

WHAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THE SUN CITY/SUN CITY WEST LUMINARIA PROGRAM

- 1979 - The Boswell Hospital Auxiliary (now Sun Health Auxiliary) started the program with only candles and bags for sale. The candles were purchased from a religious supply store and the brown bags from Lucky's Super Market. The tradition borrowed from Mexico was to show the way or to greet travelers. No sand was provided - bags and candles were counted and dispensed from the Volunteer Activities room at Boswell Hospital. The profit for this first year was \$84.00.
- 1980 - It was decided to expand the program and to include sand along with the brown bags and candles. Tons of sand were dumped behind the office buildings on Thunderbird just west of Boswell Hospital (a new use for the parking lot). The volunteers filled the kits with coffee cans full of sand, bags and candles. This was a tedious back-breaking job. The weather (rain), dogs and cats also made the task more difficult. Kits were dispatched from various locations in Sun City and Sun City West.
- 1981 - The operation outgrew the parking lot and Del E. Webb Construction Company agreed to the Auxiliary using their unoccupied warehouse in Sun City West. This year at least 500 luminaria were placed very carefully around Boswell Hospital and lighted - what a sight to behold - a few minutes later the automatic sprinkler system turned on - it was surprising how many candles survived the shower.
- 1982 - Still at the warehouse and regular assembly lines of volunteers - Auxiliary and community - were set up. Production and sales were up. Again, Boswell was lighted at sundown and there were about 1500 decorating Johnson Boulevard and the shopping center in Sun City West. A very special coffee can remains from the early efforts of the "sandbaggers" - it has a handle on it.
- 1983 - Same location - a Wester designed a machine for loading sand - much less strain on the volunteers.
- 1984 - Production has been moved to a building behind the old Lending Hands office and there were workers inside and outside under the overhang. Large semi-trucks were used for counting the bags and candles. Again, as the two communities became more aware of the program, production and sales went up.
- 1985 - Production still in the construction area behind former Lending Hands office.
- 1986 - The Auxiliary is now purchasing the luminaria from the Sun City West Foundation. We market them in Sun City and to our members and they take care of Sun City West.
- 1987 - The Interfaith Services Auxiliary marketed and sold the luminaria kits to Sun City.
- 1988 - Sun City.
- 1989 - Sandbagger IV introduced - a new sandbagging machine.
- 1990 - The big move to a "Luminaria Factory" at the side of the Interfaith Services building on El Mirage Road. The sandbagger, conveyors, trucks - and of course volunteers from many organizations - a really professional operation.
- 1991 - building on El Mirage Road. The sandbagger, conveyors, trucks - and of course volunteers from many organizations - a really professional operation.
- 1992 - The Sun Health Auxiliary was asked to sell luminaria in Sun City. Tickets were sold at shopping centers in Sun City and Surprise at tables manned by volunteers. Kits were picked up at the El Mirage Road factory and from a truck parked on Santa Fe next to the Boswell Hospital Thrift Shop.
- 1993 - The kits will again be purchased from the Sun City West Foundation but we will sell them from a store at LaRhonde Center East (the old Sun City Florist shop) and from a truck at the Boswell Hospital Thrift Shop parking lot.



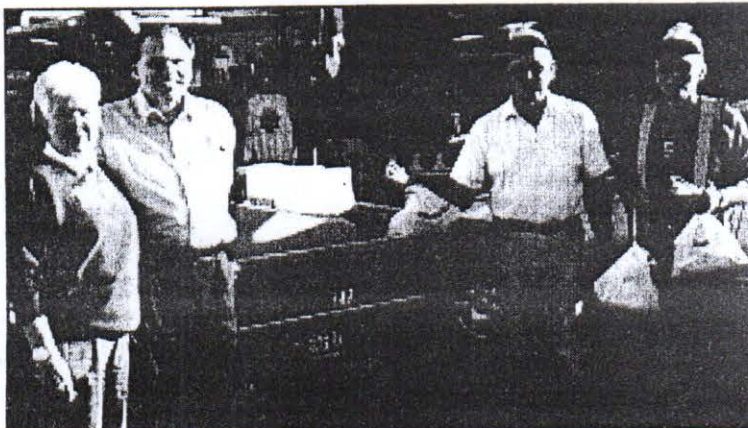
## Year's Luminaria sales are exceeding expectations

By Randy Altenhoff

Residents were concerned when it was announced Luminarias would not be produced and sold at the Helping Hands Foundation building again this season. For many residents who have participated in the Christmas tradition of displaying the old fashioned candle-lighted bags in front of their homes on Christmas Eve, they were faced with assembling their own from basic ingredients.

In other words, buying paper sacks, sand to place in the bottom to prevent the sacks from blowing away and candles to place in the sand to be lighted at the appointed hour. Unless everyone chose the right size candles, timing would be greatly different at each house.

