

Extra 8

The Arizona Republic

Growth, lack of 'Godfather'
linked to change in attitude

Sun City warmth gone, ex-teacher says

By Glenn B. Sanberg
Special for The Republic

SUN CITY — Major psychosociological changes are taking place in Shangri-La — people who came seeking tranquility in retirement are getting restless.

That warm, neighborly feeling that Del Webb had in mind when he started the retirement community of Sun City has

Retired in style

somehow been lost in the shuffle of bigness, the sprouting of special-interest groups and the absence of the "Godfather."

These are the observations of Jane Freeman, a member of the board of directors of the Sun City Recreation Centers and chairman of its Committee on Communications. Ten years as a resident and two years of looking firsthand at management problems have forced her toward some sobering conclusions about the future of the community.

I visited with Mrs. Freeman in the quiet of her Prairie Hills Circle home. Although continually in the center of recreation-board controversy as one of its outspoken members, she accepts her role with equanimity.

When asked whether she is sensitive to criticism, she said: "Of course I am, but I don't let it get me. If I did, I would go stark, raving mad."

Bitterness, she says, carries too high a price, so she has no use for it. Her most troublesome problem, she says, is trying to determine just what the opposition wants.

Although getting elected to the recreation board is achieved by political means, Mrs. Freeman does not consider herself a political person. The only politics in her background is the college-campus variety, where she watched students vie for class officers.

Armed with a master's degree from the University of Virginia and a doctorate in education from New York University, she taught business and economics courses at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.

In 1958, she took a leave of absence to assist in developing pilot courses for the newly formed Rockland County Community College, New York. She was appointed dean of students shortly

thereafter, a position she held until she and her husband, also an educator, retired and came to Sun City.

Against this background of education and research, Mrs. Freeman has studied the sociological changes in Sun City with more than casual interest. Adjustments now taking place, some of which have been emotionally pitched, have, she says, some basis geneses.

The recent migration of what she calls "a new breed of residents" is replacing people who, in the development's earlier stages, came to Sun City directly out of three disruptive wars and the memory of a ravaging Depression.

These people, she says, had quite a different perspective from those who recently have emerged from the boom times of the 1960s and mid-1970s.

Another impact that has changed the community climate has been the withdrawal of the Del E. Webb Development Co. from active direction of civic affairs.

By gradually divesting itself of its real-estate holdings and management of the recreation facilities, Del Webb has left the community with no "Godfather" either to blame or go to for answers. As a result of this vacuum, several special-interest groups have had an open invitation to join the struggle for power.

Arguments over incorporation of the city, changing the rules for recall of directors, tempests over raised bowling fees and intemperate name-calling, all are evidences of unrest and insecurity.

Although she has deep concerns about the turmoil of the current transition, she believes a bright, new era eventually will be born. There will be changes, but many good things will emerge as the city matures without the protection of a benevolent benefactor.

The popular summer Concerts by the Lake will be continued and expanded with or without Mrs. Freeman's touch. The Strawberry Festival, the Birthday Celebrations and the Root Beer Bust will continue as traditions. The Fourth of July Bell will ring again as planned.

"Sun City must start more traditions of its own," Mrs. Freeman said.

She would like to see a harvest ball in the late fall.

"We need a talent bank," she suggests, "as a clearinghouse for community programs."

She also would like to see a regular



Republic

Jane Freeman: "We need a talent bank . . . for community programs."

news column emanating from Recreation Centers' headquarters that would keep people informed on the organization's daily doings. Much can be done to recreate the old community spirit that made Sun City so special in the past, she says.

It takes a great spirit to remain optimistic in the face of social struggle, but Mrs. Freeman keeps plugging away at projects she believes in the common interest — the Rio Salado Adult Speaker's Directory, which needs updating, and her bright, new pamphlet *Pardners*, announcing new special courses at the Sun City campus of Rio Salado College.

Then there's the matter of 20 to 40 volunteer hours a week helping keep a \$30 million corporation with a \$6 million budget on track. One has to wonder if, in all our business, we are going to find that warm, neighborly feeling we used to talk about.

Sun Ridge award leaves winner 'stunned'

News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Jane Freeman never dreamed she would win the 1987 Sun Ridge Person of the Year award when she attended the Sun Ridge Community Service Award Banquet last Saturday.

But when the winner's services to the community were enumerated before the winner's name was announced, Freeman was stunned. The services were things she had done. Even when they finally announced that she had won, she couldn't believe it.

"I was absolutely shocked. I still can't believe it and for once in my life I didn't know what to say," Freeman said.

Freeman was chosen for the award from a group of 57 nominees. The title includes \$15,000 to be given to the charity of her choice.

Freeman asked to have the money split three ways and Sun Ridge agreed. Now the Sun City Library, the Sun Health Foundation and Interfaith Services will receive \$5,000 each.

Agnes Fansler, executive director and librarian of the Sun City Library, has worked with Freeman for four years. She nominated Freeman for her volunteer work throughout the community.

"Nobody puts in as much time and energy and imagination as Jane," Fansler said.

The person of the year award was sponsored by Sun Ridge, a mixed-use retirement community on Bell Road. Fran Donnellan, administrative director of Sun Ridge, said that Freeman was chosen by the advisory board of directors, which is made up of 18 local residents. The board received all nomination

applications with the nominees' names removed. The board then used a 20-point scale for measuring the contributions outlined on the nomination application.

Donnellan said Freeman's nomination received the maximum number of points from many of the board members.

Freeman's nomination application is long. She co-wrote the book "Jubilee" — a 25-year history of Sun City. She founded and served as first president of the Sun Cities Historical Society.

She also served on the Maricopa County Community College District Senior Adult Advisory Committee and helped obtain a permanent site for Rio Salado Community College to conduct classes in Sun City.

Freeman also has been in-

involved in providing services to the handicapped. In a project under the auspices of the library, she put together an extensive directory of available sources of information for the handicapped. For the Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities Area she compiled a handbook for volunteers working with the handicapped. She works with the Handi-Capables, and has planned special exhibits for the handicapped.

As a member of Sun Health Foundation, she helped raise funds for Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, the Biogerontological Research Center at Boswell and Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West.

She was the Daily News-Sun's Woman of the Year for Sun City in 1981.

But Freeman, who is currently serving as president of Sun City-Youngtown Meals on Wheels, doesn't see her accomplishments as particularly special. She said she is just one of many people whose voluntarism helps the local community function.

"I accepted the award on behalf of all the volunteers because I felt they should all be recognized," Freeman said.

Donnellan said Sun Ridge started the award, which will be given every year, to become a part of the community. The nominees have to live and do service work in the Sun Cities, El Mirage, Youngtown or Surprise. The volunteer is then judged on what contributions the individual has made to the economic, social or spiritual development or voluntarism



News Sun photo

JANE FREEMAN — "I was absolutely shocked."

of a community. The nominee must have made contributions in at least two of these categories.

FREEMAN, JANE

Sun Citizen Profile

*Jane Freeman
president, board of directors
Sun City Library*

Jane Freeman has been on the Sun City Library board of directors for the past four years. She is presently president of the board, a position she has held for the past three years.

As president, Freeman's responsibilities include overseeing fundraising projects, handling public relations and scheduling special events for the two Sun City libraries.

NAME: Jane Freeman.
RESIDENCE: Sun City.
FORMER HOME: New York.
BIRTHPLACE: Erie, Pa.
WHEN MOVED TO SUN CITY: 1970.
WHY MOVED TO SUN CITY: Liked the climate and lifestyle.
FORMER OCCUPATION: Dean of Students, State University of New York/Rockland Community College.
EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree from William and Mary College; master's degree from New York University; doctorate degree from University of Virginia.
FAMILY: Daughter, Toni in New York; son, Leslie, Jr., in Chicago.
CHURCH: Faith Presbyterian Church.
CLUB MEMBERSHIPS: A member of the board of directors of Meals on Wheels; a member of advisory committees for Home Owners Association and Sun Cities Area Transit System, Inc.; former board member of the Sun Cities Area Community Council; a volunteer with Rio Salado Community College; acting co-chairman of the Sun City Area Historical Society; and a volunteer with the Handi-Capables Club of Sun City.
FAVORITE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY: Reading, cooking.
FAVORITE HOBBIES: Needlepoint, quilting, gardening, walking.
FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Anyplace she has never visited before. Would like to visit China once again.
FAVORITE SPOT IN SUN CITY: The libraries.
FAVORITE BOOKS: History, biography.
FUTURE GOALS: "Keep expanding library facilities and services offered by the library. Would like to continue working with the Handi-capables Club of Sun City, making life a little easier for the area's handicapped. My advice to Sun Citians: Keep busy!"

Editor's Note: The Sun Citizen Profile is a weekly feature profiling the work and accomplishments of area volunteers. Readers are welcome to submit suggestions and names of those who they feel deserve recognition for their contributions with local non-profit organizations and events.



JANE FREEMAN

Sun Citian is 1 who cares

Freeman honored for volunteerism

By JACQUE PAPPAS
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Name a charitable cause and Jane Freeman has probably helped it.

Think of a communitywide effort and Freeman has probably spearheaded it.

Picture a concept to better the community and Freeman will most likely help the dream become a reality.

Freeman, who has dedicated 20 years of service to a wide variety of organizations in the Sun Cities, is being honored for her commitment to major community concerns and her compassion in assisting people in need.

The Sun City resident is one of 12 honorees in the state to receive the 12 Who Care Hon Kachina Award this year.

The award, one of the most coveted in the state, has been given to 12 people or organizations annually. This year, more than 150 nominations were reviewed.

The award, presented annually since 1977, is co-sponsored by The Luke's Men, a volunteer group of professionals affiliated with St. Luke's Medical and Behavioral Health Centers, and KPNX-TV Channel 12.

The purpose is to salute significant contributions made by volunteers statewide, to encourage greater volunteer participation and community service and to increase recognition of the con-

cept of voluntarism, said Charlie Buri, president of The Luke's Men.

"Hopefully this will stimulate more people to do some of these same things," he said.

The recognition program is highlighted by a gala event Oct. 27, where the honorees will receive their award. The event will be broadcast live on Channel 12.

Freeman will be given a hand-crafted kachina doll encased in glass and a \$500 cash award, with an equal amount to be contributed to the charity of the honoree's choice.

Freeman has been involved with a number of activities from medical and civic concerns to community education to helping the handicapped.

She moved to Sun City in 1970 from New York City, retiring as dean of students for Rockland Community College.

Before long, she was known as "The First Lady of Sun City," after cowriting "Jubilee," a history of Sun City for the community's 25th anniversary.

"I really have enjoyed finding out about Sun City's roots and I want to do more work on the history of Marinette and the area itself," Freeman said. "It makes you feel like you really are a part of the community. I'm almost putting my roots down for a second time." Marinette was the small commercial site on which Sun City was built.



Daily News-Sun photo by Stephen Chernes

VOLUNTEER HONORED — Sun Citian Jane Freeman is one of 12 honorees in the state to receive the 12 Who Care Hon Kachina Award this year for her commitment to community service.

Freeman has been a volunteer at Rio Salado Community College and was instrumental in securing a permanent site for the college to conduct classes in Sun City.

