

# Guten tag!

## Sun City to play host to German dignitaries

By **RICK GONZALEZ**  
Sun Cities Independent

The Sun City Home Owner's Association has been selected to host a group of 35 German business, professional and political leaders who will be visiting Sun City on May 22.

That announcement was made at HOA's May 12 monthly board of directors meeting.

The German dignitaries are spending three days in Arizona studying segments of society and issues represented throughout the state. The Sun City visit will include a morning briefing at HOA on the development of Sun City and its retirement lifestyle.

The group will then be taken to a luncheon at the Lakes Club and then given a tour of the area by Douglas Wright, president of the Sun City Ambassadors.

Later in the day the group will stop in Sedona and then head to Flagstaff to continue its study of the area and its western culture.

The visiting group is taking part in a study arranged by The Center for Atlantic Studies at Arizona State University. The nationwide

tour is under the auspices of Harvard University's German Workshop on American Politics.

According to Glenn Sanberg, HOA director, the visit gives Sun City the chance to showcase itself.

"We think this is a very rich opportunity for us to expose this community to some impressive people of Germany," he says.

"The message they carry back to Germany is very important. We want them to get an honest view of the community — its opportunities, its problems, its assets.

Dixon Wightman, HOA president, is equally pleased to be hosting the German dignitaries.

"We're very pleased to have been selected (as hosts). We feel very fortunate in having these people here."

As to why the foreign group chose to come to Sun City, Mr. Wightman says, "I think they're coming out here to see why Sun City is so unique and widely accepted as a model for retirement living.

"It (the visit) will give them a better understanding of why seniors would retire to Arizona and the desert, away from their families, and obviously enjoy it. We have 48,000 people here who have chosen this lifestyle."

## Foreign journalists to visit SC

The Sun City Ambassadors will host a group of 20 journalists from around the world on May 23.

According to Douglas Wright, president of the Ambassadors, the trip is being arranged through the World Affairs Council and is designed to provide foreign journalists with a "better under-

standing of this country."

The group began their tour of the United States on May 4 and will conclude their travels May 29. Among the countries represented are China, Ghana, India, Malaysia, United Kingdom and Bangladesh.

The group will meet at the Visitors Center at 10 a.m.





## Resident to set off on scientific expedition to travel the Amazon River

**S**un City resident Art "Karts" Huseonica will embark on an expedition to travel the length of the Amazon River starting Oct. 17. His ten-week journey will include trekking, travel by dugout canoe, and once the river widens, by small river boats.

Departing from Banos, Ecuador, the expedition team, led by explorer and author Jacki Hill-Murphy, will follow the route of the Ecuadorian, Peruvian, and Brazilian Amazon, full of birds, wildlife, flora and fauna. Sometimes a moonscape of destruction will be encountered, as the dark side of modern decimation and contamination of the Amazon Basin is witnessed, and the effects this has on the indigenous peoples such as the mysterious Achuar Indians of Ecuador, Quechua Indians of northern Peru, and the Kayapo Indians of Brazil.

The Amazon is the greatest river in the world and one of the longest. Mr. Huseonica will be travelling the Amazon's approximate 4,000-mile length; starting at the Chambo stream near Banos in Ecuador to Brazil's Atlantic coast where the Amazon River can stretch to nearly seven miles wide. The expedition team will study changes on the Amazon River since the early explor-

ers, principally Charles La Condamine, Jean Godin, and later Isabela Godin in the 18th century. Ms. Godin was also the first known woman to travel the length of the river and her story will be retold along the river as each landmark of her tragic story are reached.

Mr. Huseonica's part in the three-month, scientific expedition includes a study of sanitation facilities in the villages. Plus he will be reviewing communication methodologies between villages and towns. The results will be included in a book about the expedition to be authored by expedition leader Jacki Hill-Murphy. Other expedition members include doctor Catherine Ruddick and botanist David Parker. The expedition will be supported by in-country logistics fixers for dugout canoes, river boats, tribal liaisons, and security.

Mr. Huseonica is retired United States Navy and associate professor. He lives in Sun City with his wife Karen Carlsen Huseonica. He is an active member of the Sun City Hikers and the Sun City PRIDES.

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VF SC. International Publicity



# Netherlands reps tour city

Group impressed  
with volunteerism

By Zach Colick  
Independent Newspapers

A delegation of 18 people from the Netherlands visited Sun City March 28 to understand and rate the nearly 50-year-old active retirement community.

The group toured the Sun City Visitors Center, Sheriff's Posse of Sun City, Sun Cities Area Historical Society and other volunteer organizations to see how the community operates without town government through the efforts of dedicated volunteers.

To culminate the day, the

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delegation took part in a potluck dinner at Oakmont Recreation Center, 10725 W. Oakmont Drive, with the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors, other community volunteers and their families.