The PRIDES of Sun City West have been involved from the very beginning and used the sale of luminarias to generate funds for community projects and expenses. Bob's Variety Store owner Bob Riddle was approached by the PRIDES and the ensuing deal worked out where the PRIDES volunteers would assemble the ready-to-go kits in



Found discussing the comments received from local residents who have purchased luminaria kits from Bob's Variety Store in the Sundome Shopping Plaza are (l. to r.): D. J. Horton of the PRIDES, Bob Riddle, owner of the store and PRIDE members Duane Sauer and Charles Vandas. One comment overheard from a customer waiting to have her order loaded in her car's trunk stated: "I'm happy this is being done. Someone needed to step in and carry on the tradition."

Photo, Randy Altenhoff

the rear of the building and have others work the front where they load the kits into the customers vehicles on a drive-up basis.

Profits derived from the sale of the kits will be split evenly between the store and the PRIDES. A kit consists of 10 sacks filled with sand, candles with a two hour (average) burning time in a plastic bag for \$5 plus tax.

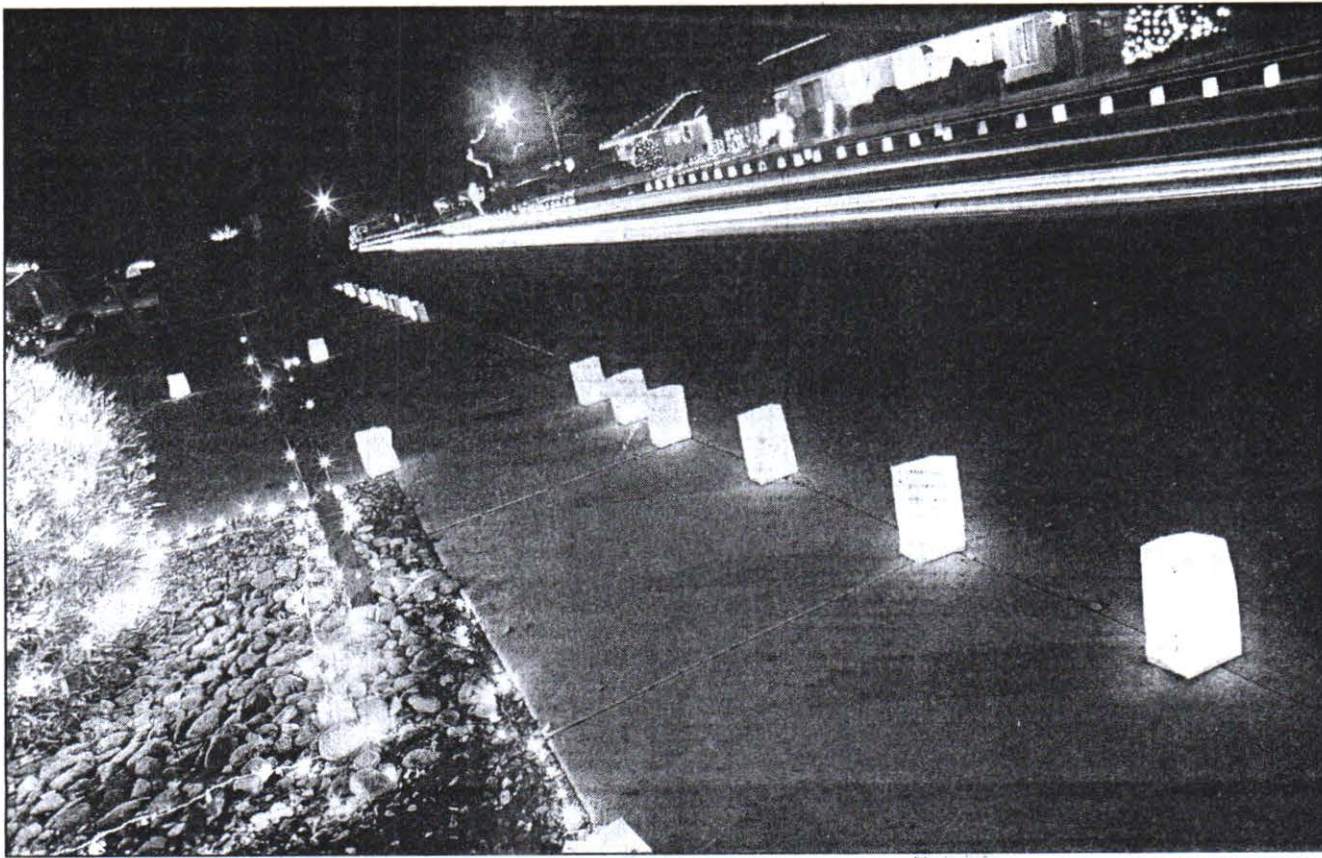
News of the availability from Bob's has spread to Sun City

where a condo association purchased 678 kits for its group.

Encouraged by the success at the new location, the PRIDES have considered extending kit sales beyond the previous termination date of Dec. 18. Everything depends on availability of additional material.

Volunteers within the PRIDES have stepped forward proving once again this organization is a community role model.





Luminarias along Parkwood Drive in Sun City.

Republic file photo

# Luminarias serve double purpose

*Brighten neighborhoods, raise funds for non-profit agencies*

**By Lori Baker**  
The Arizona Republic

SUN CITY WEST — The 300,000 luminarias assembled by volunteers not only will light up neighborhoods, they'll help brighten the lives of the needy.