She has been a vital part of the Sun City Library, serving as president for three years, on the board of directors for 12 years and as director of the annual used-book sale. Freeman has been instrumental in securing grants for large-print books and has written a series of articles, "Know Your Library."

Freeman is a Sun Health Foundation board member and is active in fund-raising campaigns for the two hospitals. She is president of the Meals on Wheels program, on the Sunshine Service board of directors and former chairwoman of long-range planning for Interfaith Services.

She has been involved with a number of programs to benefit the needs of the handicapped.

"Being involved makes you feel good, but I don't do it for the recognition. I like keeping busy," Freeman said.

Sat. OCT. 6, 1990 Daily News-Sun Sun City Az

Resident is recipient of '12 Who Care' honor

A Sun City resident, Jane Freeman, has been selected as one of the honorees in the 12 Who Care — Hon Kachina Awards program.

The program's purpose is a salute to significant contributions made by volunteers and encourages greater volunteer participation and community service.

Mrs. Freeman, is known as the "First Lady of Sun City."

A retired dean of university students, Mrs. Freeman is recognized, not only for her commitment to major community concerns, but also for her compassion in assisting people in need.

She has dedicated 20 years of service to various organizations in the Sun Cities: including work with the library, community education, medical and civic concerns and assistance to the handicapped.

Honorees are selected by the 12 Who Care awards committee after a screening and personal interview.

The committee received more than 2,000 requests for nomination forms for the 1990 program.

The Hon-Kachina awards have



JANE FREEMAN

been presented annually since 1977. Co-sponsors are the Luke's Men, a volunteer organization of business and professional people associated with St. Luke's Medical and Behavioral Health Centers; and KPNX-TV Channel 12, the NBC affiliate in Phoenix.

The recognition banquet will be Oct. 27 at the Registry Resort, with the awards telecast to start at 7 p.m.

The 12 honorees will receive individual recognition. One or more of the honorees may be recognized for significant and outstanding volunteer service.

Reservations are requested by Oct. 20. Call 251-8476.

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Jane Freeman

Jane Freeman is often called the "First Lady of Sun City" because throughout the 20 years she's been living in Sun City, when there's a cause or a need in the community, Jane is likely to be the first one there.

In education, Jane was instrumental in securing a permanent site for Rio Salado Community College classes in Sun City.

Her work for the local library includes everything from preparing grant applications for large-print books and books on cassettes to directing the annual used book sale.

In the area of health, she started the Meals on Wheels program and has chaired and advised a wide range of committees devoted to improving the quality of medical care to the elderly.

She has worked to give greater access and freedom to the handicapped with programs ranging from finding clothes that meet the needs of individual handicaps to publishing an extensive directory of available resources.

Jane's remarkable resume of activities

have included heading up the local Historical Society and authoring a history of Sun City.

In between, Jane has cooked meals, baked cookies, written letters, paid bills, given gifts, and taken the time to listen to the needs of people around her. Jane believes, "there is no menial labor if it is honest." Her volunteer work encompasses both the tidier tasks of chairing committees and directing special events as well as the "dirty" work of cleaning up afterwards.

In fact, Jane asks nothing of a volunteer that she wouldn't tackle herself. Before the recent opening of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's new home, Jane arrived, mop and bucket in hand to make sure the new facility was gleaming. At a fundraising event, Jane, a non-drinker, cheerfully tended bar. And every Sunday morning, she joins the drivers for Meals on Wheels and takes her turn delivering food the shut-ins.

"There is no menial labor if it is honest."

Jane Freeman, Ed. D. retired to Sun City after a career in higher education that included a position as Dean of Students at the State University of New York in Rockland.

Her educational background has led to many of the projects she now volunteers to work on. The work for libraries and local community college, as well as her service work to provide greater opportunities for the handicap all spring from her deep commitment to improving the quality of life for others.

So what does a woman who's had a full-time volunteer career for the past 20 years do for a little recreation? Every year, Jane travels abroad to a country such as Turkey or Greece.

And what does she do on these "holidays"? Jane spends much of her vacation time studying community programs for the handicapped and elderly.

But that's just what you would expect from a volunteer like Jane who is compelled to always do her best for others. It's what brings her here tonight.

OCT. 1990

KPNX-CH. 12

OVER

The Luke's Men and 12 Who Care history

***T**he 12 Who Care Hon Kachina Awards were born of a desire to increase public awareness of the need for support of health care programs.*

Presented annually since 1977, the awards are cosponsored by The Luke's Men, an organization of business professional people affiliated with St. Luke's Medical and Behavioral Health Centers, and KPNX-TV, Channel 12.

The awards program is not a fundraising event but was established in the hope that more community volunteerism would result if the public knew of the gallant volunteer efforts of individuals and organizations.

From Indian lore, the Hon Kachina represents the strongest of healing powers. The Hon, or Bear Kachina, was created by Mikael Red-

man, a native Arizonan known for his miniature sculptures. It is fashioned of silver and gold and is mounted on pure turquoise.

Measuring five inches tall and presented in a walnut display box, this special Kachina goes to one or more of the honorees for outstanding volunteer services. All twelve honorees receive a larger, hand-crafted authentic kachina encased in glass.

Nominations for the 12 Who Care Hon Kachina Award are received by The Luke's Men and Channel 12 from individuals and organizations throughout Arizona. They are screened by the nomination committee and twenty-four nominees are then submitted to The Luke's Men and Channel 12 Awards Committee.

Personal interviews are conducted with each nominee

and nominator. The final twelve honorees emerge through a prescribed, and always difficult, process of elimination.

A board of governors composed of civic and business leaders reviews the twelve honorees and decides which, if any, are deserving of the prestigious Hon.

Each of the honorees receives a \$500 cash award with an equal amount donated to the charity of their choice. They receive a Jefferson Award Medallion from the American Institute of Public Service, which makes them each eligible for national recognition.

Over the years, more than 1,600 individuals and organizations have been nominated. From these, 122 individuals and 36 organizations have been honored.

'Mrs. Sun City' wins Minnie Harlow award



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS SUN

Jane Freeman, right, won the ninth annual Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award, presented by Interfaith Community Care. She shows her award to Muriel Rose.

KATY O'GRADY
DAILY NEWS SUN

It's only fitting Jane Freeman was honored with this year's Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award.

"I feel very humble and yet very honored because I knew Minnie and had the privilege and honor of working with her," said Freeman, who received the award recently from Interfaith Community Care.

Among her many community contributions since moving to Sun City in 1970, Freeman served with Harlow during the early years of the Sun Cities Area Community Council, which later became the Northwest Valley Community Council before disbanding due to financial constraints at the end of 2001.

"(Harlow) was such a great asset," Freeman said. "She was on what later came to be known as the Community Council where we were exploring needs that could be met in the community."

Like Harlow, Freeman has spent her years in Sun City identifying and filling needs, but she shies away from attention for her many contributions. "It beats doing housework," she says matter-of-factly.

Along with the Community Council, Freeman, known "Mrs. Sun City" by some of her neighbors, served on the Sun City Volunteer Bureau board of directors during its beginnings, and headed up a paper drive to gather funds to build the Lions' Community Services building.

In 1985, Freeman and the late Glenn Sandberg co-authored "Jubilee — a 25-Year History of Sun City" for the community's anniversary. She also helped start the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, now housed in Del Webb Corp.'s first model home, to help store the historical documents and items from the

community's past. This year, she is again president of the society's board of trustees.

"We are just thrilled to have her again as president because she was one of the very early organizers and served as president before," said Historical Society volunteer Phyllis Street, also a former president of the society's board.

"She's wonderful to work with, and she's very efficient. She really gets things organized," Street said. "She's really a very caring person and she's so capable."

In addition to her other contributions, Freeman has worked with Meals on Wheels for about 23 years, making sure the area's home-bound residents are eating nutritious meals. She also is active with the Sun City Community Fund and the Sun Health Foundation.

Freeman was honored with the Hon Kachina Award in 1990 and as Woman of the Year in 1991.

The Community Council began recognizing individuals with the Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award following Harlow's death in 1994. It is given each year to a dedicated individual who volunteers his or her time in the West Valley making significant contributions toward the betterment of the West Valley communities.

When the Community Council disbanded, Interfaith took over with the award.

"We've taken it on this year and we're going to be presenting it from now on and keep that one going because it's a very important humanitarian award," said Chelsea Evans with Interfaith.

Freeman said she was "totally surprised" to be honored with the award, but is happy to be associated with her late friend. "She really was quite a lady," Freeman said.

Volunteer applauds co-workers

By Julla Jones
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Jane Freeman doesn't try to deny that she has done the work. She just wants to throw the spotlight on her co-workers.

"Here in Sun City, there are 12 times 12 times 12 volunteers that should be recognized," she says. "All of these people should be getting the coverage in newspapers and on the radio, and all the TV coverage. Recognizing volunteers and volunteerism is important to society because reaching out and touching others, like the telephone company ads say, that's what's important."

Freeman will be among those honored at the 12 Who Care — Hon Kachina Awards gala Saturday at the Registry Resort in Scottsdale. The awards program, presented annually since 1977, is sponsored by The Luke's Men, a volunteer organization of business and professional people affiliated with St. Luke's Medical and Behavioral Health Centers, and



Randy Reid / Staff photographer

Jane Freeman of Sun City is one of the volunteers who will be honored Saturday at the 12 Who Care — Hon Kachina Awards gala at the Registry Resort in Scottsdale.

KPNX-TV, Channel 12.

Freeman, a Pennsylvania native, retired as a dean of university students in a New York state school. After a life's work in education in the northeast, she says, she hardly expected to end up retired in Arizona, let alone Sun City.

"Like everyone else," she says,

"our first reaction was, 'Who wants to live with all those old people?'"

But the next year, she and her husband visited again. "We were a year older then, and it didn't seem nearly so bad. The idea of Arizona was completely foreign to us, being from the eastern part of the

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country, but we loved the wide open spaces."

They found a house on the outskirts of Sun City. That was in 1970; they joined a town of 18,000.

"We loved it at once," Freeman says. And she's in that same house today, although her husband, Leslie, died 14 years ago, and the population has grown to about 46,000.

Like all newcomers to the Sun Cities, the Freemans made the rounds of the various recreation centers. Then they took classes, learning to work with silver and then lapidary.

"But after a time, all that wears

thin," Freeman says. Her first volunteer involvement was probably serving on a committee at a recreation center, she says. Then, she found herself a member of the center's board of directors. And almost in the twinkling of an eye, she found herself serving as liaison with the Sun City Library, and that connection worked.

"We couldn't do without our volunteers," says Charles Youngman, the Sun City Library director.

Freeman, he says, is a vital member of the program committee, which lines up special presentations each month that draw

more than 100 in audience. "That gives us a visibility that we need," he says.

The library lists a staff of about 250 volunteers, Youngman says. "If we didn't have them, we wouldn't be able to keep our doors open."

Freeman lists as her active associations the Sun City Library, Sun City Historical Society, Sunshine Service Inc., Sun City Meals-on-Wheels, Sun Health Foundation, Sun Health Corp. and the Handi-Capables of Sun City.

"Yes, there are several," she says, laughing. "But I go for diversity; I don't play favorites."



Sun City's Hall Of Fame Certain To Include Jane Freeman

By Dick Kemp

She doesn't have a resumé listing civic contributions, though hers would make any community leader green with envy.

