



Memo to Members

*Latest happenings at your museum from
Ed Allen, president of the Board of Trustees*



Our salute to the "Woman Who Lived 100 Lives" was a BIG SUCCESS!

The museum saw a steady stream of visitors on Feb. 23 and 25, as many Tanya Griffin fans came to greet her and share memories of programs past. It was amazing how many different women the various visitors remembered seeing Tanya perform! Some had not seen her, but got to watch her portray Annie Oakley on a DVD playing in the Performing Arts Exhibit. Her costume hung next to it.

We had 333 visitors for the week, and the event raised \$439. Special thanks to the docents who came in the extra days: Yasmina Snider, Pris Fenner, Toni Ashby, and Loretta Allen. Despite not feeling well, Gail Warmath and Carol Dearen also came in, but we were able to send them home. Working behind the scenes were Bill Pearson who moved the golf cars in & out of the carport for us, and David Verble who converted VHS tapes of Tanya to DVDs to play at the museum.



Museum grounds have never looked better!

To get the museum ready for company, David Verble, a former trustee and board president, put in several afternoons clearing away weeds, and trimming overgrown shrubs. He even got permission from our next-door neighbor to pull the weeds between her house and ours! Betsy Harris trimmed the roses back, and they are beginning to blossom anew.

Landscaper volunteers to keep us looking good from here on.

Mark Stanley of *Across the Valley Landscape* takes care of the office building across the street and will touch up our yard each month after he's completed his work there. We'll be putting two signs in our yard – one along Oakmont and one facing the golf course to give him credit for his help. If you need yard work done, give Mark a call: 602-757-7183.

Mark your calendar for 1:00 Tuesday, Mar. 15

This is your chance to hear the history of our neighbor, Youngtown. Meeting will be in the clubhouse at 12030 Clubhouse Square. Take Alabama Ave. into Youngtown, and a little over one block west of 111th. The clubhouse will be on your right. Refreshments will be served.

Roof repair coming – thank Heaven we don't get much rain!

You may have noticed the stain in the ceiling in the Jane Freeman Room. We've had roofers in to look at what's needed, and have received proposals of up to \$4350 for a new roof over the rear of the house. That's definitely not in our budget, and we have found a roofer who believes he can patch the area to get several more years' life out of the old roof. It means a saving of \$4000 – and is certainly worth a try.

Don't forget your 10% discount on books, notecards, and more!

Looking for a gift? Consider one of the books available from our gift shop, or a pack of notecards specially designed for the museum.

- * Del Webb – A Man, A Company* \$20
 - * JUBILEE – The story of Sun City's first 25 years* \$20
 - * Images of America – Sun City \$20
 - * Silver Celebration – The first 25 years of SCW \$20
- Members receive a 10% discount on the above,
as well as on tickets to special events.

* *Currently being reprinted*

10 cards, 5
SC scenes
by artist
Janette
Kimble –
Only \$8



Do you belong to an organization that needs speakers for meetings?

If so, suggest your program chairperson contact the museum as we offer a number of entertaining and informative talks on local history. The number to call is 974-2568.

- “Cotton Bolls to Golf Balls”...“Lizard Acres to Lush Oasis”...“The Grand Connection” tell how Sun City, Sun City West, and Sun City Grand came to be.
- “The Remarkable Del Webb” ... “The Boswell Connection” ... “John Meeker, Master Builder” tell the stories of three men involved with the building of our communities.

Last year, museum speakers gave 35 talks to 19 different organizations. While we do this free as a community service, we are always happy to receive donations!

Volunteers are always Welcome!

With the exception of a part-time office manager, all of us are volunteers. We've found it a stimulating place to work as we learn more about the history of our area. It's fun too, to be able to amaze friends with “Did you know that...” factoids that spice up conversation. The work is not difficult, but is a great learning experience.

I like to refer to it as the “mystery of history.” Why does a hospital carry a Boswell name? Who was the “Meeker” whose name is on a major SCW boulevard? What was the “West Beardsley” that a sign along the railroad track refers to?

Join us – and join the search! We have immediate openings for docents (we'd like to open the museum 5 afternoons a week) ... office help with mailings, filing, scanning, record-keeping ... writing letters, publicity releases, newsletter articles ... giving talks ... and more. *What skill do you have that you can share with us?*

Tell your friends about the museum! Open 1-4, M-W-F. And it's FREE!!



Memo to Members

*Latest happenings at your museum from
Ed Allen, president of the Board of Trustees*



Docent/Volunteer Appreciation Tea was a Successful Event ...



April 12 was a warm balmy day – perfect for a tea party on the McMillin Terrace! All docents and volunteers were invited along with some special guests. Tables had been set with china furnished by Priscilla Fenner, Yasmina Snider, and Toni Ashby. The kitchen was a buzz of activity as delicacies were prepared for the tea.



Scones were brought over from the oven at Oakmont. Board members Arlene Sampson and Heidi Speed prepared them for serving along with sandwiches and pastries.



Event chair, Pris Fenner, gave instructions to yours truly. AJ Kojac and I served as waiters.

Guests began to arrive, some adding a touch of class to the tea.

Among the special guests were:

Tanya Griffith and Dr. Bill; Ida Eisert from the SCRC Board (between Jane Quitney and Betsy Harris) and three Questers from Yucca Chapter – see other side.



Sun City widow immortalizes generous husband in bronze

**IOWA COLLEGE
BENEFACTOR:** Sun
Citian's likeness sits on
bench outside
namesake library

HAYLEY RINGLE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Harold Geisler of Sun City will forever sit in a quiet spot at Central College in Pella, Iowa, reading his book, with his right ankle casually resting on his left knee.

Mavis Geisler, Harold's wife, wanted a lasting memory of her husband — who passed away March 1999 — and hired a sculptor to fashion a likeness of him in bronze.

"After Harold's death I wasn't sleeping good, and I needed something to remember him by," said Mavis, who received the Central College Honorary Alumni Award during the unveiling June 17. "It was his hopes and dreams to help a lot of kids go to college."

The Geislars weren't able to attend college, but liked the principles of the small college and have supported it with charitable foundations and scholarships for many years.

"He always wanted to show how important it is to go to college," said Mavis, a Sun City resident for 27 years. "We don't have any children or relatives, and this is a way to give back. Without him, none of this could be done."

Central College is a private college affiliated with the Reformed Church which has 1,500 students. The sculpture of Harold, a former trustee at the college, is the only work of art displayed outdoors on the campus.

"It's so tasteful and appropriate," said Jim Hamlin, vice president of college advancement. "It represents Harold and his quest for knowledge so well."

The sculpture, entitled *The Quest*, sits outside the library that bears the Geisler name — built with funds from the family. The piece was designed by sculptor Nick Klepinger of Reasnor, Iowa.

"(Mavis) wanted something nostalgic, in (Harold's) prime," said Klepinger, who sat down with Mavis and photographs of Harold from the 1930s to design the sculpture. "It was an exceptional gesture on her part."

The 400-pound sculpture rests on a bench in an alcove off the library. Klepinger said he left enough room on the bench for people to sit.

"(The sculpture) is casually slim, and very, very relaxed," said Klepinger, who spent roughly seven months creating the piece. "My philosophy is to animate things."

Using a model sitting in the pose Klepinger wanted, he shot photographs from every angle to get the correct body structure and to see how the clothes draped a body when sitting.

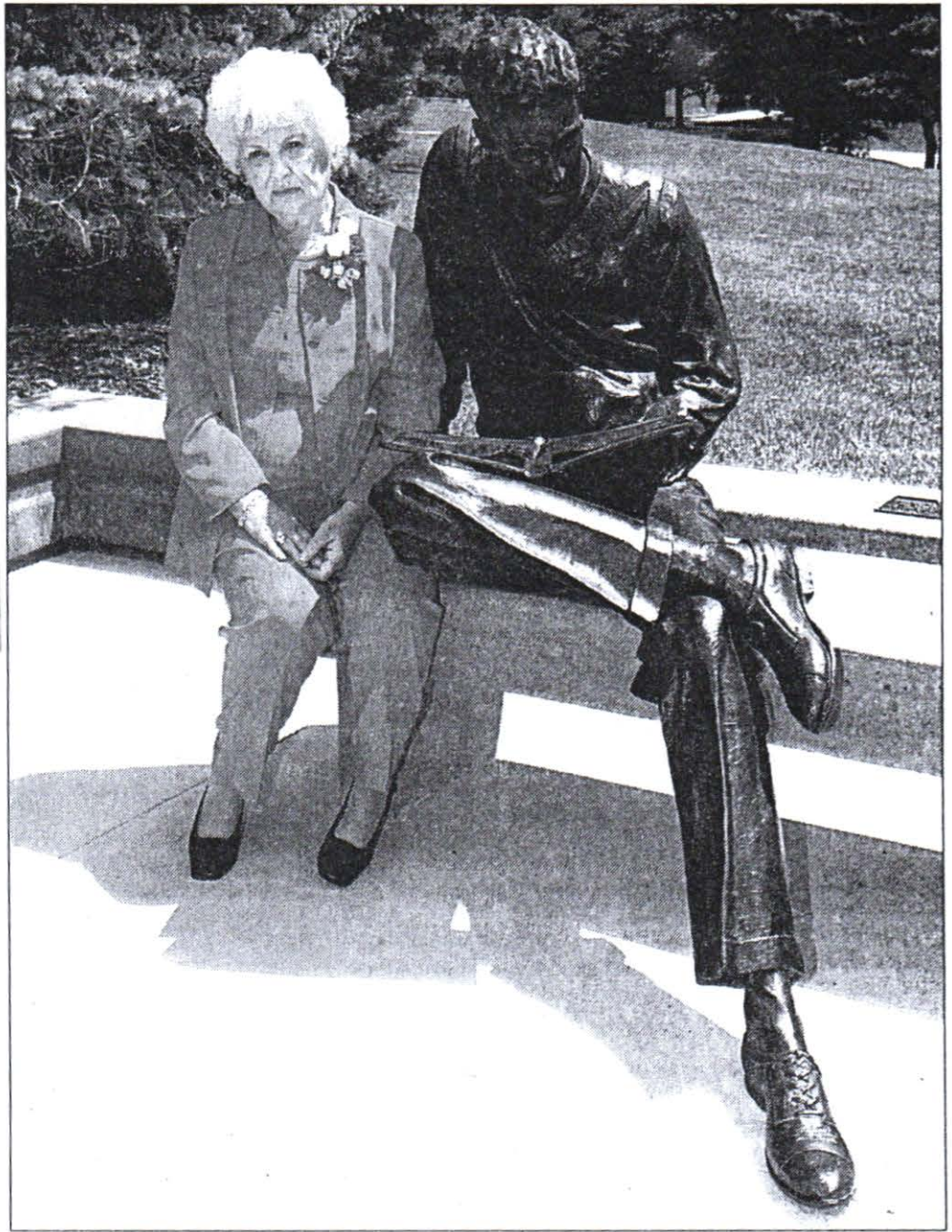
Harold and Mavis met in Mingo, Iowa, which had a population of just more than 100 at the time. They attended the same school — 10 years apart.

"We met because it's such a small town," said Mavis. She used to farm cattle hogs with her husband, and still owns three Iowa farms producing corn and soybeans. She plans to give the farms to the college as well.

"It's been very, very rewarding," said Mavis about giving money to the school. "It's pretty easy to thank somebody."

GEISLER, MAVIS & HAROLD

(OVER)



SUBMITTED PHOTO/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun Citian Mavis Geisler sits next to a bronze likeness of her deceased husband outside the Iowa college library bearing their name.

Page 4 THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, July 19-25, 1989



GLORIA GEMMILL
*adds a few strokes to one of
her watercolors, which fea-
ture her distinctive style of
bold images mixing both
abstract and realism.*

Bret McKeand/Independent

Sun Citian

Profile

Portraits Of Our Residents

OVER

GEMMILL, GLORIA

Artist's eye seeks visions of timelessness in Native culture

by YOLANDA MUHAMMAD
Sun Cities Independent

Native Americans believe that man's abilities are a reflection of the power in nature.

Signs of the individual's strengths show up early in life; and for the watchful, these cues can lead to a full use of personal skills.

Gloria Gemmill is a watercolorist. Her paintings explore the Indian culture she learned to love during childhood adventures with her father, Herbert Rollins, who was an amateur archeologist.

Gloria explores a variety of styles, but the one that is most instinctive to her is a fanciful rough-the looking-glass technique that displays flashes of color, in a blending that combines familiar subjects with abstract expression.

She and husband, Mark, five-year-residents of Sun City, though they lived for 30 years where Sun City West now stands, when the area was known as Lizard Acres. Gloria says she thought she was a great artist in second and third grade, as most children do. In a hallway in her home is an old photograph of her bent over her work table, pen in hand.

Her other love was tramping all over the hills of Scottsdale with her father, finding Indian ruins and artifacts. Mark in the days when they were just sitting there in creek beds.

She says in the early 1900s her father met Geronimo at an exhibition back East and began to collect baskets and pottery from the Indian cul-

ture.

"We used to make trips to Walnut Creek back when hardly anybody had visited the area; and when I was a little girl I was able to climb the ladders and go up into Montezuma's Castle."

Today those ruins must be admired from afar.

In high school a teacher recognized her talent for art and encouraged her to major in art at college. She attended the University of Arizona and married her husband, Mark. They had met years before through family friends.

Though she continued to paint and take classes while she raised her two sons, she really began to pursue her gift after her children were of high school age.

"After the kids were gone I spent every day painting. It does make a difference," Gloria says.

"You have to spend a lot of time painting. It is not something you get by going to classes or through osmosis -- you have to do it."

Many Sun Citians know Gloria Gemmill because she teaches experimental watercolor classes at Bell Recreation Center in the fall and winter.

"This coming fall I want to stress creativity in my classes," she says.

"I have friends who tell me, 'Oh, I can only paint if I copy something.'"

"I tell them they have a creative spark in them and it is just a matter of bringing it out."

Gloria says it is important to her to teach her students how to have fun when they

"It should also be a challenge. Lots of times we just start with a little color on a piece of paper. Then you use your imagination to find what you might want to do to get rid of that pure white paper."

The Gemmills have two sons. The younger son, John, is a Phoenix attorney with two daughters. Their older son, Mark, is the second in com-

mand, an executive officer on a nuclear aircraft carrier. He has two sons.

"We're very proud of our two sons. I have two wonderful daughters-in-law and four wonderful grandchildren," she says beaming.

And they must all be very proud of 'grandma!' The list of her awards and accomplishments is so long she has

trouble remembering them all.

Last year, her painting, "The Offering," was selected for the cover of Citibank's Thanksgiving card from among more than 100 submitted works.

She has been awarded Best of Show in Arizona Watercolor Association shows. She has won first, second and honorable mention in the wa-

tercolor category at the Arizona State Fair -- all in the same year.

She has been accepted in the American Watercolor Society show twice, which is very prestigious and only a hundred or so paintings are accepted from several thousand entries.

"And I was written up in *Southwest Art* magazine,

which was nice, in 1985, with several reproductions of my paintings.

"I have lots of ribbons and stuff, but I really can't remember all the awards," she says with a smile.

Gloria Gemmill will have a show at the Sun Cities Art Museum, opening Sept. 26.

Her watercolors are shown out of Mammen Gallery in Scottsdale.

Besides the 15 collectors of her works in Sun City, First Interstate Bank, Thunderbird Bank and Arizona Bank own and display Gemmill watercolors.

Mrs. Gemmill has made many trips into Mexico with art study groups, often as instructor. And her travels have taken her to Turkey, Greece and Europe as well.

Her studies of Indian culture have included the residents of the Snake Town ruins in the area just south of Chandler, who are thought to be Hohokam, the forerunners of the Pima and Papago tribes.

Gloria's process is to visit an area and make sketches. Though she says, "A lot of my ruins are generic -- they are what I remember."

"I have done some that are accurate, but I also like to imagine what the life was like and what the things were like and so a lot of my things are just, well ... dreamed up. But they are typical."

Gloria Gemmill is energetic and exuberant. She is animated when she talks about painting.

"It's part of my life. It's something I could not live without and I like to keep changing."

"When I teach, I like to see the surprise in my students' eyes when they do something well."

"I feel very fortunate to have my painting."

The delight is mutual for those who have the opportunity to view her lyrical and mystical expression with water and pigment.

Artist melds dedication with constant evolution

BY DIANA TOLLEFSON
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Gloria Gemmill is an emphatic artist with clear definition of line and color and positive ideas about her art.

She is constantly changing her methods and styles, and said, "When I stop learning, I'll stop painting."

As Featured Artist Museum Exhibitor (FAME), Sept. 26 through Oct. 22, she will have an exhibition in the Hoover Foyer of the Sun Cities Art Museum, 115th Avenue and Bell Road. There will be a reception 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 1 in the museum.

Gemmill grew up in Prescott, where her father was an archaeologist and her mother taught her to enjoy books. The family often went hiking in an area rich in Indian history, and she

developed a fascination for Indian artifacts and culture, which is evident in her paintings today.

Gemmill studied at the University of Arizona in Tucson where she majored in art and minored in geology, specifically, invertebrate paleontology. She often borrows from this background when naming her paintings. It is not unusual to see a landscape titled "Pterodactyl Terrain."

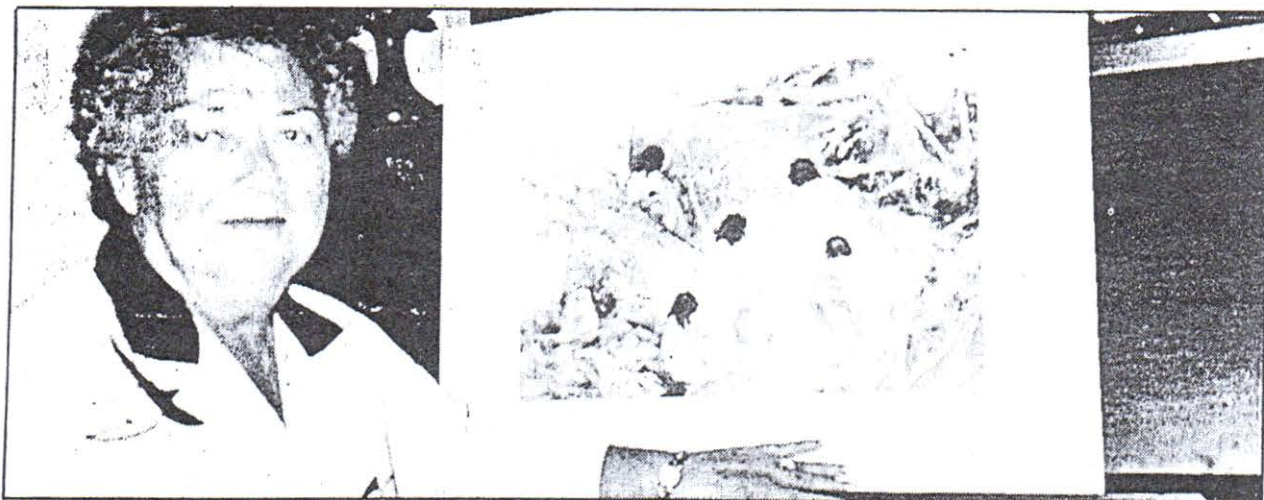
"I love to paint what I know, and can never reproduce a painting over again just because it was successful. I never copy anything, not even my own work," she said. "I use my imagination and love to experiment. The feeling of earth and change of seasons are inherent in my art, and I like abstracts. Once I tore up some old paint-

ings I didn't like and I made a collage from them. It turned out very well."