The 12th annual Sun City West Luminaria Festival is in full swing, and tickets for luminaria kits will be sold from Friday through Dec. 18.

The custom of luminarias originated in Spanish villages in the Rio Grande Valley about 300 years ago.

Since 1986, Sun City West residents and surrounding communities have been offering luminaria kits as a way to bring beauty to the area and to raise money for the community, said Bob Conley, Sun City West Foundation Luminaria Committee member.

Each luminaria kit costs \$5. A kit contains enough sand, sacks, candles and cups to make a dozen luminarias. Residents

usually place the luminarias 2 feet apart; therefore it takes two kits to decorate a 50-foot lot. Luminarias are usually lit around 6 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Tickets will be sold from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily in Sun City West in front of the Safeway grocery store, the True Value Hardware store, the Walgreens drugstore, the ABCO grocery store and the Osco drugstore. Tickets also can be purchased between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays at the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association office, 13815 Camino del Sol Blvd.

Tickets will be exchanged for luminaria kits at the Helping Hands building, 14624 R.H. Johnson Blvd., from 12:30 to 4 p.m. from Dec. 6-22 except Sundays. This is a new location for the distribution.

About 550 volunteers are donating time to market, assemble and distribute luminarias. The kits will be assembled next week.

Proceeds from the sale of the kits benefit the non-profit Sun City West Foundation's Community Services Center, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd., which houses charities and community groups.

Examples are the Interfaith Senior Services Adult Day Health Center for physically disabled adults, and Helping Hands, which lends wheelchairs and other medical equipment to Sun City West residents. Proceeds will help pay for a diesel-powered emergency generator at the center, which has been declared a disaster relief area for the Red Cross.

Besides the foundation, the luminarias are a fund-raiser for other West Valley groups. They include the Sun Health Auxiliary, the Peoria Unified School District, Sun City Grand and the Dysart Unified School District.

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Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Wednesday, July 21, 1999

# SCW Foundation seeks new home for luminarias

By BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Sun City West Foundation continues looking for a convenient place to put its luminaria operations.

Its long-time luminaria building, on El Mirage Road a few blocks north of Bell Road, won't be available much longer.

The State Land Trust has terminated its lease covering the site. And planned widening of El Mirage Road to serve developments to the north may make that site less convenient.

But with little commercial land available in Sun City West, the foundation — which makes about \$60,000 a year from luminaria sales — hasn't been able to find a place to move.

It needs convenient access for the hundreds of residents who arrive regularly in December to pick up luminaria kits.

An earlier offer on one vacant tract led nowhere. It was priced out of reach, officials said.

Now the Foundation is trying again.

At their Tuesday board meeting, foundation directors OK'd an approach to another landowner whose property might be suitable for the luminaria plant.

It's centrally located, big enough to accommodate the 9,000-square-foot building needed, and seems to have enough parking, officials said.

But they won't know if a deal can be worked out until after they submit an offer and perhaps after additional

negotiations.

Any actual purchase would depend on the county certifying that the site could be used for the intended purpose, said Foundation president Lou Lanham.

Directors also learned of minor roof leaks on the remodeled part of the Community Services Building, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd., and will seek bids for repairs, hopefully before the next monsoonal downpour.

And the foundation still expects to get a 200-kilowatt diesel-powered electric generator installed near its building at R.H. Johnson and Stardust boulevards this summer.

It would provide emergency power to the complex, which would be used as a shelter in the event of a disaster or other emergency.

Initial plans for the generator, which will cost about \$120,000, were to have it ready to go in June. But when the contractor sought permits for the installation, county officials found that the special use permit that allowed for the Community Services building might not also allow the generator.

With some prodding from Carole Hubbs, the Recreation Centers of Sun City West president who sits on the county's Planning and Zoning Commission, the county has speeded up its look, and approval for the device should be in hand in a week or so.

"The contractor's all ready to go and the generator itself is in Phoenix waiting for us," Lanham told the board.



Monday, Nov. 23, 1998  
Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz

# Welcome beacons illuminate Sun Cities

By BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Luminaria kits may be reserved in the Sun Cities starting today. More than 20,000 of the kits were sold last year for use on area streets on Christmas Eve.

The kits are made by volunteers in a shop on El Mirage Road just north of Bell Road, where about a quarter-million candles were delivered Thursday. Each will burn for approximately eight hours.

A luminaria kit sells for \$5. It includes a dozen candles, a dozen specially made white paper bags, plastic cups and sand.

Kits sold to area residents last year produced profits of about \$57,000 for the Sun City West Community Foundation, said Bob Olson, who with D.J. Horton co-chairs the luminaria project. The foundation operates the Community Services Building which provides meeting rooms for local groups, including the Interfaith Adult Day Health Center.

The bags are made so they will stand up without the top being folded. They come from Canada, Olson said.

Luminarias originally were used in the American Southwest to herald a time of joy and special brilliance, and to show the way of welcome to weary travelers.

These days, they are used as Christmas decorations to create a festive mood and a wel-

coming light. They are perhaps most common in New Mexico, where they also are called *farolitos* (beacons). They also appear in other Southwestern states.