See Visit — Page 3

## Visit

Continued From Page 1

RCSC Board Treasurer Norm Dickson said the group has been traveling to Sun City for the past three years, though this visit centered around volunteerism.

"It's a foreign concept to them, no pun intended," he said. "They got a flavor of retirement living."

Mr. Dickson explained governments in Europe take care of its citizens by essentially doing everything for them, thus there is not a great need for volunteers.

RCSC Board Member Warren Hoffmann added people feel more part of a community when they volunteer.

"They help save money and improve morale of the community," Mr. Hoffmann said. "Volunteerism makes us who we are and allows us to interact better with others."

The delegation's hope is to establish a model much like Sun

"This is something big as far as Europe is concerned and we should be proud. We are a model for not only Arizona and the country, but also Europe."

— RCSC Board Member Don Schordje

City within two to three years in the northern portion of the country, said RCSC board member Don Schordje.

Mr. Schordje, who was a keynote speaker last fall in the Netherlands and spoke of how Sun City operates and what it offers, said the potential sight for the European retirement community is situated near a lake for boating.

The delegation expects

between 1,500 and 2,000 to be part of the proposed new community still in its planning stages.

"This is something big as far as Europe is concerned and we should be proud," Mr. Schordje said. "We are a model for not only Arizona and the country, but also Europe. We all have to work at this together."

Mr. Dickson noted the group hopes to understand what Euro-

pean citizens seek in retirement living by asking for their input.

"We often take sun city for granted, but they think it's the best thing since sliced bread," Dickson said. "The group is a little mystic and it's a go."

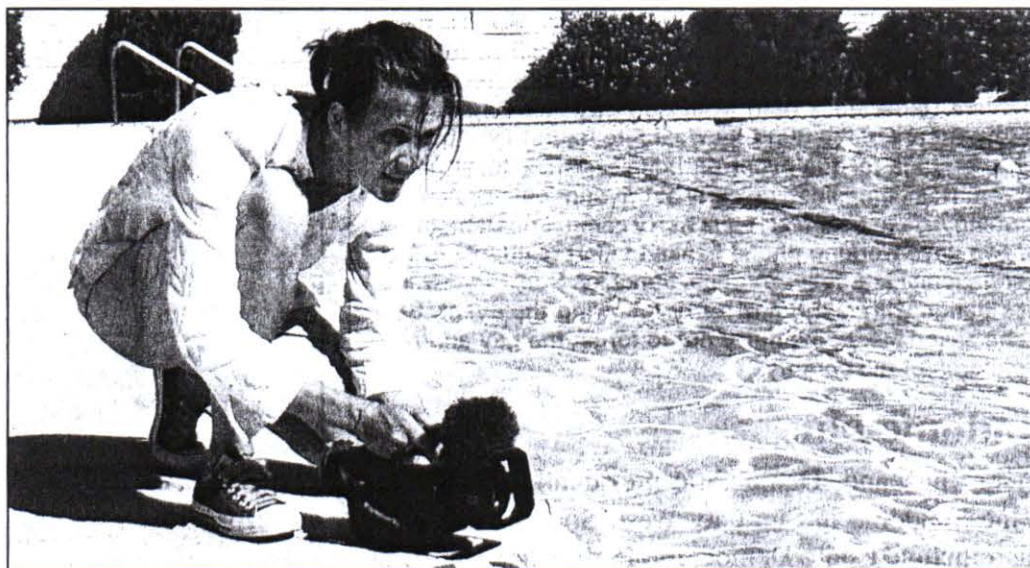
Post your opinions in the Issues Forum at newszap.com. News Editor Zach Colick can be reached at 972-445-2892 or zcolick@newszap.com.

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**INDEPENDENT**  
Your Community Weekly



## Hollywood Trend: Lights, camera, action



Independent Newspapers/Cecilia Chan

Filmmakers Susan Gluth of Germany is taking footage of people and places in Sun City for a planned documentary on aging. Here she is posing with her camera at the Marinette Recreation Center on Union Hills Drive.

# Filmmakers shoot Sun City

By Cecilia Chan

Independent Newspapers

Sun City took starring role recently in a German filmmaker's planned documentary on aging.

Susan Gluth spent two weeks in the community meeting residents and filming the recreation centers, golf courses and amenities that distinguish Sun City.

"My aim is to look at age in a different way," said Ms. Gluth, who was expected to return home today. "You can consider age not as the last step toward death but as another step in life and make the best of it."

Ms. Gluth shot footage she will pitch to countries throughout Europe for funding of a 90-minute documentary next year. She wants to show the issue of aging through the eyes of six to nine Sun City residents, whom she refers to as the film's protagonists.

She has already selected a few potential "stars" from her numerous talks with residents.

