up to a half-inch of rain fell on several areas in the Northwest Valley Thursday night and Friday morning.

Although the flags competed for recognition with several umbrellas which dotted the crowd, the rain did not dampen residents' voices as they joined vocalist Lucy Hays and trumpeter Jack Lowman in "America The Beautiful."

Minutes before Arizona Chief Justice William A. Holohan began his keynote address, the rains stopped.

"I must have got a reprieve from above," Holohan said.

Holohan said that as the Statute of Liberty was rededicated this week, so should Americans rededicate themselves to perserving their liberty.

"It's good we have these occasions. We are so caught up with living in our own modern age of speed and change that we need time to think and reflect on important matters," Holohan said.

The chief justice is chairman of events for the Arizona's U.S. Constitution bicentennial celebration, which kicks off May 25, 1987, when U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor visits the state.

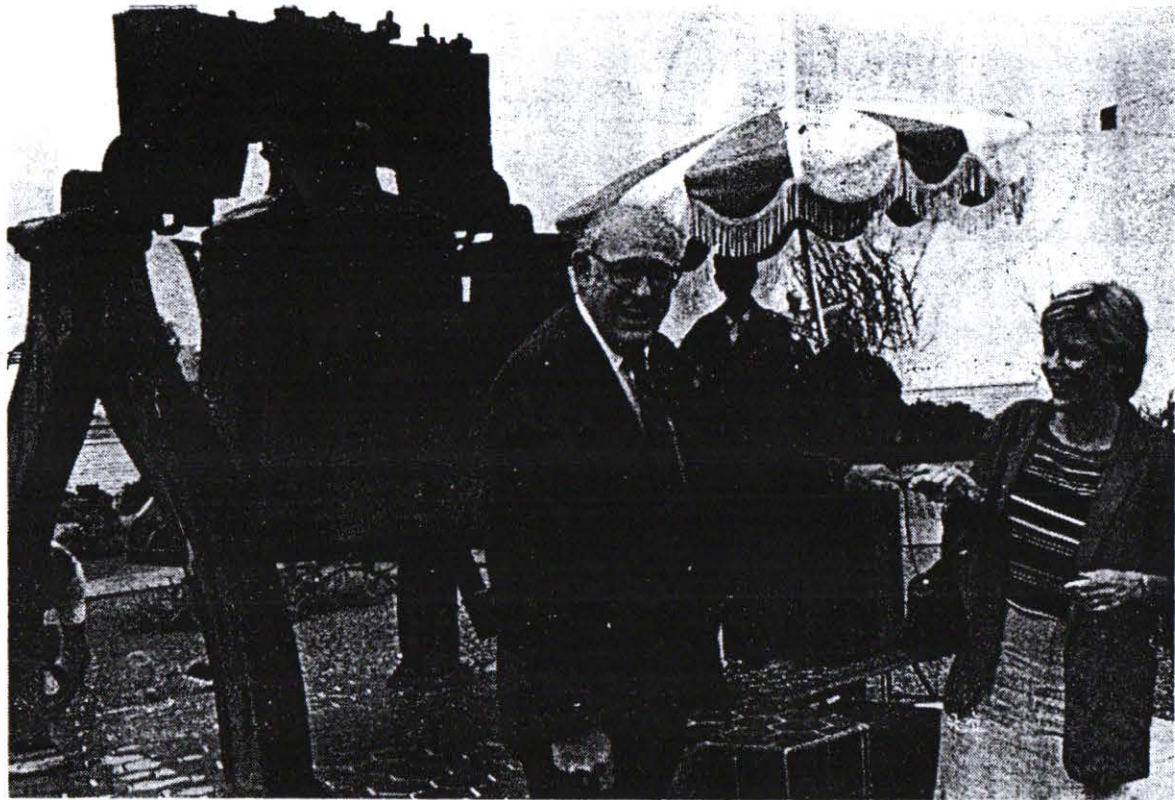
"It's little known that the constitutional convention met on May 25, but they didn't sign the constitution until Sept. 17," Holohan said.

"Even though the Declaration of Independence was completed, there was still no unity among the 13 independent states until the Constitution

OVER * Bell, A3



Myrtle Toutges of Sun City, 82, who wrote the inscription on the plaque, lets liberty ring. (Photo by Morris Berman)



State Supreme Court Chief Justice William A. Holohan and Maricopa County Supervi-

sor Carole Carpenter, D-Dist. 4, ring Sun City's Liberty Bell. (Morris Berman photo)

* Bell

—From A1
was completed," he said.

Holohan said he is looking forward to working on the Constitution celebration, which will be a nationwide event, but said it may differ from this year's Liberty Weekend gala.

"The Constitution is more a personal matter than fireworks and fun. But we're going to have to have some sort of fun planned to get the

people involved," he said.

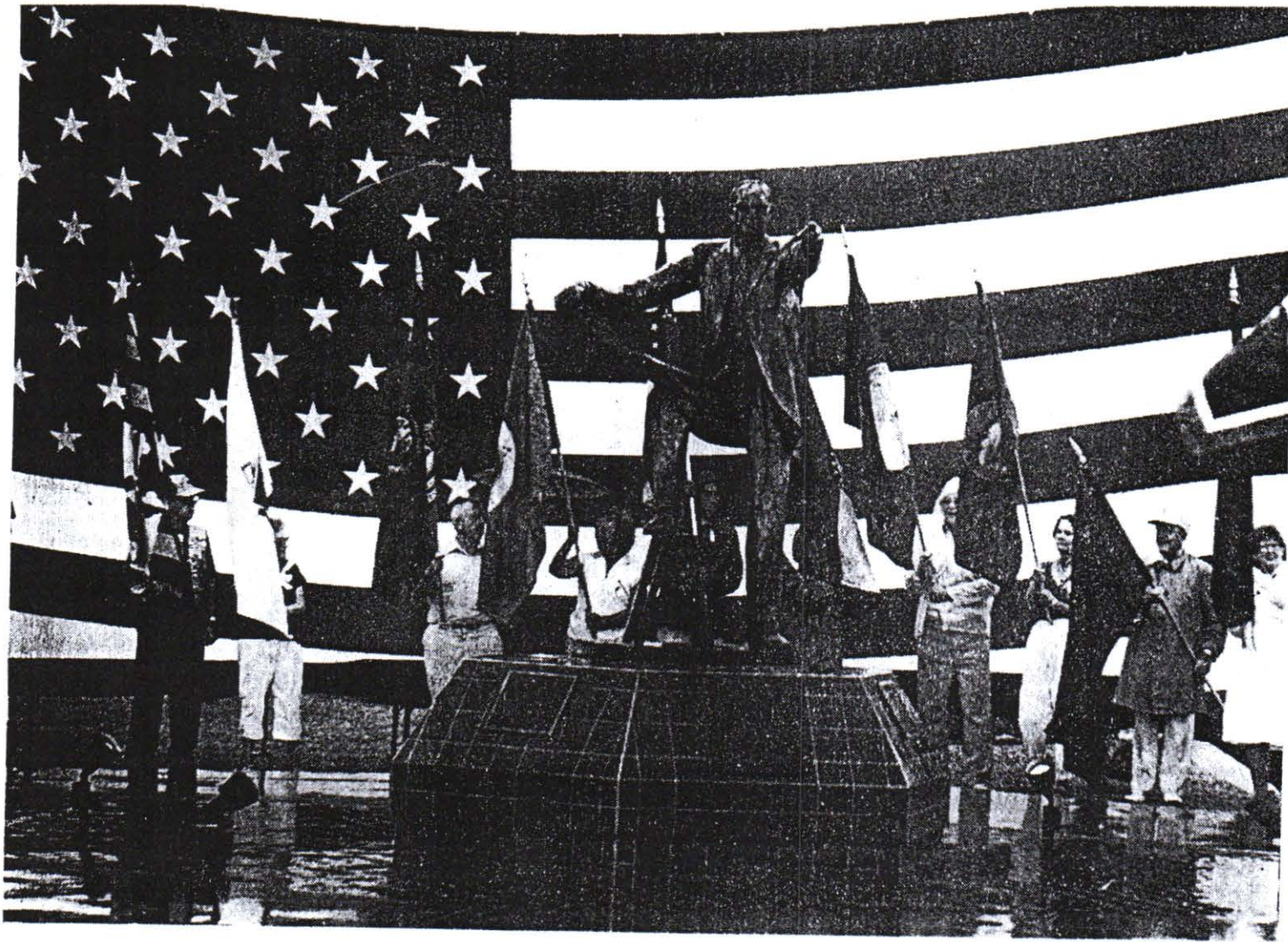
Sun Citians attending the ceremony did get involved with the Independence Day spirit, lining up to take turns ringing the center's own Liberty Bell, after event chairman Doug Morris took the first pull.