Traditionally, in Sun City and Sun City West, residents of entire blocks or neighborhoods buy the luminarias. They are placed at 36-inch intervals and lighted at sunset Dec. 24.

Residents and visitors by the hundreds cruise the neighborhoods after dark, their car lights dim, to look at the displays.

In Sun City West, residents buy luminaria tickets that can be exchanged for kits starting 10 days before Christmas.

Tickets are for sale at sidewalk tables in front of ABCO, Safeway, the True Value Hardware store and Osco Drug, and at the PORA office and the Community Services Center, through Dec. 17.

Tickets are exchanged for the kits at the factory.

In Sun City, complete kits will be sold by the Sun Health Auxiliary in a storefront adjacent to the Sun Health Education and Wellness Center in the Thunderbird Plaza, 99th Avenue and Thunderbird Boulevard.

Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday.



Submitted photo

Luminarias grace the lawn at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West. The kits are sold by Sun City West Community Foundation to benefit its many projects.

Dec. 7-12 and Dec. 14-19. No tickets are needed, as kits are in the store.

Luminarias from the El City Grand. Tickets go on sale today at the concierge desk in Sun in the Sonoran Plaza.



# Luminaria workers set brisk pace

By MIKE GARRETT  
Daily News-Sun staff

**SURPRISE** — Some 88 Sun City area volunteers showed up Monday morning to get the luminaria assembly line fired up and by afternoon the line was turning out some 960 luminaria kits an hour.

That's the pace Sun City West resident and assembly line designer-builder-installer Ed Klimek and manufacturing manager DeWayne Sauer hope to maintain until Friday afternoon to reach a total of 29,000 kits for the week.

Assembly-line production is taking place in four-hour morning and afternoon shifts at the newly expanded luminaria building adjacent to the Interfaith Services building on El Mirage Road.

The kits will be distributed throughout the Northwest Valley from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Dec. 21.

Klimek said Monday morning production was delayed because of wet river-bottom sand that was brought in this morning after last weekend's storms.

Some leftover cups and candles from last year also temporarily jammed the line counters, he said. "But we've got everything corrected and expect to do 7,800 today (Monday) and 7,830 a day for the rest of the week," Klimek said during a Monday afternoon break. "We could also



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Using a candle counter are, from left, Phyllis Saver, Ellie Dickason and Doris Hughes, of Sun City West. The three used the counter for luminaria packages. The candle counter is the latest invention to speed luminaria production.

use a few more volunteers here each day if anybody wants to come out."

Luminarias are sand-filled sacks with a candle placed in the center as a holiday decoration. The kits generally sell in the \$4 to \$6 range.

This year's luminarias will be sold to churches, service clubs, schools and individuals in the Sun Cities, Glendale, Westbrook Village and Country Meadows in Peoria, the Dysart School District, Wittmann, Wickenburg and Prescott. The Luminaria

Festival is held every Christmas Eve in participating cities and communities.

Proceeds from Sun City West sales go to the Sun City West Foundation and Sun City sales to Interfaith Services.

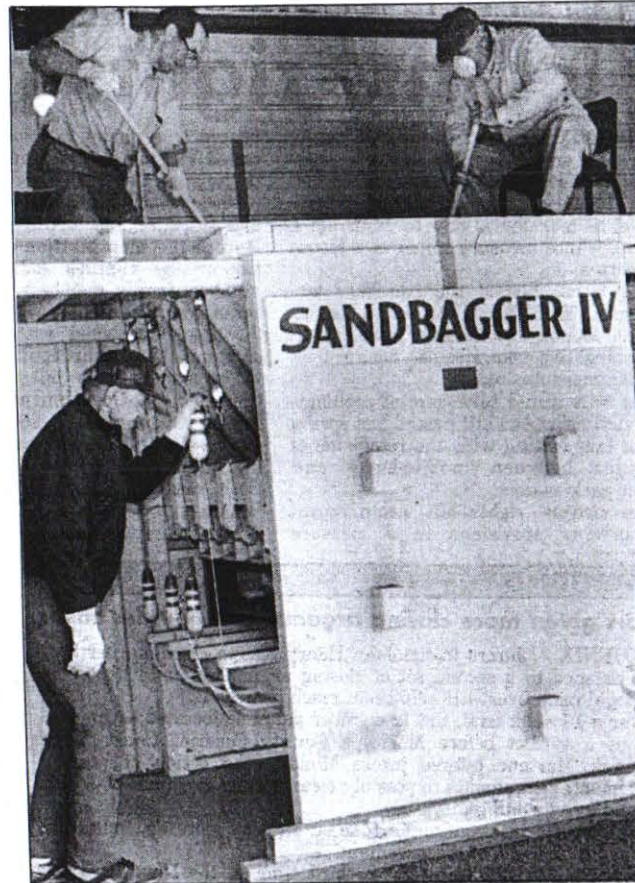
Klimek comes by his assembly-line expertise naturally.

He was employed by General Motors for 44 years starting in 1939. During that time, he worked as a jig and fixture builder, tool and automation designer, production engineer, design supervisor, plant engineer, production manager and plant manager with three GM divisions, Fisher Body, GM Assembly and Chevrolet.