Here in Sun City, senior citizens continue to be active through recreational activities or by volunteering unlike in many European countries, Ms. Gluth said.

In Germany, the average senior citizen goes into a home for the elderly, where they basically wait to die, she said.

Ms. Gluth is not the first overseas visitor attracted to life in Sun City, a retirement community built by Del Webb in 1960.

Japan, France, Korea and the Netherlands are just a few of the foreign countries that have looked at the community as a model to replicate, said Paul Herrmann, executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center.

"The majority of them are looking to recreate a Sun City in their country because the senior situation is getting overwhelming in all parts of the world right now," he said. "Sun City was the first planned senior citizens community in the United States."

Sun City also is the largest in terms of population and acreage of the 15 Del Webb communities nationwide, including in Massachusetts, California and Illinois. Nearby younger and smaller senior communities are Sun City West and Sun City Grand.

Sun City offers more recreational facilities than any community in the United States and continues to attract new homebuyers.

In just under five years, 18,370 new residents moved into Sun City, nearly half of its 42,000 population, Mr. Herrmann said.

"When you look at Sun City we have the eight golf courses, we have the seven rec centers and 14 shopping centers in our community," he said. "I think we have more of everything and we offer the best value."

Doug Caravaggio moved from Chicago to Sun City 30 years ago, attracted by the golf amenities and weather.

"We've got so much to offer,"

he said. "People live five to 10 years longer here because they are active. We've got 144 clubs, there is something for (retirees) to do."

Norm Dickson is a nonpaid director on the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors, which oversees the golf courses and rec centers.

"We take facilities for the elderly for granted because they are all over the United States," said Mr. Dickson, who has lived in Sun City for eight years. "Over in the European communities there's very little they do for the elderly. To them this is unique and remarkable, that is why they keep coming over here and do documentaries."

As an example, he pointed to last year's sweltering August heat wave that killed roughly 14,000 people in France, mostly the elderly left home alone.

He attributed Sun City's viability to its many volunteers, everyone from the RCSC Board of Directors to PRIDE, which picks up litter in the community.

"We are an elderly retirement community that has been successful for 44 years," said Mr. Dickson. "It's just unique and the cost of living is extremely low — low taxes and low fees for what you get. It's the best deal in the country."

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SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

December 24, 2003

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## French film crew visit Sun Cities

By **Geno Lawrenzi**  
Independent Newspapers

The French have a word for Sun City and its residents: *magnifique!*

That's the feeling of French film director Fred Biamonti and his crew who are in the Sun City area to make a film on life in America's best known retirement community. The results will be shown on French public television next summer in an hour-long documentary called, "Retirement to Paradise."

Mr. Biamonti, 39, a graduate of the prestigious National Film School, said he was overwhelmed at what he is seeing in Sun City. He also applauded the community for its "splendid cooperation" in helping him and his crew make the documentary.

"France has nothing to compare with this," said Biamonti. "Over in my country, the government gives small pensions to the people — some would say too small."

"But what is happening in



**Jim Sinclair, administrator at Sunshine Services, discusses the service program with French television director Fred Biamonti. Biamonti praised Mr. Sinclair and Sun City volunteers for the way they have cooperated with his film crew during the shooting of a one-hour documentary for French public television.**

Sun City is very essential. Even something like your Sunshine Services does not exist anywhere else. I hope somebody in Paris takes what you are doing to heart and does something similar for

the French population."

Between now and Christmas, Mr. Biamonti and his small crew will shoot footage throughout the Sun City com-

See **Film**— Page 2

## Film:

Continued From Page 1

munity on such subjects as Interfaith Community Care, Meals on Wheels, volunteers and volunteerism, the Sheriff's Posse, golf courses, recreation and the Westside Food Bank.

He told the Independent, "Last Summer, France suffered from a big heat wave. Fifteen thousand people died because of lack of air conditioning. And yet here you have all these older people living in the desert and they not only live, but they thrive in such a setting. This is an incredible story."

Mr. Biamonti said he is especially impressed with Sunshine Services, a non-profit agency that loans medical equipment and other items at no charge to Sun City residents. The program was launched in 1961 by the Sun City Civic Association, forerunner of today's Sun City Home

Owners.

At the beginning, the idea was to help residents who were unable to pay the then-annual recreation dues of \$40 per year. Del Webb got involved and the program quickly grew to include paying for hospital beds, walkers, wheelchairs and other equipment helpful to the elderly and disabled. Today the warehouse of equipment is available for the use of all residents and their guests as long as it isn't taken out of Sun City on a permanent basis.

While Mr. Biamonti is a big fan of such French film celebrities as Louis Malle, Catherine Deneuve and Roger Vadim, he said he is only interested in making documentaries.