And when you ask her to review her volunteer efforts, often she stops to say:

"You really don't want to hear this, do you?"

Yet, without Jane Freeman, Sun City wouldn't be what it is today. That's a big statement, but one with which many would agree.

Friends at her residence, The Heritage Palmeras, call her *Mrs. Sun City.*

As Sun City prepares to light its 40th birthday cake, it will be the Sun Cities Historical Society, which Jane helped found, and *Jubilee: A 25-Year History of Sun City*, which she co-authored, that will provide invaluable background data.

A Volunteer Bureau volunteer

Appropriate to her views on volunteering, she was an early board member of the Sun Cities Volunteer Bureau (and is on its board once again).

She played a major role in bringing Glendale Community and Rio Salado colleges to Sun City. And, she was involved early in the Sun Cities Community Council, now the Northwest Valley Regional Community Council.

According to the council's director, Sylvia Cartsonis, "Jane Freeman was in charge of the paper drive which resulted in the Lions Community Services building. All in all, her volunteer efforts leave me breathless."

In the past 12 years, Jane has been most active in efforts for Sun Health, where she has been called

"the consummate volunteer and philanthropist."

"She was always an achiever," observes a friend.

Pre-Sun City days

Asking about pre-Sun City days, I learned that the Erie, Pa., native – born Jane Jones – earned a bachelor's degree from William and Mary, a master's from New York University and a doctorate in higher education from the University of Virginia.

After teaching marketing at the Richmond branch of William and Mary, she became Dean of Students at brand-new Rockland Community College in upstate New York.

"It was fun to start with 134 students and grow into several thousand," she says.

While at Rockland she met and married Leslie Freeman, a retired military man and school administrator.

After visiting Arizona and Florida in the summer, and

Colorado in the winter – "to make sure we experienced the worst weathers" – they moved to Sun City in 1970.

"The climate brought us"

"The climate brought us here," says Jane.

"For seven years we enjoyed retirement, including a lot of golf. When Les died in 1977, I realized I needed something to do."

One of many benefactors of that decision – although not the first – has been Sun Health. Jane is a firm supporter of the Sun Health Foundation.



ACTIVE COLLEGE DAYS – Riding was among the hobbies enjoyed by Jane Freeman in this 1940 college days scene.

OVER



GOODWILL EFFORTS – Jane Freeman's friends at The Heritage Palmeras, and Sun Health co-volunteers, include Alice Potter, left, and Jean Peschau, standing.

and served as president. Her personal motto: *"I'm doin' my givin' while I'm livin,' then I'm knowin' where it's goin'."*

She has been an active board member of the Sun Health Corporation, Boswell Memorial Hospital, Sun Health Research Institute and Sun Health Care Center. And a willing public speaker for Sun Health (and for her other involvements).

A wall full of awards

If she wanted to, Jane Freeman could mount a wall full of awards. Of what is she most proud?

"Something that gives me great pride and gratification is Sun Health's annual Conveniences Exhibit of services and devices for the physically impaired. I once broke an ankle, and realize what's involved in getting around and getting well."

Jane doesn't golf these days, but she knits for babies of nieces and nephews, and some for herself and friends. And she is an avid reader.

Her most passionate hobby, however, is travel to foreign countries where she often studies community programs for the handicapped and elderly.

"Iceland is my next stop, I hope," she smiles.

Serve in any role

One of her most endearing qualities is her willingness to serve in any capacity.

"Jane's assistance ranges from registering golfers at our tournaments and seatings for anniversary balls, to being president and serving on our boards,"



EXPLORING ARIZONA – After moving to Sun City in 1970, Jane and Leslie Freeman enjoyed Sedona (in 1975 photo), other Arizona sights and golf.

says Pamela Meyerhoffer, executive vice president of the Sun Health Foundation.

"It can truly be said of Jane that no job is too big or too small."

In 1990, when Jane received the statewide "12 Who Care" Hon Kachina award, its program noted:

"...Jane has cooked meals, baked cookies, written letters, paid bills, given gifts, and taken the time to listen to the needs of those around her.

"In fact, Jane asks nothing of a volunteer that she wouldn't tackle herself. Before the recent opening of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's new home, Jane arrived, mop in hand, to make sure the new facility was gleaming."

(Jane continues to live by example. For 18 years she has served as the Sunday delivery chairperson for the Meals on Wheels program.)

Other honors, awards

Other honors include awards by the *Daily News-Sun*, the Arizona Governor's office, Easter Seals, Sunridge Community Service, National Society of Fund-raising Executives and Valley National Bank.

As she looks back on Sun City's 40 years, and early sociologists' predictions of disaster for age-restricted communities, Jane says:

"The Sun City concept can't be too bad. We're copied all over America. If people stay active, they live longer."

Future of volunteering?

And what of the future of volunteering?

"Depression people knew others needed help, and could accept help themselves. Then came the 'me' generation.

"But I'm optimistic about children now in elementary and secondary schools. Many curriculums include community service requirements. I think we'll be O.K."

As we concluded the interview, I thanked Jane and thought:

"And Jane Freeman should be the textbook standard for the exemplary volunteer."

JANUARY 3-9, 2001

A Name to Know

A resident of Sun City for three decades, **Jane Freeman** helped to write the book on Del Webb's first retirement community.



The co-author of "Jubilee," a history of Sun City during its first 25 years, Ms. Freeman began her volunteer work for Sun City

in 1977, giving her time to the Volunteer Placement Bureau, the Northwest Valley Community Council and Meals on Wheels.

However, it is not only her work in "The City of Volunteers" that is worth mentioning.

Her educational achievements are quite noteworthy as well. Ms. Freeman received her bachelor's degree in education from the College of William and Mary, her master's in marketing and economics from New York University and her Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Virginia.

Before moving to the Valley of the Sun, Ms. Freeman served as dean of students at Rockland Community College.

Ms. Freeman said she began volunteering in Sun City because she had always worked and she wanted to be busy.

Currently Ms. Freeman volunteers for Sun Health, working on both the corporation and foundation boards and for several committees. She is in her 20th year with Meals on Wheels and serves as president of the Sun City Community Fund/United Way. She also serves on the Volunteer Placement Bureau's board.

Jane Freeman Receives Inspiration Award

Jane Freeman received the Inspiration Award at Sun Health Foundation's Annual Meeting on September 28th of this year. The award was created to honor special donors who demonstrate continuous support of the foundation and various Sun Health services through their own gifts and by encouraging and inspiring others to join them in Sun Health support.

"My volunteer work at Sun Health has enriched me in so many ways, and I have truly learned more than I have given," Jane simply states. Often called the "First Lady of Sun City" because of her community activism, Jane has been volunteering for Sun Health for more than 20 years. She has been and remains solidly committed to improving healthcare for thousands of residents in the west Valley.

Born and raised on the East Coast, Jane spent much of her career in higher education. Since moving from New York where she served as Dean of Students at the Rockland Community College for the State University of New York, she has not slowed down a bit. An active Sun Health Foundation board member since 1986, Jane's volunteer efforts continue to reflect her dedication and enthusiasm for Sun Health. "Being retired has been, and still is, the greatest time of my life. I have time to enjoy and experience travel to far away places as well as areas closer to home. But each year, I enjoy even more the opportunity to volunteer," she says. After the 30 hours of volunteering each week at Sun Health, she goes to work for the board of directors for the Sun City Historical Society and serves as President of the Sun City Community Fund. She also coordinates the Sunday drivers for Sun City/Youngtown Meals on Wheels.

Jane Freeman's dedication to improving health care available to the west Valley is not only demonstrated by her volunteer efforts but by her financial commitment, too. "In a modest way, I have been able to give financial support to Sun Health and urge others to do the same. My motto is 'I'm doin' my givin' while I'm livin', so I'm knowin' where it's goin'," she shares with a grin.

Supporting Sun Health through a Charitable Gift Annuity is one way Jane has planned for herself and Sun Health. With a gift annuity, she found a way to put her money to work while enjoying an income for life.

Knowing that her support is going to help others and that it is in good hands makes her feel secure about her investment and the future of Sun Health. Jane continues, "If you give, you too will have the satisfaction of knowing that the outstanding work done by Sun Health in providing health care will be carried on. I am so proud that our very own Boswell Memorial Hospital was named as one of the top 100 heart hospitals in the country and it was the only Arizona hospital to make the list!" She is referring to the report published in the July 2 edition of *Modern Healthcare*, a leading healthcare industry publication.

Sun Health Foundation is proud of you too, Jane! You continue to be an inspiration to us as a philanthropist, volunteer, mentor, and friend!

If you would like more information about a Sun Health Foundation Charitable Gift Annuity, please call the Planned Gifts office at 623/876-5734.

Sun Health Foundation Trustee, Jane Freeman.



FREEMAN, JANE

June 11, 2003

A Name to Know

Jane Freeman of Sun City has become the newest member of the Valley of the Sun United Way Foundation Board of Directors.

Ms. Freeman has been a resident of Sun City for more than 30 years and is the founder of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.



For the past 24 year, she has volunteered every Sunday with Meals on Wheels.

She is a past president of the Sun City Community Fund/Valley of the Sun United Way and the Sun Health Foundation.

"I love the lifestyle in Sun City, where I can be as active or relaxed as I choose to be," she said.

She also believes everyone has an obligation to make a difference in the community.

"We are our brothers' keepers, and we need to support them," she said. "This is our defining challenge and provides us a way to leave our legacy in more ways than one."

FREEMAN, JANE

VF

PERSONALITIES

DAILY NEWS-SUN

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2003

Long-time resident takes seat on United Way board

STAFF REPORT

A 30-year Sun City resident has accepted a position on the Valley of the Sun United Way Foundation's board of directors, and hopes to help the organization achieve its mission.

Jane Freeman, who also founded the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, has spent Sundays helping Meals on Wheels for the last 24 years.

She is a past president of the Sun City Community Fund/Valley of the Sun United Way, and past president of the Sun Health Foundation.

She now will use her familiarity with the community and its needs in her role on the Valley of the Sun United Way Foundation board.

"I am excited about this new challenge and helping address the health and human service needs of our community," Freeman stated in a press release from Valley of the Sun United Way. "It's an honor to be part of an organization that is so committed to ensuring that vital programs are available



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sun City resident Jane Freeman, who has joined the Valley of the Sun United Way Foundation's board of directors, is flanked by Kathy Munro, left, foundation board president, and Paul Luna, Valley of the Sun United Way president.

for our Sun City neighbors now and far into the future."

Valley of the Sun United Way's mission is to improve

lives by using the power of the community, officials said.

The foundation exists to support this mission by

providing perpetual support of health and human services.

Freeman was born a twin

in Erie, Pa., and has a doctorate degree in education from the University of Virginia. She was the dean of students at Rockland Community College in New York and moved to Sun City with her husband, Leslie, in 1970.

"It is important that we look beyond our center," she said. "We are our brothers' keepers and we need to support them. This is our defining challenge and provides us a way to leave our legacy in more ways than one."

Sun City Community Fund/Valley of the Sun United Way aids Sun City residents through 14 programs at seven non-profit organizations in the area.

Although the annual United Way/Sun City Community Fund campaign significantly impacts immediate needs, the Valley of the Sun United Way Foundation provides long-term support and flexibility to meet changing needs well into the future.