He retired as Assembly Division manager for GM's Overseas Division in Australia in December 1983.

The luminaria assembly line consists of a sand machine, 13 pallets, each holding eight buckets of sand, and two parallel roller conveyor lines, one 60-feet long and the other 50 feet. The sand machine holds about one cubic yard of sand or 1 1/4 tons. Operating at full capacity, the machine dispenses approximately 5 1/2 tons of sand per hour.

The nationally recognized Sun City West Luminaria Festival will be featured in the travel and recreation section of "Sunset" magazine's December issue.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Vern Lester, left, works the shifters while Ed Klimek, top left, and Chuck Haskell, all of Sun City West use shovels to move sand. Klimek, who invented the sandbagger to help quicken the pace of luminaria production, says the shovels were needed for wet sand.



## Luminarias, 100,000 Candles Strong To Light Up Sun City West Christmas Eve

Profits to help construct the Community Services Building



Luminarias volunteer workers on the assembly line — L-R Gerald Leigh (He and wife Lois originated the idea) John Huth, Marilyn Gray, Dick Gray, Stan Carlson, Marge Johnson and Lois Leigh.

The special PORA Luminaria Committee headed by Dick Gray, expects to finish their visits this week of every household in Sun City West for the pre-sale of luminaria kits. At weeks end, more than 300 volunteers will have spent more than 2000 hours in constructing kits and making the door to door canvas.

23 tons of sand will have passed through Herb Johnson's invention — the machine that measures the sand.

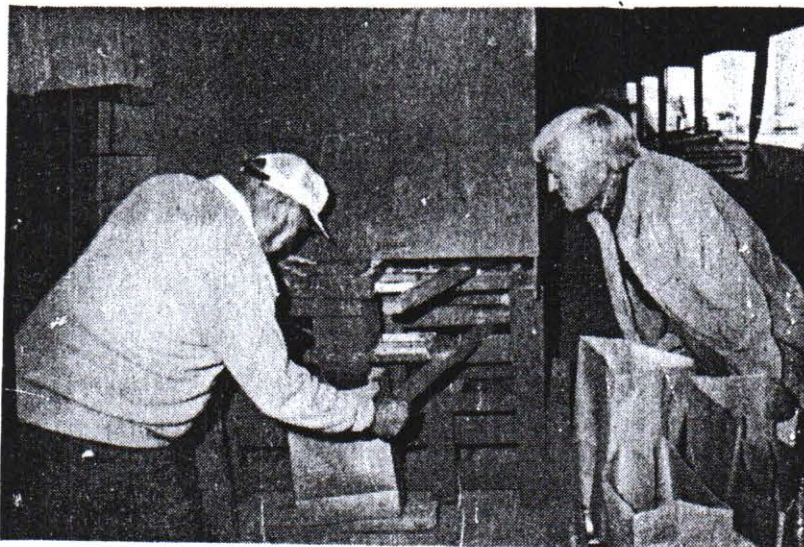
From December 16th through December 20, Sun

City West residents and anyone else who wants Luminaria Kits may pick up them in the rear of the Lending Hands Building, 17228 Dysart Road.

Gerard and Lois Leigh, the husband and wife team that instigated the idea are hoping it becomes an annual Sun City West tradition.

All Luminarias are to be lighted on Christmas Eve at sunset.

Anyone not contacted by a committee member are asked to call 584-1470 or 975-1955.



Herb Johnson, inventory of the sand dispensing machine, explains its operation to publicity man, Mac Lund.





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Luminarias

## Luminaria gear sells promptly

Orders are starting to pour in for Boswell Hospital Auxiliary's luminaria kits, says George Pike.

Pike, chairman of the auxiliary's luminarias committee, said about 1,800 dozen-kits had been ordered by Friday. He said he expects the auxiliary to sell about 5,000 kits this year—up from 4,300 kits sold to area residents last year.

Lighted at dusk, the candles form a trail and symbolically light the way for the Christ Child to enter homes.

Each \$3 kit contains 12 votive candles, 12 pieces of foil to surround the base of the candle and help it burn longer, 12 brown sandwich bags and an ample supply of sand to anchor the candle.

Proceeds from sales will go to Boswell's ophthalmology department.

Orders may be made by sending a check payable to Boswell Hospital Auxiliary, P.O. Box 1370, Sun City 85372. There is a 15-percent discount on orders of 25 dozen kits or more.

Sun City area residents may pick up kits from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday in the Thunderbird Medical Center.

Sun City West pickup is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 8-9 in Home Federal Savings and Loan Association, Johnson Boulevard.