Gemmill is firm in telling her students at the Bell Recreation Center that a lot of time must be spent in painting to get the most from it.

"It is not something you get just by going to class; you learn about painting by doing it," Gemmill said. "I plan to stress creativity in my classes this fall. One way to start is to crumple plastic wrap and drag it through wet wash, let it set and then lift off. Imagine what it suggests. And then paint."

Gemmill has traveled extensively and made hundreds of sketches. She uses a brush pen with ink like sumi for her sketchbooks. She also likes to use watercolor crayons. Working



Daily News-Sun photo

ARTIST'S DISPLAY — Sun City watercolorist Gloria Gemmill shows a painting typical of her clear, fresh style. The Sun

Cities Art Museum will exhibit her works in the Featured Artist Museum Exhibitor program Sept. 26 to Oct. 22.

on gesso-coated paper, Gemmill often finds her work taking a spiral movement in the composition.

"Technique is important, but not as important as design and composition. The best way to incorporate these elements into one's paintings is to work every day."

GEMMILL, GLORIA

Volunteer sticks to hospital duty

Daily News-Sun • Monday, Nov. 26, 2001

GENUNG, ELEANOR

AWARD WINNER: Sun Citian hailed by Sun Health

JEANNE WINOGRAD
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun Health volunteer Eleanor Genung didn't know she was attending a surprise party when recently invited to a philanthropy dinner.

"I knew Sun Health was involved, so I agreed to go," Genung said.

When she arrived at the Camelback Inn in Phoenix, Genung was impressed that 800 people were there.

"All of a sudden, they said they were giving out awards. Next thing I knew, Pamela Meyerhoffer seated me with 45 people who were getting awards. I was completely shocked," Genung said.

Meyerhoffer is executive vice president and chief executive officer for Sun Health Foundation, for which Genung has contributed time and resources over the past seven years as a member of Sun Health Auxiliary.

Every Tuesday morning, Genung can be found in the volunteers' office at Boswell Memorial Hospital, handling what she describes as "sort of a dull job" putting stickers on each of multiple sheets that document a patient's path through surgery.

"Today I only had 13 files, usually they're in the thirties. I don't blame them. I wouldn't want to have

surgery on Thanksgiving Day," Genung said last Tuesday. Thirteen files means Genung has to put stickers on 25 sheets per file, or 325.

Genung enjoys the company of other volunteers at Sun Health.

"I've made friends there. We visit and are concerned about each other," she said. Genung first became involved in Sun Health seven years ago after her husband died. Norman "Ridge" Genung was an attorney in Chicago and with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Working for you

"I was playing bridge one day and decided I needed to do more. It's worth the time to volunteer. If I didn't

place stickers on patients' sheets, the nurses would have to do it, and they don't have time," Genung said.

Previously a seventh-grade language arts teacher for 20 years in Chicago, Genung still receives telephone calls from two special students from years past, especially on important holidays.

"I still hear from two of them. One calls once a month. The other is a judge who always calls at Christmas," Genung said.

Genung's award is one of the highest Sun Health gives, called "Spirit of Philanthropy." The trophy is a swirl of polished glass. In addition, one of Boswell Memorial Hospital's towers has been named for the couple.

Jeanne Winograd can be reached at jwinograd@aztrib.com or by calling 876-2532.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Eleanor Genung of Sun City earned Sun Health's Spirit of Philanthropy Award for her volunteer work at Boswell Memorial Hospital.

Sun City twins match memories

By BRITT KENNERLY
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Gertrude remembers pinching her twin, Laura, to keep her still when the two posed for a Borden's milk ad that proclaimed "We Sell Satisfaction."



More than eight decades later, the twins, who turn 85 today, are still looking out for each other and relishing lives as mirror images.

The oldest of six children, Gertrude George and Laura Morris, nee the Otte twins, were born in Pittsburgh and spent their early childhood years in Jamestown, N.Y.

For years, they've saved fragile photos of their peas-in-a-pod youth.

A shot of them decked out in matching hats,

hands hidden in stylish white muffs, is handsomely framed; a picture of them smiling and sporting huge hair ribbons pays tribute to their seeming inseparability.

"Mother and Father always dressed us alike," Laura said. "And sometimes we took advantage of it."

Luckily, their taste in clothes, from the beginning, was very similar, Gertrude said.

"There'd always be a piece of clothing we both were attracted to," she said. "Then when we'd go to buy two of the same outfit, they'd say, 'We have one in your size and one in a different color in size 16.'"

The twins' interest in clothing led them to study costume design at Carnegie Tech's (now Carnegie-Mellon University) Margaret Morrison School. Each earned a bachelor's degree in costume design in 1931.

Looking alike had more than a few benefits at the college level.

One day, when Gertrude was ill with the flu, Laura "stepped in" for her sister during an economics test.



Stephen Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Twins Gertrude George, left, and Laura Morris, celebrate their 85th birthday today. The pair, left, posed for an ad in the Pittsburgh Press in the late '20s.

"When I went in the room, I didn't know where she sat, and someone finally said, 'Why don't you sit down?'" Laura said.

Laura completed the test, but also did something her sister hadn't asked her to do.

She walked home with a boy Gertrude had been eyeing — and then told him "I like you too much to fool around."

"When she told me the truth, I was so mad," Gertrude said. "And everyone in the class flunked the test."

After graduation, the twins planned to open their

See Bond brings, A5

Bond brings twins, spouses to Sun City

—From A1

own store and design clothing. They had posed for ads in the Pittsburgh Press, in clothing they designed, and hoped to cash in on their talents.

But history — including the country's poor economy in the early '30s — changed their plans.

Gertrude married J. Stewart George and had two daughters; Laura married Doug Morris, an advertising executive, and had four children, three boys and a girl.

But no matter where they were living, they always kept in close contact, sharing a bond only twins comprehend.

Once, when Gertrude was living in Boise, Idaho, Laura in New York, N.Y., and their mother in Shelbyville, Ind., an uncanny incident happened on their mother's birthday.

"We each sent her a birthday card," Laura said. "And later, we learned we had chosen the very same card, from different ends of the country."

The desire to keep sharing their lives led them to Sun City 20 years ago, when Gertrude and her husband, who was executive director of United Way in Olympia, Wash., decided to retire to Arizona.

No questions were asked. "She just called me up and said, 'We're going. Come on with us,'" Laura said.

DOERS PROFILE

Elinor Gerber

Vita: Graduated from Goshen (Ind.) College; music and English teacher; director of Sun Cities Women's Chorus.

Hometown: Sun City.

Marital status: Married.

Self-portrait: Energetic.



Motto: *Do your very best, regardless of your ability.*

Greatest Feat: *Rearing four children with the aid of a wonderful husband and father.*

Fantasy: *To sing soprano and alto at the same time.*

Favorite music: *Classical and stringed instruments.*

Inspiration: *My teachers, and my husband, Ralph, he's so supportive of me.*

Key to Longevity: *Keeping active.*

Last Words: *It's been a good life.*

Season offers noteworthy concerts

By MICHAEL P. HEGARTY
Daily News-Sun staff

When you ask Elinor Gerber how she got started with music, she giggles like a little girl. She began taking piano lessons as a 5-year-old.

Now, she's giving them. And directing, arranging and composing music for groups all over the Sun Cities.

From September through Christmas, Gerber will be involved in 19 concerts, including the Sun Cities Women's Chorus' Christmas concert Sunday.

"It's the first big Christmas musical in the Sun Cities each year," Gerber said.

Music is in her blood. It flowed through her parents, into her and has been passed on to her children.

"In my family, there were three things that were important: family, music and church," she said.

In that order?

"They were equally important, like a triangle," she said.

All three play a large role in Gerber's life.

She has been playing the piano practically non-stop since her childhood. Growing up, she performed for her sisters on the piano.

"I played the piano primarily to accompany my sisters," Gerber said. "It was one of my highest priorities."

She went on to earn a degree in music and English from Goshen (Ind.) College. Gerber taught those subjects to schoolchildren in Ohio before marrying the Rev. Ralph Gerber, a Presbyterian minister.

Gerber soon quit the classroom, but not teaching. She continues to educate people every day.

"Teaching is the most important and exciting thing in my life," she said.

Gerber made Sun City her classroom 11 years ago, moving to the area when Elinor's husband was serving an interim with Faith Presbyterian Church.

"We liked the friendliness and the advantages of the area," she said. "And, my arthritis got better."

When the Gerbers lived in Omaha, Neb., her arthritis was so bad she had to give up the piano. But things quickly changed with the warm, dry Arizona weather.

"After we were here four months, I was able to play again," Gerber said.

Not only was she able to work the keys again, but she began a calligraphy business, using the fancy lettering to create greeting cards, announcements and "anything in calligraphy that can be done," she said.

Gerber has customers all over the world and said she has made more than 2,000 greeting cards. Her calligraphy, though, is more of a hobby.

"I limit myself on calligraphy," Gerber said. "Other things have deadlines. These don't."

Music, both playing and teaching, occupies most of her time. How much exactly depends on what has to be done.

"I spend as much time as it needs to get it right," Gerber said.

She just doesn't like things right, she demands them.

"I'm a perfectionist," Gerber said. "It's a great handicap. I expect to do my best and expect it from everyone else."

Gerber's quest for success in everything she does benefits all of those around her. She provides music and entertainment to her audience, while finding a personal fulfillment through her productions.

"The real joy is seeing people I work with enjoy the music," she said.

OUR NEIGHBORS

Tintinnabulation from bronze bells

By TERRI FOWLIE-HEWETT

Jo Gerig has played a large part in shaping Sun City's musical profile.

The petite, energetic, 88-year-old woman, who moved to Sun City in 1961, started the Sun City Hand Bell Ringers in 1967, the first local group of its kind.

She also started the Sun City Women's Chorus in 1962.

Gerig, formerly a professional choir director, says her interest for starting a local English handbell ringers group peaked when she heard a Phoenix group.

"I talked to the director of the Phoenix group and found out what was needed."

She then talked to her neighbor at the time, Howard A. Lentz (now deceased) who gave her a \$1,000 donation to start the club.

Then, she attended a convention in New Mexico to learn more about ringing, and ordered the club's first set of handbells from England.

To spark Sun City interest in the new club, Gerig placed notices in local papers. "We only needed 10 people and 15-18 showed up."

Now there are three local groups—original Gerig Ringers, the Carillon Ringers, and the Lentz Choir.

Now an honorary life member, she appears as a guest ringer. She is one of the last original members still playing.

Today's handbell ringers stand side-by-side behind bells arranged on a table.

They can play individually or in turn with the group.

But in centuries past, before handbells, ringers gathered in belfries to exchange bell tolls, she says.

"Eventually, people realized they did not want to go into cold, dark bell towers and the more manageable handbells were developed."

"Some think of bells as just a bunch of noise. This is not true. If played correctly, handbells sound very soft and melodic."

The bronze handbells, sold in octave sets of 24, would now cost well over \$2,000 a set, she says.

To protect the expensive bells, ringers wear gloves. If bells are touched, hand oils and perspiration corrode the surface, eventually changing the pitch.

Although not as active as a performer, Gerig says she is now a "good listener," and attends the symphony, choir, and other musical performances.

She walks daily and says it is important to stay culturally and physically active.

Her tips for beginning clubs?

"Research the club and have a good reason for starting it. Also, know where your funding is going to come from."

For more information on local handbell clubs, call 933-3248 or 933-2875.



JO GERIG, a musical pioneer in Sun City, founded the first handbell ringers club in 1967. Photo by Terry Fowlie-Hewett

Lou Gibb honored for service

By LORRAINE TOWNE
Staff Writer

"Get Them to the Plane on Time," as sung by the Katydids, was dedicated to Lou and Ester Gibb by the Boswell Hospital Foundation Trustees.

More than 75 trustees and their spouses were in attendance to honor Lou and Ester at a special

dinner May 13.

The event, including the gifts, were paid for by the guests of the party.

Lou, assistant to the president-development, recently retired.

He and Ester plan to visit their children in London.

During the social hour

they chatted with many friends.

The couple came to Sun City from Ada, Ohio, where Lou was vice president of development for Ohio Northern University.

He raised more than \$6 million to build a new part of the campus.

He has been with the Boswell Foundation more than seven years.

He started the Boswell Society, whose members contribute \$100 or more each year.

The society has become the major annual giving program of the foundation.

"I am going to say tonight—if I am asked to say a few words—that there are six or seven trustees here this evening who were present at the first board meeting that I attended," said Lou.

He looked around the room and pointed out Carl H. Anderson, Henry Raymond, Lan Atkins, Burt Freireich, Dick Welch, Earl Norton, Hugo Hullerman, Deb Loudon, and Spencer Moore.

Ester's soft blue metallic gown was enhanced by the fresh pink orchid on her shoulder.

"This orchid was sent to my home this afternoon,"

she explained as she gently touched the blossom.

"It is from the trustees. My husband has been so happy working with these people."

Rose Gammill, Arnold Johnson and Bob Hoover were engrossed in "shop talk."

"We are part of a team that solicits contributions from the merchants in all of the shopping centers in Sun City," Rose explained.

"It is only through contributions from individuals and merchants that Boswell can purchase and maintain equipment," she continued. "It is not used for the operation of the hospital. We need about \$500,000 a year."

Arnold Johnson is chairman of the investment committee. He looks after the pooled income funds, and invests the money.

"I have been at this work for a long time," said Arnold. Arnold served as chief financial officer for the Ohio National Life Insurance Co. in Cincinnati.

Bob and Janet Howsam talked with friends. Bob is vice chairman of the board of the Cincinnati Reds baseball team and has been a trustee of the foundation for about four years.

"I feel that the hospital is one of the most important projects we have in the two Sun Cities, and certainly one that is important to everyone," he said. "With the fourth tower, we have the third largest hospital in this area."

"I was a patient in Boswell a few weeks ago," Jane added. "I was impressed with the professional care I received and the kindnesses of the volunteers."

Willard Bailey is Lou Gibb's replacement, and is new to Sun City.

"We moved here from Baltimore, although our home is in Cincinnati," said Willard.

He has been associated with pediatrics training hospitals for 16 years and



Bob and Janet Howsam enjoy a moment together during Lou Gibb's retirement party.

(News-Sun Photos by Loraine Towne)



Arnold Johnson, Rose Gammill and Bob Hoover talk shop during a recent gathering of Boswell Foundation trustees



Lou Gibb, left, retired from Boswell Hospital Foundation last week. Willard Bailey, who will fill the position, chats with Gibb and his wife Ester at their retirement party.

was in fund raising and public relations in university-affiliated children's hospitals.

One guest asked about his new job and he replied, "This is what I wrote in the remembrance book for Lou. 'There are many measurements in success and I will be measured in many ways. If I am as well-liked and respected as Lou is, I will feel I have been very successful.' I really mean that."

Lan and Ruth Atkins chatted with W. Austin Turner, administrator of the hospital.

Lan is a charter member of the foundation and on the hospital board. Austin said, "I think everybody who knows Dr. Gibb loves him. We hate to see him slow down."

Chairmen of the dinner were Ted and Virginia Callis.

"I had such a good committee that the only decision I had to make was what we would have for dessert tonight," Ted said.

Roberta Shantz, second vice president and a member of the dinner

committee, presented Lou and Ester with a silver tray inscribed in part, "To Lou and Ester with great appreciation from Boswell Foundation, May 13, '82."

They were also presented with a remembrance book in which guests had written personal sentiments to them.

The final gift was a generous check for their round trip fares to London, and additional funds for fun.

"How two people in one night could get so many honors is beyond my imagination," said Lou. "Ester and I are deeply grateful for your thoughtfulness. For us to be guests of such a distinguished body as this is more than any two people have the right to expect. I thank you all."

"But most of all, I wish to praise and thank one man. There is no one man who has done more to perpetuate the foundation and continue its growth and development than Dick Welch, president of the board of trustees for the Boswell Hospital Foundation."

DAILY NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, AUG. 31, AND SUNDAY, SEPT. 1, 2002

Presidential pal

ED GILBERT: Sun City man served under Eisenhower and Kennedy

MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ed Gilbert of Sun City fondly remembers working on special assignments for Presidents John F. Kennedy and Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The 96-year-old Gilbert — who appeared on the cover of the July 26, 1963, edition of Time magazine — was international president of The Brotherhood of Locomotive and Firefighters and Engine Men.

He said being president of this union afforded him the opportunity to serve under two presidents on special assignments.

Gilbert, who said he was a good friend of Kennedy, said he was dispatched to Iowa after Kennedy was informed Russia was considering attacking America.

"Actually I hate to report this," he said. "It might bring up some bad feelings. If they had attacked us, the plan was to eradicate Russia."

Gilbert said he went to Iowa without receiving specific directions from Kennedy.

"The order would have come from Kennedy," he said. "I was supposed to be in a position to carry out his orders. I knew how to carry out orders."

"I would have done whatever Kennedy told me to do. I would have tried anyway," he continued. "When your president asks you to do something, you try to get it done."

Gilbert said he was in constant contact with

Kennedy, and he recalls the president as a great person.

"We had a good rapport," he said.

Kennedy supported labor unions, Gilbert said, which is the main reason the two came to know each other. But Kennedy was not the first president he worked for, Gilbert said.

Under Eisenhower, the Sun City man was sent to Europe to look into the Radio Free Europe program.

"(Eisenhower) asked me to go over there to get a look at how the program was operating," he said.

Gilbert said Eisenhower knew there were problems with the U.S.-funded program, but he did not want to make a decision on its future without being fully informed.

"He depended on me to find out what was wrong," he said. "He knew it needed attention."

Gilbert said being in charge of a large union gave him the chance to meet and work for several presidents.

"We had reasons to support a guy or not to," he said. "In other words, we were mixed up in politics."

Gilbert also remembers conversations he had with President Harry Truman and some advice that was given to him. He said he asked Truman about some actions Eisenhower had taken and what he would have done. Truman, he said, was not going to criticize Eisenhower.

"What he said is do not make a decision without having all the facts," Gilbert said.

Truman told a large group of union members, including Gilbert, "I am not going to sit out here and second-guess him."

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STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City resident Ed Gilbert served under both Eisenhower and Kennedy — although he was good friends with Kennedy — during his tenure as international president of The Brotherhood of Locomotive and Firefighters and Engine Men. Above, Alice Gilbert holds a Time cover from 1963 that featured her husband.

'Ironjaw'

Former railway union leader reflects on changes, relationships forged in 40-year career

By JOHN NICK
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — H.E. (Ed) Gilbert went through more than one battle during the 1950s and 1960s.

His battlefield was not on lands across the Pacific Ocean, but in labor negotiations across the bargaining table.

Gilbert, now retired in Sun City, is the former international president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen (BLF&E). He held that post from 1953 to 1968.