Valley of the Sun United Way is almost 80 years old and works through nearly 500 programs.

● The "First Lady of Sun City" has garnered another award.

Jane Freeman, Ed.D., a Sun Health volunteer for more than 20 years, has been recognized as Trustee of the Year by the **Arizona Association of Homes and Housing for the Aging**.

The award is presented to a person who has served with distinction on the board of an AzAHA-member organization and demonstrated a contribution of time and effort to the betterment of the community and its residents. Freeman was selected for her contributions to Sun Health Care Center.

Freeman has been volunteering since her husband's death in 1977 and has been involved every weekday for more than

25 years in at least one of her volunteer projects.

Freeman also is the recipient of the **2003 Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award** presented by **Interfaith Community Care**.

The Daily News-Sun welcomes readers' submissions for Your Turn. Submit items to Katy O'Grady at the Daily News-Sun, 10102 Santa Fe Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351. For information about the column, call O'Grady at 876-2514 or e-mail her at kogrady@aztrib.com.

MONDAY, SEPT. 22, 2003

Sun Valley Lodge recognizes senior leaders

STAFF REPORT

With May being Older Americans Month, and Sun City having more than its share of outstanding individuals, Sun Valley Lodge decided to honor the cream of the crop Thursday.

The lodge selected four individuals to be honored as Outstanding Older Americans during an awards breakfast featuring Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio.

Tireless volunteer **Jane Freeman**, often called the First Lady of Sun City, and professional athlete **William "Bill" Emmerton**, author of "Run for Your Life," were recognized as the top Outstanding Older Americans for their service. **Ken Lipp**, a 98-year-old who founded one of the community's Lions clubs, and **Dorothy Mills**, long-time manager of Sun Valley Lodge's Thrift Store, also were honored.

Freeman's recognition

came for her service since retiring as a dean of students. The 84-year-old has served on several Sun Health boards and committees, and has volunteered with Sun City/Youngtown Meals on Wheels and the Sun City Community Fund/Valley of the Sun United Way. She also serves on Valley of the Sun United Way Foundation's board of directors.

Freeman also helped found the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and Sun City Library. In 1992, she originated the Convenience Fair featuring goods and services for those facing physical or visual challenges.

Serena Sorensen, who nominated Freeman, stated, "She began volunteering in 1977 and for more than 25 years has been involved each day of the week in at least one of her numerous volunteer projects — most of which she has served in leadership capacities. She continues to volunteer approximately 30

hours per week."

Emmerton, 84, was recognized for his service prior to retirement.

"He is the undisputed monarch of ultra distance marathon running," said his nominator, Larry Daniels. "What began at 18 years of age as a daily exercise to improve his poor physical condition exploded into a running career, which attracted worldwide attention."

Emmerton, who immigrated to the states in 1964 from Australia, won 150 amateur long-distance running championships and represented Australia in international competition. He has run 100 miles non-stop in less than 18 hours, and earned world's record on the 12-mile run on a track and the longest run in one hour.

According to Daniels, Emmerton has clocked 138,000 documented miles in his life, enough to circle the Earth five times. He and his

late wife, Norma, also organized several charity runs throughout America.

Emmerton's story has inspired others to maintain their health through physical fitness, Daniels stated.

Mills, 84, was nominated by Toni Fisher for overseeing the thrift store's expansion. Mills began managing the store 14 years ago and has raised contributions for the expansion, as well as quadrupled sales to nearly \$50,000 annually.

"She trains her volunteer staff in sound customer service, and she receives accolades from the auditor every year," Fisher stated.

Lipp, a former insurance company regional manager, was nominated by John Bliss for "devoting his life to helping less fortunate people" since retiring to Sun City in 1970.

Lipp helped form a new Lions club, the Mid-Week Lions, in 1972, and has twice received The Melvin Jones



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Nominees for Sun Valley Lodge's Older American Awards are Jane Freedman, left, Bill Emmerton, Dorothy Mills and Ken Lipp.

Fellowship, which is the Lions' highest honor. He also has held all offices in the club.

Lipp also helped create the Arizona Library for the Blind, and has championed the Recreational Reading for the

Blind Foundation.

"Today, at 98, he is the one that all club members would like to emulate," Bliss said. "He has also been a pillar of his church and has helped implement a lot of the fellowship programs there."

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jane FREEMAN

Interviewed by Beverly Brown August 5, 2007

Transcribed by Belva McIntosh August 30, 2007

Today is August 5, 2007. I am Beverly Brown, and I am interviewing Jane Freeman in her home for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

BROWN: Jane, if you would state your name, then tell us a little about yourself and how you came to Sun City.

FREEMAN: My name is Jane Freeman. Before we came to Sun City I was born and raised in Erie, Pennsylvania I still have a twin brother living back there Education wise - after high school I went to college. I came through with degrees in bachelors and masters and a doctorate at the University of Virginia From there I went to New York State took a position up there and ended up at a brand new community college. At that time it was called Director of Student Personnel, but it was ultimately changed to Dean of Students. I was there about ten years.

My husband and I decided it was time to retire. He got to checking his income and he decided he would get more money retired than he was working. So we started looking around at retirement areas in Florida, Colorado. In the meantime his sister had moved to Sun City so we thought we would come and see what that was all about. We decided we didn't want to live with all those old people but we came back the next year and it looked pretty good so we did sign up for a house. We moved out here in 1970. The first few years, like everybody else we were involved with a lot of golf and activities at the recreation centers, primarily in silver craft and lapidary. Then my husband died in 1977, not too long after we moved here. That is when I became involved in community volunteer work.

BROWN: So what did you start with? What was the first thing you did - first volunteer activity?

FREEMAN: I don't know what the first thing was but I know I became involved with Meals on Wheels, and I am now in my twenty seventh year for that. But in the early '80's the Daily News Sun and the Sun City Independent formed what they called a press council. It was composed of about ten or twelve people in Sun City, sort of an ombudsman sounding board.

At one of the meetings it came up that we didn't have a city hall, we didn't have a chamber of commerce, there was no place of central information where people could go. I said, "We've got an anniversary coming up," that was about in 1982 or '83. Nobody has got any history, nobody has collected anything. Somebody said why don't you write one and I said oh sure, like I am an author. But Glenn Sandburg was on the committee and he had done some writing and was doing a newspaper column, so I just facetiously said well, Glenn, how about it, and he said, sure let's do it. Fools walk in where angels fear to tread. We took on the 25 year history which turned out to be a book called Jubilee.

I will say the community was wonderful in its support. We put out a call for help and people started sending in all kinds of information and people volunteered to do preliminary work on various chapters and collecting information for us. We couldn't have done it without them. We were working out of our homes, then Bert Freireich, who was then the owner and publisher of the Daily News Sun, had a small room that he turned over to us. So at least we had someplace where we could keep all this information. That was a big help. We just gradually worked - it took us a good 2 to 2 ½ years to pull everything together.

DEVCO, which is the Del E. Webb Development Company, was a subsidiary of the Webb Corporation, and DEVCO as we call it, was what was building Sun City. They gave us a lot of information and helped us a great deal, particularly when it came to copyrights and that sort of thing. They did a lot of the legal work for us, which was a big help. Later, when we bought our house, they helped us go through the deeds and all that legal work. Along the line they had a change of administration at DEVCO and John Meeker resigned, and Jerry Svendsen, who was a PR man, resigned.

BROWN: What year would that have been?

FREEMAN: I don't remember the exact year but it was in the '80's. The orders came down from the home office to clean out all the records. I just happened to be in the office the day after that came out and the secretary was packing everything in the boxes. I said, what are you doing with it and she said we are throwing it out. I said, can we have it and so that is how we got so many photographs, all kinds of records, newsletters, model home information, boxes and boxes and boxes of it. If I hadn't been there we would have lost it. That is really the bulk of our collection, even today.

BROWN: So that is how you started the Historical Society?

FREEMAN: So after Jubilee was published, which came out - we had it available for sale Thanksgiving 1984 at the big fair that they have at Sundial. But going back to Jubilee. We didn't have any money to print it and we had to seek some funding. So we went to DEVCO and they said yes they would do it, but they wanted to have editorial rights and take it over and we said no, because they would be making it a marketing tool. We said no we would look elsewhere. That is when the Boswell Foundation stepped in and gave us underwriting for the entire cost and an interest free loan and I think it was about ten days after the book went on sale that we were able to repay the loan. The Boswell Foundation, even to this day, is very supportive of the Historical Society and Boswell was very, very pleasant to work with. I think we had about 10,000 copies printed and at that time it cost us \$3.65 a copy to print and we sold it for \$5.00 because we wanted to make it available and people could afford it. But part of the reduced cost was we had to do all the paste up work because we didn't have computers in those days. The printing company would do it or we could do it. So Glenn and I had a good education for preparing a book for printing. But it was fun and we learned a lot.

Here we had all these boxes of information and Bert Friereich needed his office and Dr. Crease who had a lot of medical offices, which is now Arizona Medical Clinic, had a small office which he made available to us at no cost, which was a life saver. We could keep everything down there

and we had a phone and we had a couple of people who were helping its kind of pull things together. Then we thought - what are we going to do with all this? Some said let's form a historical society. Of course I didn't know the first thing about forming a historical society and didn't even know where to go for help but we managed it. We had an organizational meeting on the 14th of November 1986. We met at Sundowner Restaurant, which is now a Chinese restaurant there at 107th and Grand Ave. We met in what was called their Marinette Room; of course Marinette being the town which is now Sun City. That was the beginning - I was kind of initially the first president. Officially Glenn Sandberg was the first president after we had gotten organized. We got our articles of incorporation, and again DEVCO people helped us go through the legalities of that. That was a big help. They have been very supportive.

I can't remember the exact date when the house came on the market - must have been late '88 or early '89. The very first model home at 10801 Oakmont Drive came on the market for sale. We thought that's it but who had \$41,000 to buy it? So again we put the call out and again Boswell Foundation came through. The Del Webb Foundation came through and I think DEVCO gave us \$5,000. And of course community support and some of the earliest founders put in some money and we were able to buy it. It is the smallest house of the first five models and it was called the Kentworth, 858 square feet, and it had a storage and carport with 306 square feet. The basic cost was \$8500. Now if you wanted air conditioning, that was \$600 more. The fact that it was on the golf course there was a \$1250 golf course fee you had to pay. It had a living room, two bedrooms, kitchen, and a bath and attached car port and a storage room.

The people who lived there, the Mac Donald's occupied it from 1962 to 1984. They were not the first owners. The first owner was a gentleman in Phoenix, we don't know his name but he never lived there. I guess he bought it as an investment and then the MacDonald's lived there. In 1984 Jean Painter bought the house and she had a dress shop here in Sun City. She bought it as an investment and rental property. In 1988 she put it on the market for sale and that is when we stepped in. That is how we happened to get the house. It has been a great location. It is right next to the recreation center, which was the first recreation center, and it has been fun building it up. We got the house - we didn't have any files or desks, it was empty. The MacDonald's had put an addition on the back which included a third bedroom, a full bath and an Arizona room. So when we bought it we tore out the bath and just opened that whole back area because we wanted it as a work area. Again DEVCO came through. We could go to their warehouse and pick out files that they weren't using and desks. It was a hodgepodge. Nothing matched but it served the purpose at that particular time. It looked like a hodgepodge. It has just been this past year that we have really spruced up and gotten things in that match and it looks very professional.