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George Pike starts to unwrap the first of 35,000 candles that will be used in 1983's luminarias. (News-Sun Photo by M.J. Hoppes)

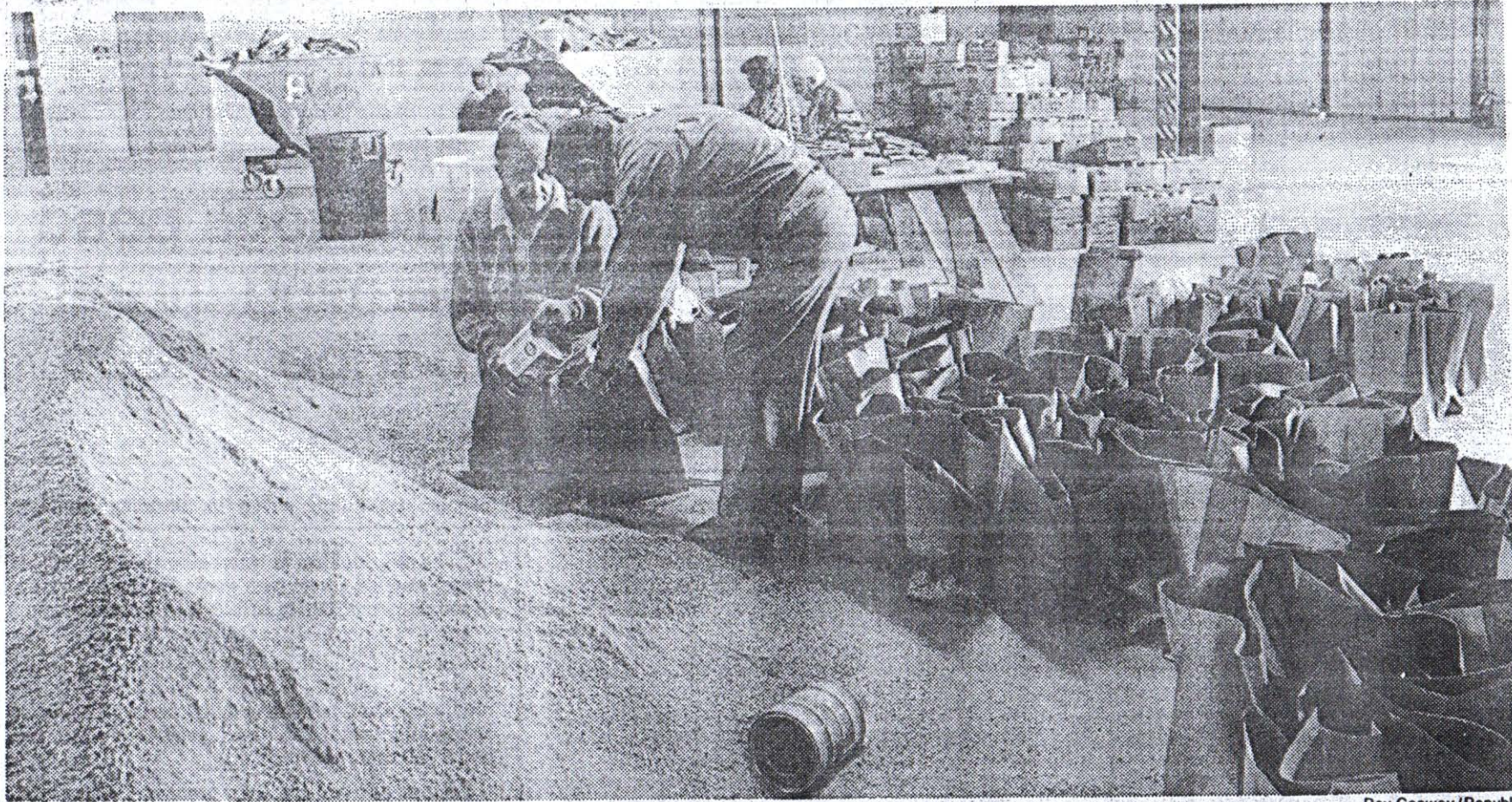






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The Arizona Republic Nov. 29, 1982