The bell, which was cast in 1976 by a Dutch company which made the original Liberty Bell, pealed for 20 minutes after Holohan's address.

A special ring was for Myrtle Toutges, 82, who wrote the inscription under the bell.

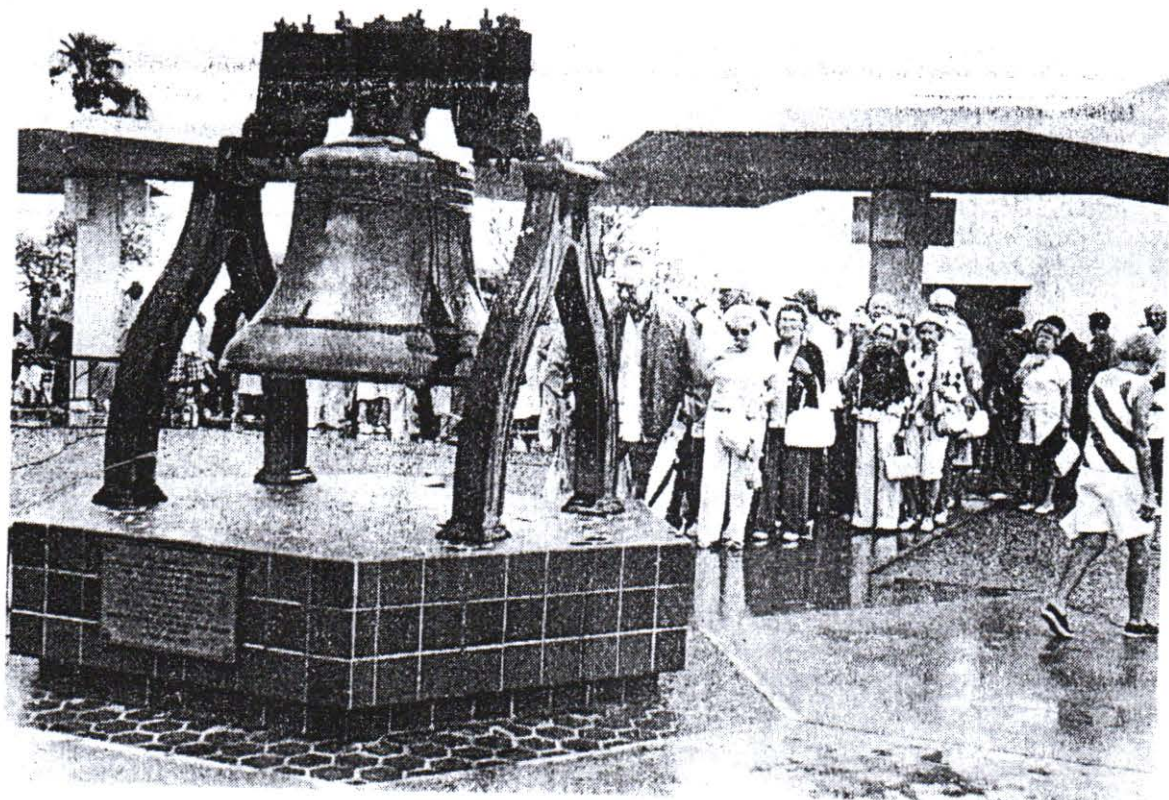
Toutges' passage was chosen from more than 300 entries sent in to the Del Webb Co. in 1976, which was holding a contest for the bicentennial inscription.

"I didn't think it was that good, so I wasn't going to send it in. But I did finally mail it the last day before the contest closed," she said.



LET FREEDOM RING. A number of local residents braved strong winds and showers to celebrate Independence Day with a special "Ring That Bell" ceremony at Bell Recreation Center. The program, sponsored by the Sun City Recreation Centers and Del E. Webb Communities, included a parade of flags and a speech by guest speaker William Holohan, Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court. Serving as a backdrop for the program was the statue of Del E. Webb and the largest U.S. flag currently in existence in Arizona. After the ceremony, the audience was given the opportunity to ring the Liberty Bell at the center.

Bret McKeand/Independent



Sun Citians toll replica of Liberty Bell

By P. ATWOOD WILLIAMS
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY. — Old Glory was resplendent (all 20-by-30 feet of her) and state flags were draped dramatically from the walkway Saturday as Sun Citians tolled their Liberty Bell replica.

Politicians and local VIPs were acknowledged by Doug Morris in the Memorial Plaza of Bell Recreation center in the annual "Ring that Bell" event.

Lucy Hays led the singing of "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America."

John Meeker, former president of the Del E. Webb Development Co. (now Del E. Webb Communities Inc.) was introduced by Sam Higginbotham. Helen Vallee Erway presented him with a memorial scroll prepared by calligrapher Margaret Cunningham. It was later signed by many of those seated in the shade of the walkway.

"We couldn't always be sure that what we planned would work out the way you and we hoped for," said Meeker of the planning stages of Sun City.

He recalled the meeting with Del Webb — whose statue stood only a few feet away in the memorial plaza — when Webb was told it would take \$2 million to start his retirement community.

"What followed for me was almost 20 years of great fun, frequent bewilderment, sheer delight at plans that worked right and disappointment about dreams that didn't . . ." he said, adding he was sometimes convinced that those present had left their home and "retired to this community for the sole purpose of making life miserable for me."

Meeker attempted to explain why Sun City has turned out so well that journalists, sociologists and camera crews from all over

the world try to document the life here.

He attributes it to the "original genius of Del Webb, those who saw a tomorrow where there had never been a yesterday . . . The strange breed of people who were willing to leave accustomed places and associates to experiment with a new way of life in the saucer of the Arizona desert."

"It was all of those things . . . and something else. It was a spirit born in the right time . . . a new generation of folks who had decided they were not going to retire from something . . . they were going to retire to something."

Meeker then described the efforts in September 1975 of the Bicentennial Committee to build a Liberty Bell. During a scrap metal drive, Cadillacs, pushcarts, golf cars and wheelbarrows, 4-wheelers and limousines brought auto frames, personal jewelry, war souvenirs, musical instruments and make a junk-yard out of the parking lot at the ball field, he recalled.