In 1969, he was named assistant president and presiding officer of the board of directors of the United Transportation Union (UTU), a position he held until retiring in 1971. The UTU was formed after the merger of the BLF&E and the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, Switchmen Union of North America and the Order of Railway Conductors and Brakemen.

Through this association, Gilbert became acquainted with railroad officials, labor leaders, U.S. senators and even five presidents.

He also made the cover of the July 26, 1963, issue of Time magazine and was the subject of a four-page article.

"I am very proud of the record I made," Gilbert said. "Not only from the standpoint of the people who elected me, but also the railroad side."

Gilbert lived through the peak time of the railroads in the United States.

He began his career in the railroads working for the signal department of the Sante Fe Railroad in Chicago in 1925. Six months later, he moved to the Chicago and Alton Railroad as a locomotive fireman. It was there



LOOKING BACK — H.E. (Ed) Gilbert, 81, of Sun City spent most of his life as a labor leader for the nation's railway unions. As a former union president in the '50s and '60s, Gilbert helped improve working conditions and raise salaries for trainmen, switchmen, conductors and brakemen. In the course of his career, Gilbert also associated with several other labor leaders, lawmakers and five presidents. Gilbert retired in 1971. (News-Sun photo)

he first became interested in union activities for the railroads.

His work for the BLF&E began in 1931 as a member of the general grievance committee for the local chapter in Chicago. He then spent time working at various levels for the local legislative board.

That ended in 1944, when he was elected to the national board of directors of the BLF&E. In 1947, he was elected vice president and in 1953, he was elected international presi-

dent. The BLF&E was a large union with 110,494 members in 1948.

In 40 years of labor activities, Gilbert said he saw many changes in the railroad industry.

"Some were good, some not so good," he said.

One of those changes was a switch from steam- to diesel-powered engines. Gilbert said the switch did not favor the union workers because the diesel-powered engines could be coupled together and pull more

railroad cars. This cut down the number of railroad employees.

Another change was a reduction in the work day from 16 hours a day to 12 hours for railroad engine personnel.

Gilbert also negotiated a five-day work week, health and welfare benefits and pay increases for union members.

"When I started out," he said, "I was making \$5.07 a day. Now, that same job pays over \$100 a day."

Gilbert was known as a tough negotiator for the unions. His nickname was "Ironjaw."

However, he was respected by the people seated across the negotiating table.

John P. Fishwick, former president of the Norfolk and Western Railway Co., wrote a letter to Gilbert after he had retired. In it, Fishwick wrote, "I have never known anyone whose character and integrity I respected more than I have yours, and I can only hope that when I retire there will be someone who will remember me with the same affection I feel for you."

In recognition of his labor and humanitarian accomplishments, Gilbert was given the Eugene V. Debs Award by the Debs Foundation in 1969. Debs was a member of the Socialist Party who ran for president five times between 1900 and 1920.

"I didn't care how tough management was," he said. "If they were honest, then it was possible to reach a plateau of settlement."

Gilbert said if a labor matter came down to a choice of man or money, he choose in favor of the individual.

Now 81, Gilbert still has a few opinions on the direction of labor in this country.

"I am very proud of the record I made. Not only from the standpoint of the people who elected me, but also the railroad side."
— H.E. (Ed) Gilbert, former railway union president.

"There is a different attitude toward labor because of the treatment they have received in some of the media," he said.

He also says that labor has suffered more under the Reagan administration than in the entire time he was involved in labor activities.

Gilbert said that the president has never done anything that could hurt the rich in this country concerning the settlement of labor disputes.

"(Today's unions) have taken for granted the benefits that were obtained in the past," he said. "There were a lot of blood and tears used to get those benefits. This nation did not earn the high standards of living through the generosity of management."

Gilbert said the greatest labor gains in this country occurred during a Democratic administration.

His favorite president was John F. Kennedy.

"He had charisma, but most of all, he had a feel for the people who worked for a living in the expressive sense."

Kennedy was one of five U.S. leaders that Gilbert met or worked for during his labor leadership.

His contact with presidents started during the Eisenhower administration, when Gilbert was appointed to the U.S. Department of Labor's Union Advisory Committee on International Affairs.

In 1954, President Eisenhower also requested that Gilbert serve on a committee to observe the operations of Radio Free Europe.

At that same time, Richard Nixon was the vice president. Gilbert met him in the clubhouse of the Burning Tree Country Club in Washington, D.C.

Through this chance meeting, Gilbert convinced Nixon to influence a congressional committee to release a bill to the floor of Congress. That bill was the Power Brake Law of 1958. It required the railroads to have the brakes of their freight cars checked every 500 miles.

After Eisenhower, Gilbert was appointed by Kennedy to a committee to assist in activities marking the 50th anniversary of the Department of Labor. Following Kennedy's death, Gilbert also had a few dealings with Lyndon B. Johnson.

The last former president Gilbert met was Harry Truman.

He met him at a dinner party held by Tennessee Gov. Frank Clements in the governor's mansion in Nashville in 1959.

At that dinner, Gilbert recalls the former president explaining why he had to remove Gen. Douglas MacArthur from command of U.S. forces in the Far East.

"He told me he had to do it to prove that the army wasn't running the country," Gilbert said.

GILBREATH, TOM

Looking back

First Webb building superintendent recalls Sun City's early beginnings

Once Del Webb started work on Sun City, the construction crews never looked back —

And the face of the Northwest Valley changed, almost overnight.

Tom Gilbreath, who was Webb's first construction superintendent in Sun City, started work in 1959, preparing for the Opening Day, Jan. 1, 1960.

At that time construction men were working on, but hadn't completed, the Grand Center shops, the Safeway store and the Highway House.

Construction of the model houses and the apartments behind the Highway House was continuing, as well.

"Del Webb spent \$1 million in Sun City before any houses were sold," says Mr. Gilbreath. "Across in Youngtown, you couldn't even buy a hamburger."

Some 300 to 400 houses were sold on opening day. Mr. Gilbreath recalls the long lines of people waiting to see the homes.

"We started with six models, the cheapest was under \$10,000 and the highest price was \$15,000."

"Now, there are 21 models, in Sun City West.

"A lot of the home sales were done by mail — just like buying a house out of the Montgomery Ward catalog."

He recalls a shopper talking to an "oldtimer," who was looking out on the houses that were going up.

"I remember when that was nothing but a cotton field," the oldtimer said.

"Really? When was that?"

"Two days ago."

Mr. Gilbreath says the construction force, numbering nearly 600 workers, was on a roll. "We did eight houses, complete, and four apartments, per day."

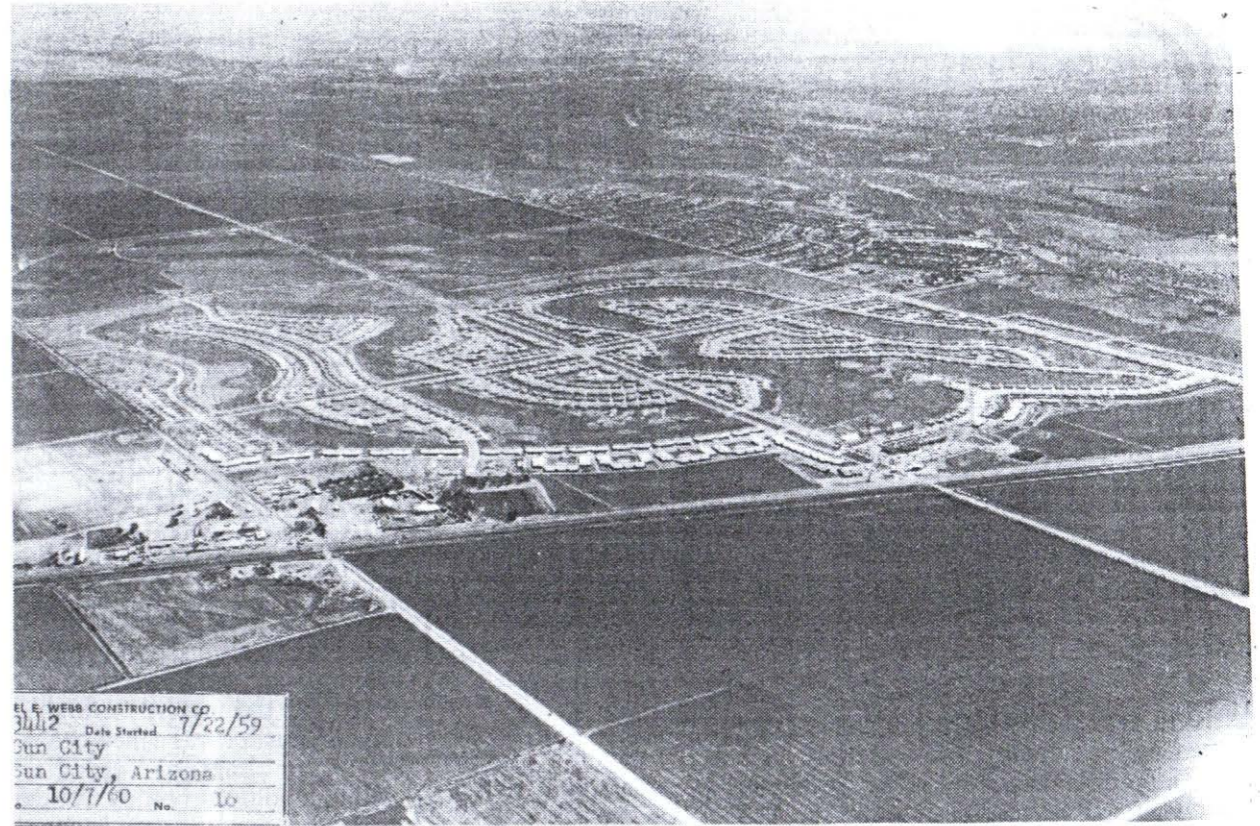
The work orders were simple. "That meant we had to be working on 260 houses, altogether, in order to finish eight per day — and half that many apartments.

"We'd dig footings one day, pour concrete the next, put down the foundations, rough in the plumbing, then pour the slabs, right on to turning the key."

Subcontractors were hired for everything except the concrete work, says Mr. Gilbreath. Webb did the concrete work for the project.

The construction started with all-masonry exterior walls. "There were all the masons you could think of," says Mr. Gilbreath. "After I left, the masons went on strike, and while they were out, the supervi-

THE WAY WE WERE. Sun City (right) as it appeared in the summer of 1959, five months before it officially opened. Below, Webb officials discuss plans for the Highway House Motel and Restaurant. It was not uncommon for new residents to live at the motel until their new Sun City homes were completed. The Highway House later became the King's Inn Hotel and was recently torn down to make room for Smith's Food and Drug Store.



sors decided they could do without them. They went to an all-frame construction.

"They had to do something — people had to eat."

Webb bought construction material in by the train load, he recalls, with the trains delivering the orders to a railway siding on 98th Avenue.

As general supervisor, Mr. Gilbreath had two assistant supervisors, each with a foreman in the field, for each phase of the work.

There were Veterans Administration and Federal Housing Administration inspectors assigned almost full-time to the work, as well.

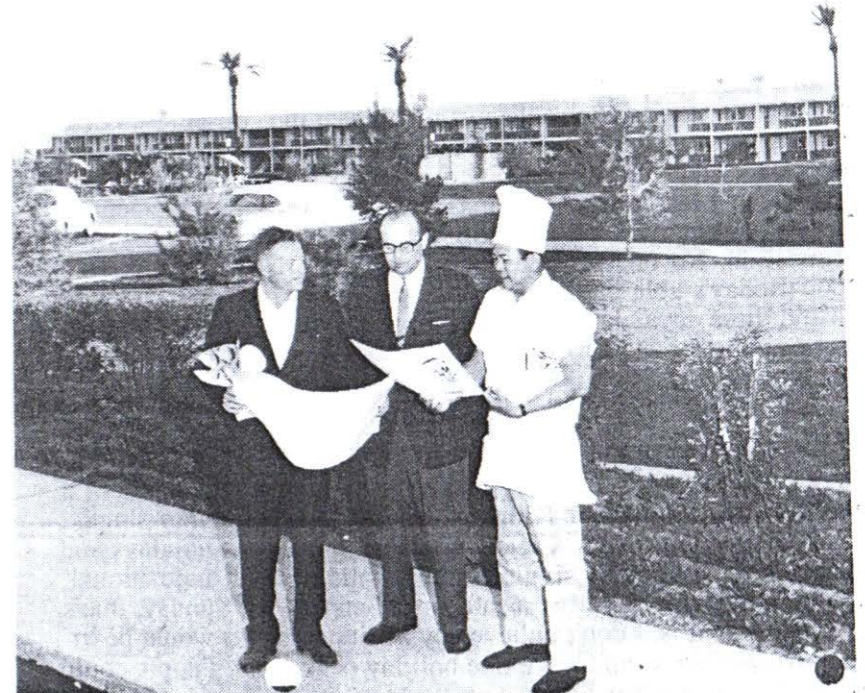
"We had to use two-way radios with a central station. It's commonplace now, but was something new in 1960."

Mr. Gilbreath stayed with the Sun City project until the building crews had finished 5,000 units. He then transferred out to Sun City, Calif., where he worked for about two years.

There were other jobs and projects to occupy his attention, in Western and Midwestern states.

"Finally, I got tired of running around and came back to Arizona where I had kept my home," he says.

Construction jobs around the Valley kept him busy for a while, before he retired about eight years ago.



Jewish Heritage Award goes to Sun Citian

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Having come to the United States to escape Nazi hatred in the 1930s, Max Gimpel has made it his life's work to spread love.

Through volunteering and art, Gimpel, who lives in Sun City, has dedicated much of his free time to designing and making religious articles for temples as well as creating secular artwork in the community.

For his work and dedication to the Jewish community, the Arizona Jewish Historical Society announced this week it is awarding Gimpel the Beryl Morton Jewish Heritage Award. Gimpel will be the first to receive the honor, which is expected to be an annual award given to people who have made a significant contribution of their time, knowledge and creativity to the Arizona Jewish Heritage Society or the Jewish Heritage Center.

"Max is a very interesting

guy and very deserving of this award," said Jack Fradin of the society. "He has designed a lot of stuff for us and volunteers a lot of his time. He is very giving."

Gimpel designed the stained glass at Beth Emeth Congregation in Sun City West as well as the mezuzah for the doorpost at the Jewish Heritage Center in Phoenix.

A mezuzah is a small container of wood, plastic or metal with a piece of parchment inside containing some of the most important words from the Torah, according to the Conference on Judaism. A mezuzah is nailed to doorposts of Jewish homes, and it is customary to touch it upon entering the house as a reminder of God's presence.

"I don't know what to say," Gimpel said of the award. "I'm very honored for the award, but I am not sure what it is all about right now. I'm sure it has something to do with

See Couple left, A7

From A1

some of the work I have done for the society with volunteering."

Gimpel and wife Alice emigrated from their home in Vienna, Austria, to New York City in 1938, after Adolf Hitler sent Nazi troops into Austria. The Gimpels spoke no English when arrived in the United States.

Gimpel attended the Vienna Art Academy to study fine arts, design and calligraphy. He later studied mechanical engineering at the City College of New York, and served with the U.S. Navy during World War II. He worked for Bell Telephone Labs for 28 years as a

supervisor in the engineering and art departments.

Although the award from the Jewish Historical Society is based on his dedication to the organization and his work in religious art, Gimpel worked on nonreligious art as well. He designed Sun City's 40th-anniversary logo, which appeared on stationery, flags and vehicles when the community celebrated 40 years in 2000.

Gimpel is well-known in the community for the vivid image he created in the 1970s of a U.S. flag. "The Star-Spangled Banner" constitutes the red stripes, and the blue background behind the 50 white stars is composed of the words to the Pledge of Allegiance.

But Gimpel said his greatest accomplishment was designing the synagogue for Beth Emeth Congregation about 22 years ago.

"I designed it from the ground up, and the stained-glass windows," he said.

He said the process of designing the synagogue and seeing it through to completion took about a year and a half.

Gimpel will receive the award during Jewish Heritage Week later this fall. For information, contact the Arizona Jewish Historical Society at 602-241-7870.

John Sokolich can be reached at 876-2526 or jsokolich@aztrib.com.

Erin Reep contributed to this article.

GIMPEL, MAX

VF

PERSONALITIES

Retirement work marries religion, design

meet
your
neighbor



By JANICE TARLETON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Max Gimpel wanted to go to art school. His orthodox parents insisted that he finish Hebrew Academy.

In the end they all got their way, and it's evident at Beth Emeth Congregation synagogue in Sun City West.

The Sun City man designed the building as well as several large stained glass windows and the bronze doors of the Holy Ark — pieces that combine Hebrew, calligraphy, Biblical history and artistry.

The essence of the Vienna native is perhaps best summed up in the Holocaust memorial. The gaunt figures in the base, a mass grave, are actually Hebrew letters spelling out a final prayer to God. The ascending flame proclaims: "I believe with perfect faith."

"Here the man tried to reach out and save his family," Gimpel said, solemnly pointing to letters fashioned to portray a man, his wife nursing a baby, along with a child.

A personal note at the bottom of Gimpel's handwritten biography spells out the significance: He lost two brothers and their families in Holocaust.

Gimpel, 81, was born and raised in Vienna. After Hebrew Academy, he attended the Vienna Art Academy where he studied design and calligraphy. His family left Austria in 1939 after anschluss, the forced



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Sun Citian Max Gimpel designed the Beth Emeth Congregation in Sun City West, including the stained glass windows.

joining to Germany.

He studied mechanical engineering at City College of New York, served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, then spent the bulk of his working years at Bell Telephone

Labs supervising the engineering and art department.

Along the way he was designing: a chapel for the U.S. Navy in Subic Bay, Philippines, posters for Bell Labs, a postal service first day cover,

Christmas seals, a stamp for the state of Illinois.

His lithograph of the United States Flag rendered in calligraphy of the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance was accepted by the Na-

tional Museum of American History, a part of the Smithsonian Institution.

Since his retirement 20 years ago, Gimpel has designed logos for Mesa Museum, Youngtown's 30th anniversary, Sun City's 25th anniversary and, yet to be revealed, 40th anniversary insignia. In addition, he's the show and graphic designer for the Plotkin Judaica Museum and the Arizona Jewish Historical Museum — all of it on a volunteer basis.

"I thought when I retired I could sit down and read some books," he said with a laugh. "It never worked out."

The crowning achievement of his life, at this point, is designing the synagogue, completed in March 1987.

Pulling out a manila folder, he sorts through copious notes written in pencil, draftsman-style — the results of his research into Biblical matters.

For example, entries document the color of stone assigned to each of the 12 tribes of Israel, colors that Gimpel incorporated into stained glass panels portraying each of the tribes.

"I tried to put some meaning into everything," said Gimpel, using a hand to hold the yarmulke on his snow white hair.

The sloping beamed ceiling sweeps upward, signifying prayers ascending to heaven. The bronze doors concealing the Torah, contain the message, "If one observes the laws of the Torah and believes in God, there will be peace in the world," while portraying the city of Jerusalem, the wailing wall and seven spheres of heaven.

The design and building project took two years and Gimpel, along with building chairman Saul Fidelman, oversaw it all.

If you have an interesting neighbor you'd like us to meet, call Janice Tarleton at 876-2511.