Roy Cosway/Republic

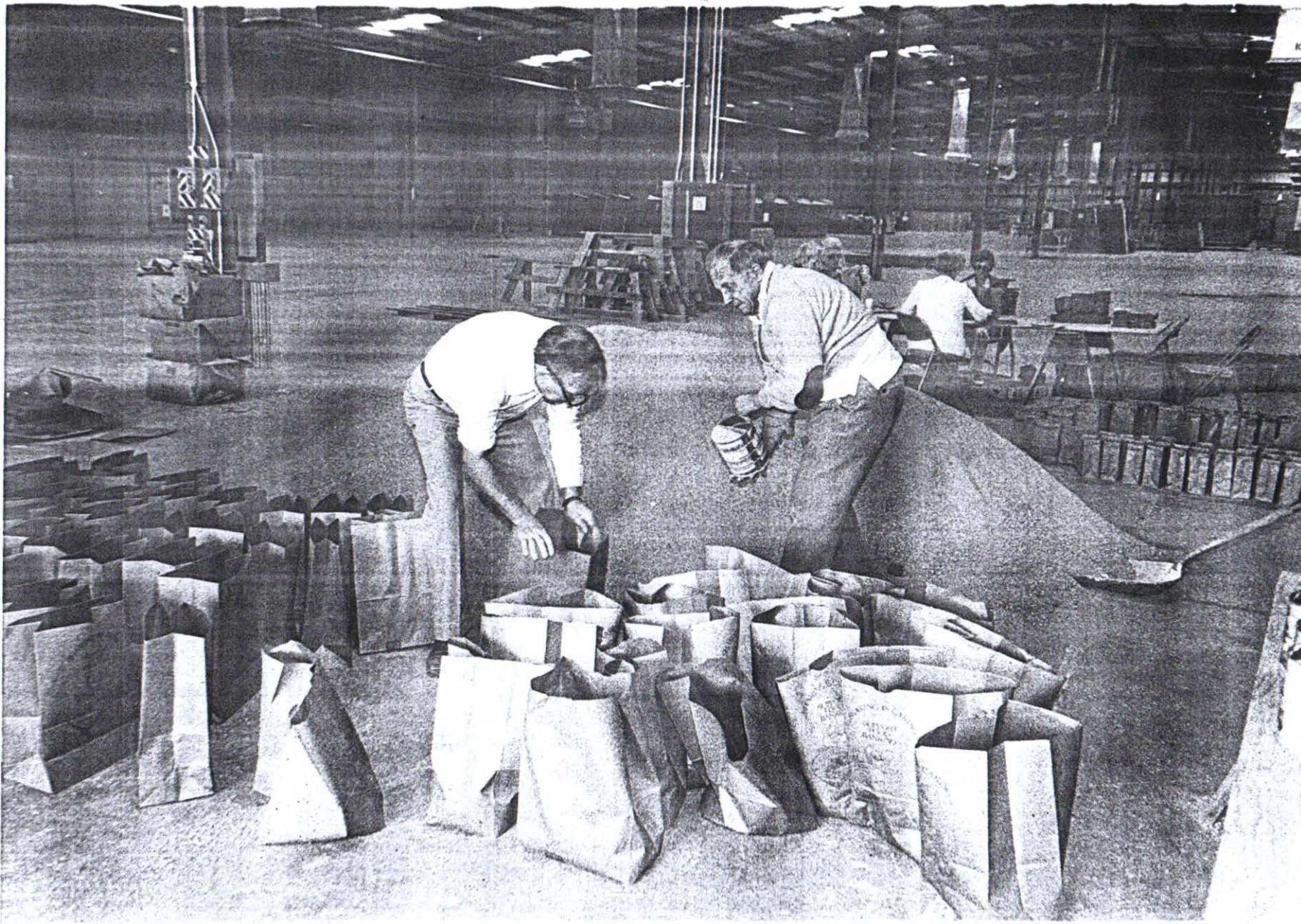
## Sandmen

George Pike (left) and Charles Burchfield fill bags with sand that eventually will be sold in luminaria kits by the Boswell Hospital Auxiliary.

The auxiliary plans to have 5,000 kits — containing 12 votive candles, 12 small brown-paper bags and enough sand to make a dozen

luminarias — ready by Thursday. Luminarias are placed along sidewalks and lighted Christmas Eve. For more information, call 974-5496.





1982 Charles Birchfield





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# LUMINARIAS

## AROUND THE WORLD

BY GEORGE FITZPATRICK

• From Alaska and Florida, from Hawaii and Canada, from many out-of-the-way places come reports that the pleasant custom of *luminarias* on Christmas Eve has spread across the world.

It began back in the early days of Spanish colonization of New Mexico. Lacking festival lights, the colonists improvised and made little bonfires of bright burning piñon. These little fires on Christmas Eve lighted the route of the processions to the village church for midnight Mass and were placed on pathways in front of homes "so the Christ child could find his way."

In later years, when the caravans from Mexico and the East brought to New Mexico dishes and other breakables that were wrapped in paper, the women of the household saved the bright wrappings and fashioned them into gay little Chinese lanterns or *farolitos* to decorate their patios or homes for *fiestas* and other festive occasions.

Finally, with the coming of paper bags and commercial candles, New Mexicans improvised again. They substituted candles in paper sacks for the bonfire *luminarias*. These are not lanterns, but rather symbolic little fires "lit by simple folk whose hearts believe the Christ child wanders softly through the night and blesses all who set a guiding light."

The city of Albuquerque a few years ago took up the custom of lighting *luminarias* and made it such a tremendous spectacle that thousands of people, cars and buses jam the streets on Christmas Eve to witness the spectacle of the lights.

Tourists who have visited Albuquerque on Christmas Eve have taken the custom back to their home towns, and Christmas issues of New Mexico Magazine showing how the *luminarias* are made and used have been mailed by the thousands each year to all parts of the world.

It is amazing that such a simple device as a No. 10 paper sack, a vigil or plumber's candle, and a couple inches of sand for the bottom of the bag to rest the candle in could develop into such a popular and heart-

warming custom that it commands immediate acceptance.

Newspapers and magazine sections from many parts of the United States have featured the use of *luminarias* in their particular areas. One of the most spectacular to arouse big-city admiration is probably the *luminaria* decorating by the John A. Rybak family of 23825 Wonneta Parkway in Cleveland.