The society has had three publications. One was Jubilee, the 25 year history; then Emil Fischer did The Churches of Sun City which was pen and ink sketches of all the churches. He had been Dean of Architecture in one of the universities. They were beautifully done. And of course the third publication was Sun City West 25 Year History. So we have three copyrighted publications. They are now working on, not SCAHS particularly, but a group is working on the 50 year history. They have agreed to have SCAHS have the copyright so that will give us four copyright publications.

We are still sorting material that we got from DEVCO all those years ago, pictures, model home

information. Strangely enough they never dated anything. So we have all this printed information, model home information, price information, no dates on any of it. So this has been driving us crazy trying to figure out was it here, was it there. Sometimes we just have to estimate and guess. We had to identify all of the pictures and put them in archival safe folders.

We are maintaining what we call the vertical file. This is newspaper clippings that we transfer to archival acid-free paper and that covers everything that people might want to know about Sun City and Sun City West. We do limit it to those two areas.

BROWN: How did you decide to include Sun City West in the first place?

FREEMAN: Well, it was part of the DEVCO operation and it was a sister community. Now when Sun City Grand came into being we said no. Technically, that is in Surprise anyway. But they are now starting their own Historical Society. I wish we had known it sooner because we discarded a lot of Grand information which they would have loved to have had we only known.

So the work goes on. People still bring in things and if we can use them we certainly take them. We have tried to restore the house back to the way it was as a model, particularly in the living room, with the furniture and the displays. We are still working on it. We did add what we now call the Marinette room, which is what was left of the original construction shed and sales office. We call it the Marinette Room because in it we have pictures and photographs of the Marinette community which became Sun City. It was a cotton farming community at that time. In fact when Sun City was starting there was still a little portion of it which would be at approximately 105th and Grand Avenue. There were still a few buildings standing, but that quickly went. We are still collecting history. We kind of use as our motto, today is tomorrow's history. If we don't collect it now we don't have it.

BROWN: Do you have a lot of visitors to the Historical Society?

FREEMAN: On the days we are open - some days we won't have any, some days we will have fourteen. We never know. We do have quite a few small groups that want to come in. Surprisingly enough we have quite a few from France, England, Japan, we probably have more from Japan than anywhere. But it is interesting when the foreign groups come in. To them this is an entirely new concept, and they don't believe it works. They are impressed with the volunteering that goes on. It is interesting when those groups come in.

We also have quite a few graduate students coming in doing research on retirement communities, sociological aspects, that sort of thing. We have the University of Minnesota who is publishing a book, University of Michigan, University of Maryland. We have had two or three foreign scholars doing research and it is fun to work with them. We try to help them as much as we can. Once in a while, which is really fun, we get a high school student doing a term paper. They are just real excited you know. It is fun to work with the younger groups. The graduate students you can kind of leave on their own because they know what they want and what they are doing.

BROWN: Well, let's go back to when you first moved to Sun City. Tell me what it was like when you first moved here.

FREEMAN: We came in '70. There were still a lot of what we called pioneers left. They were the people who moved here in 1960 and 1961. They were a lifesaver when it came to getting information for our history. They had a pioneer club and we worked very closely with them. It was a considerably much smaller community. When we moved that had just jumped Grand Avenue, as they say. They had moved from the south to the north of Grand Avenue. It was still a very friendly, small community. It seemed like everybody knew everybody. The social groups were a lot of fun. They had a lot of barbeques and cookouts. It was - I don't want to call it a country town, but it was a village type. Everybody was with everybody else. The neighborhoods had parties and backyard cookouts. And of course as it grew the houses became larger and more opulent. People came in with higher incomes demanding more. It was gradually becoming more of a big town. But it still, I think, even to this day, it still has that hometown feeling and that hometown kind of touch. At that point we felt perfectly safe. We never locked the doors. We would leave the patio door open all night long and feel perfectly safe. I think it is still a fairly safe, secure community, but we are having more incidents where you have to be more careful, unfortunately.

BROWN: Do you have a feel for where the people came from?

FREEMAN: They came from all over. Probably the majority - the two biggest states, of course Phoenix, were California and Illinois. When it opened in 1960 they had a tremendous advertising campaign, the Webb Corporation, in the Saturday Evening Post and all the big magazines and they really sold. That first weekend, I don't know how many thousands of people they had for opening day. It was phenomenal. The sociologists said it would never work. I think the next year they held their convention out here to see why it was working.

BROWN: Did they ever decide why it worked?

FREEMAN: Well, it was a homogeneous grouping, we had interests; we could talk the same language; although we missed the grandchildren and the little children, but on the other hand we didn't. It was wonderful when they visited and we went back home to see them. I think it was the homogeneous grouping. We all just kind of blended in and we belonged to each other. If you needed any help there was always someone there to help you.

And that is another nice thing to this day that is still true. The various organizations began developing. Community service groups started to develop; Sunshine Service which provides medical equipment at no charge as long as you are a resident. The Interfaith Community Services came into being. The SCAT, local transportation came into being; all because of volunteer efforts.

BROWN: So it wasn't something that DEVCO said, you will do this.

FREEMAN: No. The people did it themselves. As I say, the Sunshine Services, Interfaith Services, SCAT and then we had an information and referral service; of course the Home Owners Association and the Taxpayers Association. No, DEVCO never dictated as to what it should be. Del Webb is said to have made the comment, I can build you a city, but the people make the community. And that is so true. And even to this day if there is a need the people will

step in and see that it is met. So we haven't lost that closeness yet.

BROWN: You were very active with the hospital?

FREEMAN: I did a lot of volunteer work with the hospital, primarily with the Sun City Foundation, but I also served on the Boswell Board and the corporate board. I served as secretary of the corporate board for several years.

BROWN: What is the Sun City Foundation?

FREEMAN: The Sun City Foundation - that is the fund raising arm, where they raise the money for the additions and the wings and the equipment and everything. I was on that board for about fifteen years. It gets to a point where it is time to retire and bring in some new blood; and particularly the area that was expanding. I said we have got to get people on the board not from Sun City but the outlying areas; Litchfield Park, Wickenburg, bringing them in because that is where the people are living. But I have kind of retired from Sun Health. It is time for younger blood. But I enjoyed it and I learned a lot.

BROWN: Yes, because you were in education, right? And this was a medical deal.

FREEMAN: Yeah. But it was fun and I enjoy volunteer work because you feel like you are doing something for somebody. Particularly Meals on Wheels, the people are just so grateful and so glad to see you.

BROWN: What was the relationship between Sun City and Youngtown early on? Or was there any?

FREEMAN: I don't know that you would call it a relationship. When Sun City first opened I understand that the people in Youngtown could use the recreation center. But as Sun City became larger they had to withdraw that. But there has always been a good relationship as far as I can understand.

Sometime back one of the Youngtown residents, Lucille Rutherford, came to me and said we want to start a Historical Society. So I worked with Lucille in helping her get the Youngtown society set up. It is a very small group but they are doing a great job. They are still in there pitching. Every now and then we also schedule a meeting with the Sunnyslope Historical Society, Glendale Historical Society, Peoria Historical Society. We get together and swap ideas and we usually try to bring in a speaker who can give us new insights. I want to get together again this fall. We haven't done it in about a year. It is fun to see what the other groups are doing too.

BROWN: So the Sun City Grand people who wanted to start their Historical Society, did they come to you?

FREEMAN: Well, she called me and she wants to come in some time this fall and see what we have done and I said I want to get you started with a professional. So I told them the person to

contact at the Arizona Historical Society, Tempe Branch. I said they can get you set up as it should be set up. We just set up - I was not a trained archivist. I didn't know how to catalog. I didn't know how to accession things. I didn't know how to keep the records. We just kind of bumbled our way through. I did go to workshops and meetings and conferences and tried to learn as much as I could, but it's not professional. Right now we are trying to find somebody to come in and spend a whole year. It won't be cheap. But to get everything catalogued and what we call accessioned, everything in the computers so we know what we got and where it came from. But I said starting out, start out right. But by all means come and see us and we will show you what we have got and give some ideas. I gave her name to the Arizona Historical Society contact. So they were going to get together and get started. We will certainly help them in any way we can.

BROWN: Was it your idea to start this oral history project?

FREEMAN: Well yes. We were looking around. And that's interesting. At our organizational meeting our main speaker was Doctor Stoll, Noel J. Stoll, ASU. He was chairman of the Department of State and Local History. He mentioned something about oral history. I had never heard of oral history so we pursued that. But he had a student, a graduate student who was finishing her master's degree and had hopes of going on for her doctorate. He said let me see if she would be interested in doing an oral history. That was Melanie Sturgeon who is now the State Archivist. She did our original oral histories. Now she was not a trained interviewer but she did a good job with her background. She lived in Mesa. She commuted to Sun City. She didn't charge us anything. We insisted that we pay gasoline and her materials. But she said she couldn't take a salary as a graduate intern type student.

BROWN: What was her degree going to be in?

FREEMAN: In history and museum type sort of work. She continued right on through her doctorate degree with these oral histories and as a result we became quite friendly. How she did it I don't know. Shortly after she started - she had I think four or five children —and her husband left her -just left her and walked out; had nothing to do with them, no support. Here she was going to school, putting kids through school, trying to work full time. I don't know how she did it, but she did it, and she did a good job. Her kids all graduated from college and are doing fine. And as I said she is now the State Archivist.

BROWN: So she interviewed the pioneers.

FREEMAN: She did a lot of the pioneers and original residents. She really got us started in the oral history.

When we first moved here the houses were very modest and as I indicated they got bigger and bigger and more expensive. Now, today, the people coming in and buying the houses are literally gutting them and remodeling them, changing the exterior as well as the interior, enlarging so you don't even recognize the original home as it was built. It is interesting that the people coming in are doing that.

BROWN: That means that the homes were well built in the first place.

FREEMAN: The homes were very well built in the first place. They were of cement block construction. In the 70's there was a strike with the cement block layers and that is when they went to some kind of lumber, I don't know what they call it, pressed board or something like that. But we could still get our choice of cinder block at that time but the house would be later getting started. But the strike was settled and we held out for cinder block because it made great insulation. But then they stopped using that. But they are - the early houses were very well built. Now later on they put up the whole side at one time.

BROWN: It was more like a tract house?

FREEMAN: Yes. They had certain models and they would put up this wall and they would put up that wall.

BROWN: So the baby boomers are moving into Sun City now?

FREEMAN: Yes. And again they say the volunteers aren't like they used to be, but many of these people are still working.

BROWN: So it is a little early to judge whether they are going to volunteer like your generation.

FREEMAN: If you are working during the week, five days a week, you aren't going to take your two days off to volunteer. Although we do have some in Meals on Wheels who work five days a week and volunteer one day a week. So there are some that will do it. But I have found that if you are looking for a volunteer, they may not volunteer, but if you ask them, more often than not they will say yes. So we have learned to ask people if they would help us. And by the way, the Society can always use volunteers. But it is interesting how the housing is changing.