Gimpel, MAX

Gimple created anniversary logo

By BRET McKEAND

Although his face may not be recognizable, his work certainly is.

His latest creation has probably been seen by nearly every resident of Sun City at each and every activity this month celebrating the community's 25th anniversary.

His name is Max Gimple and he is the designer of the 25th anniversary logo. The logo, picturing a giant 25 inside the familiar Del Webb pinwheel, can be seen on hundreds of Silver Jubilee items — T-shirts, bumper stickers, patches and souvenir stamps and envelopes.

"The symbol of the sunburst is generally recognized by all Sun Citians to be the symbol of Sun City," says Gimple.

"I simply took the sunburst and added the number 25 to come up with the design."

The insignia was chosen by the rec centers last summer over 40 other entries. The Sun Citian also designed the 30th anniversary logo for Youngtown this past year as well as the design now used by the Arizona Governor's Council on Health and Physical Fitness.

Gimple became interested in the world of art while still a child in his native country of Austria. When he was 12 years old he won his first art contest. He attended Vienna Art Academy in Vienna, Austria before moving to the

United States where he enrolled in City College and Columbia University in New York.

After serving with the U.S. Navy in World War II, Gimple worked at Bell Laboratories as a supervisor of the Engineer Information and Art Departments.

Over the years, Gimple has continued to do free-lance work on a number of occasions. While in Sun City he has done work for the Thunderbird Merchants Association, Meas Museum, Temple Beth Emeth and the Judaica Museum. He also teaches art classes and hosts workshops in Sun City rec centers from time to time.

His most famous work however, is his unique design of an American Flag which hangs in the Naval History Division's Flag Section at the Museum of American History in Washington D.C.

The flag uses the words to the pledge of allegiance to form the blue field for the stars and the words to the Star Spangled Banner to form the red stripes.

"When an idea comes to mind, I make several sketches. However, usually the first one turns out to be the best," says Gimple.

"A design should express and explain an idea," adds Gimple. "It should be simple and obvious to the viewer. The viewer should not have to figure out what you are trying to express."



Photo by Bret McKeand

WINNING DESIGN. Sun Citian Max Gimple displays his design of the logo which has now become the official insignia for Sun City's 25th anniversary. Gimple also designed Youngtown's 30th anniversary logo.

Sun Citian creates winning logos

By P. ATWOOD WILLIAMS
Staff Writer

Max Gimpel has created another winning logo. His latest design, incorporating the Del Webb pinwheel, will be used on T-shirts, patches, bumper stickers and souvenir stamps for the 1985 Silver Anniversary of Sun City. The colors are silver, dark blue and red.

The Sun Citian, also designed the 30th birthday logo of Youngtown for that town's festivities this year.

He is familiar with the art of designing logos, having done it

professionally and for art's sake many times.

For example, the one he did recently for the Arizona Governor's Council on Health and Physical Fitness: He used the initials of the organization to create a dynamic, long-legged logo resembling a human stick figure. At the same time the Arizona flag is incorporated in the half circle formed above the "H" which is the arms.

THIS WAS selected from among 40 entries statewide and earned him a weekend stay at a health ranch in Tucson last year.

His design for Youngtown is being used on stationary and will also be a first-day cover stamp in November. It incorporates the numbers "30" in an ornate "T" placed over a decorative "Y." The border carries the slogan "30 years of sharing and caring, Youngtown, Az."

"My first doodle is usually the best," Gimpel explains, admitting that his penchant for getting straight to the point probably helps him to simplify an idea visually.

He had lots of experience in technical writing when he worked as supervisor of the Engineering Information and Art Departments for Bell Laboratories.

HOWEVER, at age 12 in his native Austria, he earned a first-prize for a winning logo for the children's section of a Vienna newspaper. And he has been doing logos ever since.

They have been used by department stores, the Thunderbird Merchants Association, the Mesa Museum (for which he earned a beautiful silver bolo tie) Temple Beth Emeth and the Judaica Museum. His work is on stamps, seals, flags, stationary and banners.

He also designed a commemorative coin when he entered the pinwheel design, which won the contest held here this spring. Both the coin and the logo designs have been copyrighted.

"**IF A** person looks at one of my logos and asks 'What does that mean?' I have failed," said Gimpel.

His background in calligraphy is evident in logos and in the striking design of our nation's flag which he has had printed privately and in the Daily News-Sun on two occasions.

It uses the words of the pledge of allegiance to form the blue field for the stars and the red stripes.

WITH THE winning silver anniversary design "I changed the pinwheel to force the design into my idea for placing the "25" into the logo," said Gimpel.

The numbers and date will be in dark blue with the central circle in red. Red will also outline the word "Anniversary," and "Sun City Arizona" will be in red.

No 25th anniversary would be complete without silver. It will be used for the pinwheel, the word "Anniversary" and the outline of "Sun City."



Max Gimpel displays three of the logos he designed which are now in use in the Valley. (News-Sun photo)

The Austrian-born artist also designed Youngtown's 30th anniversary logo.

YOUNGTOWN, AZ

AND CARING



30 YEARS OF

SHARING



Gimpel's design was selected by Arizona Governor's Council on Health and Physical Fitness.

Monday, May 6, 1996 Daily News-Sun, Sun City,

Woodcarver earns crowning glory

By J.J. McCORMACK
Senior staff writer

Fate and parental guidance conspired to steer August Giraldi into dentistry.

Artistic talent and skill in precision work directed him some 50 years later to study woodcarving.

Today, Dr. Giraldi is both an award-winning practitioner and promoter of woodcarving.

About 30 of Giraldi's carvings, some whimsical, some serene, decorate his homes in Sun City and La Canada, Calif. Several dogs and a roadrunner are minorities in the collection of human forms.

In every face dwells a story from Giraldi's imagination.

A prize-winning work titled "Vagabond," for example, depicts a haggard, decrepit man walking along a railroad track. His upper body is slightly turned.

"He's looking back to see if anybody saw him," Giraldi said, carefully lifting the cherished work into the sunlight. A pair of carved wooden dogs, the vagabond's friends, approach the straggler in greeting.

A carving still in progress depicts a Mexican boy in despair over a broken vase. The boy's hands are raised as if to say, "What did I do?" Giraldi said.

"When you carve, you have to put some action into it," he said.

Giraldi practiced dentistry for 52 years, 25 in Chicago and 27 in North Hollywood, Calif. Although keenly interested in art as a child, he followed his parents' Depression-era advice and opted for job security over job interest.

Giraldi found out that he was well-suited to dentistry. From the outset, he loved the work because it allowed him to carve and be an artist when casting crowns and dentures.

During the Depression, Giraldi couldn't afford to hire a lab for casting work. In those days, he said, he charged \$1 for an extraction and \$75 for a set of dentures.

Giraldi took up woodcarving 14 years ago while semi-retired. He met and studied under a master wood-



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

In this carving by Dr. August Giraldi, the vagabond is startled after leaving a boxcar.

carver, the late Rudy Vargas, whose works are displayed in the Vatican, in Disneyland and in the Smithsonian Institution.

Some of Giraldi's carvings have been inspired by Vargas, including an award-winning carving of Bozo the clown. Vargas sketched the clown for Giraldi on a shopping bag while hospitalized for a heart attack. He died two days later.

"He was my guiding light," Giraldi said of Vargas.

The 85-year-old Giraldi didn't get rid of his dental tools after giving up his practice for good in 1984. They have proven useful in woodcarving, especially for fine, detailed work such as eyes.

Giraldi continues to study, practice and promote woodcarving. He

August Giraldi

over



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Dr. August Giraldi chips away at a piece he calls the Benefits of the Family. The Sun City man has won many award for his carving expertise.

spends about 10 hours a week carving and is active in the California Carver's Guild.

With few exceptions, Giraldi keeps everything he creates. "It's too hard to part with them," he said.

In Sun City, Giraldi does most of his carving in the Bell Woodworking Shop.

"If I make chips and leave them on the kitchen table, I'll be thrown out of the house," he said.

Giraldi recommends woodcarving as a stress reducer.

"When you're carving, you've got to give 100 percent of your concentration because you can't make a mistake. That relieves tension because you can't think about anything else."

— — —

Girards invest in future of Symphony

By CONNIE STEELE
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — A couple noted for their business savvy have invested \$25,000 in the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra.

"It's a very happy and delightful thing for a retirement community to have a full symphony," said Mary Girard, who, along with her husband, Richard, have donated the money through an irreversible trust.

"It's the embodiment of the second chance," she said. "They (volunteer musicians) played when young and now have taken it up again."

About 45 musicians in the 95-piece orchestra are volunteer musicians whose only rewards are personal satisfaction and pleasure, said Ann Walling, first president of the Symphony Guild.

Frederick James, president of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association, recently recognized the Girards for accumulating \$25,000 in the Sun Cities orchestra's pooled-income fund with the Arizona Community Foundation.

In doing so, the Girards have permanently endowed the principal cello chair, which will be known as the Richard and Mary Girard chair.

The endowment fund pays interest to the donors as long as they live. Only after their deaths does the money become a working part of the endowment fund.

When the invested money be-



Submitted photo

SYMPHONY BENEFACTORS — Richard and Mary Girard were recognized at a recent Sun Cities Symphony performance for endowing the principal cello chair, which will be named for its benefactors.

comes a permanent part of the fund, its earned interest will be available to the symphony if it is needed or in cases of emergency they can draw up to 10 percent of the capital.

"It's a kind of cushion for an unforeseen problem," said Richard Girard.

Mary Girard agreed. "You need the security of long-term

funding."

The couple said the investment advantages are that they receive at least eight percent return on their investment as long as they live.

They also receive an initial income tax deduction for the year in which the donation was made and if the investment is drawn from an appreciated se-

curity there is a savings in capital gains, they said.

In 1988, Mary Girard founded the Stradivarius Society and the Girards were its first members. The society's six other members all have invested a minimum of \$5,000 in the endowment fund to qualify for membership.

Not everyone agrees with the investment's long-term payoff.

"I'm for taking care of the symphony now," said Walling, one of the founders of the Symphony Guild.

She said symphony expenses can hit into the high ranges.

"Guest artists can run very, very high. They can run as high as \$10,000 and \$15,000," she said, with some particularly noted artists commanding \$25,000 or \$35,000 for a guest appearance.

In addition the orchestra's professional musicians are all paid at union scale, and the rental fee of the Sundome is not inexpensive, she said.

But for the Girards the long-term investment makes good

sense.

"There are any number of things that could happen," said Mary Girard. "We wanted to guarantee the health of the symphony down the road."

Working for the symphony's future has been a concern of the couple since they arrived in Sun City 11 years ago.

Since that time, Mary Girard has been a driving force with the Symphony.

She served as a Symphony board member for seven years, including two stints as president from 1984 to 1986.

"I'm not much of a musician," said Mary Girard. "But the symphony board didn't need me for my musical ability, but for my administrative ability."

Richard Girard said, "I just answered the phone when Mary was president."

He claims he's a poor specimen of a true music buff.

"I don't play any instrument. I have a poor ear. But I'm an opera freak and I enjoy music in an ignorant kind of way."

Ellaine Glesne

Ellaine Glesne saves lives. The lives of wildlife animals, that is. She rescues birds, bunnies, ducks and, well, the list goes on and on. The 92-year-old has kept busy over the past ten years as a volunteer for Arizona Game and Fish. When a Sun City resident finds an abandoned baby quail or other animal, Glesne sees to its survival.

"I'm supposed to be a drop-off spot," she said, but that's not always the case. Many do not have adequate transportation so she makes the drive to collect the animal, then assesses where it should be placed. For example, she makes daily trips to a bird haven located in Scottsdale that specializes in quail. It is 42 miles round trip from her house in Sun City. She said she traveled 3,800 miles last year and between her and her partner in Sun City West, Mary Ann Druffel, they rescued 900 quail last year.

Through her love for animals, she also has helped other Sun Citians. She spoke of five women in a newly-opened rest home in Sun City who had wanted something to care for, so she donated two cockatiels she had raised since eggs.

Ellaine keeps busy with other activities too. She has been a member of the Sun City Leathercraft Club at the Marinette Center since 1985. In fact, the showcase in the clubroom is full of her trophies and ribbons from national and international leathercraft shows. She has served as secretary and as treasurer for the club and she continues to teach undercutting classes, a technique that club members say she invented.

The 27-year Sun City resident was a member of the Sun City Women's Golf Association from 1978 to 1985. She served as president of the association in 1985 and shortly thereafter retired from the game of golf due to a heart condition.

Over the years, she kept busy in several other clubs and has served as a monitor for the silvercraft club and the lapidary club.

"I think it's good for the brain to keep going," she said. "Those that sit suddenly become incapacitated. I don't want to do that."

Ellaine, and her husband Ken, moved from Heber, California. She retired as her husband's business manager. He was an anesthesiologist and she took care of the billing and other office tasks. They raised five children and three foster children, and now have 10 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and three great, great-grandchildren. The couple recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary.

In her spare time, she loves to watch her soap operas and do word find puzzles. She also has made 139 pairs of earrings from leather.

"I've got to be busy," she said with a smile.



GLESNE, ELLAINE

DOERS PROFILE

**Lois Goetz**

Hometown: Valley City, N.D.
Family: One son, one grandchild
Philosophy: "Be of service, you get a good feeling volunteering. It's gratifying."
Key to longevity: "Keep your mind going and stay busy."

Wiping out grime, crime: You name it she's done it

By TINA SCHADE
 Staff writer

The scanner is squawking, the telephone is ringing and the call goes out. An elderly Sun City woman, whose electricity has turned off and then back on, needs a hand securing her garage door which was stuck midway.

Lois Goetz, a volunteer with the Sun City Sheriff's Posse, is sent to assist the woman, lending an arm to guide the garage door into place.

But after Goetz dusts off her hands, the woman, above the whine of her smoke alarms and the howling of her dog, shyly asks Goetz for just one more favor.

"I had to walk through the house resetting all the blinking digital clocks," Goetz said laughing.

After 10 years with the posse, her willingness to go that extra step earned Goetz the Posse Person of the Year Award in 1993, six years as a lieutenant and a position on the posse's board of governors.

The 69-year-old is one of 16 lieutenants serving on the board, each assigned to a specific duty. Goetz is responsible for keeping the posse members looking sharp in their tan and brown uniforms by keeping an eye on supplies.

But Goetz, who logged in more than 2,000 hours last year, has far more serious concerns than keeping posse members chic. Goetz is also a patrol car trainer and guides new posse volunteers through Sun City's winding roads.

Goetz has been a dispatcher and duty officer as well. Since 1989, she has devoted nearly 14,000 hours to keeping crime off Sun City streets.

Even off duty, Goetz still sets up the posse's ice cream socials, maintains the bulletin boards and coordinates other events, keeping her busy for more than 40 hours a week.

"Nobody puts a gun to my head to do it. It's volunteer work and I like to volunteer," she said.

There was a time, however, when Goetz was involved with keeping grime off the nearly 220 miles of streets.

As a four-year member of the Sun City PRIDES, Goetz swept the city's sidewalks, raked leaves out of the meridians and painted trees. The PRIDES is about 300 members strong and saves Maricopa County a nice chunk of change in maintenance costs every year.

Goetz has also tilled the soil as a member of the agricultural club, where she served on the board of directors.

To keep her physique in top crime-fighting shape, the former physical education teacher likes to visit local recreation centers to workout and swim.

She said she also likes to relax by watching a little television.

"Sometimes when I get home, I'm just too pooped to participate in anything else," she said.

To nominate a Doer, call Tina Schade at the Daily News-Sun, 876-2514.

Goetz, Lois

January 26, 1967

The Senator From Sun City

By LUE LEISY

Sun City's own contribution to the Arizona State Legislature, Senator Ray A. Goetze, took the oath of office at the convening session of the 28th Legislature on Jan. 9. He felt especially honored as one of the two legislators chosen to escort Governor Jack Williams from his office to the House Chambers to deliver his address to members of the House and Senate.

After completing his first week in the Senate, Goetze, in comparing the two Houses, said he found the Senate much the same as the House in Legislative procedures, except in the area where the Senate is required to confirm all appointments made by the Governor. He feels that, in the Senate, the amount of correspondence and phone calls are triple those he received in the House which is the reason Senators have private secretaries to carry the extra load.

Senator Goetze believes also that there will be greater cooperation between the two Houses and on major legislation, especially in areas of interest to the Governor.

Goetze, who with his wife, Verona, came to Sun City in 1960, became active in civic affairs, being a member of the executive board of the Sun City Civic Association, Inc. (now the Home Owners Association) in 1961 and was also a member of the Sun City Civic Association.

Prior to moving to Sun City the Goetzes had lived for 24 years in Whittier, Calif., where he was vice president of the Dawson Manufacturing Corp., manufacturers of agricultural equipment. Retiring in 1959 they spent a year in Phoenix.

It was during the time he was on the executive board that District 39 was formed, due to the increase in population of this area. Roy Lutz who was, at that time, president of the board, one day approached Goetze as to his political affiliations. When Goetze said he had been a Republican for some 40 years, Lutz invited him to appear before the executive committee of the Republican Club meeting at the home of Mrs. Ethel (Herbert) Angell, president. The committee questioned him pertaining to his political philosophy and, finding it to their liking, asked him if he would consider running as a candidate for the State Legislature, in the new district. Never having been active in politics, Goetze asked for time in which to consider the matter to be sure he was qualified to accept such a responsibility and gain the support of the Republican Party. He furnished Ralph Staggs, then county chairman, with 12 letters of character references and, after a long consultation with Staggs on questions in the area of his political philosophy, Staggs gave him the "green light" and Goetze announced his candidacy in 1961. He was elected to the House in 1962, serving in the 26th and 27th Legislative sessions. Upon retirement he decided to run for the Senate.

Senator Goetze, who is a man dedicated to the needs of all the people of the state of Arizona, is not the only member of his family having found his niche in politics. His grandfather, Edward B. Harrison, to whom Goetze bears a strong resemblance, was, for seven years, a member of the Minnesota State Legislature, being elected in 1874.

Born and raised in Minneapolis, Goetze was in WWI for three years, training replacement troops, having taken Officers' Training and being commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant, at Camp McArthur, Texas.

After the war he returned to his hometown where he worked in the accounting department of Washburn-Crosby Company. During this time he met Miss Verona Monahan and, in September 1921, they were married. In 1935 they moved to Whittier, Calif.

They have two sons, Jim and Bob, and a daughter, Mrs. Donna Crouch, who, with their families, still reside in California. There are seven grandchildren, and, like all grandparents, they feel they never get to see them as often as they would like.

The Senator from Sun City includes among his most enjoyable activities and hobbies, camping, fishing, gardening and painting. He has a natural talent for art bequeathed to him by his mother who was an artist and he has done some very good paintings, having started as a young man. One of his best is the Cypress Tree donated by him and which hangs in the Narthex of Witt Hall of the United Church of Sun City of which the Goetzes are charter members.



