

SCAHS HISTORY HUNT

The answers to the following may be found in the exhibits in the various rooms of the Historical Society. See how many you can find in 15 minutes.

- 1) How many houses were purchased on the opening weekend in January 1960?
a) 77 b) 157 c) 237
- 2) How did Sun City get its name?
a) Webb named it b) From a national contest c) From an earlier community
- 3) How much did this house and lot sell for in 1960?
a) \$19,950 b) \$14,500 c) \$ 9,750
- 4) What was Del Webb's major interest outside of construction?
a) Golf b) Baseball c) Fast cars and planes
- 5) What brought the major leagues to Arizona?
a) Racism b) Weather c) Many retiree fans
- 6) What caused the Saints to quit playing baseball in Sun City?
a) Most of the girls married b) They got too old c) Stadium rent was too high
- 7) What business was the carried on at the Marinette Ranch?
a) Cattle range and feedlot b) Cotton plantation c) Dairy farm
- 8) When did the town of Marinette get a post office?
a) 1912 b) 1945 c) When it became Sun City in 1960
- 9) What was the originally planned population for Sun City West?
a) 25,000 b) 50,000 c) 70,000
- 10) What event in 1980 raised havoc for Sun City West residents?
a) A freak tornado b) Bridge washed out c) Inadequate electrical power

Have Fun Trying This Sun City History Exercise!

Directions: Following you will find a list of statements describing Sun City events from our 56 year history. Five (5) of the statements are not true. **CIRCLE THEM**. This is not a test. So, by all means work with your new neighbors at your table. Enjoy!

Example: A.) In 1967 the AZ Motor Vehicle Department ruled that Sun City drivers who were "legally blind" were required to prominently display a white cane in the rear window of their vehicle.

(Now look for five (5) more lies. You may be surprised. Correct answers will be supplied later this morning.)

1. To get a great introduction to early Sun City history, a tour of Sun City's first house built in late 1959 would be a good starting point.
2. Sun City's earliest residents found a recreation center waiting for them to use with payment of recreation fees being optional.
3. Sun City's version of "The Berlin Wall" involved residents south of Grand Avenue feeling disrespected by their neighbors north of Grand.
4. Our "pioneer" residents faced many non-traditional decisions during those formative years including whether they wanted to pay \$15/year a year to guarantee a fire truck would respond to an emergency.
5. Continuing with the subject of fire protection, ninety-nine residents each chipped in \$10 to buy a fire hydrant and have it installed—the very first fire hydrant in Sun City.
6. Residents are usually surprised to learn that our William Boswell Memorial Hospital was named for a man who never lived in Sun City.
7. When Del Webb agreed to a partnership to jointly own the 10,000 acres needed to build Sun City, the general plan was to change the land use from "cotton balls" to "golf balls."
8. When Sun City opened its doors on January 1, 1960, it likely became the first community ever in the United States that had a U.S. Post Office before it had a single resident.
9. One local wit characterized Sun City's first two major controversies as being a big "poo" x 3 and a big "moo" x 30,000.

- 10. Garbage, water and electrical rate charges have all been highly controversial in Sun City history, but the current sewer rate controversy is a first.**
- 11. The Sun Bowl, Sun City's 7,000 capacity amphitheater, was built by Webb Corp. to quell local uproar about not having a space for large public meetings and as a possible venue for performers, with the plan being to have it run by the Sun City Home Owners Association.**
- 12. Sun City has about 210 miles of surface streets that were built by and maintained by the Maricopa County Department of Transportation.**
- 13. Residents have been officially asked twice if they would like to leave their status as an unincorporated, unorganized area of Maricopa County and to incorporate as the City of Sun City. Both times "no" votes overwhelmed the "yes" votes.**
- 14. The seven recreation centers in Sun City were built by Webb, paid for by new residents with a hidden "lot" fee and then given to the residents of Sun City by Webb—one at a time.**
- 15. In the "boom years" of housing starts from 1968-1978, Webb was finishing up to eleven houses every day in an effort to keep up with demand.**
- 16. Some communities get "lit up" every New Year's Eve. Sun City didn't officially get "lit up" until 1970 when the street lights were finally installed in the area between Grand and Peoria Avenues.**
- 17. Two early needs were detected for the constant stream of new residents during the 60's & 70's. They wanted a lot of church choices and many financial institutions to choose from in "parking" cash they brought with them to retirement.**
- 18. On July 1, 1968, Medicare became available for millions of Americans, planning for a Sun City Hospital accelerated, and the Sun City Home Owners Association continued selling health insurance.**
- 19. Having school age grandchildren live with you in Sun City is out of the question, as Sun City has never been in a school district making it is unlikely the school bus would show up.**
- 20. Del Webb forgot a few things when planning Sun City, but one of the better ideas he had was making Sun City a 55 age restricted community and giving it the right to enforce the restriction.**