Ingots were processed at a foundry in Pennsylvania and shipped to Holland and made into a replica of the original Liberty Bell.

The bell arrived in Sun City July 5, 1976, was unveiled July 8 and installed in Memorial Park Nov. 15 "to be what Sun City is: the sound of many voices," he said.

Following the short program, participants took turns ringing their Liberty Bell, signed the scroll for Meeker and some made initial pledges for a Del E. Webb Memorial Garden where they stood.

Members of the committee for the garden are Erway, Emil Fischer, Jane Freeman, Higginbotham, John "Jim" Mead, Retired Col. Paul Morrill, Morris and Glenn Sanberg.

OVER



Far left, state flags fluttered overhead as Old Glory draped from the side of Bell Library during the 9th annual Ring that Bell ceremony at 9 a.m. Saturday in Memorial Plaza at Bell Recreation Center. Above, following the short service, guests ring the Liberty Bell and looked at plans for the proposed Mel E. Webb Memorial Garden. Right, keynote speaker Paul Pecker, former President of Mel E. Webb Development Co., right chats with friends Mr. and Mrs. Carl Simon, Sun City residents since 1970. (News-Sun photos by P. Atwood Williams)



Bell proclaims proud heritage

By **BRET McKEAND**
Sun Cities Independent

The annual "Ring That Bell Ceremony" held each year on the Fourth of July at the Bell Recreation Center has become a time-honored tradition in the Sun Cities.

But many of the communities' newer residents may not be aware of the story behind the Liberty Bell replica which stands as the centerpiece in Memorial Garden.

More than just a symbol of freedom and democracy, Sun City's Liberty Bell stands as a shrine to one community's efforts to memorialize its founder and to celebrate the bicentennial of its country.

It's been 13 years now since a group of Sun City residents first came together to discuss plans to celebrate the 200th birthday of the United States.

The year was 1975 and throughout the nation communities such as Sun City were searching for a proper and fitting way to mark the occasion.

According to those involved in the early planning stages, the group wanted to come up with more than just the usual parade or fireworks display.

"We wanted to celebrate the bicentennial, but we wanted something that would last ... something that would be permanent," says Jane Freeman, a member of the planning group

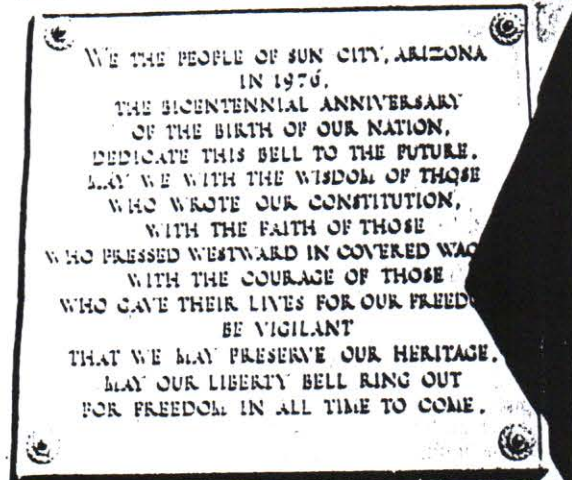
See BELL, page three



• June 29-July 5, 1988 •

THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

• BELL *From page one*



DEDICATED TO THE FUTURE. The inscription on the Sun City Liberty Bell was written by the late Myrtle Toutges.

and now president of the Sun Cities Historical Society.

Del E. Webb, founder of the Sun Cities, had just died in 1974 and some members of the planning group thought it would be fitting to tie some type of memorial honoring Webb into the bicentennial project.

"Del Webb had just died and a mood had built up in the community that we just had to have some type of memorial for the man," says Doug Morris, who at the time was the editor of the *Sun City Citizen* (now the *Independent*) newspaper.

A Bicentennial Steering Committee was formed and the call went out to the community: What type of a memorial would adequately honor the nation's 200th birthday?

According to Mrs. Freeman, a wide variety of ideas were submitted, ranging from constructing a garden to installing a plaque somewhere in the community. The most popular idea, by far, was the purchase of a Liberty Bell.

"The bell was just a great idea," says Mrs. Freeman. "Once we decided on the bell, it seemed as if the entire community got behind the project."

"It (the bell) was like apple pie and motherhood," says Mrs. Freeman. "It was accepted by everyone as a symbol of peace and freedom."

At the time, there were only two Liberty Bells in existence -- the original one in Philadelphia and a replica at Farmer's Market in Los Angeles. Both bells are encased in glass and are guarded from the public.

Mr. Morris says it was decided early on that the Sun City bell would be out in the open and accessible to the public.

A number of committees were formed to organize the effort. It was late in the year and committee members were hoping to have the bell purchased (estimated at \$15,000) and installed in time for the Fourth of July, 1976.

It was at this time that John Mecker, then president of Del E. Webb Development, stepped in to lend his company's support. If the community could generate the necessary metal needed to make the bell, the Webb Company would underwrite the entire cost of the project.

It was Mr. Morris who came up with the idea to conduct a community-wide metal drive. Again, the call went out to the community and on Jan. 15, 1976, more than 1,500 residents began dumping their metal donations in the parking lot of the Sun City Stadium.

"We had everything," recalls Mrs. Freeman. "There were lawn chairs, copper tubing, bronze artifacts, spent shell castings, bikes -- anything that had metal in it."

In all, more than 7,000 pounds of metal was generated in the one-day drive. There was a "mountain of stuff," recalls Mr. Morris.

See BELL, page ten

• BELL

From page three

"The cooperation from the community was tremendous. Truly, everybody wanted to be a part of the making of this bell," he says.

From there, Del Webb trucks shipped the metal to a factory in Pennsylvania where it was melted down into individual ingots. The ingots were sent to Arsten, Holland, where the bell was to be cast using the same mold used to make the original Philadelphia Liberty Bell (the crack had to be put in afterwards).

The Liberty Bell arrived in Sun City one day later than originally planned -- July 5, 1976 -- and it was unveiled to the community during a ceremony held July 8 at the Sun Bowl.

"Sun Citizens touched it reverently, and with a special kind of pride -- because something of them was merged in its being," reported Mr. Morris in the *Citizen*.

Later that year, the bell was moved to its permanent location at the Bell Recreation Center. The bell now sits alongside a statue of Del E. Webb in what is known as Memorial Garden.

The community had obtained its objective of creating a "permanent" memorial honoring both the bicentennial and the founder of Sun City.

An inscription, which appears on a plaque below the Liberty Bell, was written by the late Myrtle Toutges and was chosen among a number of possible inscriptions gathered through a community-wide contest.

The Liberty Bell was officially dedicated Nov. 11, 1976. During the dedication ceremonies, a time capsule was officially sealed in the bell's base. It is to be open in the year 2026.

Among the items contained in the time capsule are various newspapers and magazines, as well as a letter from residents.

Mr. Morris remembers the letter well -- for he was the person who wrote it.

"I remember it with some sweat," laughs Mr. Morris.

"Jerry Svendsen (chairman of the Bicentennial Steering Committee) called me up one night and asked me to write the letter. The problem was, he needed it by 9 a.m. the next morning.

"It wasn't a very big time capsule," recalls Mr. Morris. "It contained memorabilia of the time and a greeting to the residents of 2026 from the residents of 1976."