"I have done films on a variety of human interest subjects like cystic fibrosis, the elderly people of France, history and architecture," he said.

"Retirement communities simply don't exist in my country. We have small government pensions, of course, and some

OVER



private funds, but retirement plans in France are in a lot of trouble."

He said he enjoys making documentaries for French public television because "documentaries make you grow. You learn a lot from the process. For example, here I am discovering things I would never have known about before."

In Sun City, Mr. Biamonti said, people have a sense of community, solidarity and volunteerism that cannot be found in other places.

"I love it the way people seem to mix well here," he said.

Although Mr. Biamonti makes his home in Paris, he lived in Chicago two years where he taught at the School of Arts Institute.

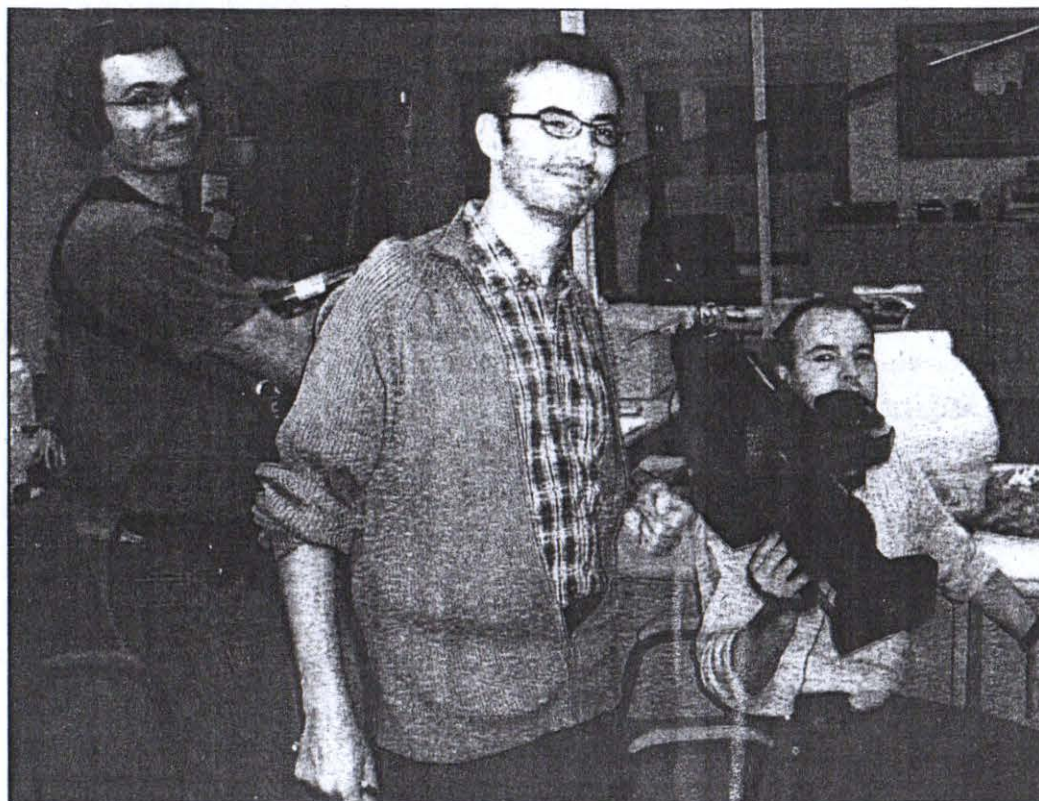
"You have a lot of people

from Chicago living in Sun City," he declared. "I have met a number of them and it makes me feel good. I love Chicago!"

Mr. Biamonti and his fellow crew members, Annette Duterte, Jean-Luc Verdier and Didier Hill-Derive, will edit part of the documentary here and finish the job in Paris in the Spring before releasing it this summer to more than one million French TV viewers.

Sun City resident Jerry Swintek said he was impressed with the professionalism of the French television crew.

"They're into everything," he jokingly warned his fellow Sun Citizens at Lakeview Center. "So keep your bathroom door closed!"



Photos by Geno Lawrenzi/Independent Newspapers

French film director Fred Biamonti tells his camera crew, Didier Hill-Derive and Jean-Luc Verdier how to shoot a scene at Sunshine Services. The results of the shoot will be viewed by one million French citizens in a documentary, "Retirement to Paradise," which will be released by French public television next summer.

THE WESTER Thursday, November 11, 1999

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## **Japanese-made documentary film of SCW**

There is an opportunity to see the Sun Cities through the eyes of others. On Sunday, Nov. 14 and 21, at 1:30 p.m., PORA's Visitors Center, 13815 Camino del Sol, SCW, will show a video made by a crew from station NHK of the Japanese Broadcasting Company. The Japanese crew spent several weeks in the Sun Cities filming and observing how seniors live in America.