SENATOR AT HOME — Senator Ray A. Goetze takes a few minutes from his busy schedule to relax and chat with his

wife Verona. Senator and Mrs. Goetze reside at 12230 Augusta.
Reckner Photo

Jim Goodpasture



Hometown: Philadelphia

Greatest accomplishment: *Having people not get mad at me. I'm a pain in the you know what. My greatest feat is getting along with people I don't agree with. You can like them and not agree with them.*

Philosophy: *I'm too busy to think about developing a philosophy. I believe in God and Jesus and all those things. One philosophy is you have to be willing to try anything and do it without being abrasive.*

Ex-Chicagoan develops positive image with film

By TINA SCHADE
Staff writer

Even when he's relaxing, Jim Goodpasture is a bundle of energy. As he describes his love for photography, Goodpasture stands, then sits, flitting from chair to chair, talking a mile a minute.

He scribbles illustrations to reflect his sometimes daring search for outstanding pictures and tells about swimming with giant turtles in Mexico and climbing to the top of the Sears Tower in Chicago.

"I tell people, don't be afraid to try. It's better to try something and fail, than to never have tried it," he said.

'I am a very good photographer ... but only because people helped me. I don't do things right the first time, but I learn from my mistakes.'

Jim Goodpasture

Goodpasture decided early on to use his sense of adventure, ebullience and his skills as a photographer to help others in the community.

Among his many assignments, he's chronicled life in a private school, action on the stage of a community theater and medical research at the University of Illinois.

Since moving to Sun City three years ago from Chicago, Goodpasture has hit the volunteer circuit a few times, recording events such as the Christmas tree lighting ceremony for the American Cancer Society and exhibits at the Sun Cities Museum of Art.

"My little camera has opened a lot of doors and it opens my mind," he said.

The 76-year-old likes to share his passion for photography and has found the perfect outlet at the Rio Salado Community College branch in Surprise, where he teaches his skills to others.

"I am a very good photographer ... but only because people helped me. I don't do things right the first time, but I learn from my mistakes," he said.

He even helped produce a crime prevention video of children who went to visit Tent City and is taking photos at Grace Bible Church on Union Hills.

Away from the camera, Goodpasture serves Thanksgiving meals to people at the Phoenix Rescue Mission, a shelter in downtown Phoenix.

"What I most enjoy is not what I did but how I enjoyed being with people in different situations and encourage people to go out in the community and do the same," he said.

"Look, I'm a low-key person. It's not about me, it's about my suggestion for other people. I'm no saint."

Goodpasture, Jim

Fascination spawns novel

Author fulfills lifelong goal

By JEFF OWENS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Author **Guanetta Gordon** was dismayed to find that her tour guides in Washington, D.C., couldn't really answer many of her questions.

As she was squired around the city, her natural inquisitiveness resulted in a torrent of questions about this building, about that monument, about those presidents.

Her tour guides "didn't know any of these things."

It was 1946. Gordon was on her way to Europe to join her husband, Col. Lynell Gordon, a high-ranking Army official. She had stopped in D.C. for a few days to visit friends. She'd never been east of the Mississippi River.

Of her first sight of the city on the hill, Gordon said, "I was thrilled to death."

That visit started the lifelong fascination with the nation's capital, which culminated in the October 1998 publication of "The Aurora Tree," her 633-page historical novel of life in Washington from 1809 to 1836.

Gordon, a feisty 93, lives in El Dorado of Sun City. To say she's glad the book is finally available would be putting it mildly.

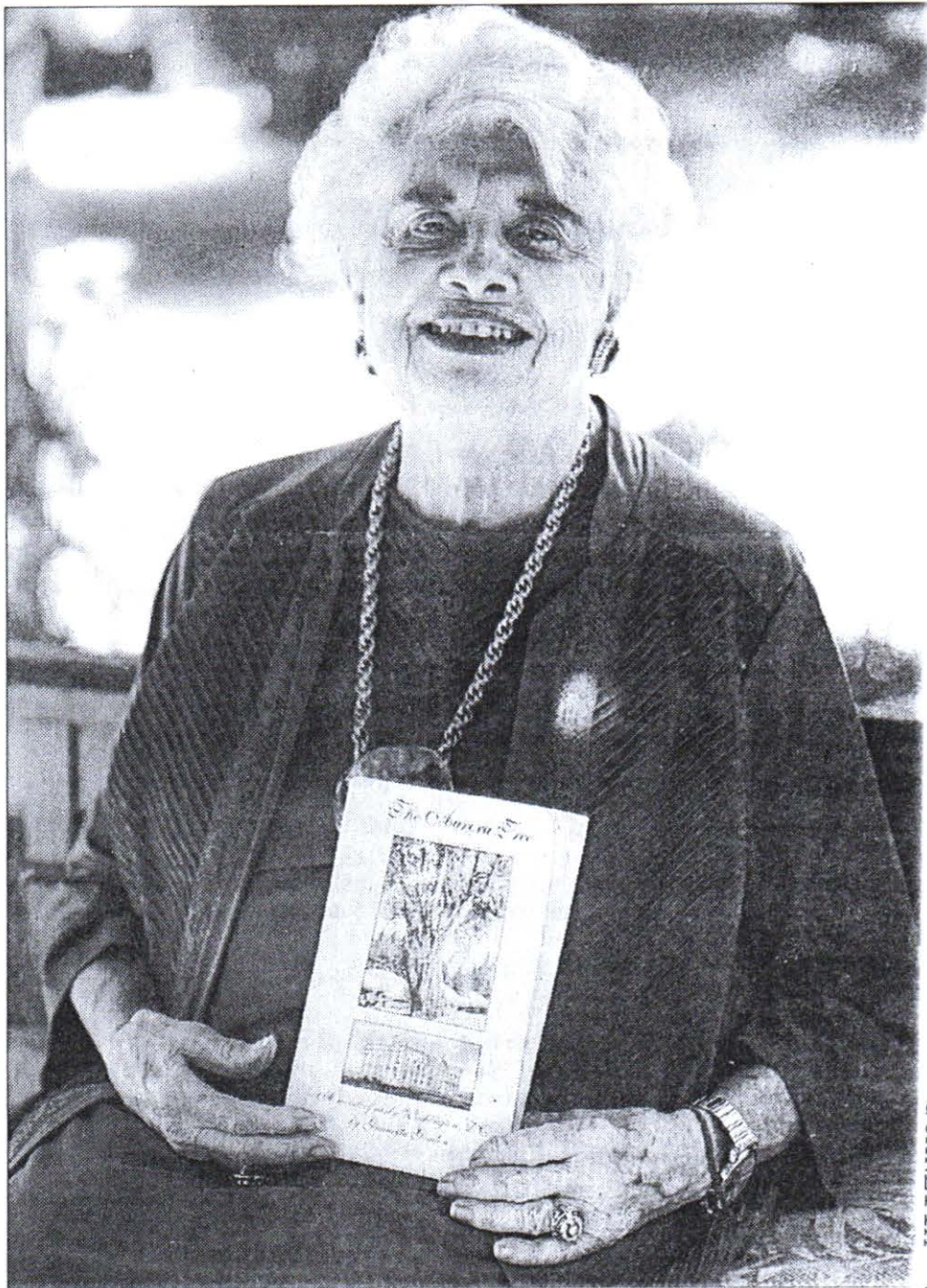
She's an accomplished writer who's lived a sailor's life: She has traveled the world and lived in 22 places. She has written eight books of poetry, and her articles have appeared in *The Saturday Evening Post*, the *Congressional Record* and numerous other publications. Her honors, awards and recognitions are enough to fill up a book of their own.

In the 1950s and '60s, the Gordons lived in Washington, D.C., where Guanetta spent 10 years researching her book. Many of those hours she passed in the Library of Congress.

Slowly, her vision of the city from the Revolutionary War to the advent of the Civil War emerged. That period between the wars was a story she felt hadn't been told enough.

"There's a whole chunk of history in between that nobody knows about," she said.

It was a time when a rough, dirty and swampy town became the site of



Lisa Goeltz/Daily News-Sun

Sun City resident and honored author Guanetta Gordon has published eight books of poetry but "The Aurora Tree" is her first novel.

one of the world's greatest political experiments. It was a time when the White House passed from larger-than-life founding fathers like James Monroe and James Madison to larger-than-life flamboyant frontiersmen like Andrew Jackson. And it's seen through the eyes of a fictional daughter of a real-life figure of the time, journalist Ann Royall.

And her Washington grew up around a branch planted in the

ground by George Washington mark the future site of the capital a new kind of nation. The branch flourished into a mighty tree Washington flourished into a legendary city.

Gordon named the tree after the Greek goddess of dawn, Aurora.

"The Aurora Tree" is available for \$20 plus \$5 postage from Dena 6405 Corsini Place, Rancho Palmdale, Calif., 90275.

DOERS PROFILE

Ann
Gottschalk**Hometown:** Freeport, Ill.**Family:** Widowed, one son; one granddaughter and many step children.**Motto:** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."**Key to longevity:** "Work. Just keep busy working."

Comfort comes from keeping newborns warm

By RUTHANN HOGUE
Staff writer

Ann Gottschalk listens to recordings by artists such as Andy Griffith every morning as she snips, arranges and stitches crib blankets and infant kimonos.

Both the music — and the work — gladden her heart. She's a big fan of gospel music. And it's good to know that sweet-smelling newborn babies will have a cuddly kimono to wear home from the hospital and a soft blanket to snuggle in. Her only regret is that she isn't able to see the faces of impoverished mothers whose infants benefit from her efforts.

"I wish I could see a mother walking out with a youngster wrapped in a blanket," Gottschalk said. "I would love to see a mother and one of those baby blankets."

The retired school teacher turned her lifelong hobby into a mission of mercy for children born at Maricopa County Hospital and Medical Center when she and the Silver Thimbles at First United Methodist Church in Sun City heard that newborn babies were being sent home from the hospital wrapped in paper.

She's been producing original creations for indigent mothers ever since.

These days, a stack of cardboard whiskey boxes marked "First United Methodist Church" and destined for the county hospital usually fills one corner of Gottschalk's bedroom.

"When I have a good load, I bring them down," she said.

Daily News-Sun

Monday, June 16, 1997

Colorful prints cut from used bed sheets decorated with Raggedy Ann and Andy, Cabbage Patch Kids, Disney's 101 Dalmatians, and more are carefully sewn on the front of each blanket.

"The appliques help to keep the front section from separating from the lining while being hand washed. Not only that, it adds some interest for the kids," Gottschalk said.

Gottschalk scrounges through thrift shops regularly in search of printed sheets to decorate her handiwork. Lately, the pickings have been slim.

"I keep my eyes open and I use anything and everything," she said. "I cut them up into half-inch squares."

Each blanket includes a 42-square front and a solid-color back made from scraps left over from projects of other seamstresses at First United Methodist Church of Sun City.

"It's all made from material nobody wanted," the 90-year-old Sun City resident said. "So I actually make something from nothing."

Since the death in 1991 of her fourth husband, Herman, Gottschalk has turned nothing into something thousands of times. She has created 2,600 crib blankets and 1,830 kimonos. Her counterparts with Silver Thimbles have sewn hundreds more.

Gottschalk doesn't count the hours she spends sewing. But boxes of clipped fabric squares, stashes of sewing supplies throughout the house and a well-maintained sewing machine and serger suggest that she spends much of her time in the service of others.

"This is really not work," she said. "This is my pastime. This is pleasure. I enjoy this very much."

Do you know a Doer? Send nominations to RuthAnn Hogue, P.O. Box 1779, Sun City, 85372, or call, 977-8351, Ext. 208, where information may also be submitted for the Did you know? column published Mondays in Lifestyles.

Gottschalk, Ann

DAILY NEWS-SUN • THURSDAY, JAN. 22, 2004



GRAFF, PAUL

JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Paul Graff carries a 180-plus average in three Sun City leagues. Graff and two others — Marty Zehner and Larry Wetmore — will be inducted into the Sun City Bowling Hall of Fame on Feb. 28.

OVER

Bowler adds induction to schedule

RICH BOLAS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Paul Graff used to have an easy time figuring out his bowling schedule.

He simply marked a calendar in his Sun City home to keep tabs on his thrice-weekly outings.

"That was when we first moved here nine years ago," Graff said. "Now I've got so many other things going on that I have a hard time finding a spot to mark anything on the calendar."

Despite the demands on his time, Graff's bowling schedule just got a little busier.

The 73-year-old will be inducted into the Sun City Bowling Hall of Fame during ceremonies at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 28 in Palmbrook Country Club in Sun City.

Graff will be inducted into the hall based on superior performance. Bowlers must carry a minimum 170 average for at least five consecutive years to earn induction in that category.

Two other bowlers — Marty Zehner and Larry Wetmore — will join Graff as the Sun City Bowling Class of 2004. Zehner and Wetmore will be inducted based on meritorious service for their contributions to the sport.

Graff carries an average which varies between 183 and 188 in three leagues — Monday Night Senior Men, Huffers and Puffers, and Sun City Classic.

"I've been bowling in a league at least once a week since I was 18," said Graff, who is vice president of the Sun City Historical Society as well as president of Sun City Meals on Wheels.

"When we moved to Sun City, I signed up for league play three times a week and I keep that schedule even in the summer."

Graff said he has never taken his game or himself too seriously.

"I'm not one of these guys who has five or six different bowling balls and another ball to pick up spares," said Graff, a right-handed bowler who had a personal-best 290 game in Avondale several years ago. "I use one bowling ball because I believe you should only have to use one ball for any pin if you do it the right way."

Bill Wise said Graff's easy-going personality makes him the consummate teammate.

"He's a great observer of bowling styles, but he's not pushy with his advice," Wise said. "I know he's helped my game."

True love lasts forever

70TH ANNIVERSARY:
Grahams of Sun City
stayed together
through thick and thin

RICHARD KELLEHER
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Grim times are nothing new to C. Loren and Esther "Jeri" Graham of Sun City.

The couple, who celebrate their 70th anniversary Sunday, began their love affair at the onset of the Great Depression, one of the worst crises of the 20th Century. On the eve of their 70th anniversary, they face another crisis.

Two months before turning 94 on Aug. 25, Jeri was admitted to the hospital with congestive heart failure. She now resides at Freedom Plaza Retirement Community in Peoria and undergoes dialysis three times a week.

"That treatment has kept her alive," said her daughter, Patricia Graham, also of Sun City.

Patricia said the family feared Jeri wouldn't see her 94th birthday, and even now they're not sure she'll see her 70th anniversary Sunday. Patricia said, though, that the dialysis treatments have been a lifesaver for her mother and that she continues to improve following her heart failure.

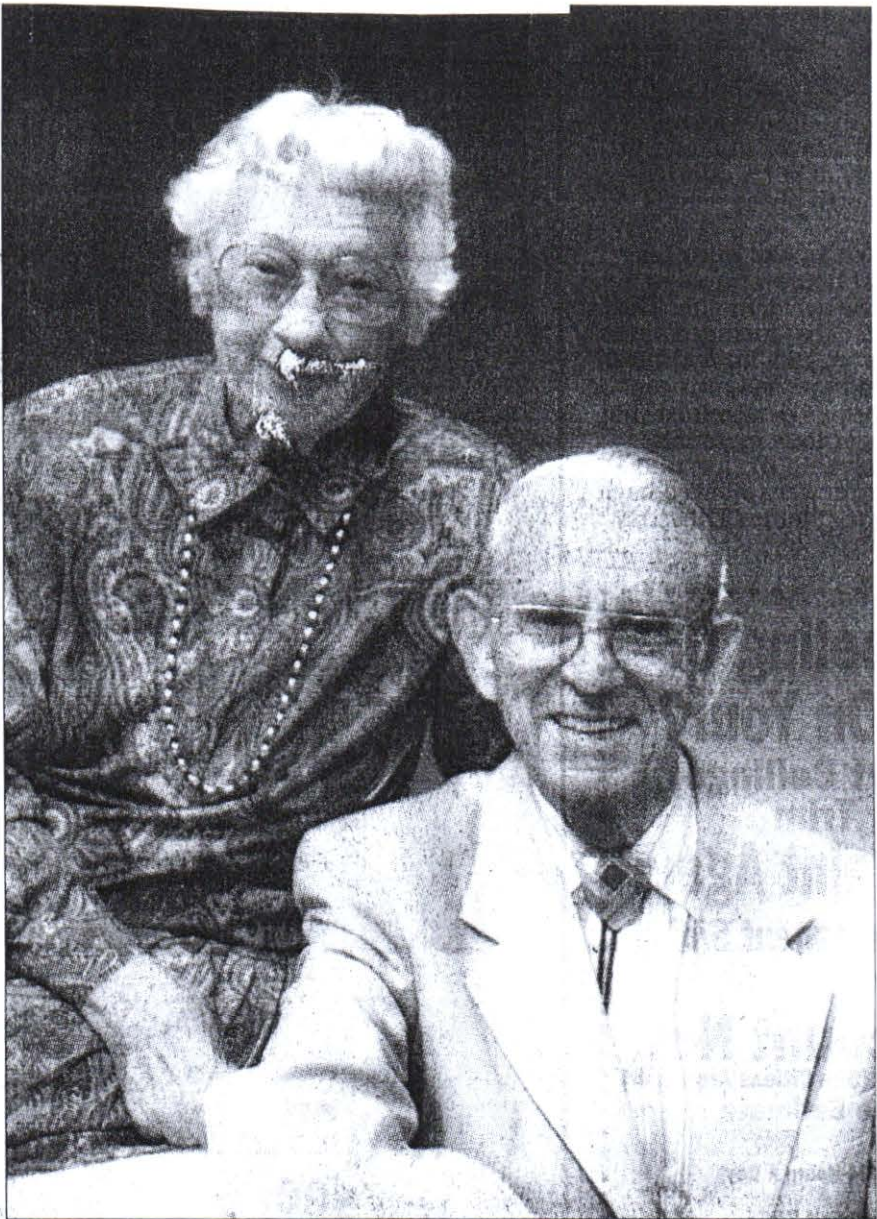
Loren suffers hearing loss in both ears and other maladies common to someone in his 90s. Sometimes, for instance, he has trouble remembering where the house keys are.

"He's really been lost since her health has been failing," said Roland Brammeier, senior pastor of Lakeview United Methodist Church, where the Grahams are members.

Friends and family attest to the loving relationship the couple has maintained for 70 years.

"We've held each other in so much respect we wouldn't lower ourselves to quarreling," said Jeri.

"I've been very happy to live with my wife for 70 years because of a combination of the love and respect I have for her and an awareness of



SUBMITTED PHOTO/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Loren and Jeri Graham of Sun City celebrate 70 years of marriage Sunday.

the love she has for me," said Loren.

The couple's story began in Nebraska, where both were going to Doane College in Crete. Loren saw a picture of Jeri in the school's yearbook and was smitten. He found excuses to be in the college library as much as possible when he discovered Jeri was working as a librarian.

It was the beginning of the Depression when they married on Sept. 2, 1931. Loren was entering

graduate school at the University of Nebraska as a doctoral candidate in chemistry.

"It was terrible," Jeri said of the Depression. "Everything was upset. We had all our money confiscated" when banks closed.

"I think we had \$35 given for wedding presents. That was the greatest thing people could have done for us. We were living on a small stipend Loren received for teaching" classes as a graduate

LOREN & JERI
GRAHAM

VF PERSONALITIES

OYER

student.

Jeri said Eastman Kodak Co. stopped sending recruiting representatives to colleges during the Depression, yet recruited Loren right out of college. The couple graduated at the top of their class.