The following year, the first Fourth of July ceremony was held in Memorial Garden. In an editorial in the *Sun City Citizen* that year, Mr. Morris encouraged people to attend the ceremony and "ring that bell."

Since the Sun City Liberty Bell was then and still is the only Liberty Bell in the world that can be rung, he hoped residents would feel free to step up and ring the bell. The phrase stuck, and to this day, the ceremony is called the "Ring That Bell Ceremony."

"It was certainly a project that generated a great deal of interest," says Mrs. Freeman. "It's amazing to this day how many people walk by that bell everyday and give it a ring."

This year's "Ring That Bell Celebration" will be held 8:30 a.m. July 4.

Fourth fun planned in Northwest Valley

News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — It may be old-fashioned, but a traditional Independence Day will be celebrated for the first time this year in Sun City.

Other communities around the Northwest Valley have a variety of Fourth of July activities planned for Tuesday as well.

Peoria Mayor Ron Travers, Exalted Ruler Robert Boosman and club manager and chef Bill Clark will get dipped in a dunk

tank to raise funds for the Elks' Long Term Care Unit in Tucson and the Elk's National Foundation. Travers is to be available for dunking at 11 a.m.

Fifty exhibitors have booked spaces and will begin setting up at 6 a.m.

There'll be sack and three-legged races and horse shoe pitching in addition to the dunking competition.

Hotdogs, hamburgers, soft drinks and beer will be available

in the tents or in the air-conditioned clubhouse.

Information: 972-9559.

Dozens of state flags will flutter from the covered walkway at Del Webb Memorial Garden at Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave., and the children will get to ring the bell first.

Jane Freeman, vice president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, will deliver the patriotic address at the annual Ring that Bell ceremony from 8:30 a.m. to

9:30 a.m.

The Rev. V. Martz of First Presbyterian Church will offer the invocation and American Legion Post No. 101 will display the colors and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Lucy Hays and pianist Rea Winters will lead the audience in singing patriotic songs before spectators, led by children this year, will get to ring the replica of the Liberty Bell.

Sponsors are the Recreation Centers of Sun City, the Sun City Host Lions Club and the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Doctor Sasparilla's Red Hot Jazz Band will play a free concert at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in Beardsley Park, 128th and Beardsley avenues, Sun City West.

Dixieland favorites are provided by the group of professional musicians, some of whom

have played with big name band leaders in New Orleans. They will perform in the gazebo and parade on the concrete dance floor.

The concert is sponsored by the Del Webb Corp. There will be no fireworks this year.

Spectators are to take chairs or blankets; coolers are permitted.

Meanwhile at 7 p.m. in Sun

See Peoria, A5

Peoria plans Fourth evening for families

—From A1

City Stadium, 111th and Grand Avenues, the first pitch in four years will be thrown to open the 1989 All-Star Game of the Men's Senior Baseball League.

A trio of Glendale men acquired the stadium June 1 and, assisted by their friends and the Sun City Prides, have been preparing the field and grounds for the event.

Admission is free for those 16

and under, \$1 for adults. Spectators are asked to bring a can of food for St. Mary's Food Bank. There will be concessions and a first-aid station. No coolers will be permitted.

The fireworks display scheduled for dusk in Surprise's Bicentennial Park, Nash and Elm streets, will last for 45 minutes and cost the community \$2,200.

The free seating is in bleach-

ers.

In Litchfield Park at the Wigwam Resort, north of Indian School and Litchfield Road, hot dogs, beer and plenty of ice cream will be served beginning at 5 p.m. This will be followed at 9 p.m. with a half-hour fireworks display.

The city of Peoria has scheduled a full evening of events for the whole family, including free watermelon, games, pizza eating

contest, 1950s and '60s dances, entertainment and a children's parade.

The action will be on the Peoria High School athletic field, 11200 N. 83rd Ave. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. Events begin at 6 p.m. There will be food booths.

Boy Scout Troup 462 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 2135 will present the colors; the Fort Huachuca Army Honor Guard will be the color guard.

Shuttle buses will go to the field every 15 minutes from the Peoria Community Center, 8335 W. Jefferson St., and the First Baptist Church, 8133 W. Cactus Road.

Fireworks are scheduled for 9 p.m.

In Glendale, the holiday celebration begins at 9 a.m. in Sahuaro Ranch Park, 9802 N. 59th Ave. Disabled American Veter-

ans Chapter 20 will raise the flag and city officials will present patriotic readings.

At 1:30 p.m. swimming will be free in the city's six pools.

Band entertainment begins at 6:30 p.m. in Glendale Community College Stadium, 6000 W. Olive Ave. Parking is provided at 63rd and Olive avenues.

A 40-minute aerial and ground display of \$14,000 worth of fireworks will begin at 9:30 p.m.

5,000 turn out for Peoria celebration *News-Sun July 5/89*

—From A1
have," Coe said.
Coe recently got a taste of what life is like in a society that is not free. In April Coe returned from a 15-day trip through China.
"When you look at where in the world they're losing their freedom, Fourth of July is really outstanding," Harvey Podoll said.
A veteran of the U.S. Army

during World War II, Podoll said the Fourth of July is an important reminder of our heritage of freedom and the deeds of people who have gone before to make that heritage possible.
Podoll said it is also a time of celebration and remembering past gatherings as well as reflecting and being thankful for what people have now.
At Peoria High School Tuesday evening an estimated 5,000

or more people, mostly families, celebrated at the City of Peoria's Rock 'N Roll Fourth of July.
"I'm enjoying the event a lot because it reminds me of a small hometown in the Midwest," David Eijadie said.
He said it was more crowded than he expected but it had a great family atmosphere and seemed well organized.
"It beats sitting in a parking lot someplace and watching

fireworks," Eijadie said.
Most people came to the evening event as the sun set to avoid some of the 118-degree heat that baked the Valley Tuesday.
Tori Bragg, 4, and Venessa Bragg, 7, of Phoenix got their faces painted and enjoyed some of the games for children at the event.
Their mother, Suzanne, was impressed with the Peoria cele-

bration.
"This is really nice. We've been to others all over and they've never given away things for free," she said.
The Braggss came at the very beginning but Suzanne Bragg said the heat was not too oppressive.
Allen Smith, of Peoria, has been taking his sons, Nate, 9, and Matthew, 8, to the Peoria festivities for three years.

"It's nicer than some of the others I've been to because they have the games and stuff ... free watermelon, that's nice too," Smith said.
The fireworks display was interrupted twice — once when a 5-year-old girl named Lisa got lost and again when some bushes and dry vegetation caught fire from stray firework sparks. The fire was put out in several minutes.



RINGING THE BELL — Madeline Rafferty, of Sun City, reaches for the rope to ring the liberty bell replica at Bell Recreation Center Tuesday morning.
News-Sun photo by Patrick Knight

Fourth fun

Locals celebrate by ringing bell

By CHRISTINE SELIGA
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Tuesday was a combination of patriotic remembrance and family celebration at local Fourth of July festivities.

About 250 people attended the 11th Annual Ring That Bell ceremony Tuesday morning in the Del E. Webb Memorial Garden on the grounds of the Bell Recreation Center.

Jane Freeman of the Sun City Historical Society was the keynote speaker. She wove together the history of the nation and the community in her speech.