The film, about one hour long, shows some comparisons between our country's approach and theirs. It includes a wedding at the Episcopal Church in SCW and scenes of this area. Commentary is in Japanese with some English. According to PORA, the video is very well done.

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# Sun City makes international headlines

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT — JANUARY 7-13 1998

**JULIA DE SIMONE**  
Independent Newspapers

The Sun Cities area is making headlines — not only in the United States but internationally.

Therese Fournier, a local resident, recently received a copy of an article featuring Sun City that appeared in *Femme Actuelle*, a French magazine, from a friend in Paris.

"I said, 'Gee, this is great ... maybe it will bring a French Quarter to the people here,'" she said with a laugh.

Ms. Fournier said one of the article's highlights is a statement from one of its residents that "Sun City is like a paradise for seniors."

According to Martha Moyer, public relations manager for the Del Webb Corp., local attention aimed at the Sun Cities area as well as its newest community, Sun City Grand, continues to climb.

"We have a stack of clippings by the end of the year that's six feet tall, (and) all from the United States," she said.

In addition, Ms. Moyer said all 11 of Del Webb's Sun Cities have generated national acclaim from PBS to NBC Nightly News.

Ingrid Petersen, a volunteer with the Sun City Visitors Center, said although the number of visitors per day varies, she recently had 55 people in one day request information on Sun City.

A German native, Ms. Petersen said she also translates letters from people in Germany interested in relocating to the Sun Cities.

"My visitors like it (here)," she said.

Although Ms. Moyer said Del Webb's clipping service doesn't

account for publicity abroad, Ms. Moyer said they do know the Sun Cities have received acclaim from international publications from Italy to Japan.

She said producers from London's BBC radio and television networks, also travel to the Sun Cities area on a regular basis.

"The fact they are recognized as being a unique environment is really intriguing, and I think the residents should be proud of the fact of being in a community that has national acclaim," Ms. Moyer said.

She said active adults within the United States and abroad are drawn to Del Webb's Sun Cities because of the number of amenities such as the volunteer opportunities, church

affiliations, weather, recreation centers, and more.

"Here's a place where you could leave behind the snow, where you

could leave behind the worries and have a very productive, enjoyable lifestyle," she said.

Foofie Harlan of Sun City agreed.

"All of Sun City is remarkable," she said. "Del Webb planned it, and it worked. I think Sun City is really an inspiration to the whole world."

**Marth Moyer**  
**Del Webb**  
public relations manager

who recently retired from the Sun City Poms — an internationally acclaimed pom and dance troupe — said they also started getting recognized about four or five years ago after the group formed in 1979.

"I've been in *National Enquirer* to *National Geographic*," she said.

**“**  
*Here's a place where you could leave behind the snow, where you could leave behind the worries and have a very productive, enjoyable lifestyle.*

## Fascination with Sun City is worldwide in scope

Mrs. Harlan believes the publicity grew as the group continued to break the stereotype of older people rocking away their lives.

Instead the American public started seeing "little old ladies doing cartwheels and splits," she said.

Mrs. Harlan said that spotlight grew larger when she was invited to France. She was the second choice after the late Rose Schwartz declined due to health reasons.

She said the French and African broadcasters also did a piece on her.

In addition, Mrs. Harlan said they have been featured in Brazilian and Scottish magazines, as well as a newspaper in Turkey.

"Oh yeah, we've really been all over," she said.

Ms. Harlan said her favorite article came from a French magazine, even if she couldn't read any of the other articles abroad.

"The one in the French magazine was the longest and so, it must have been the best," she said with a laugh.



Photo by JULIA DE SIMONE/Independent Newspapers

### Getting an Eiffel

Therese Fournier displays her love for two of her favorite places: Sun City and France. Ms. Fournier recently received a copy of an article featuring Sun City from a friend, who resides in Paris. *Femme Actuelle*, a French magazine, interviewed local residents and highlighted some of the best aspects of Sun City. Ms. Fournier said she enjoys the safety, peace tranquility and most of all, the medical attention she receives from the doctors in the area.

VF-INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY



# Realtor reaches out to attract Japanese retirees to Sun City

By CHRIS RASMUSSEN  
Independent Newspapers

Times are changing in Japan, and the impact may reach the Sun Cities.

One Sun City real estate agent is aiming to relieve a housing shortage for the elderly in Japan by encouraging them to buy homes in Sun City.

It used to be that grown children in the Asian nation would take in and care for their elderly parents.

Now, however, it seems Japanese children are becoming more Americanized, opting to send their parents to care homes rather than care for them.

Retirement communities are few and far between in Japan, said real estate agent Natsuko "Summy" Kruithof. That's creating severe

housing shortages for the elderly.