The Kodak job led to a move to Rochester, N.Y. But in 1947, their children's health problems forced the Grahams to move to Southern California. Their two oldest sons, Robert, now 67 and a resident of Greenville, N.C., and Douglas, now 63 and living in Palo Alto, Calif., developed rheumatic fever.

The Grahams' other children are Patricia, 59, and Charles, 51, of St. Peters, Mo. The couple have seven grandchildren.

Jeri said Kodak was very accommodating in transferring Loren. The company placed him in charge of developing color techniques for the blossoming Hollywood movie industry. He was elected a fellow in the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers.

In 1955, Kodak transferred Loren back to Rochester, yet the Grahams' love of the West lingered. In 1972, while the couple were visiting relatives in Arizona, they discovered Sun City and fell in love with the area, Patricia said.

They retired to the community in 1973.

Both have been active at Lakeview United Methodist Church. Loren sang in the choir until he was in his 90s, said the Rev. Brammeier, and was instrumental in establishing Wesley Community Center in south Phoenix. The center offers hot meals and day-care for children.

Friends and family members are set to celebrate the Grahams' 70th anniversary at a private get-together Sunday at Freedom Plaza. Most family members and a few close friends are expected, including Howard Amerson, Ken and Sally Lipp, George and Liz Williard, Doris Biddle and Harold and Doris Chenhall — all of Sun City.

Richard Kelleher can be reached at rkelleher@aztrib.com or 876-2513.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT July 9, 2008

People in the News

Sun City resident **James R. Green**, member and past president of the Sun City Rotary Club, was selected by the Rotary District nominating committee to serve as District 5490 governor during the 2010-11 Rotary year.



**James
Green**

He served as assistant governor of Area 4 and is Rotary Vocational Fund of Arizona president.

He is also advisor to the largest Interact Club in the world, with 300 members; is a Rotary Youth Exchange advisor; led a GSE team to Brazil; and is a Paul Harris Fellow.

Mr. Green holds a bachelor of arts in communications from Ohio State University, a master of arts in counseling in higher education from Kent State University and Ph.D. studies in counseling psychology at Case Western Reserve University.

His career in development and planned giving includes service with Lake Erie College, Plainville, Ohio; the University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, Wash.; Farleigh Dickenson University, Rutherford, N.J.; Thunderbird-

The American Graduate School of International Management, Glendale; U.S. Home Corps, Tempe; Pheonix Urban League; and the Arizona AIDS Project.

He retired in 2002 as Sun Valley Lodge director of resource development in Sun City.

Mr. Green has lived in Arizona since 1981.

He also serves as Sun City Community Fund president, Arizona Broadway Theatre president, Interfaith Community Care board member and on the Valley of the Sun United Way campaign cabinet.



Catharine Griffin, a weaver, poses in clothes she made. She wove the material, then sewed it together.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

MONDAY, JULY 12, 2004

STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

SC woman weaves way through life

Got rhythm?

Sun City's Catharine Griffin does. For the longtime member of the Hand-weavers and Spinners Guild of Sun City, hand weaving is like keeping the beat to a song.

"You have to get a certain rhythm while you're working," she said. "It's like playing an instrument. It's the only way you can make fabric look like it should. Otherwise, if you don't have a rhythm, you won't have good fabric."

Griffin's maintained that certain cadence in hand weaving since joining the club in 1977. But more importantly, she's kept an upbeat tempo in a life that has spanned 93 years.

"I've always had a good attitude," she said. "When I was 40-years-old and my second child was just a year and a half, I went back to school and got a Master's degree in home economics education. These guys said to me, 'What are you doing here?' I said, 'Boys, life begins at 40, and I'm getting ready.'"

A teacher for 36 years, Griffin was born and brought up in the small town of Hundred, W.V. She attended West Virginia Wesleyan College and earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from West Virginia University. During her teaching career, she taught a wide variety of subjects to students at most grade levels. Although she taught biology, physical education and vocational classes, her forte was in home economics.

"I've taught boys that were

taller than I was how to cook and sew," she said.

"They've taken home economics out of school now, practically, and that's why we have so many kids that don't know what they're doing."

Having taught school in West Virginia, Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania, she and her husband finally retired to Sun City in 1974. When she became a member of the Hand-weavers and Spinners group a few years later, she had but woven one scarf during her college years.

"It was something new," she said. "And I'm always looking for something new to do."

Hand weaving, for Griffin, is an adventure.

"What I like about it," she said, "is that you start with nothing and come up with something — whether you like it or not. A lot of times it's a big disappointment. But you're usually very well surprised if you follow directions."

In addition to the many sweaters, vests and dresses she has made over the years, Griffin has also fashioned everything from belts and bookmarks to placemats and table-runners. In fact, her table-runners won two blue ribbons at the Arizona State Fair in the



Rich Kenney Jr.

1980s.

Although she is usually diligent about letting her time, Griffin sometimes loses track of the clock.

"A lot of times when I'm working on a project, I forget to go to bed until after midnight," she said. "I concentrate on the weaving and nothing else. When I did my weaving with the group, they said it was the only time they could keep me quiet."

As Griffin showed me a blue sweater she made about 10 years ago, which incorporated her skills of weaving, knitting, sewing and quilting, I asked about the origin of her positive energy and spirit.

"I owe it all to my father," she said. "He was a very strict individual. He didn't believe in playing cards or drinking. He was a banker and you never charged anything. You paid cash. He felt you should be a reader, that you should do something worthwhile with your time, that you had to show something for your time. He had me reading before I even went to school."

She recalled the time the superintendent of her grade school asked her father to come to school for a conference.

"Oh, it just scared me," she said. "The superintendent said to my father, 'Catharine does wonderful written work but she's afraid to speak up.' Well, I haven't shut up since."

Independence is very important to Griffin.

"I still drive," she said. "I passed the test in December and Arizona says I can drive until I'm 98. I laugh but I think the reason I am as independent as I am is because I've always worked. I've managed jobs while raising two children. Of course, I had a very cooperative husband."

When she said this, her voice softened. She talked about her role as a caregiver and the anguish of watching someone lose their independence.

"My husband had Alzheimer's Disease," she said. "For five years, I took care of him. I just saw poor Nancy Reagan on television and she's had to do it for 10 years. I know what that's like. But you can't sit down and feel sorry for yourself. Life goes on."

For Catharine Griffin, it certainly has. Proficient on the computer and user of the Internet for six years, she also carries a cell phone to meet the challenges of her busy schedule.

"My daughter always says, 'Mom, you were born one generation too soon.'"

Handing me an activity calendar print out from her computer, she said,

"Tomorrow, I have a meeting at the Recreation Board of Sun City. I supervise 10 clubs and am the oldest member they have. On Mondays and Wednesdays, I volunteer at the Sun City Library."

When I passed the calendar back to her, she studied it quickly and said, "I do keep busy."

DAILY NEWS-SUN

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 2004

Sun City woman rediscovers roots

She hopes to reach others with Basque backgrounds

AMANDA MYERS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Some call them "Europe's first family," but to Josie Hidalgo Griffith of Sun City, the Basques are her family.

While not much is heard in this area about this group, Griffith is doing the best she can to keep the family history alive by writing a book about Basque history in Arizona.

Basques originate from the Pyrenees Mountains between France and Spain, but the story of their beginnings isn't clear. Dating as far back as time will allow, Griffith said Basques have been attributed as one of the lost tribes spoken of in the Bible.

Griffith said Basques are known primarily for sheep herding. But they also have their own language, their own style of dance, and their own distinct cooking style.

"Which I did not inherit," she said.

Her ancestors hailed from the Pyrenees area, but her parents came from Texas, moving to Arizona before Griffith was born. Her dad raised angora sheep. Growing up, she spoke English, Basque, Spanish, Hopi and Navajo.

But when her dad died in 1977, the Basque language slowly disappeared from her family, and with it, a part of history.

Now, with three children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren, Griffith said its necessary to make sure family history is not lost again.

Since 1998, she has been compiling stories and photos of Arizona Basques and compiling into a book she hopes to have completed by the end of this year. The book will be published by the Basque Studies department at the University of Nevada and will be available nationally.

Griffith said that nearly 1,000 people in Arizona have Basque surnames. Her maiden name, Hidalgo, is one example. Others include Echeverria, Costilla, Aja,



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Josie Hidalgo Griffith holds a Basque-English dictionary, in her Sun City home Wednesday. Griffith is writing a book about Basque history in Arizona.

Manterola, and Oacho.

She has been trying to organize the local Basques together since 1998 when she started a local chapter of the North American Basque Organization.

Nationally, said Griffith, there are 33 clubs with up to 500 Basques per club. Her chapter has 300 members.

"We have so much history here in Arizona," said Griffith. "We try to get from everybody, 'What do you remember growing up?' Everybody knows their families, but they don't know the whole story of

everybody."

That story includes the history of the Basque sheepherders in Arizona in the early 1920s. Griffith said in order to keep their sheep alive in the hot summer months, herders had to walk their sheep from this area — roughly 43rd and Northern avenues today — up a sheep trail to Flagstaff, Hollbrook, and the Mogollon Rim.

"It took them a month to walk there, and a month to walk back," said Griffith.

Griffith worries that stories like this will be lost as the

Basque population thins out. Basques still living in their European homeland are fighting to gain independence from the countries that surround them.

"They want to be an independent country like France and Spain," said Griffith.

Griffith encourages any local Basques to tell her their own family story. To reach Griffith, call 846-2005.

Said Griffith, "It's just something that our kids and grandkids need to know."

Amanda Myers can be reached at 876-2513 or amyers@aztrib.com.

GRIFFITH, JOSIE

GRIFFITH, JOSIE
VF
PERSONALITIES

Sun City woman co-founds school

ERIN REEP
DAILY NEWS-SUN

For Josie Hidalgo Griffith of Sun City, foreign languages have always been a way of life.

As one of seven children raised in Mesa and Glendale, Hidalgo Griffith grew up speaking English, Spanish and Basque. Her parents were natives of the Basque region of Spain who brought their culture and traditions to the United States. Hidalgo Griffith's father raised angora goats in Arizona, and employed Hopi and Navajo herders, exposing the young Josie to Indian languages as well.

Josie Hidalgo Griffith's love for foreign languages and compassion for immigrants is behind an adult language school she opened last week in Glendale.

Hidalgo Griffith and friend Marilyn Wong teamed to open the Hidalgo-Wong Adult Education School in Glendale, which offers English to non-native speakers, as well as Chinese, Spanish and G.E.D. courses. All teachers are certified and experienced, and classes in other languages will be added as more teachers are found, Hidalgo said.

The school is located at 10040 N. 43rd Ave., Glendale, in the Great Skate Plaza.

Classes will be offered twice a day, Monday through Thursday, in five-week increments. The sessions run from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., with the last class of the day beginning at 7 p.m., Hidalgo Griffith said.

IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** Hidalgo-Wong Adult Education Center
- **WHEN:** Classes offered 8 a.m.-9 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, in five-week increments
- **WHERE:** 10040 N. 43rd Ave., Suite 3B, Glendale
- **COST:** \$140 per five-week session
- **INFORMATION:** Josie, 602-370-3992, or Marilyn, 602-574-6981

Students can choose times for classes that fit their job schedules, and the classes are kept purposefully small — with between 10 and 20 students.

"The schedule is (formatted) for all immigrants that are here that want an education," Hidalgo Griffith said.

Hidalgo Griffith has a diverse background, having worked as a Glendale librarian, co-founded an opal-mining company with her husband, and most recently, worked as a language tester for the Gary Tang Adult Education Center in Glendale.

Through working at the Gary Tang Center, Hidalgo Griffith has come into contact with immigrants who speak little or no English.

"The educating of immigrants is what we need," she said.

Without education, immigrants often work in jobs where they are paid cash, sometimes with employers failing to withhold taxes on the wages, Hidalgo Griffith said. These immigrants can

See SCHOOL, A5

From A1

find themselves trapped in a system where they provide "cheap slave labor," she said.

Hidalgo Griffith's desire is to help immigrants learn English as a means to better education and/or better jobs, she said.

Students are placed in classes through testing, which is conducted daily, beginning at 8:30 a.m. It is during the testing process that teachers can see just how much English a student knows, Hidalgo Griffith said.

"A lot of people can converse and have a full knowledge of what you're saying," she said, but they cannot read or write it."

Hidalgo Griffith and Wong decided to start the school because they wanted to create a more affordable alternative to private schools and colleges and universities, Hidalgo said.

"We compared (our prices) with the colleges," she said. "This comes out to about \$3 an hour. You're getting 40 hours for \$140."

Of benefit to the students in the Hidalgo-Wong school is that classes are two hours each, and run four days a week. That gives the average student practice on a daily basis, as opposed to a less-intensive college class that meets two or three days per week.

The school's curriculum includes grammar books of different levels and field trips for students.

"We take them on trips to the libraries, grocery stores, teach them how to write checks," Hidalgo Griffith said.

Hidalgo Griffith attended Glendale Union High School, graduating in 1946. She founded the Glendale Union High School Alumni

Association in 1983, and met Wong through that organization.

Hidalgo Griffith has actively worked to support and unite Basques and Basque descendants in Arizona. In 1998, she founded the "Basques of Arizona" organization. Hidalgo Griffith is writing a book titled "The Basques of Arizona," which will be published through

Basque Studies Press through the University of Nevada in Reno.

For information on the Hidalgo-Wong Adult Education Center, call Josie Hidalgo Griffith at 602-370-3992, or Marilyn Wong at 602-574-6981.

Erin Reep can be reached at 876-2532 or ereep@aztrib.com.

GRIFFITH, JOSIE HIDALGO

OVER

No language barriers



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Josie Hidalgo Griffith of Sun City has co-founded the Hidalgo-Wong Adult Education School in Phoenix.

COMMUNITY COLUMNIST

Dramatist of history is retiring from stage



JACK HART

What greater agony can there be than a mother watching her son die? Only when that son is Jesus Christ and his mother, Mary, is witnessing his suffering in one of history's most gruesome deaths.

This is the scene of agony that dramatist Tanya Griffiths of Sun City has been presenting from the stage for the past 10 years. In all its emotional vigor and historic consequence, it has become her signature performance during those Easter seasons. Now that theatrical masterpiece, along with more than 150 portrayals of other interesting folks in her repertoire, have had their last standing ovation.

Griffiths, who for more than 40 years has been entertaining grateful audiences in 46 states and many foreign countries, is retiring. Her final presentation of *Mary at the Cross* came at Willowbrook United Methodist Church in Sun City a few days before Easter Sunday. It was that church that brought Tanya to Arizona when her husband, William Griffiths, was named senior pastor of Willowbrook in 1987.

At the conclusion of that swan song performance, as in all the others, the emotional drain is so intense that she remains in a crouched position, hands folded over her face, as the audience files out, slowly and silently. In all her performances, she creates what she calls her "own interior world" into which she is transfigured into the personality of her subject.

"I ask myself, why do I put my body through all this?" she muses. The answer is that she has the spirit of an actor. But it also is because she has raised huge amounts of money for various charities by doing it. "I love helping others," she says. While no one knows how much she has raised for charity, her husband notes that 18 years ago, a newspaper man in Ohio estimated it had reached more than a million dollars by that time.

Announcing her plans for retirement, the 74-year-old performer credited God and her enthusiastic fans for success in her unique field of acting. She told her audience that day, "All of you made me what I am today ... and just because I'm not doing a lot more performances, doesn't mean that I'm dropping off the face of the Earth." She has suggested that she would consider doing a few fund-raising appearances for not-for-profit organizations, but not at the pace of nearly 300 shows a year that she has followed.

Griffiths' stage career started early. As a child in Canton, Ohio, she was prompted by her mother to memorize poems to recite at family gatherings. She performed at makeshift venues of meeting halls and business establishments.

Attending Ohio Wesleyan University, she gave up her first inclination, to study law, when an English professor encouraged her to research historical characters. Being a voracious reader, this interest led her into professional book reviews. There she found a knack for spicing up the reviews by giving life to the characters.

She changed her routine to portrayal of the book subjects when, on a whim, she bought a trunk full of old-time clothing that had belonged



Tanya Griffiths as the biblical Ruth.

to a notorious female lawbreaker named Cassie Chadwick. She had become famous as the first Ohio woman sent to prison, convicted of bilking victims out of \$20 million. After Ohio Gov. William McKinley pardoned Chadwick, she became an even bigger swindler before dying in the Ohio Penitentiary in the 1890s.

Griffiths ended up with Chadwick's clothes and the criminal's identity as the budding actress's first subject for portrayal. From that springboard, she leaped from one famous woman to another, portraying Eleanor Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart, Annie Oakley, Queen Victoria, Elizabeth Taylor, Golda Meir, Sacajawea, the Unsinkable Mollie Brown, and Ruth and Naomi from the Bible.

She even gave stage life to some famous men by portraying their wives and other associates. One of these gentlemen was Del Webb, founder of the Sun Cities, nationally known developer and baseball magnate. She presented Webb through the eyes of his longtime secretary, Maxine Newman.

Her research on Webb was typical of her approach to other subjects. She interviewed Webb executives and secretaries, immersed herself in Webb biographies and corporate history. Her affection for her subjects remains. She says of Webb, "I sometimes find myself staring up at his statue (on the grounds of Bell Recreation in Sun City).

Her system for creating dialogue from the stage is both astounding and unorthodox. "With the help of the Lord, it all takes place in my mind," she explains. "After doing all the reading and research possible, from the jumble in my mind, I start drawing seeds of scenes in dramatic order, till I get it all together in my head." With an incredible memory, she is able to take each performance directly from her mind to the stage. Only after she has presented it two or three times, and made some small corrections does she commit the whole thing to paper.

This is the process she has followed for all of the more than 150 characters she has portrayed. She has never performed from a script written by someone else.

Jack Hart is a former newspaper writer and editor of Lincoln (Neb.) Journal. He has lived in Sun City for 14 years. The views expressed are those of the author.

GRIFTHS, TANYA



FILE PHOTO

Tanya Griffith will retire April 12 after 45 years of performing on stage in 46 states.

How many people have laughed? How many people have shed a tear? How many people have stood to applaud Tanya Griffith over the last 45 years.

Too many to count, and now, we realize, too few.

Sun City's Tanya Griffith, 74, will retire on April 12 after more than four decades on stage.

Icon calls it a career

Our view

During that time, she has raised, it is estimated, more than \$1 million for non-profit organizations across America.

Mrs. Griffith's trademark is bringing to life of history women and researching their place in the world. That included such figures as Eleanor Roosevelt and Queen Victo-

ria, actresses such as Elizabeth Taylor and writers such as Erma Bombeck.

She performed more than 200 times a year in 46 of the 48 contiguous states, and those who saw her know that those living in the other four states are less for having never seen or heard her.

"I'll miss the applause," Mrs. Griffith told the Daily News-Sun recently.

Maybe so, Tanya, but we will miss you more.

Veteran actress bows out of limelight

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The stage has been Tanya Griffith's second home for 45 years. Now, as she reluctantly faces retirement, the Sun Citian says she'll be lost without applause and will sorely miss the audiences she adores.