She talked about the Declaration of Independence's assertion that people are endowed with the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

"When we think of what is happening in the world today, in Iran, Poland, Russia, China, the words from the philosophical second paragraph of our Declaration of Independence takes on a greater meaning. . .," Freeman said. "Thank God we do not have to search for the freedom to enjoy these inalienable rights."

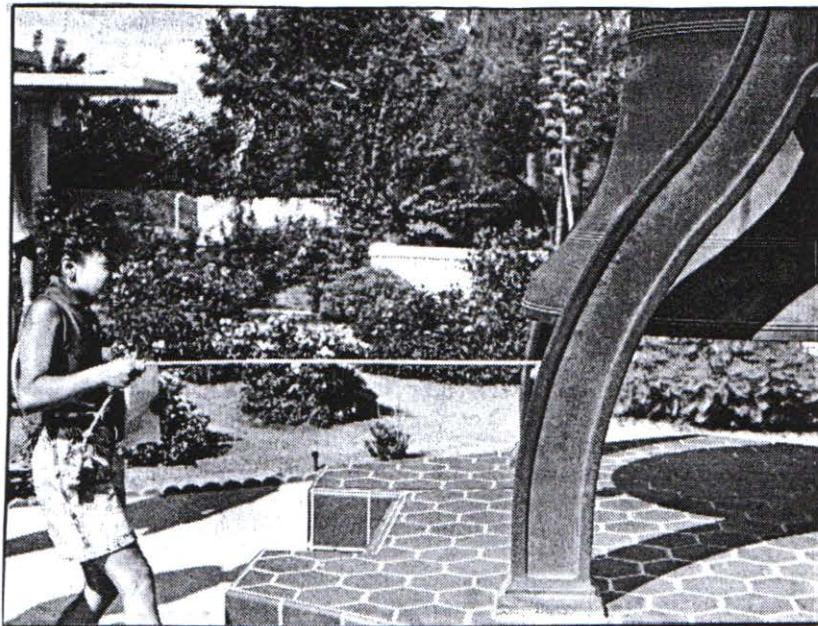
After the address people lined up to get a chance to tug the rope on the clapper of the Liberty Bell replica.

Several people said they were more keenly aware of the gift of freedom this year because of events in other countries such as the Soviet Union and China, where student protests were crushed by the military.

Sun Citian Miriam McLeod said, "When I think of my parents coming to America from Russia, I really appreciate what I've got."

"It's good to get together and say 'I am an American,'" Sun City resident Doug Morris said.

Morris said struggles for democracy throughout the world



News-Sun photo by Patrick Knight

THE BIG TUG — Becky Bleiker, 10, visiting from Ohio, joins in the fun at the bell ringing ceremony. Many ringers braved the heat for the annual ceremony.

often seem mostly verbal. But then he said Americans must remember the first Fourth of July celebration was a revolution as strenuous and difficult as other struggles for freedom.

But maybe that will help people to not take the American heritage of freedom for granted, he said.

"I hope that every year we realize that it's going to be a struggle to keep what it means," Morris said.

Alice Coe, of Sun City, spent Fourth of July morning at the Sun City Elks picnic and thieves market at Union Hills Drive and 107th Avenue with about 40 other vendors.

Coe said Fourth of July is an important day.

"It is a living symbol of our freedom, living in quotes because it keeps on going. Freedom is the greatest gift we can See 5,000, A3

OVER

Are we learning history's lesson?

By JANE FREEMAN

SUN CITY — If it had not been for historians and archivists, we would not be able to reflect on our past and appreciate our heritage. So it is today in Sun City and Sun City West.

Being one of the founders and past president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, I cannot help but wonder what we can preserve so that generations to come will enjoy looking back on our history and what we pioneered in these retirement communities.

In January 1990, Sun City's 30th birthday, we plan to dedicate our permanent headquarters at 10801 Oakmont Drive, in the very first home built in Sun City. As you may have read in the newspapers, we have received a grant from the J.G. Boswell Foundation, which enabled us to make this purchase.

But this is a matching grant and we must now raise \$30,000. Needless to say, your support will be greatly appreciated and will help us to carry out our motto, "Today is tomorrow's history." . . .

Let me spend the next bit of time on the future, but to do so I again go back to history.

Those of you who have read Edward Gibbons' *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, will remember he set forth some basic reasons why that great civilization fell.

Some of the reasons were the deterioration of the home, which is the basis of a healthy society; more and more taxes; spending more tax monies for welfare; an increased desire for pleasure; sports getting more violent and immoral; spending for arms instead of building individual responsibility; the decay of religion and the loss of faith and the power to guide people. Sound familiar?

The average age of the world's great civilizations has been about 200 years and they all went through the following states:

- Bondage to spiritual faith;
- Spiritual faith to great courage;
- Courage to liberty;
- Liberty to abundance;
- Abundance to selfishness;
- Selfishness to complacency;
- Complacency to apathy;
- Apathy to dependence;
- Dependence back into bondage.

Remember, we celebrated our 200th anniversary in 1976.

Have we reached the stage where the apathy of our people is leading us to dependence and ultimately to bondage?

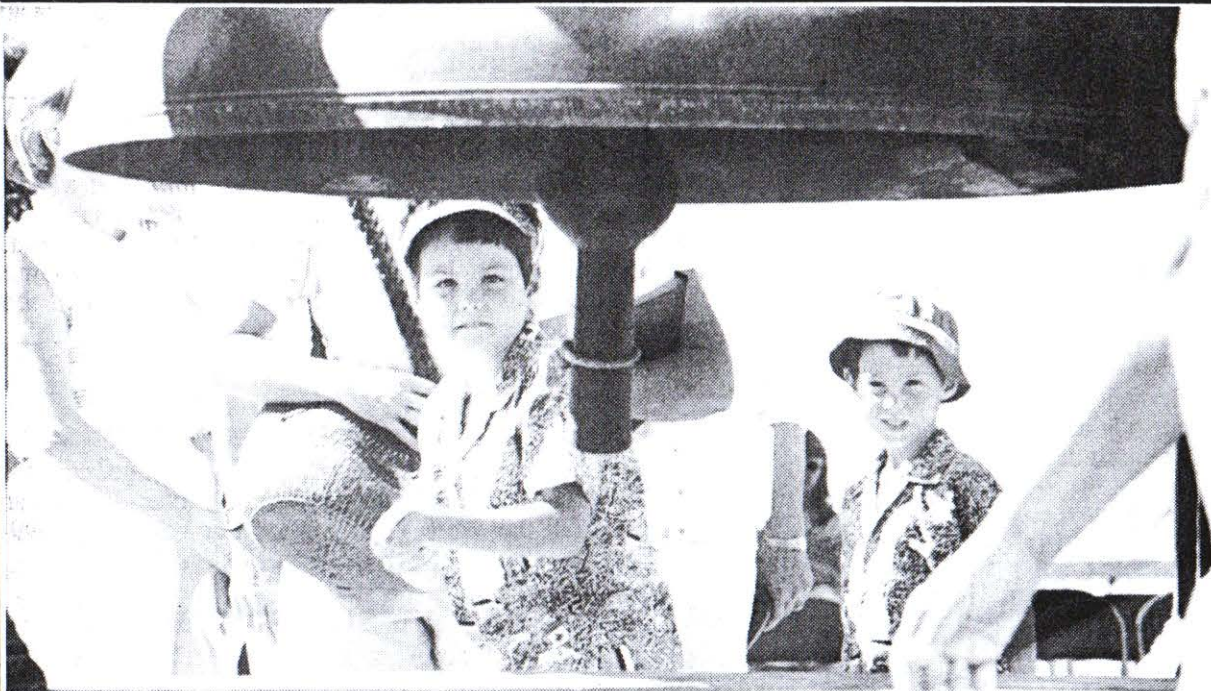
Look around you at the multitude of Americans who would rather be on welfare than work, and the even greater number who look to our government for protection from every conceivable problem.