"Japan is having some problems taking care of its retired citizens," said Ms. Kruithof, an associate broker for Ken Meade Realty. "A development such as Sun City would be an ideal solution to this problem."

"Children usually take care of their parents. It is their responsibility to keep them," she said.

"Now parents have to be on their own. Children don't take care of them like they used to and they have to look for some place to go. A great deal of change is taking place in that country," she added.

Ms. Kruithof, who was born in Japan, recently was interviewed by Channel 12 of Tokyo on the quality of life in Sun City.

As a result of her appearance on Japanese TV, she has been receiv-



Bringing a little Japanese culture to the Sun Cities are, from left, Tojima, Natsuko "Summy" Kruithof and Shohei Tojima. Ms. Kruithof, a Sun Cities real estate agent, is promoting the area to aging Japanese who are searching for a place to retire. Ms. Kruithof said social changes in Japan are leaving many seniors without housing.

ing numerous inquiries from Japanese developers and interested buyers.

"They are very impressed with the structure and all of the services offered in Sun City," Ms. Kruithof said. "Many want to use Sun City as a blueprint for new developments in Japan."

Trying to accommodate interested home buyers from Japan, Ms. Kruithof has translated Sun City Visitor Center brochures into Japanese. A Japanese video tape on Sun City has also been produced.

Ms. Kruithof said the Sun City Visitor Center serves hundreds of Japanese each year.

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*Many want to use Sun City as a blueprint for new developments in Japan.*

"Every month or so the visitor center gets a lot of government heads from Japan inquiring about our community," she said.

With California being a major magnet for Japanese emigrants, Ms. Kruithof has begun placing advertisements for the Sun Cities in Southern California newspapers.

There are some barriers, however, preventing Japanese elderly from relocating to the United States.

"Japan is a social medicine country," she explained.

"Unlike the United States, all health care is provided by the government. So when Japanese come here, they have to pay for their own health care, which can be very expensive."

Ms. Kruithof said coming up with health care funds is not the only barrier to living in the United States — cultural differences can also present problems.

"I sold a home to one Japanese couple," she said. "After a while they became depressed because they felt so different and alone," she said.

"But once they found out about Japanese clubs and where to buy Japanese food, they began to feel at home. Now they love it."

Currently, there are only about 40 Japanese living in the Sun Cities, a number Ms. Kruithof thinks will rise in the next couple of years.

"Most of the Japanese people living in Sun City are women who married World War II GIs, but the interest from Japanese developers and couples is on the rise," she said.

"I think the Sun Cities are a great place to live," she said. "Japanese love to play golf and this is a very nice place to play golf."

Ms. Kruithof can be reached at 977-1776.





Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Tourists from Avondale's sister city, Kaizu, Japan, return to their bus after seeing the Lakeview Recreation Center and Viewpoint Lake. The visitors, who were sightseeing with a Visitors Center tour guide Tuesday, were amazed by the cleanliness of Sun City.

## Sun City impresses Japanese visitors

By DAVID MILLER  
Staff writer

Junichi Morikawa pats his arm and smiles. Though other members of his Japanese tour are straining under the heat of 105 degrees, Morikawa is taken by the piercingly clear skies. "I like the air here," he said. "It feels good on my skin."

And while members of the group, which toured Sun City this week, lamented the sauna-like conditions as they ambled through recreation centers, chances are things are no better at home in Kaizu, Japan.

There is, after all, truth to the saying about the relative benefits of dry heat.

"Kaizu is very hot and humid," Morikawa said. "It's a good time to be away."

In getting away, Morikawa joined a group of about 21 other Kaizu residents, including seniors and city officials, in seeing the Arizona attractions most famous in Japan: the Grand Canyon and Sun City.

Naturally, no explanation is required for why the Japanese want to see the Grand Canyon. But Sun City?

"It's because of your social services," said a tour member. "Your volunteers."

"They're very interested in voluntarism," said tour guide and translator Keiko Peace, a native of Kobe, Japan, and longtime Avondale resident.

That and the city's spotless streets were most impressive to the guests. On the tour bus, riding between Bell, Lakeview and Sundial recreation

► See Cleanliness, A5



7/3/97

# Cleanliness, voluntarism attract Japanese interest

## ■ From A1

centers, Keiko listed numerous figures and facts, touching on volunteer feats.

The crowd is audibly impressed when it hears about the number of people who turn out to clean Sun City streets.

Even Peace, who only traveled from Avondale, finds herself in awe. "It's so clean," she remarked several times as the bus lumbered on.

But if Sun City is radically removed from Avondale, one can imagine its differences from Japan, where voluntarism is an embryonic concept.

"There's not much voluntarism in Japan," said Marianne Bosch, administrative aide to community development for the city of Avondale. "They were particularly interested in this."