The 74-year-old actress, entertainer, writer, researcher, historian and producer has toyed with the idea of retirement for several years, but could never let go of performing. Griffith is nationally known as a speaker and entertainer who offers a wide range of original one-woman shows, contemporary book reviews, lectures and inspirational speeches.

At a Tanya Event in Sun City Tuesday, Griffith revealed that she will retire April 12.

"This is honestly how I've spent my life. It's been my only job for 45 years," said Griffith. "Retiring makes me feel awful. I wouldn't have believed it would be so hard."

Griffith will continue to perform in local venues through April 12 and then will do some programs as she feels up to it, but there will be no more schedules of Tanya Griffith On Stage and no more tapes for sale.

It's estimated that Griffith has raised more than \$1 million for nonprofit organizations in the years

she's performed across the country. In her nationally acclaimed performances, Griffith has portrayed more than 100 characters, including Erma Bombeck, Annie Oakley, Grandma Moses and Elizabeth Taylor.

But before she transforms into those characters on stage, she spends hours upon hours researching the women she plays and writing the scripts of their lives. She also takes the stage as herself during Tanya Events in which she shares her personal stories of struggle, joy and firm faith in God.

"Since I got started with this, I've spent my life researching women and researching their place in this world," Griffith said. "People have asked what I do, and I tell them I don't know what it is I do, you just have to see it."

Griffith moved to Sun City from Cleveland 18 years ago when her husband Bill became pastor of Willowbrook United Methodist Church in Sun City. He retired in 1998. The couple have two sons, a daughter and one granddaughter.

After performing in 46 of the 48 contiguous states throughout her career, the trips that were once a luxury have become exhausting, Griffith said. The ever-energetic actress has suffered injury to her foot and leg, limiting her mobility and causing her to live with chronic pain. But doing a show while

confined to a wheelchair is not an option, she said, as her posture and gestures add so much to each of her characters.

Some people fear the stage and many would rather be in an audience, but for Griffith, acting is a way of life.

"The reason people become actors is because they want everyone to love them," she said. "I've wanted people to love me since I was a little girl."

"I'll miss the applause — it's addictive. Honestly, it's like a narcotic, she said."

From the moment Griffith begins her trademark walk down the aisle of a venue, the audience only sees the character she's portraying. Dressed in full costume, she said her first objective is to make the audience care about the character — even if it's a woman not everyone is fond of.

"The object of my script writing is to immediately get people on my side," Griffith said. "With Eleanor Roosevelt, some people hate her. So, I start with scenes that make people understand where she's coming from."

She remembers stepping into a venue for a performance as Queen Victoria, and the audience stood from their seats as if the queen herself just entered the room.

See ACTRESS, A3

From A1

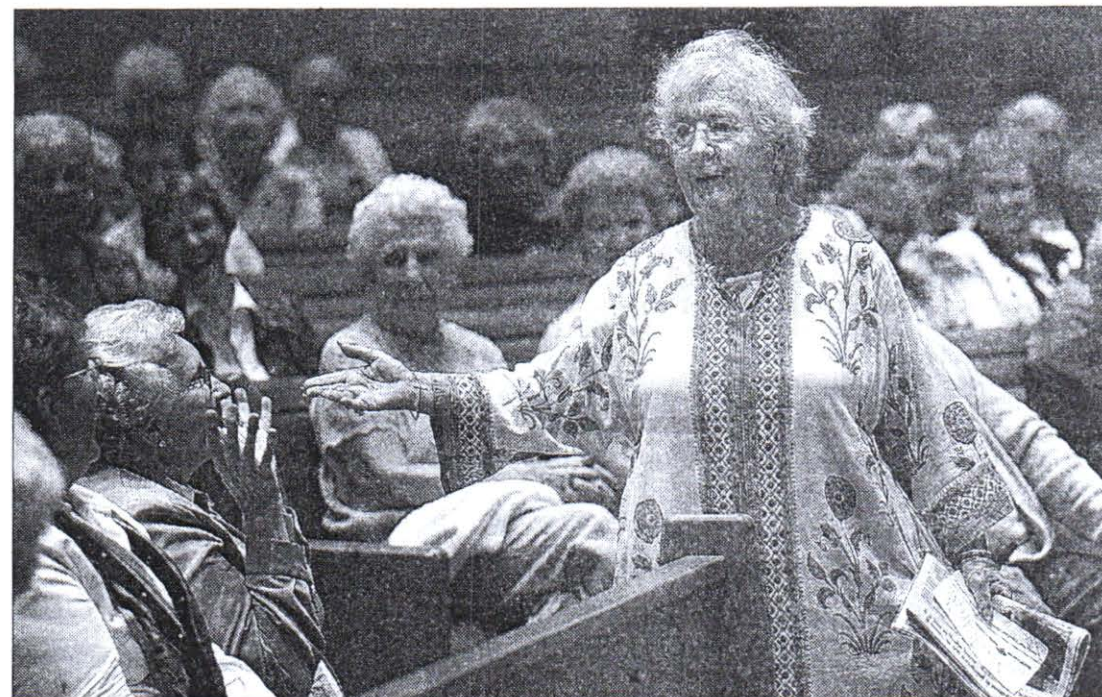
In her performances, Griffith deeply connects with the character and doesn't break out of the role until she leaves the stage.

"I always look into the person for some part of me," she said. "The secret is that you have to feel like you're the character."

Throughout her career, Griffith performed up to 225 shows per year, and though she makes it look easy, she still gets nervous and must always remember to keep her emotions in check while on stage.

"The worst possible thing that you can do is lose your emotions because you'll never know if you'll get them back," she said. "I always get nervous — that's probably why I get so exhausted."

It's evident that the eccentric actress — who wears one gold fingernail and says she was raised a Democrat and will die a Democrat — won't let retirement squelch her



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Actress Tanya Griffith talks to the audience on her way to the stage for a performance about herself titled "A Tanya Event — You Made Me What I Am," at Willowbrook United Methodist Church Tuesday.

talent for brightening the lives of others.

"I'm always talking to people, that's letting them know I really care about them...I

enjoy encouraging people," Griffith told her audience Tuesday. "All of you have made me what I am today... and just because I'm not doing a lot more

performances, doesn't mean that I'm dropping off the face of the earth."

Annie Boon may be reached at 876-2532 or aboon@aztrib.com.

GRIFFITH, TANYA

OVER

Applause **Applause**



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Actress Tanya Griffith cradles her chin in her hands during a program at Willowbrook United Methodist Church in Sun City this week.



The Many Faces of Tanya Griffith

By Dick Kemp

When Sun Citian Tanya Griffith strolls down the center aisle of the Sun Dial auditorium on Nov. 26, garbed in '70s clothing and animatedly introducing her character of the evening, the audience can be assured it is witnessing a theater icon.

She will, that night, portray Maxine Newman, Del Webb's personal secretary for the last 11 years of his life – sharing the strengths and foibles of the "father of the Sun Cities."

The performance will be the latest in the "155-160" characters she has portrayed over 40 years, a professional career that has taken her to 46 of the 48 contiguous U.S. states.

Since the Griffiths moved to Sun City in 1987 – and "Dr. Bill" became senior pastor of Willowbrook United Methodist – Tanya has presented about 100 of those roles in the area.

Not easiest role

Mr. Webb's secretary – who died several years ago – will not be her easiest subject. Despite her long tenure, and fierce loyalty, Maxine Newman was no Del Webb clone.

She was about 5'-2". He was 6'-4".

She lived to bowl. He was addicted to golf and baseball.

She smoked heavily off-duty, yet enforced the large No Smoking signs posted around her boss's office.

Preparing herself

To steep herself in the role, Tanya's interviews have included former Webb chairman R.H. Johnson, and executive secretary Marge Klinefelter, who worked closely with Maxine.

She also immersed herself in Webb biographies and corporate history, and discovered that Del Webb was a man of apparent contradictions. That,



Tanya's Mary Todd Lincoln role



Portraying Mrs. Calvin Coolidge

although humble, he attached his name to hotels and communities. And that a major magazine once titled a Webb profile: "The Bashful Barnum."

Tanya has been known to visit gravesites for inspiration. "Since Mr. Webb's ashes were scattered northwest of Sun City in 1974, I sometimes find myself staring up at his statue," she says.

Two key mentors

Lives are often changed in college. Tanya could have followed her first love – the law – except for an Ohio Wesleyan English professor who encouraged research into historical characters.

He was her key mentor number one.

The second was an unlikely figure – her mother-in-law.

The Griffiths were raising three children in Cleveland. Dr. Bill headed a large Methodist parish, and Tanya was being a good minister's wife.

"I began giving professional book reviews, and Bill's mother began encouraging me to revive an earlier interest – performing in high school plays.

A career was born

"On a whim, I bought a trunk full of clothes that belonged to a notorious Cleveland swindler, Cassie Chadwick, and a career was born."

By the time they left Cleveland, Tanya was giving 200 solo performances annually – U.S. presidents wives, heroines like Joan of Arc and Florence Nightingale, adventurers like Pearl Buck and Amelia Earhart, and stage giants like Annie Oakley and Maria Callas.

Today, she has "eased off" to about 80 performances a year. But not because her energy level has declined or memory is impaired.

"It's more a matter of being more selective, and spending more quality time with Bill since



THEN & NOW –
Tanya and Bill
Griffith, today
and circa 1962.

he retired in 1998, especially in traveling," says Tanya.

"I've got his solemn promise that if he sees me slipping, he'll tell me! That would be it! I want to go out on top!"

Never had an agent

Tanya has never had an agent – securing performances through word-of-mouth and good reviews. Bill, who she met at Ohio Wesleyan, comes as close as she's ever had to a manager.

"He is finding it somewhat difficult to retire. Bill misses

being an integral part of peoples lives. He used to keep a phone by his bed, encourage his members to use it, and would visit them at any hour of the day.

"We really are compatible," she says. "He loves traveling and reading, as I do, and is now writing about religious subjects."

That compatibility was evident when I visited Tanya – the day of the second presidential debate.

"We've always voted opposite each other," laughed Dr. Bill, "and always will."

When I asked Tanya if she

ever forgets lines, her husband joked that he's urging her to commit her roles to full script – but only for posterity's sake.

Another family laughter: Since cooking *isn't* her favorite thing, drawers are jammed with glass collectibles and costumes vs. the normal complement of pots and pans.

A rare combination

Tanya's research, creativity and performing abilities form a rare combination. She also is a

role model for at least two maxims:

- 1 – Use it or lose it.
- 2 – Attitude is everything.

At age 69, she constantly exercises her mind. Between roles she is an avid reader on a variety of subjects, and still gives biographical book reviews (on both sexes), as she has for years at Willowbrook.

Tanya is permanently enthusiastic. While she has portrayed Eleanor Roosevelt more than any other role, "my favorite is the character I'm doing next."

Other new roles

This month she scheduled a Florida performance of Harriett Bedell, the Episcopal deaconess of the Everglades, and will add Elizabeth Taylor to her repertoire later this season.

Despite thousands of performances, Tanya admits to a lifetime of stage fright. "When I do Maxine this month, I may have to be pushed onto the stage.

"But once I begin, look out!

"When I finally hang it up, I'll turn to more reading, playing bridge and traveling with Bill."

As the Griffiths waved a gracious goodbye, I reflected: "I can't see that happening anytime soon, thank goodness!"

Editor's Note – Tickets for Tanya's Nov. 26 Sun Dial performance (7 p.m.), can be purchased for \$10 at the 40th Anniversary office – 15404 N. 99th Ave. (Greenway Shopping Center). Profits will support other 40th Anniversary events. ☉

Tanya Griffith celebrates notable women in history

Recently when I asked a group of 25 in one of my classes how many had experienced at least one of Tanya Griffith's dramatic performances, about half raised their hands, each one with a definite smile. Those smiles communicated their memories of having greatly enjoyed whatever dramatization they had attended.

Tanya Griffith is a legend, having created a legendary spot for herself through her one-woman shows, dramatically portraying



women in history, literature and the arts. She has more than 100 women in her repertoire, and keeps adding new ones. Her audiences find it easy to forget that Tanya is playing a role. As she reveals the personal nature of the character she is portraying, she seems to become that woman, taking the audience back to whatever era is being depicted.

I will be introducing Tanya at an upcoming event where she will portray Victoria Woodhull, who was the first woman to run for president, in 1872, long before women had the vote. Woodhull was also the first woman to

testify before a congressional committee and the first female stockbroker in Wall Street. Her Equal Rights Party platform supported women's right to vote, work and love freely, so she became known as a "free lover."

Appropriately for this election season, Tanya chose this particular woman to dramatize, taking us back in time to recognize how far we have come in women's rights. Woodhull may have been 100 years ahead of her time, but just where are we now, 128 years later?

An interesting side light of how far we've come could be the fact that there is now even a Barbie doll, who announced her candidacy for president in April. Mattel, the maker of Barbie, teamed up with the White House Project and Girls Inc. to market the Barbie for President doll, encouraging females to become more involved in leadership. Another doll, Vanessa, Barbie's African-American counterpart, became Barbie's opponent in her run for the presidency.

No matter what your political affiliation, or whether or not you are happy with the results of our recent election, you will be happy with the performance Tanya Griffith will give on Nov. 10 at 1 p.m., at Willowbrook Methodist Church, 19390 N. 99th Ave., in Sun City. It is sponsored by P.E.O. Chapter DH, and all proceeds will benefit P.E.O. projects, which provide support for higher education opportunities for women.

Tickets are available for \$6 at the church office or by contacting Mary Harper, 623-972-8603 or Kathleen Prichard, 623-566-0841.

The support of P.E.O. projects is a cause close to my heart as I received a P.E.O. award, many years ago as a senior in high school. It was small, but served as encouragement for continuing my education.

Now, I truly enjoy being involved in any way I can to further support this worthy effort. I will introduce Tanya Griffith at the performance on Nov. 10, and hope to see you there. Her portrayals are always enjoyable and educational. What more could we want than to support education for others in the process of our own?

Readers may write to Carol Secord at 9715 W. Lindgren, Sun City, Ariz. 85373-2112.

2-25-2000

Tanya as Tanya

BRUCE ELLISON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

It may have been the easiest performance of a 40-year career Tuesday as Tanya Griffith portrayed the woman she knows best — Tanya Griffith.

Griffith, the Sun City actress who's earned kudos across the nation for her portrayals of famous women of history, kept a capacity crowd at the Union Hills Country Club spellbound for an hour as she paced the floor, mike in hand, regaling the mostly female audience with tales of her life on the stage in "Tanya, Up Close and Personal."

"It's not very often that I get to talk about myself, which is a fascinating topic," she began.

In fact, she said later, she had never before discussed her professional life in a public session.

When you're on stage, she said, "people feel they can ask you anything, and they sure have."

"I think one of the questions I've heard most often is, 'Don't you ever have to go to the bathroom?'"

"Well, the answer is yes," Griffith said to chuckles. But, as with many other things on the stage, "you have to plan ahead."

"You can't even blow your nose unless it's a dramatic gesture in the script."

After performances, "people often tell me how different I look with my clothes on, which, when you're a minister's wife, is a sort of intriguing comment."

Griffith has been married for 46 years to the Rev. Bill Griffith, retired senior pastor of Willowbrook United Methodist Church.

"Those folks really mean I look different in street clothes than in the period costumes I wear," Griffith explained.

Perhaps the innocent question that brings the greatest embarrassment is, "Have you ever thought of being an actress?" Griffith said.

"I have to wonder what they think I've done for 40 years" and why they paid to hear me.

As for that old staple asked of performers, "What was your most embarrassing moment?" Griffith

had a ready answer.

As Florence Nightingale at a nurses convention with several thousand people in a hotel ballroom, "My mike went dead. I didn't know what to do."

"Then out of the corner of my eye, I saw two shapes, two men on their stomachs, crawling across the stage in the dark."

"One of them soon had his hand on my back, feeling its way up to find the broken part and fix it."

The operation was successful and the presentation continued.

"I didn't have to drop the role and have Florence Nightingale excuse herself to fix the batteries," she said.

The pleasure of her work comes from applause, and from the audience interaction during the performance.

"It takes two to tango, the actress and the audience," and performers know when they've caught the attention they want.

As for learning her lines, "When I was young, I discovered I had this mind that hardly ever forgets anything," one reason it's relatively easy for her to speak in character for an hour or more.

If she ever realizes she can no longer remember roles, "that's it. I'm done."

Although her work requires considerable historical research, she said, "anybody can be taught to do the research, and many people can be taught to put the result in some kind of logical order."

"Not everybody can add creativity, and it's that creativity that makes the emotional portrayal work," she said.

"I always want it to look easy," she said, because then people don't see Tanya Griffith, they sense Eleanor Roosevelt or Queen Victoria or any of the 100-plus other characters in her repertoire.

"That is what makes it work," she said.

over

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL:
Local performer shares stage
secrets



E.B. MCGOVERN/DAILY NEWS-SUN
Tanya Griffith works her way through the crowd as she shared the experiences of a 40-year acting career Tuesday at Union Hills Country Club in Sun City.

Actress brings Del Webb's secretary to life

By Angela Rabago-Mussi
Special for the Republic

Mention the words Sun City and the name Del E. Webb comes up almost automatically.

But what is the story behind the man who built the company that builds some of the most well-known communities across America?

To answer that question, it would help to ask someone who worked closely with him on a daily basis.

Someone like his longtime secretary, Maxine Newman, who was his secretary at the time of his death in 1974.

Although Newman herself is also deceased, Tanya Griffith, a Sun City actress known for her one-woman shows,

will be portraying Webb's secretary in a show Sunday titled *Getting to Know Del Webb*.

Griffith will try to imagine what it was like to work for a man who dropped out of high school to become a carpenter's apprentice and started a business which would eventually become one of the top home-building companies in the nation.

"He was such an important man in this country," Griffith said. "But he was able to take that all in stride and still appear in some ways as an average man."

She says that even today, people in Sun City often refer to Del Webb "as if he is still alive and walking on the streets."

Griffith's performance is part of the yearlong celebration of the 40th anniversary of the opening of Sun City. Other events have included a golf cart parade with nearly 300 entries and a program honoring volunteers. After Griffith's show, other events are planned in December, and the celebration will end with a party Dec. 17 at the Sundome.

Griffith has been doing one-woman shows for over 25 years. She has a portfolio of about 200 famous women whom she portrays in performances around the United States.

Griffith prepares extensively for her roles. Unknowingly, she has been preparing for this role since she moved

to Sun City from Cleveland with her husband 13 years ago.

A life-size statue of Webb at the Bell Recreation Center immediately sparked her interest in the man.

"It's a wonderful image of him," she said. "I was kind of taken with it and his quote that's inscribed there: 'The builder builds the house but people make the home.'"

Since then, Griffith has collected information about Webb. But she dug deeper when she realized she would be presenting a show on him. Griffith used various books written about the developer and interviewed people who knew him. One of her last

See **ROLE** | Page 3



Suzanne Starr/The Arizona Republic

Sun City actress Tanya Griffith portrays longtime Del Webb secretary, Maxine Newman, in *Getting to Know Del Webb*.

preparatory interviews was with Robert H. Johnson, who worked with Webb for 48 years and now heads the Del Webb Foundation.