If history does repeat itself, and if I were among the young people of today, I would be worried.

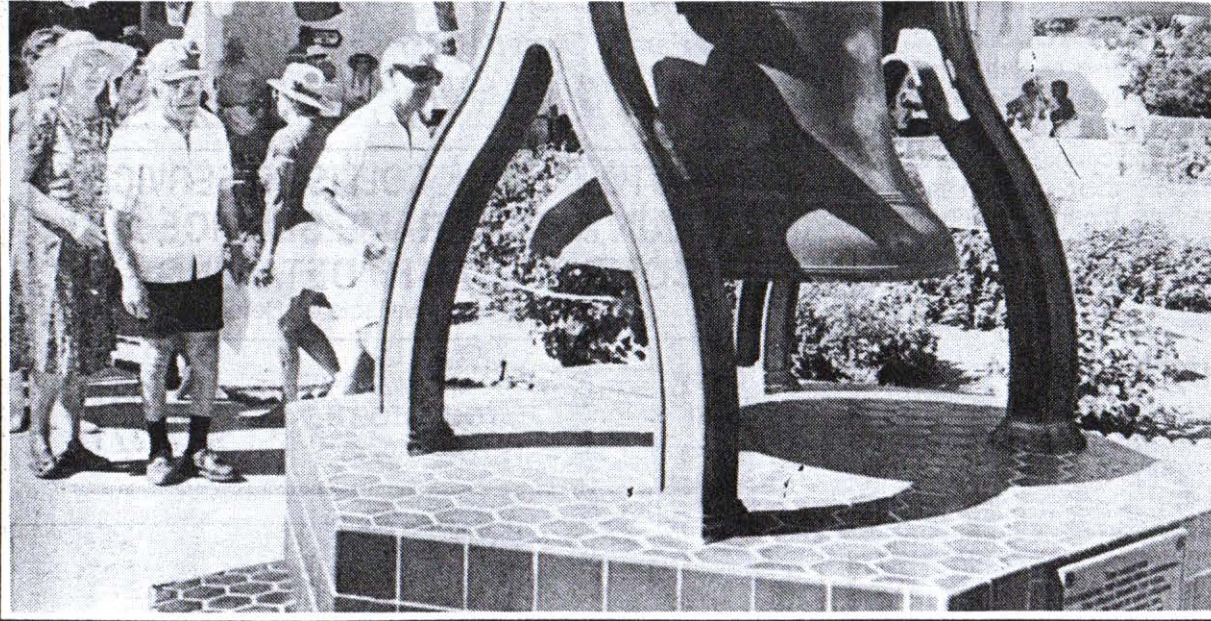
But at my age, I am optimistic, and to end on a quote from Dwight D. Eisenhower: "There is nothing wrong with America that faith, love of freedom, intelligence and the energy of her citizens cannot endure."

The above are excerpts from a speech made by Jane Freeman at the annual bell ringing ceremony July 4 at Bell Center.

Sun Citians celebrate the Fourth!



Photos by Bret McKeand/Independent



Record crowd turns out to salute nation; ring local Liberty Bell

More than 450 Sun Citians turned out for the 14th annual "Ring That Bell" Fourth of July Celebration held July 4 in Memorial Garden at Bell Recreation Center. After the posting of the colors by the American Legion, right, and a short speech by retired Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice William Holohan, participants were invited to ring the Liberty Bell replica which sits in Memorial Garden. The bell, according to event organizers, is the only replica of the Liberty Bell in the entire world that is heard on Independence Day.



over



Let Freedom Ring

A record crowd of more than 450 residents turned out for the community's annual "Ring That Bell" Independence Day Celebration on July 4 at Bell Recreation Center. Guest speaker William Holohan, retired Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice, related our

nation's struggle for independence 214 years ago to the present-day overturn of communist governments in Europe. "The principles of 1776 are sweeping the communist states," he said. More pictures, see Page 6.

Bret McKeand/Independent

Ring the bell for freedom

Sun City's Liberty Bell comes alive every Fourth of July

Editor's note: The following column was written by Sun Citian Doug Morris in 1979 when he was editor of the Sun City Citizen. On July 4, Mr. Morris is one of the organizers of the community's annual "Ring The Bell" ceremony at Bell Recreation Center. The Independent felt it fitting that we reprint the column this year.

By Doug Morris

In the Memorial Garden at Bell Recreation Center stands Sun City's Liberty Bell.

In Liberty Pavilion, a block north of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, stands the Liberty Bell.

The two are virtually identical. One difference ... the Bell in Philadelphia is mute. A yawning crack in its side forbids its ever speaking clearly again.

The Sun City Bell's simulated fracture is cosmetic and allows full-throated resonance whenever its tongue wags.

But, how seldom it is heard. Occasionally, the stillness of the pavilion is interrupted as a venturesome visitor tentatively

pulls the clapper and shies away from the reverberation of his derring-do.

Mostly, day on day, our Bell is silent ... consigned by timidity or apathy to the voicelessness of its muted ancestor.

A bell is for ringing.

The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia — loudly proclaimed support of the painted patriots who dumped tea in Boston Harbor ... summoned firefighters to conflagrations and citizens to town meeting ... enthusiastically backgrounded first public reading of the Declaration of Independence in the yard of the State House, at 12 noon, Monday, July 8, 1776 ... acknowledged the surrender of Cornwallis ... welcomed Washington on Nov. 17, 1781 ... heralded the coming of peace on April 16, 1783 ... mourned the death of Washington on Dec. 17, 1799 ... observed the coming of Lafayette to Philadelphia in 1824 ... and cracked its throat wailing the death of Chief Justice John Marshall on July 8, 1835.

Sun City's Liberty Bell first took shape in the minds of our Bicentennial Committee. Its physical reality began on January

Guest Commentary

15, 1976 at 9 a.m. in the parking lot of Sun City Stadium. The call had gone out for metal for our bell.

Bicycles, Cadillacs, golf carts, mobile homes, motorcycles, trailers, three-wheelers and hand carts brought heirlooms, bridgework, bedsprings, memorial plaques, prosthetic devices, garden tools, medallions, jewelry, lawn mowers, corset stays, auto frames — a motley melange of memorabilia. By 4 p.m., well over 7,000 pounds of metal piled high to be the body of our Bell.

Melted into ingots, each donation lost its individuality in a greater identity. Far away, in Asten, Holland, Sun City's Liberty Bell emerged from the hot mold of Schulmerich-Carillons, Inc., and began its destined voyage home.

At noon on July 8, 1976, exactly 200 years from the intoning of the Declaration of Independence, the Liberty Bell was unveiled in the Sun Bowl. Sun Citians touched it reverently, and with a special kind of pride — because something of

them was merged in its being.

On Nov. 15, 1976, a crowd-packed Memorial Garden accepted the Liberty Bell into its heart. In its base, a time-capsule carried the messages from that day to Sun Citians of 2026. Each member of the audience was privileged to sound the bell. There were tears in proud eyes.