One thing that has changed in the housing picture, in the 80's early 90's, of course Sun Valley Lodge was an early, kind of combination of retirement and mainly nursing home care. Then in the mid 80's Royal Oaks built and that was a very large apartment complex.

BROWN: Now was that part of DEVCO?

FREEMAN: No, that was a separate operation.

BROWN: But it is in Sun City isn't it?

FREEMAN: It is in Sun City and that was the first big retirement apartment complex.

BROWN: So were they given the land?

FREEMAN: No, they had to buy it. The group had to buy it. It was originally sponsored by the Faith Presbyterian Church, a group of people from the Faith Church got it started, raised the money, bought the land and it is a very large retirement complex. It has since grown - they have a complete nursing home, assisted living, and Alzheimer's unit. It is a buy-in. You get lifetime care. Since then, I don't know how many retirement centers we have. Some are just strictly

independent living, others have the combination of nursing home care and home care, but it is a big business now.

Another aspect as far as our health care, which I think we have a marvelous health care system in the hospitals. We have a lot of home care agencies who will come in on an hourly basis and give you help. We have wonderful medical and health facilities. I think that is one of the reasons we live so much longer. Where I am living we have three people who are going to be 101 or 102 this year. I am one of the younger ones. They call me the kid and I think the whole life style you do live longer.

BROWN: So people have moved when they couldn't take care of their home then they moved to...

FREEMAN: We have transportation; all kinds of activities are planned for us, field trips, programs in the house.

BROWN: So do you think this industry grew up around Sun City because of Sun City and because of the need?

FREEMAN: I think it was because of the need. As people got older, as in my case, I had a 1400-1500 square foot house. My husband died in '77. I certainly didn't need three bedrooms, a living room, a dining room, Arizona room and a kitchen. I didn't need that much space. Just the upkeep - and I had a grass lawn. You reach the point where it is too much. In the case where the husband is living he usually gets infirm sooner than the wife unfortunately, and they will move in as a couple. Then he will be assured she will be taken care of if anything should happen to him or maybe they both need the help. I think that with the aging population it was one of the needs and again it was met. Where we used to only have Sun Valley Lodge, golly how many do we have now.

BROWN: Can you tell me a little about the rec centers?

FREEMAN: When we came in '70 they had what is now called Oakmont Recreation Center and Fairway and Mountain View. Those were the three rec centers. And when we moved here Lakeview Recreation Center had been finished because it became part of the model home display. That was their big selling point. Initially it was a round circle, very spectacular with a round swimming pool in the middle, on the lake, very picturesque. That was the biggest, I mean that was state of the art. And since then over the years Sundial Recreation center was built and then Bell Recreation Center, which is the largest by far. Then the people north of Bell said well, you promised us a recreation center; they had run out of money but they did build Marinette which is a small recreation center. But there again every thing is there that you can imagine. If it isn't at one it is at the other. Woodworking, metal craft working, all kinds of craft shops, weaving, stained glass, silver, lapidary, art, racquet ball, hand ball, of course the swimming pools. And when you buy a house in Sun City you are required to become a member of the recreation centers. That entitles you to the use of any of the recreation centers. It is a fee and of course it is the fee that keeps the recreation centers going; because it is an expensive operation. And that includes seven golf courses. It is a golf haven. That has attracted a lot of the residents.

Particularly the men, they want to play golf all year round. They don't want to get out and shovel the snow in the winter. That is one thing that attracted my husband when we came out. So the rec centers really are a very important part of the life style. The women can do craft work; they have sewing, coffee klatches, bridge games and all kinds of sporting events, bocce ball, lawn bowling. We have more lawn bowlers here I think than in England.

BROWN: And probably if they don't have what you want you could start your own club.

FREEMAN: Absolutely and they do. When computers first came in we didn't have computer clubs but now they are the largest clubs in the rec centers. They have 2-3 hundred members. And of course it keeps changing because new computers keep coming on the market all the time. Churches have played a very important part. I think we have some of the most beautiful churches I have seen in my life, architecturally speaking. Every denomination is covered. We have the temples, the Catholic Church, Christian Science, any of the denomination. They are well attended. It may be that as we get older we get a little closer to where we might need some help. But they are important and they too provide activities other than the usual Sunday church service. They have activities during the week for their members. They have outings, parties, study sessions. But the physical churches are beautiful.

BROWN: Now they have grocery stores and things - was that part of the plan to make this a total community with grocery stores and drug stores?

FREEMAN: When it opened in 1960 nobody lived here. The Grand Avenue Shopping Center had a Safeway grocery store. Nobody was living here but they had a grocery store and a gas station. Again that was part of the attraction because all of the facilities were advertised, that there would be a recreation center and a golf course. They were up and ready to use, all the equipment, the golf courses playable, the grocery store available, of course the people in the outlying areas could use the grocery store. But since then, the community was planned with shopping centers in strategic locations as Sun City developed. Where the Fry's shopping center is now located at 107th and Grand Avenue was originally King's Inn which was a motel and they had what they called vacation apartments where people coming to visit Sun City could stay for a few days. They had a swimming pool, a wonderful dining room. People were lined up Friday night for this fish fry waiting to get in. Then the land was sold to a shopping chain outside of Utah and they tore down all the units with the promise that they would keep the King's inn, but within a year the King's Inn was demolished too. It was a shame because it really was a part of the history. When they started Sun City had no hotel. Visitors coming in had no place to stay. But eventually a couple of motels opened up on 111th and Grand Avenue for visitors coming through. But we hated to see that King's Inn go because it was part of the community. But where Safeway store was located, gradually other stores came in. We had a variety store. We had a drug store, a clothing store, furniture.

BROWN: Was this coordinated through DEVCO to make sure there was a variety?

FREEMAN: Yes, they sponsored the shopping centers until they got started. The same with the recreation centers, they subsidized the recreation centers until the residents could take them over and run them. So they were very good at subsidizing a lot at the beginning to make sure it would

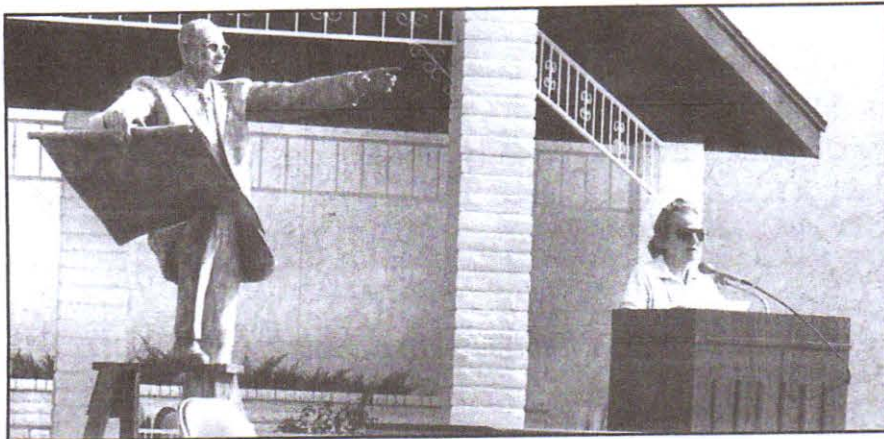
work. They really were behind it and it was probably because of their support that the community thrived. People felt free to go to them. If something was wrong with their house they were right up there at that DEVCO office and they had somebody out there checking it out.

BROWN: It wasn't Del Webb himself though? FREEMAN: No, but people think it was.

BROWN: Jane, thank you very much for sharing your stories. Do you have anything else you would like to add?

FREEMAN: No, but it took me back a way, reminiscing; it was kind of fun.

BROWN: Well, thank you very much.



Jane Freeman, one of the founding members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, noted historian and the driving force behind the purchase of the home that now houses the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum -- and the creation of the museum itself -- passed away May 17. The museum will honor Jane at its annual meeting Nov. 6 at the Heritage Palmeras in Sun City.



A salute to Sun City's First Lady

Friends, co-workers share memories of Jane Freeman

Throughout Sun City's 53-year history, there have been many who have gone above and beyond the call of duty when it came time to giving back to the community.

There have been few, if any, whose contributions will ever equal those made by Jane Freeman.

Referred to by many as "The First Lady of Sun City," Jane Freeman passed away May 17 in Sun City.

As one of the founders of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society -- operators of the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum -- Jane was one of the first to appreciate the role Sun City played in changing the way Americans viewed retirement. Pre-

serving Sun City's history became an obsession for Jane, and thanks to her efforts, the community's past is well preserved for future generations.

The SCAHS will pay tribute to Ms. Freeman at its annual meeting planned for 1 p.m. Nov. 6 at the Heritage Palmeras, 10101 W. Palmeras Drive, Sun City.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

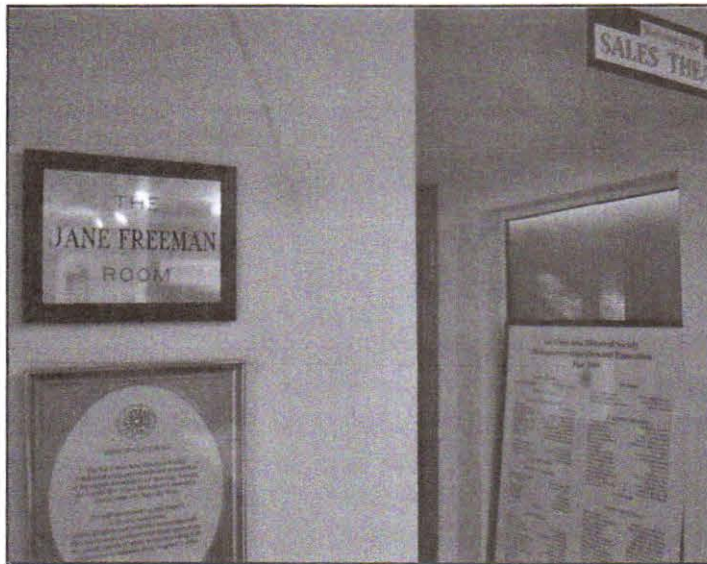
Other than a room named in her honor at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, there are few monuments that recognize her contribution to

Sun City. Yet, her work, her passion and her love for Sun City can be seen and felt throughout the entire community.

Jane moved to Sun City in 1970 and quickly embraced the lifestyle -- and volunteer spirit -- that was already prevalent in Del Webb's "experiment" of a community. Few knew at the time that Jane would not only perpetuate that spirit, but take it to a level few would ever match.

One of the first to recognize the significance of Sun City's title as the nation's first active adult retirement community, in 1985 Jane spearheaded the first in-depth history of the community. The result was "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary

**By Bret McKeand
and P. Atwood Fenner**



As the community's most noted historian, Jane was often called upon to emcee popular community events, such as the annual Ring the Bell Ceremony held on the Fourth of July (opposite page). The museum's sales theater is dedicated to Jane (above). She is also listed on a plaque honoring the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's founding members (right).



of Sun City,” a book co-written by Glenn Sanberg and released in time for the community’s silver anniversary celebration. The book is still popular among history buffs and a popular item at the museum.

Jane earned the title of “Dumpster Diving Diva” around this same time when she climbed into a large trash bin to rescue old Sun City photographs, brochures and other memorabilia discarded by the Del Webb Development Company after it closed its Sun City office and shifted its focus on the newly created community of Sun City West.