Avondale, a small community south of Sun City, also has particular interest in the far-off city of Kaizu.

Both, for instance, are primarily agricultural and resting on the outskirts of larger cities. Kaizu is nestled near the city of Nagoya, a central link between the

monstrous burbs of Tokyo and Osaka.

And in 1993, both signed agreements linking them as "sister cities."

"They approached us," Bosch said. "They were looking to locate a small town or community. At first they approached Scottsdale, and then they were referred to us."

In promoting the terms of that agreement, both Kaizu and Avondale now exchange group tours and teen scholars. Each year about 12 Avondale kids spend 10 days in Kaizu, attending school and touring the countryside.

Clean streets might not be so foreign to the visitors, however. While Japanese cities are as prone as any others to gather litter and grime, Kaizu is set in the backwoods of "inaka," or the countryside.

With a population of about 15,000, it's on the main Japanese island of Honshu, 30 minutes by car from Nagoya and several hundred miles southwest of Tokyo.

Its main agricultural products are rice, tomatoes, melons, strawberries, cucumbers, wheat and "house plants."

And while Kaizu's hearty locals remain "genki," or healthy — one man boasted that he still farmed at 67 — the group was curious about the retirement community concept.

"In Japan there's no such program," Bosch said. "There, it's the oldest son's responsibility to take care of his parents." Or rather, the responsibility of the oldest son's wife.

The idea of lounging in outdoor pools or in vast recreation halls, however, seemed somewhat intoxicating to the visitors. "It's very nice," said a guest looking over the shuffleboard lanes of Bell Recreation Center.

"We hear that a lot," said Helen Blake, who together with her husband, Jim, led the city tour. Both volunteer with the Sun City Ambassadors group, showing off the local sights to guests from around the world.

To her, it's no surprise that a tour from across the globe would land in Sun City. "It's a place they've heard of, and they want to see it."



# SCW Residents 'Stars' of French Television

By Pat Young

In the Fall of 1996, two photographers from Paris, France, videotaped a number of Westers in a variety of activities for a program on "Health" to be aired on French TV. Jim Acker, a SCW resident, was photographed while playing tennis. He later contacted a cousin in France, asking him to tape the program. The cousin did just that.

A 60-minute video arrived from France; then Acker had it "cut" into a 20 minute film featuring the residents from the Sun Cities. Acker also asked Helene Patterson, a native of France (and also on the tape) to translate the

French into English.

The video is titled "How To Age Gracefully." The film contrasts the lifestyle of retirees in France and those in the Sun Cities. The moderator of the film is Professor Francoise Forette of Broca Hospital, Paris. Dr. Forette asks the question, "Is there a universal recipe for getting old?" She then answers, "The only recipe I know is to have the will to live."

"I think it's important," says Dr. Forette, "that you foresee the type of life you want to have. If not, you are at the mercy of what people choose for you. While

you are in your 60's, you need to try to anticipate the type of life you will have after 80."

This 20-minute video shows different people engaged in various activities in the Sun Cities and in France. Those from Sun City West are playing tennis, a man in a golf cart heading out to play golf, a woman "runner," a Jazzercise class with instructor Nancy Dewhurst, people on the track at Palm Ridge, a Posse member; also volunteers at Boswell Hospital. Many of these residents are interviewed, giving their experiences or life in the Sun Cities.



Helene and "Pat" Patterson at home in their "cacti garden." Photo, Pat Young

Helene Patterson, who moved to the USA 52 years ago from France, has been a resident with her husband, "Pat" Patterson, of

Sun City West for 16 years. "Connecticut is beautiful," states Helene on the video, "but it's cold and there's snow; we wanted a warmer place. My husband's parents retired in Arizona and every year we came to visit; so we thought why not?" Helene still has a sister with her family in France. However, the Patterson's daughter, a curator of a museum, lives on the East Coast.

Helene and Pat Patterson have been married 43 years, having met at UCLA, where each was teaching French. They later taught high school French in Montclair, N.J. and for more than 20 years at the Greenwich Academie in Greenwich, Conn.

Helene feels that she and her husband have done what this film suggests, by making a decision "earlier" as to where they wished to be in their "latter" years.

Dr. Forette also states, "Physical activity is very important and it becomes more important as you get older. It helps you maintain good muscular strength, helps you avoid falls, allows you to function in life, and avoid many illnesses. The Pattersons agree with this message. Pat Patterson has been active with the "Energetics" exercise class for many years; while Helene has

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## Residents 'Stars'

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attended Jazzercise for 16 years, as well as taking care of her "cacti garden," which has more than 20 species of cacti.

A French man on the video states that in France "there are usually associations which organize activities for senior citizens." Dr. Forette says, "Maybe it's better to live in a retired community than isolated in a regular town." The people in this film from SCW seem to agree with that idea. And all agree from both France and the Sun Cities that "the best guarantee of good retirement is activity."