Only infrequently since then, its throaty tone has been heard. Why? Is its presence not felt? Is its meaning not understood and appreciated? Are we timid about activating its challenge?

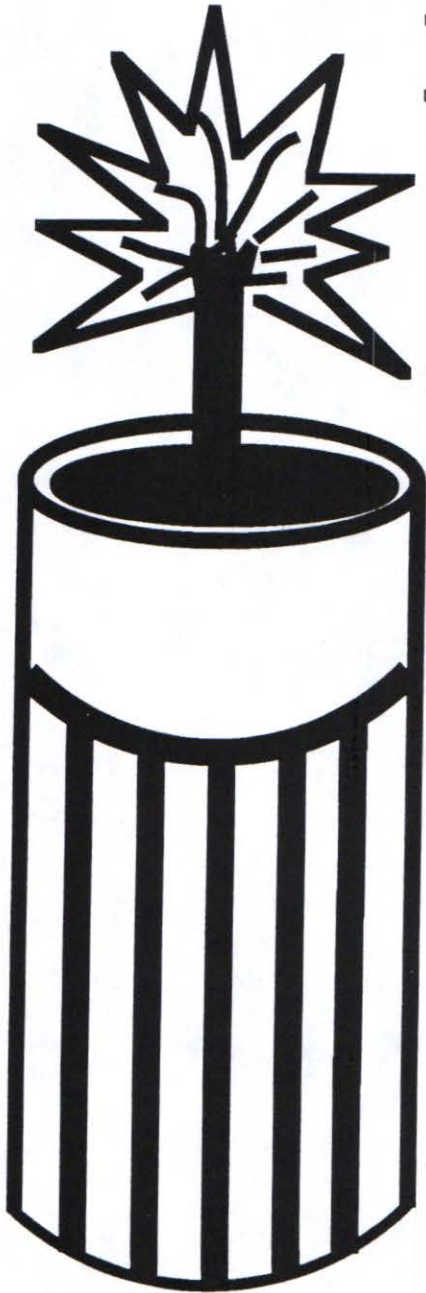
Has such a symbol of freedom and patriotism and sheer love of country lost its symbolism, its actuality?

Does ringing the bell make us feel the prankster, rather than the patriot?

Let's ring that bell. What will that do? Who knows? Maybe each note will sound briefly and fade into nothingness.

Or maybe each note will sound forever in our memories.

HELP US HELP IBR ACTION COMMITTEE HELP SUN HEALTH FOUNDATION FIGHT
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.



FIREWORKS!

4th of July

SUN CITIES

STADIUM

111th AVE. & GRAND AVE.

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KLFF

Hosted by **Johnny McKinney**

LIVE BROADCAST
7:00 'til 10:00 P.M.

Dance to "LIVE" BIG BAND MUSIC

Drawings for Golf Outings,
Dinners, and many other Giveaways

Adults - \$3.00 Ages 6 thru 14 - \$1.00

Children under 6 - Free

FREE PARKING

Sponsored in part by Del Webb's
Sun City West

For additional information , phone 977-2279

FIREWORKS START AT 8PM

Show thrills crowd

Tributes spark events

By MIKE GARRETT
Daily-News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — The first Fourth of July fireworks show at Sun City Stadium in nearly a decade attracted more than 3,500 people of all ages.

The fireworks were forced to compete for air space with a lightning show to the north, but unlike some areas of the Valley hit by gusting winds and rain, this display went off as scheduled.

Celebrating the Fourth of July was a star-spangled event for stadium owners and the Northwest Valley Chamber of Commerce, which used the occasion to encourage area residents to attend the daily Men's Senior League baseball games. Area Realtors also promoted their No. 1 cause, expansion of the Sun City Institute of Biogerontology Research.

Besides "the rockets' red glare", the stadium rocked with the big-band sounds of Dick and Libby Halleman, a live broadcast by KLFF radio personality Johnny McKinney and appearances by the Christopher Girls, Miss Senior Arizona Thelma Ward and the Sun City Poms.

Many of those in attendance said they were happy to see a locally promoted Fourth of July show at a convenient Sun City location again. Others said they felt more patriotic and took their freedoms less for granted on the 4th this year in light of America's victory in the Persian Gulf War.

"We're glad to see this many people here and plan to build on this for next year," said stadium tri-owner Craig Kimmell. "Drawing this many people means they know the stadium is open again. We wanted to have more than just fireworks. We wanted to have the band and give them a reason for coming



Daily News-Sun photo by Scott Troyanos

NATURAL TOUCH — Lightning bolts flash across the sky during the Fourth of July fireworks display at Sun City Stadium, 111th and Grand Avenues. The electrical storm lasted throughout the fireworks show Thursday evening.

out." Kimmell and Tom McCanna, Chamber executive director, said the stadium owners and chamber will meet July 17 with a National League team to try to persuade them to train and play Cactus League spring training games in the stadium.

"A show of support like this just proves the stadium is much

needed," said McCanna.

Others just felt patriotic and happy to be living in the Northwest Valley.

"For me, I feel lucky to be living in Sun City and we all should appreciate that," said Shirley Cook.

"A day like this is a great opportunity to share with our fellow citizens, and I think hav-

ing fireworks again at our Sun City Stadium is fantastic," said Frank Ratliff of Sun City.

"After the situation in the Middle East during the winter season, probably all of us think a little bit more about the pride of our country, the democratic freedoms that we have," said Evelyn Mickel of Sun City.

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STAR-SPANGLED EVENT — Sun Citians gather under state flags in the Del Webb Memorial Garden at Bell Recreation Center Thursday morning for the 13th annual Ring That Bell ceremony.

Sun City's Liberty Bell cast of precious metals

By Betty Latty
Special to Community

SUN CITY — Since 1976, the community has rung its Liberty Bell replica, which literally is a melting pot comprising family heirlooms, musical instruments, horseshoes and bric-a-brac.

The bell, located in the Del Webb Memorial Garden at Bell Recreation Center, has become part of a traditional Independence Day program, "Ring That Bell," and will be rung again Sunday.

In 1975, the nation was awash with plans for Bicentennial souvenirs and celebrations, and Sun Citizens' choice for a permanent remembrance was a Liberty Bell.

To make a replica uniquely theirs, they appealed for donations of scrap metal to be melted down for the casting.

The appeal netted 7,000 pounds

of metal that was turned into a 2,080-pound bell.

The roundup of metal was an emotional time for many Sun Citizens, whose patriotism and reverence for God and country led them to toss valuable and sentimental items into the collection — antique jewelry, souvenir spoons, war relics and picture frames.

"People brought everything, from military medals and jewelry, to bedsprings, electric mixers and laundry cases," said Jane Freeman, of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Bell collector Trudy McQuown, who later penned the poem, "Ring Out, Liberty Bell," read at its dedication Nov. 15, 1976, recalled the contributions she made with her late husband.

"We gave 'drippings' I collected in tours of McShane's foundry in

Baltimore, and an old triangle bell once used to call farm hands to lunch."

The appeal reached beyond Sun City's environs. Marc Watson of northwest Phoenix filled a pickup and drove out to join Sun City friends. "I just wanted to be a part of it," Watson said. "It was just amazing. People gave lovely things."