Jane’s efforts saved over 3,000 historic photographs dating back to the very beginning of Sun City. Those photographs and archives served as the foundation for the beginning of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, an organization Jane helped create and operate.

Those photographs today are housed in the Del Webb Sun Cities

Museum, which is located in one of the very first model homes ever constructed in Sun City. The home became available in 1989, and it was Jane who convinced James Boswell II -- Del Webb’s early partner in the development of Sun City -- to donate the \$50,000 needed for the society to purchase the house.

During the SCAHS’s annual meeting, friends and fellow residents will share their recollections and memories of working with Ms. Freeman.

A Del Webb Sun Cities Museum volunteer in the early 2000s and again volunteering in the office, **Barbara Brozman** fondly remembers Jane when the two were working alone on several occasions. From time to time, while working on a project on the conference table, Jane would bring in two cups of Tully’s coffee from Fry’s, just down the street. Then she would

set down a bag with two pastries in it.

“Help yourself,” said Jane, and Barb would be embarrassed that Jane had paid for all of this.

“I didn’t pay for the pastries.”

“You stole the pastries,” Barb gasped.

“Heavens no. I merely borrowed the pastries,” she replied.

“You ‘borrowed’ the pastries from Tully’s?” Barb squeaked.

“No, no, no, I borrowed the pastries from the Heritage Palermas where I live. They put out a tray of pastries in the dining room after breakfast and let us help ourselves, and I helped myself to two pastries – one for you and one for me.”

Barb says this happened several times, and she always thought “it was very kind and considerate of Jane to remember my sweet tooth.”

Mary Ellen Danley remembers when Jane volunteered during book

sales at the Library. Jane had been on the Sun City Library Board, and when Mary Ellen asked her to go on the board again, Jane hesitated. "But she finally made a deal to work again, if I would be on the museum board," says Mary Ellen.

"She was such a bright, smart lady," she added. "Once, while working at the reference desk, I needed the translation for a Latin quotation but couldn't find it. Finally, I asked a group of people in the work room, and Jane knew the quotation off the top of her head."

Amanda Durand, a Sun City resident, who had lived in the community of Marinette which proceeded Sun City, was contacted in 1976 by Jane after Amanda had been featured in a news story about the first talk she had given about Marinette.

Amanda remembers Jane as a "really hard working lady," because she worked with her and Glenn Sanberg on the Marinette chapter of "Jubilee, the 25th Anniversary of Sun City."

"So much material had been gathered for that history book, and for awhile Jane had to store it under her bed," she recalls.

Marcia Case, a longtime Museum docent, misses Jane because she was always typing away and processing new materials when Marcia was at the Museum. Sometimes the docents helped her with a project.

"Jane was there rain or shine. The Museum was her baby! She was incredible - nice and helpful, never grumpy, and a delight to be around. If you had a question, boy, could she answer it!" she said.



Jane and former Del Webb Sun Cities Museum President Bill Pearson prepare to take part in the Sun City 50th Anniversary Parade in 2010.

Pris Fenner, board member and guide, remembers when Jane "twisted her arm years ago" to join the community board at Boswell Hospital. And later she joined the museum just in time to be considered a charter member, because of Jane's enthusiasm.

"She was really thoughtful as well as persuasive," said Pris, recalling that Jane had given her a wedding present even though the event was out of town and only for family and a few friends.

"Even after Jane left the museum, we would take materials over to her. One summer she searched through all the Webb Spinners, the Del E. Webb Corp. newsletters, and made lists of the company's construction projects. This information is now incorporated in a large U.S. map showing where these projects were. And Museum visitors can search a printed directory by state to find these projects also. All this work was done after

she had retired from daily service to her museum." says Pris.

Bret McKeand, president of Independent Newspapers, recalls first meeting Jane in the mid-1980s while he was editor of the Sun Cities Independent newspaper.

"We used to conduct a holiday lights contest every year and give out prizes to the best-decorated homes. Jane always enjoyed helping us judge that contest," recalls Bret.

"Each year in December, we would pick a night and just drive around Sun City to look at all the entries and select a few winners.

"During those drives she would point out all the historical landmarks, and share interesting tidbits about Sun City -- when this home was built or when that shopping center opened. Just little things that I found fascinating," recalls Bret.

"I learned a lot about Sun City during those trips, and I certainly learned it from the Master. Jane and I remained close friends from that point on, but I'll always treasure those drives."

Bret also recalls another interesting moment with Jane -- when the two of them drove out to the middle of a desert in Surprise to be on hand for the Del Webb Company's latest announcement: The birth of Sun City Grand.

The event was not open to the public -- media only -- so Bret invited Jane along as his photographer.

"Honestly, we both looked at each other and were sort of awe-struck. We thought the Webb Company may have over-reached on this one. We really didn't think anyone would buy a home this far



Photos by Bret McKeand/Independent Newspapers
Jane, far left, was one of four community leaders to be honored during a special awards ceremony at the Sun Bowl in 1990 to celebrate Sun City's 30th anniversary.



Jane and former Del Webb Sun Cities Museum President Bill Pearson celebrating Del E. Webb's 100th birthday in May 2010.

out in the Phoenix desert.

"OK, we were wrong on that one!"

Bret recalls Webb officials handing him a special commemorative tool kit bearing, for the first time ever, the Sun City Grand logo (it was the first time they had announced the name of the community).

"I gave that tool kit to Jane thinking it might be something she'll want for historical purposes. Knowing Jane, she filed it away properly and it is sitting somewhere in a drawer or file cabinet at the museum!"

Bill Pearson, former Museum Board President, reminisced about the Sun Cities Area Historical Society founder by reminding us that Jane was a "wee tiny little thing, at least in stature."

"I, on the other hand am stout, known to be abrasive to a fault and willing to get into it with almost anyone," said Bill. He adds that his fondest memory of Jane is just how "darned intimidated" he was by her mere presence.



"No matter how comfortable I was hanging around the museum, when she walked through those back doors I near on trembled." He added that she was never mean, but that he just knew what she expected when handling pictures, filing or working around her museum.

"She was fussy and meticulous,

while I was... well, a guy who could barely get those goofy rubber gloves on my hands.

"All this is said with nothing but love for the little lady who helped us all be better for having known her," he adds.





Jane Freeman

Jane Freeman is often called the "First Lady of Sun City" because throughout the 20 years she's been living in Sun City, when there's a cause or a need in the community, Jane is likely to be the first one there.

In education, Jane was instrumental in securing a permanent site for Rio Salado Community College classes in Sun City.

Her work for the local library includes everything from preparing grant applications for large-print books and books on cassettes to directing the annual used book sale.

In the area of health, she started the Meals on Wheels program and has chaired and advised a wide range of committees devoted to improving the quality of medical care to the elderly.

She has worked to give greater access and freedom to the handicapped with programs ranging from finding clothes that meet the needs of individual handicaps to publishing an extensive directory of available resources.

have included heading up the local Historical Society and authoring a history of Sun City.

In between, Jane has cooked meals, baked cookies, written letters, paid bills, given gifts, and taken the time to listen to the needs of people around her. Jane believes, "there is no menial labor if it is honest." Her volunteer work encompasses both the tidier tasks of chairing committees and directing special events as well as the "dirty" work of cleaning up afterwards.

In fact, Jane asks nothing of a volunteer that she wouldn't tackle herself. Before the recent opening of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's new home, Jane arrived, mop and bucket in hand to make sure the new facility was gleaming. At a fundraising event, Jane, a non-drinker, cheerfully tended bar. And every Sunday morning, she joins the drivers for Meals on Wheels and takes her turn delivering food the shut-ins.

Jane Freeman, Ed. D. retired to Sun City after a career in higher education that included a position as Dean of Students at the State University of New York in Rockland.

Her educational background has led to many of the projects she now volunteers to work on. The work for libraries and local community college, as well as her service work to provide greater opportunities for the handicap all spring from her deep commitment to improving the quality of life for others.

So what does a woman who's had a full-time volunteer career for the past 20 years do for a little recreation? Every year, Jane travels abroad to a country such as Turkey or Greece.

And what does she do on these "holidays"? Jane spends much of her vacation time studying community programs for the handicapped and elderly.

But that's just what you would expect from a volunteer

like Jane who is compelled to always do her best for others.

"There is no menial labor

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Jane Freeman; A tribute to Sun City's 'First Lady'

By **Bret McKeand**
Independent Newspapers

Throughout Sun City's 53-year history, there have been many who have gone above and beyond the call of duty when it came time to giving back to their newly adopted hometown.

There have been few, if any, whose contributions will ever match those made by Jane Freeman.

Referred to by many as "The First Lady of Sun City," Jane Freeman passed away May 17 in Sun City.

Other than a room named in her honor at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, there are few Jane Freeman monuments created in her honor. Yet, her work, her passion and her love for Sun City can be seen and felt throughout the entire community.

Jane moved to Sun City in 1970, and quickly embraced the lifestyle -- and volunteer spirit -- that was already prevalent in Del Webb's "experiment" of a community. Few knew at the time that Jane would not only perpetuate that spirit, but take it to a level few would ever match.

One of the first to recognize the significance of Sun City's title as the nation's first active adult retirement community, in 1985 Jane spearheaded the first in-depth history of the community. The result was "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City," a book co-written by Glenn Sanberg and released in time for the community's silver anniversary celebration. The book is still popular among history buffs and a popular item at the museum.

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Those photographs today are housed in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, which is located in one of the very first model homes constructed in Sun City. The home became available in 1989, and it was Jane who convinced James Boswell II -- Del Webb's early partner in the development of Sun City -- to donate the \$50,000 needed for the society to purchase the house.

But her accomplishments and contributions don't start or end with the historical society.

- She was one of the founders of the



Jane
Freeman

OBITUARY**Richard E. 'Dick' Olson, 91**

SUN CITY — Richard E. "Dick" Olson of Springville, died Thursday, May 16, 2013, at his home.

Dick was born Feb. 10, 1922, in Fort Dodge, Iowa, the son of Roy A. and Betty (Noelle) Olson. He was a graduate of the University of Iowa, and a veteran of the U.S. Navy having served on the U.S.S. Earle during WWII. Dick married Violet Verholt on Nov. 28, 1944. Violet died in 1989. He then married Wilma Coates on February 24, 1991. Dick worked for General Electric as an Electrical Engineer for over 30 years. He loved golfing, tennis, bowling, and dancing, and enjoyed spending his winters in Sun City, Az.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Violet; brother, Roy Olson; and granddaughter, Stacey Meier.

Survivors include his wife, Wilma; children, Betty (John) Herndon of Des Moines, Richard E. (Vida) Olson II of the Philippines, Melissa (John) Davidson of Springville, and Deborah (Tom) Hilleary of Portland, Ore.; brother, Edward (Fran) Olson of Fort Worth, Texas; 7 grandchildren, Sarah, Robin, Stephanie, Richard E. III, Jolene, Jason, and Justin; and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral Service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday, May 24, 2013, at Springville First United Methodist Church, Springville. The family will greet friends from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. Thursday, May 23, 2013, at Murdoch Funeral Home & Cremation Center, Marion. Burial: Springville Cemetery.

Please sign the online guestbook for Dick at www.murdochfuneralhome.com under obituaries.