"There are many people from SCW and Boswell hospital that were on TV in Paris and do not know they were on TV," says Acker. "If I knew who they were, I would give them one of these videos to see themselves." If there is anyone interested in viewing this video with its English translation, contact Acker at 214-9842.



6-17-87

# Foreign journalists, video crews fascinated by Sun Cities lifestyle

By MIKE GARRETT  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Fascination with the Sun Cities' lifestyle, recreational facilities and amenities has spread worldwide, if the number of foreign journalists, television crews, developers and home builders who tour the area is any indication.

Spokesmen for Del E. Webb Communities, builders of Sun City and Sun City West, say there are no other active adult retirement communities in the world on a scale to compare with the Sun Cities. So foreign officials and journalists often visit the communities and are favorably impressed with what they see, Webb officials say.

Ken Plonski and Martha Moyer of Webb Communities public affairs department say they conduct an average of six to eight tours a year to show foreign observers around the Sun Cities.

The Sun Cities also have an unofficial resident host and hostess, Ed Hemphill and Garnett Burnham, who conduct similar tours.

The Prides and other volunteer groups, the Sun City Sheriff's Posse, medical facilities, golf courses and recreation centers are the bigger draws.

"Traditionally, when the TV crews come out here, it seems like they've done a fair amount of research on the communities because they have an idea of some of the groups they want to see," Plonski says.

More media groups come from Japan than any other country. But Great Britain, Italy, Germany and Australia have been well-represented in the past, too, Plonski says.

A TV crew from the Shizuoka Broadcasting System in Japan was filming in Sun City last Friday and an Arizona State University professor and his wife are currently videotaping a documentary for a future showing in Sweden, Moyer says.

Hemphill, who retired as a Navy chaplain after 31 years of world travels, often greets the Japanese groups when they come in.

"Japan doesn't have anything comparable to Sun City, including lifecare and nursing home facilities," says Hemphill, who is usually contacted through the U.S. State Department or the World Affairs Council in Phoenix to conduct the tours.

The Japanese groups seem most interested in the active retirement lifestyle, particularly the medical

and life care facilities available here, Hemphill and Plonski say. "They want to know how the community handles its sick people," Hemphill says.

"Japanese crews want to know how the people sustain their vitality and how they keep from growing old more quickly being surrounded only by their peers," Plonski says.

Hemphill says he also shows the groups a good cross-section of Sun City area housing, considered a real luxury in land-starved Japan.

"Their basic reaction is one of incredibility," he says. "They are amazed at the volume of stuff here."

The media groups are usually provided statistical profiles and demographics on the two communities and their residents to give them a better insight. Hemphill, who doesn't speak much Japanese, says he occasionally runs into a communications barrier with groups who have no English-speaking representatives.

"But we can still visually point out all the facilities to them and they understand what they're seeing."

Most groups usually tour the Sun Cities for five or six hours but some stay three to four days, Hemphill and Plonski say.

The incorporation issue rarely comes up during the tours and most foreign journalists don't ask

how the cities are governed, Plonski says.

Most of the groups are impressed with the communities' cleanliness because of what they're used to back home. Many also don't understand how a community can get so much volunteer work out of its residents, Moyer says.

"The ASU couple putting together the documentary for Sweden was particularly interested in the volunteer aspect of the Sun Cities. So I took them over to Interfaith Services. In Sweden there is no such thing as volunteerism. They don't understand why people would want to volunteer."

Webb Communities also hosts most of the domestic media crews touring the area. Many of them come from Chicago, California and Pennsylvania, Plonski says.

He says the U.S. media are more interested in the recreational amenities and lifestyle aspects.

"We try to be very selective in terms of the international crews coming in as to which ones we can afford to take around," Plonski says. "For us to take a couple days out of our schedules, plus the time it takes to set up the interviews with the Prides and Posse, you're probably looking at a week's worth of work to set that up. If it was a domestic show like 'Good Morning

America,' you bet we'd jump at the opportunity.

"What we've found with the Japanese is they're thrilled with the whole concept but we're not going to sell a house as a result of it. We have to start looking at the bottom line."

Plonski says Burnham helps in that respect. A former official Webb hostess, she conducts the tours on her own from Webb referrals.

What the TV crews and journalists say to the home folks is uncertain, since they don't send back copies of their reports. But Plonski says it must be mostly favorable, judging by the number of letters and inquiries he gets from the countries who sent representatives.

over





A video crew from the Shizuoka Broadcasting System of Japan records the Sun City lifestyle. Executives of Del E. Webb Communities Inc.,

builder of Sun City and Sun City West, host several foreign journalists each year. (Photo courtesy of Del E. Webb Communities Inc.)