Newspaper clips and photographs also tell of donations of a drill bit for an oil well, dress forms, spent shell casings and copper tubing given by descendants of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

Del Web Development Co. underwrote the cost of making the bell. It was cast using the lost wax method. Arrangements for processing the metals were made by Schulmerich Carillons Inc. of Sel-

lersville, Pa., and actual casting was done in Asten, Holland, by one of its affiliates, Eijsbouts Bell Foundries Inc.

The Dutch foundry was used because no U.S. foundry had a furnace that could accommodate the bell, according to Ron Beach, Schulmerich board chairman.

Sun City's bell was unveiled July 8, 1976, at the Sun Bowl, but was not officially dedicated until Nov. 15.

The stainless steel time capsule also was sealed at the dedication. Its contents, to be revealed in 2026 A.D., include a quilt made by Sun Citizens, recordings by local barber-shop singing groups, a Nov. 1, 1976, copy of *The Arizona Republic* and a Nov. 3, 1976 copy of *The Phoenix Gazette*, other publications and a letter written by Morris on behalf of the community.

Observance slated for Bell Center

By IAN MITCHELL
Daily News-Sun staff

The real Liberty Bell was cast of copper and iron.

Sun City's version was made from a heap of scrap metal and a generous helping of civic spirit.

When residents gather Monday at Bell Recreation Center to ring the giant bell, they will be commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence and celebrating America's 217th birthday.

But the July 5th "Ring That Bell" ceremony is also a demonstration of Sun City's community pride.

The \$15,000 bell was paid for by the Del E. Webb Development Co. as part of Sun City's bicentennial celebration, but hundreds of community residents contributed — not money, but metal.

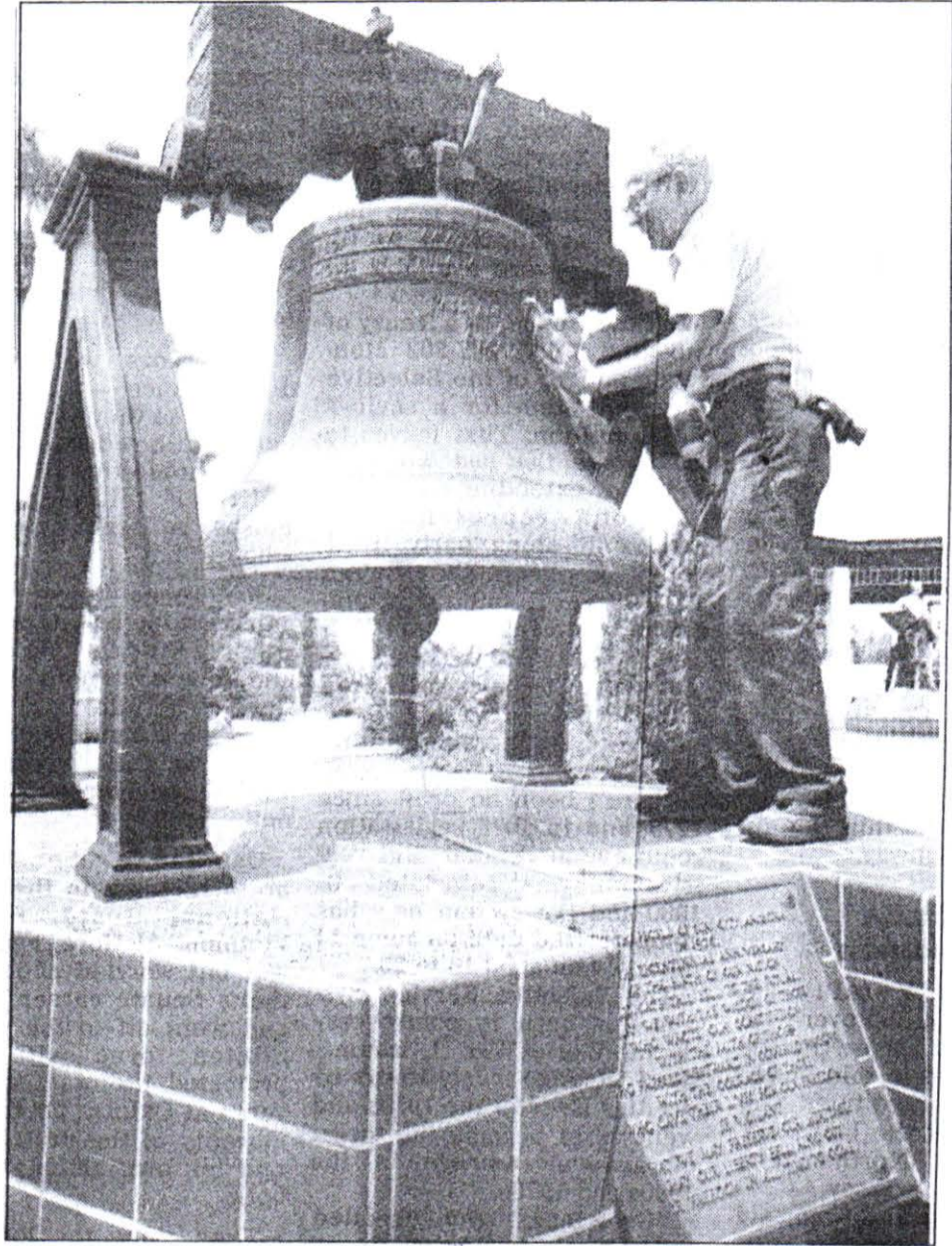
In 1976, more than 1,500 local residents donated scrap metal to be melted down and cast into the 2,080-pound bell, a nearly exact replica of the original in Philadelphia.

Doug Morris, the man who came up with the idea of a metal drive, remembered seeing one resident after another come to the Sun City Stadium parking lot to add their contribution to the pile of donated scrap.

"It was known as the mountain of metal," he recalled.

The heap of donations included

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Frances Guarino/Daily News-Sun

Dan Gerl, a maintenance worker at Bell Recreation Center, cleans Sun City's replica of the Liberty Bell. The bell is the centerpiece of Monday's "Ring That Bell" ceremony.

Sun City to ring in 4th on 5th

—From A1

everything from flatware and jewelry to the chassis of golf cars and metal prosthetic devices, Morris said.

"It was everything from everybody," he said, adding that watching so many Sun Citians give metal for the bell "was a very, very moving experience."

The pile of scrap metal weighed in at about 7,000 pounds. The metal was melted down and the usable material was made into ingots, which were shipped to Astens, Holland, where the bell was cast.

The finished bell arrived in Sun City on July 5 — too late for Independence Day celebrations — but a special bell-

ringing ceremony was conducted at the Sun Bowl July 8.

On Nov. 15 — the 199th anniversary of the submission of the Articles of Confederation to the states — the bell was officially dedicated at Bell Recreation Center, and a time capsule was sealed in its base.

The capsule, to be opened in 2026, contains copies of newspapers, bicentennial memorabilia, and a letter to the Sun Citians of the future.

The bell-ringing ceremony has become an annual celebration.

This year's event will begin at 8:30 a.m. Monday with presentation of the colors, patriotic music and then a keynote speech by Jerry Svend-

sen, who was master of ceremonies at the bell's first ringing in 1976.

After the songs and speeches, the public is invited to ring the giant bell. The crack on Sun City's replica is only an indentation — the bell is intact, and tuned to peal an "F" note.

"Generally, there are grandparents with their grandchildren and, where possible, we have the grandchildren come up first," Morris said.

The children, he added, "come with the most ecstatic look on their faces, that they're actually ringing the Liberty Bell."