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See *Lady* — Page 15

Lady

Continued From Page 6

Meals on Wheels program in Sun City and herself delivered food to her homebound neighbors.

- She was actively involved for a number of years with Sun Health to help improve the quality of medical care to the elderly, and served on several Sun Health boards.

- She was instrumental in securing the first permanent site for Rio Salado Community College classes in Sun City. A long-time advocate for education, Jane retired to Sun City after a career in higher education that included a position as Dean of Students at the State University of New York in Rockland.

- She's been honored by her community and others in just about every way possible, including the Daily News-Sun's "Woman of the Year" honor in 1981, and the prestigious Hon Kachina Award in 1990 to name a few.

- She supported the local library, promoted the Sun City Community Fund and much, much more.

I first met Jane in 1983, shortly after I began working as a reporter for the Sun City Independent. We quickly became friends, and I quickly learned that Jane was an important contact -- someone who not only knew the inner workings of Sun City, but someone who was then, and always would be, straightforward and honest with me.

For many years the Independent sponsored a holiday lights contest and we enlisted the help of community leaders to judge entries submitted by our readers. Jane was one of our most loyal judges and for many years she and I would drive the streets of Sun City to judge that year's entrants. She always looked forward to the contest and enjoyed it immensely -- and would often

bring it up in conversation many years after we stopped sponsoring the contest. Truth be told, the pleasure was all mine.

In the early 1990s, she and I also traveled together to a remote spot in the middle of the desert to hear of a "big" announcement to be made by the Del Webb Corp. That announcement turned out to be the unveiling of the company's newest retirement community -- Sun City Grand. We both agreed Webb had overstepped its ambition on this one. Sun City Grand was just too far out in the middle of nowhere for it to be successful. Our bias for the original Sun City clearly clouded our judgment -- we were dead wrong on that prediction!

Jane's love of her adopted hometown was contagious. All of those who came into contact with her over the years walked away with a better understanding of Sun City and what made it so unique and desirable.

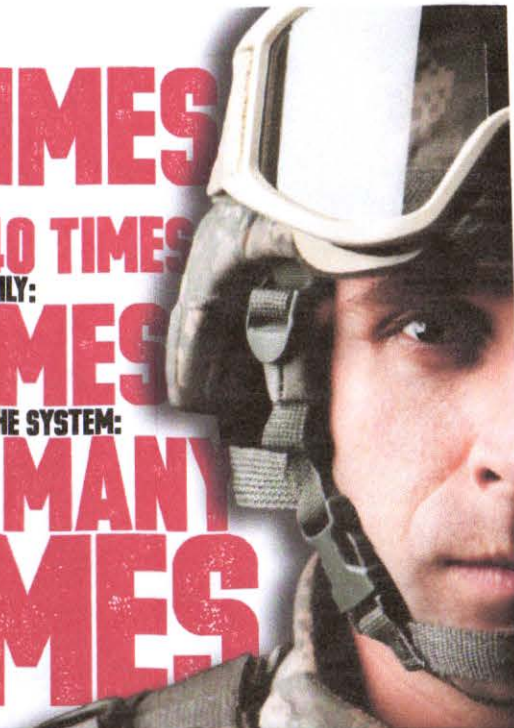
I certainly shared her passion for Sun City, but more important I always admired and respected her incredible desire to do good things. She was a rare breed. She believed that one person could make a huge difference in the world. If you want positive change, don't rely on others to make it happen. Roll up your sleeves -- or jump in a dumpster if need be -- and make it happen.

Those who knew her know Sun City has lost a true friend.

The woman who wrote the first "official" history of Sun City never considered herself important, nor did she ever want any glory or attention focused on her. But when the final history of Sun City is written, the list of those most responsible for the success of this great community will most certainly contain the name of Jane Freeman.

Editor's note: Bret McKeand is the former editor and publisher of the Sun City Independent, and current president of Independent Newsmedia Inc. USA. He can be reached at bmckeand@newszap.com.

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NOMINATION FOR AL MERITO AWARD – February 2013

As the 25th anniversary of Sun City approached in 1985, resident Jane Freeman realized the significance of this historic milestone. Sun City was the first active adult retirement community in the nation, and its success had long ago proven the “experts” – who claimed it would never work -- wrong. It would serve as the model for adult communities, copied by many other developers nationwide.

Two years in advance of the anniversary, Jane assembled a group of history-minded individuals to document the history of the community, its organizations, and its earliest residents. The Webb Corporation that built Sun City was a logical source for information, but to Jane’s dismay, they were in the process of discarding Sun City materials to make room for files on their newest community – Sun City West.

Jane earned the title of the “Dumpster Diving Diva” as she climbed into a large dumpster filled with old Sun City photos, brochures, and other materials. That trash bin, plus files that hadn’t yet been discarded yielded a treasure trove of some 3,000 8X10” photos taken since 1960 in Sun City. It also provided house plans, plat maps, sales literature, promotional material, and more.

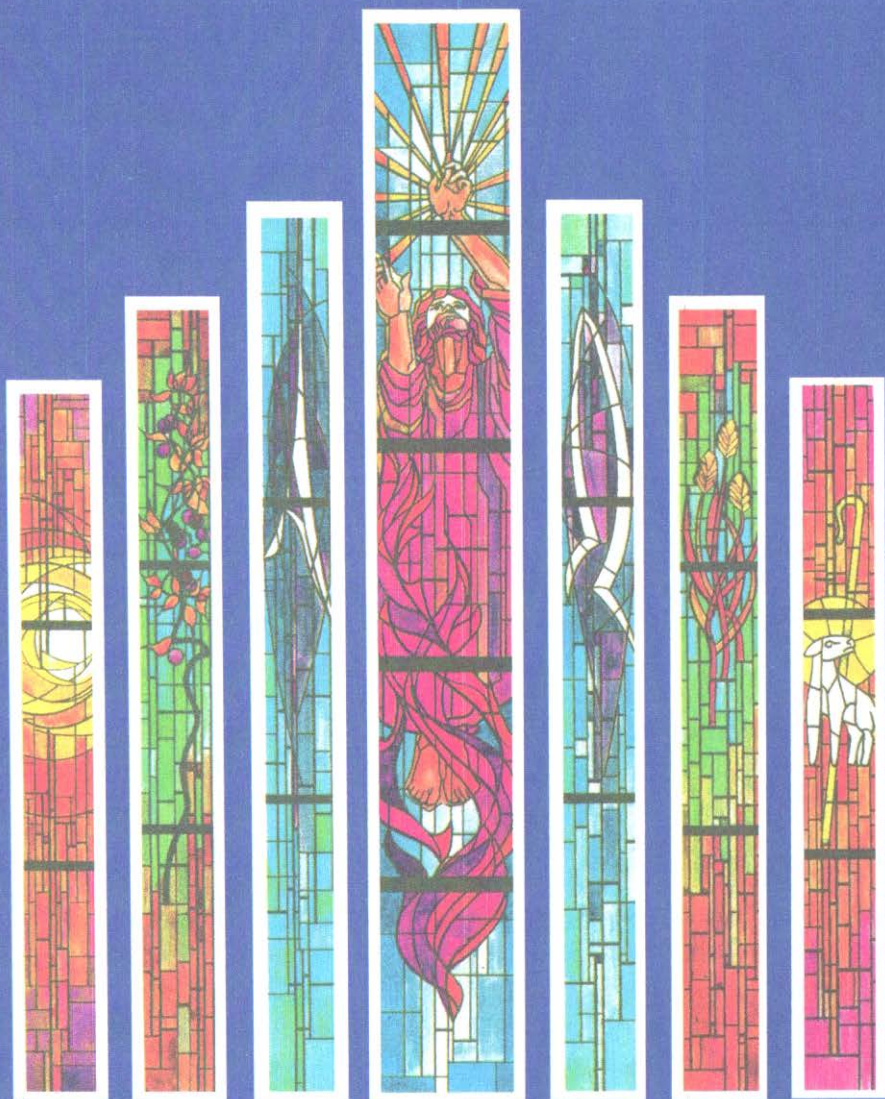
The history was written and the 270-page JUBILEE was published in time for the 25th anniversary. The print run of 10,000 copies was quickly snapped up by residents eager to learn about the community’s beginnings.

Jane and her committee members had source material stored in garages and spare bedrooms, and needed a better home for this collection. In 1986, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society received its charter, but still lacked a home for the material.

In 1989, one of the original 1960 model houses came onto the resale market. Jane led the effort to purchase the house, and convinced James Boswell II – Del Webb’s partner in the development of Sun City -- to donate the \$50,000 needed for the purchase.

Once in their new building, Jane led the effort to catalog and file all the material that had been collected in the process of writing JUBILEE. For the next 20 years, she played an active role in the Historical Society, serving several terms as president of the board, and often filling other roles as needed – publicist, speaker, tour director, meeting arranger, docent trainer, newsletter writer and editor, and more.

Until she began to experience serious health problems a few years ago, Jane was the heart and soul of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. No longer able to be active, her spirit lives on encouraging others to not let her, or the organization down!



Faith Presbyterian church

16000 North Del Webb Boulevard
Sun City, Arizona 85351

In Loving Memory
and in Celebration of the Life of

Jane J. Freeman

April 8, 1920 – May 17, 2013

Faith Presbyterian Church Chapel
June 6, 2013 – 10:00 a.m.

Greeting and Opening Sentences

Unison Reading

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want; he makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me. Thou prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; thou anointest my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Readings from the Hebrew Scriptures

Readings from the New Testament

Words of Remembrance and Celebration

“The First Lady of Sun City”

Rev. Dr. Don Houdeshell

Prayers and Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed by thy name. Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory. Amen

A Commendation (in unison)

**Into your hands, O merciful Savior,
we commend your servant Jane.
Acknowledge, we humbly pray,
a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock,
a sinner of your own redeeming.
Receive her into the arms of your mercy,
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company of the saints.**

Benediction

Jane J. Freeman

Jane J. Freeman, age 93, died May 17, 2013, in Sun City, AZ. She was born April 8, 1920. Jane had a twin brother, D. Sherwood Jones, in Erie, PA. She married Leslie Freeman in 1958 and had two stepchildren, Toni and Les, Jr.

Jane received the Ed.D. Degree from the University of Virginia. She was the Dean of Students at Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY.

Leslie and Jane Freeman retired and moved from New York to Sun City, AZ, in 1970. Leslie died in 1977. Jane joined Faith Presbyterian Church in 1978 where she has been a member 34 years.

Jane is called "The First Lady of Sun City" because of the huge commitment she made to her church and her community. She coauthored "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City" with Glenn Sanberg. She collected over 3,000 historical pictures of Sun City that are now in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. Jane was a founder of Meals on Wheels in Sun City. She was actively involved in Sun Health, the Library, Rio Salado College, Interfaith, United Way, and served on the Recreation Centers Board. Among the many awards she received, she was named "Woman of the Year" by the Daily News Sun in 1981. Freeman also was the coauthor of the 25 year history of the Banner Boswell Medical Center.

Jane J. Freeman – an amazing, generous woman.

FRONT COVER - God told Moses to refer to Him as "I AM". Our Chapel Windows depict Jesus' similar statements: I AM...the Light of the World...the True Vine...the Alpha... the Resurrection and the Life...the Omega...the Bread of Life...the Good Shepherd.