"We spent several Christmas seasons in Albuquerque and were so impressed with the *luminarias* that we decided to use them here," Mr. Rybak has written. "We live on the circle of a cul-de-sac street and ordinarily there is very little traffic, but due to the publicity in the *Plain Dealer* we had a near traffic jam which would compare favorably with that in Albuquerque and the *luminaria* tours. From dusk on Christmas Eve until about 1 o'clock on Christmas morning, there was an almost constant stream of cars. Many people stopped to take pictures and to inspect the lights in the bags. We used 350 and plan to use the same number this year."

The Rybaks use concrete bases for the candles because of the difficulty of storing sand. Mrs. Rybak mixed the concrete in the garage and used frozen food foil pans as molds.

Nan Barnhouse, Cleveland *Plain Dealer* writer, telling of the Rybak decorations last year reported that Mrs. Rybak bought the candles by the gross from a religion supply house. The puzzled clerk could not contain himself at the huge purchases of candles and asked, "Lady, are you starting your own religion?"

Up in Alaska, John E. White began his preparations for Christmas in August. Mr. White and family live at Atlasta House on the road from Anchorage to Fairbanks.

"Getting together the materials presented somewhat of a problem," Mr. White wrote. "We determined that we could not use less than five hundred *luminarias*. That alone represented a respectable pile of sand. This is one substance in which Alaska abounds, but to have it in an unfrozen state when needed required that it be

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obtained during the summer and stored in a dry place. This I did with the help of my son Gene, eight years old. We gathered the sand in empty pasteboard boxes in August and stored them in the garage. The white paper sacks we purchased from a local supplier. The candles were our greatest problem. We had to procure them from a supplier in Minnesota and the freight bill alone almost equaled the cost of the candles. Nevertheless, we went ahead with our plans and bought five hundred candles.

"Three days before Christmas we folded down the tops of five hundred paper bags and put one cupful of sand into each one. On Christmas Day just after noon, all of the family members were drafted to place the sacks where needed. My children, Paul, 17 and his sister Clare, 15 placed the bags along the edges of the roof. Gene, and Marie who is five, and I placed the sacks which were set aside for the driveway. It took three hundred of them to outline both sides of the driveway. About six in the evening we all again got busy and this time even my wife Marceline joined us to light those hundreds of candles. In this we were joined by some of our neighbors, Mrs. Delores Johnson and her son John, and Miss Roberta McLeod. It took all of us nearly half an hour to go from the first candle to the last candle and the temperature of the air at that time was 10

degrees below zero. Then we stood back to see and admire our handiwork.

"There are few words adequate to describe such splendor as we beheld! The spectacle was so startling and awe-inspiring that travelers passing by paused to admire the display and pass greetings of the season with us. This one result alone made all of our labors worthwhile. Just the feeling that we had emphasized the joys of the season of Christmas and what it means to all mankind was as illuminating to the soul of each of us as the glow of the *luminarias* were a gentle illumination of Faith.

"I hardly need say at this point that it was a very short time before the word got around that something unusual in the way of Christmas decorations were to be seen at Atlasta House. Our home was soon deluged with happy visitors snapping their cameras and exchanging greetings and good wishes with each other."

The Whites, who first became interested in *luminarias* from reading of them in the Christmas issues of New Mexico Magazine sent to them by Mrs. Eleanor Morelli of Albuquerque, were so pleased with the success of their venture that they plan to make the display an annual affair . . . "differing only in that henceforth we will make the candles ourselves so that we may put much more of ourselves into such a joyous

(Text Continued on Page 23)

sight. We have already begun to fashion the candles and if anyone is interested in our method of doing this, I will be glad to share the information.

"I believe this is as close to the North Pole as the charming custom of *luminarias* has emigrated from the places of its origin in the lovely state of New Mexico."

Another spectacular display of *luminarias* is an annual event at Epworth Acres subdivision on St. Simons Island, four miles off the coast of Georgia.

"Last year it caused a sensation not only on the Island but on the mainland," Mrs. Alton H. Perry, of 103 Moore Drive, St. Simons Island, wrote. "Thousands drove through the community. They were told by the county police to dim their lights on their cars when they entered the section, and since there were no street lights burning, the effect was very beautiful. No outside lights were used except occasionally an outside decorated Christmas tree. We are now making preparations for this coming Christmas Eve . . . Since I lived in New Mexico for ten years many years ago, and have gone back nearly every year, it pleases me a great deal to help start

and perpetuate this lovely custom of *luminarias*.

From Ottawa, Canada, has come a letter from G. S. Simpson, 1198 Castlehill Crescent, saying that "You may, if you wish, add Ottawa to your list of locations where the *luminarias* of New Mexico help to light Christmas Eve 1967. Our layout of bags and sand was not made up by Albuquerque standards as the effort was somewhat experimental, but next year we will go all out. Automobiles were stopping to look all evening, and I shouldn't be surprised to see the idea adopted all along the street in future years."

Closer to home, Flat River, Missouri, joined the list of places where the *luminaria* custom has been adopted. Last year, Flat River used more than a thousand *luminarias* to line four paths to the chapel in Columbia Park. Boy Scouts working under the direction of the City Manager prepared the *luminarias*.

So the list grows longer!

It's a simple thing: a paper bag, a bit of sand in the bottom, and a lighted candle. But it gives a kindly light and seems to express the spirit of Christmas. •