Webb's relationship with Johnson showed the man's great respect for loyalty, Griffith said. Several of Webb's first employees when he started the company in 1928 worked with him for decades.

Del Webb was able to build his company by winning numerous defense building contracts in the late 1930s. After the war, he benefited from the big housing boom that followed. Today, Del Webb Corp. is the nation's leading builder of communities for people 55 and older.

Although Maxine Newman's boss was a powerful man — his golfing buddies included Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Barry Goldwater — he never forgot where he started, Griffith learned. "During trips to construction sites, he always made a beeline for the construction foreman and the workers," she said. "He would go right past the VIPs."

Most of all, Griffith believes, as Newman took notes for him and scheduled his appointments, she would have seen her boss as an innovator, someone who built "lifestyle" housing communities long before it was popular.

"He saw possibilities everywhere," Griffith said.

CAROL SECORD

Tanya Griffith's characters

By Carol Secord

For Arizona Senior World

I'm not enough of a history buff to sit down and study in depth the lives of famous or infamous people. However, I feel fortunate to know someone who does this kind of research and study, then puts it together into an enjoyable, educational format as she portrays a particular historical character.

I can count on Tanya Griffith of Sun City to do just that, repeatedly, with character after character. As I attend as many of her local presentations as my calendar allows, I not only learn about the person she is portraying but also much about the era in which this person lived. Thank you, Tanya, for my history lessons - the easy and enjoyable way.

As I've checked over Griffith's fall schedule and my schedule, I am particularly looking forward to attending her portrayal of Lillian Russell. As I had only a vague awareness of who this woman was, I asked Tanya about her research. Actually, Tanya may spend as much as two years researching the characters she portrays in her one-woman shows. So I felt some reticence in asking her to give me a "thumbnail" sketch.

What I learned was enough to whet my appetite for more. Lillian Russell was a very beautiful woman and a talented singer, who lived during the "gilded age" of our history. Her mother was a suffragette, well ahead of her time, who encouraged Lillian and arranged for her operatic training. When she sang near an open window, people would gather outside to listen.



Asked one time to fill in as a singer at a beer garden, Lillian loved it and her career as a singer broadened and intensified.

Tanya Griffith will take this portrayal through several failed marriages and Lillian's relationship with Diamond Jim Brady, who was to build her a theater.

I look forward to seeing Lillian Russell "come alive" on stage as Tanya Griffith portrays her in full costume, including a blonde wig and a dress with a gold lame train.

This performance will take place on November 19 at 1 p.m. at Willowbrook Methodist Church in Sun City. Information and \$6 tickets are available from Mary Jane Fox (623-933-2715) or Ruth DeMars (623-815-0836). Proceeds will go to support educational projects for women through the DH Chapter of P.E.O.

What a great opportunity to support education for women as we simultaneously support our own education, and enjoy it in the process. I'll be there on November 19; in fact, I'll be introducing this amazing woman, Tanya Griffith, or am I introducing Lillian Russell? I'd better get that straight. Hope to see you there too.

(Editor's note: Carol Secord teaches classes through Rio Salado College located between the Sun Cities. Her upcoming six-week class, "Personal Development" begins November 5 at 9 a.m. In it students will explore growth concepts for seniors, including examination of identity, personal values, positive self-esteem, and how to enhance skills of assertiveness and decision-making as we become the best that we can be in our mature years. For registration information call Rio Salado at 480-517-8770.)

'The Dutchess' takes the stage

By Carol Secord
For Arizona Senior World

It seems to be important to have models and heroes or heroines. We need to have good examples of others, as we strive to do our best in our own endeavors.

I have several heroines whom I respect and look up to for various reasons. For many years I have greatly admired Sun Citian Tanya Griffith because of her many talents. She is a versatile actress, researcher and writer, whose professional life has been devoted to returning the great women of history to life through dramatic performance. She does an in-depth study of each of the characters she portrays, and is so successful in her dramatization that it seems to the audience that we have actually met the woman portrayed.

Each year Tanya travels from coast to coast, appearing on college campuses, at conventions, major meetings and clubs, and is especially popular on the benefit circuit.

In an upcoming special benefit event presented by a philanthropic educational organization, P.E.O., Chapter DH, Tanya will portray Florence Kling Harding, wife of president Warren Harding. He called his wife "The Dutchess," and she was behind him all the way as he climbed through the ranks to the presidency.



However, almost from the beginning rumors of deceit, pay-offs, bribes, and what was called "loose living" surrounded the president and his cabinet. Toward the end of his term, with the multi-million dollar Teapot Dome scandal about to erupt and whispers about an illegitimate daughter, the president suddenly died.

To learn more about this interesting story, plan to attend Tanya Griffith's portrayal of "The Dutchess" at Willowbrook Methodist Church in Sun City, November 19, at 1 p.m. Information and \$6 tickets are available from Janet Eacobacci (602-933-1102). Proceeds will go to support educational projects for women through P.E.O.

Each time I have attended one of Tanya's dramatizations I have felt I've had an enjoyable, historical, educational lesson. What better way to support education for women than to simultaneously support our own education, and enjoy it too?

I'll be there on November 19. Hope to see you there too.

(Editor's note: Carol Secord teaches Personal Development classes through Rio Salado College located between the Sun Cities. Her up-coming class, "Maturity Challenge," begins Nov. 6. For information on this class, or to request a free sample copy of her national newsletter New Mature Woman contact Secord at 6901 W. Stockman, Glendale, AZ 85308, or (602) 843-6274.)

Griffith, Tanya

Enhanced
living



Carol Secord

Griffith returning to stage

She's back!
Sun Citian Tanya Griffith, versatile actress, researcher and writer, is back on the stage.

Her family, friends and fans were greatly concerned last spring when she had to cancel a whole season of performances. A very serious neurological problem kept her sidelined until the end of May. She has since devoted her time and energies to recovering.

Griffith believes that the stage is great therapy both for the performer and the audience.

"Friends and fans across the country," she says "and my devoted family, especially my husband, Dr. Bill, would not let me die or be less than the enthusiastic woman and actress everyone knows."

Each year Griffith travels from coast to coast, appearing on college campuses, at conventions, major meetings and clubs. She is especially valued and popular on the benefit circuit, raising funds for a wide range of organizations.

A few years ago her alma mater, Ohio Wesleyan University, gave her its Distinguished Alumni Award for the body of her work and accomplishments. Her professional life has been devoted to returning the great women of history to life through her dramatic performances.

For each of the women she portrays she researches extensively to find historical accuracy. She thereby creates characterizations of real women from the pages of history, and presents them to the audience with great reality and skill.

Included in her once again busy schedule this fall is a portrayal of Florence Kling Harding, wife of President Harding. This seems particularly timely as there may have been parallels with the current situation in the White House.

"Almost from the beginning of the Harding administration," she explained, "rumors of deceit, payoffs, bribes and what was then called 'loose living' surrounded the president and his cabinet.

Toward the end of his term, with the multi-million-dollar Teapot Dome scandal about to erupt and whispers about an illegitimate daughter, President Harding suddenly died.

"No one can hurt you, now," his wife was heard to whisper into his casket." Griffith calls this program, "The Duchess," which is what President Harding called his wife.

It will take place Nov. 19, at 1 p.m., at Willowbrook Methodist Church, 19390 N. 99th Ave., in Sun City. Tickets are available for \$6 at the church office or by contacting Janet Eacobacci, 933-1102, or Evelyn Boone 977-5668.

It is sponsored by P.E.O. Chapter DH, and all proceeds will benefit P.E.O. projects, which provide higher education opportunities for women.

This is a cause that is close to my heart as I received a P.E.O. award as a senior in high school. It was very small, but served as encouragement for continuing my education. Now, I truly enjoy being involved in any way I can to further support this worthy effort. I will introduce Tanya at the performance on Nov. 19, and hope to see you there. Her portrayals are always enjoyable and educational. What more could we want than to support education for others in the process of our own?

Carol Secord teaches personal development classes. She welcomes readers' questions and comments and may be contacted at 843-6274 or 6901 W. Stockman, Glendale, 85308.

Griffith, Tanya

Playing the part

Her portrayals illuminate famous women

By BRUCE ELLISON
Staff writer

For Tanya Griffith, it isn't enough to just *portray* Eleanor Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart, the Duchess of Windsor or some other noted female figure in history.

In effect, she must *become* her subject.

It takes more than acting and a costume, the Sun City actress said. It takes extensive historical research, and an ability to respond to audience questions the way her subject might have responded, in order to become Roosevelt, Earhart or Indira Gandhi, for instance.

In short, preparing a character takes work.

Griffith, who now has more than a hundred characters in her repertoire, spends months on the research needed for a new one.

Recently, she updated a four-year-old presentation on Diana, Princess of Wales — a task which involved gathering hundreds of press clippings from British newspapers and magazines during April and May last year, before Diana's untimely death.

"Even before the accident, there was this outpouring of support and enthusiasm for her. You could see it in the headlines, and hear it on the BBC, in the way they talked about her," Griffith said in a recent interview.

"I knew she was popular with the public, but I wasn't prepared for the depth of those feelings, with how she dominated newspapers and magazines while she was alive."

By the time Griffith and her husband, Bill, senior pastor at Sun City's Willowbrook United Methodist Church, were ready to return from England, she had accumulated hundreds of clippings and books, many of which had to be shipped home.

She also acquired a three-volume catalog of furnishings that had belonged to the Windsors and which was auctioned at Sotheby's last week, she said.

"The catalogs are full of pictures which showed how the royal family lived, what they wore, the way their

table was set, the chairs they used," Griffith said. "It was a treasure trove of information I could use."

Griffith is a professional actress, with 37 years in the business. She has a dozen appearances scheduled in coming weeks, including several out of state.

"This has been my life," she said.

Her husband's upcoming retirement from Willowbrook will allow her more time on the road for her acting career, she added.

The couple came to Sun City from the Cleveland, Ohio, area. In addition to her acting career, Griffith is "a demon hand at bridge," where "I definitely play to win."

She also enjoys travel, reading and writing, all of which help her perfect her characters.

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There's one grandchild in her life — a cutie named Sweet Marguerite, who's probably known by everyone in Sun City who's ever met Tanya Griffith, she said.

Her new presentation on Diana — in which she does not actually portray the princess, but rather talks about her in an informal fashion — takes about an hour, and includes a question-and-answer session. The hour's presentation, like all her scripts, is written out first, and would run 35 or 40 typed pages, Griffith said.

It is practiced in front of a mirror until Griffith can make the presentation from memory and feel comfortable with it.

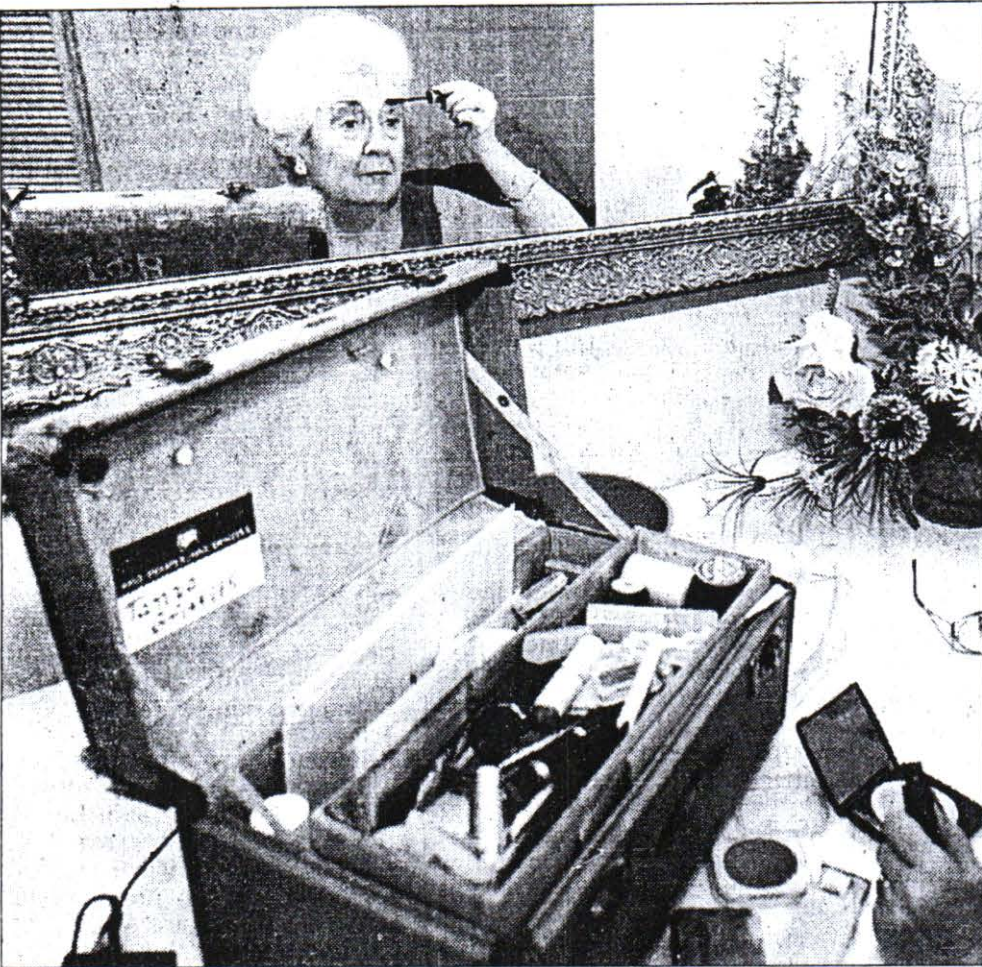
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The British royal family, she said, is a very popular topic, with one crucial question frequently asked: Can the monarchy survive?

"I don't really answer that," Griffith said, "But I do know that Princess Di changed the way the monarchy works."

"Will it survive? That's a good question, but it certainly is changed now."

Griffith, Tanya



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Tanya Griffith prepares for her performance at the First United Methodist Church in Sun City last week.

Is she nervous when going on stage? Yes — and, she said, it helps to have an audience.

"I'd like a large audience, preferably a paying audience, so that I'm nervous when I start." With a paying audience, she said, "you have to do your best because they've given money to hear you."

Once she's got her act down pat, she keeps the routine for as long as it works with audiences. "I'll do it again and again unless the audience isn't responding, and then I'll try to vary it to keep them interested," she said.

But for someone allowed backstage with Griffith for the half hour or so before a performance, a different Tanya emerges from what Willowbrook members know, or informal living room conversation reveals.

As she readies herself, Griffith goes from casual to professional, checking her makeup, fussing with her dress, getting props ready.

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She checks and rechecks, then frequently walks onstage to strike a frozen pose while others talk about her, her character or to wait as the music progresses. Then Griffith steps down from her "picture frame" to become her character.

Griffith, who can accurately portray such figures as Eleanor Roosevelt, wearing their dress and mimicking their attitude and mannerisms in speech, said she does not act as Diana or Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis because those women are too fresh in the minds of her listeners. Besides, she said, she's too short to look like Diana, though she has worn a purple and black hat of the type that the princess made fashionable.

"You can't have the audience saying, 'That's not Di' or 'that's not Jackie O, that's Tanya,'" she said.

When she's successful with mannerisms, dress, speech and attitude, she said, she can truly convince even those who knew the subject.

"I remember one lady who saw me as Eleanor Roosevelt, who later said she knew I was an actress because I was too short, but, you know, part way through she told me she began to wonder, and eventually asked herself, 'I wonder if Eleanor would remember me?'" Griffith said.

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She doesn't take criticism easily, she said.

Nor does she want to hear audience members gushing "about how nice it was."

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As a solo performer, Griffith can vary her routine and change the words, as long as she's true to the character.

When she's emotional on stage, is it real?

Once it certainly was, she recalled, when she played an angry character after being upset with a relative.

"Every one told me that anger was real," she said.

And last year, when she played Mary at the cross, she said, it was an emotionally wrenching experience, one that left her crying real tears and sobbing for several minutes after she finished.

Griffith said there were few words in the Bible to describe Mary at the scene of Jesus' crucifixion, so she reacted simply as a mother would with a dying son, falsely accused.

"There was no stage setting," Griffith remembered. "It all had to be in the imagination, mine and the audience."

"I recall it now as a mystical experience, like I was away somewhere, on a cloud."

"At the end, I didn't know how long I had spoken, I had no idea of time. But when I finished, there was absolute silence. You could hear a pin drop."

"In the final scene, Mary, the mother of Jesus, was crying, and I was — real tears. You're not supposed to do that, but I did."

"And I just ran off the platform, miserable. I crouched down behind something to get away from it all, away from all those people watching me, but the mike on my chest was still on ... and I just lay there quietly sobbing while the choir sang."

"Afterwards, people told me how moving it was. I've been asked about doing it again, — but I don't know if I can ever do it that way again. It was too emotional an experience."

But she has Mary at the Cross on her schedule for Good Friday — at the United Church of Sun City and Shepherd of the Hills in Sun City West, on April 10, at 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Tanya on tour

Tanya Griffith keeps busy with her portrayals of noted women of history.

In the three months from February through April, for instance, she has scheduled more than 30 appearances, including Dallas; Naples and Marco Island, Fla.; Akron, Cleveland and Cincinnati and sites in Pennsylvania, in addition to performing in the Sun Cities, Phoenix, Peoria and Sun Lakes.

Among the characters she will portray are Pearl S. Buck, Gypsy Rose Lee, Eleanor Roosevelt, Susannah Wesley, Susan B. Anthony, the Duchess of Windsor, Bess Truman, Princess Diana and Mary at the Cross.

You can catch a performance Saturday at a Sabbath celebration at Willowbrook United Methodist Church, as Griffith portrays Susannah Wesley; or March 4 at the Friendship Club luncheon when she acts as Wallis, Duchess of Windsor. And then on March 6, at the Sundome Health and Beauty Fair, she'll portray Sister Kenney, an Australian nurse.

On March 9, she'll be Bess Truman at the American Lutheran Church in Sun City.

A busy schedule indeed.

On June 20, she celebrates in a more personal way, noting the 45th anniversary of her marriage to Dr. Bill Griffith, retiring senior pastor at Willowbrook.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Tanya Griffith stands as if she is in a picture frame at the start of her portrayal of Grace (Mrs. Calvin) Coolidge.

Playing the part

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(over)

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Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Tanya Griffith prepares for her performance at the First United Methodist Church in Sun City last week.

Woman of many faces

Perhaps you know her best as Eleanor Roosevelt, Golda Meir or Amelia Earhart.

But when she's not portraying one of the great women in history, she's Sun City resident **Tanya Griffith** — a self-taught actress, minister's wife and mother of three who loves history, a good cup of coffee and her cat, MiMi.

During the past 30 years, Griffith has developed a repertoire of 135 women she brings to life on stage.

Griffith truly is a one-woman show: She researches and writes all her material and does her own costuming and makeup.

"When people ask me how I do this, I can't answer that question," she said. "I only know that I just do."

Griffith is always in demand to perform in the Sun Cities, and she takes her show on the road.

Always her goal is the same.

"I want to be historically accurate and dramatic, but I also want an emotional aspect," she said.

Griffith revels in her research, which never stops.

"When I'm traveling, I say there are two places women can always go by themselves safely — the library and the local historical society."

You also might find her hunting for vintage clothing, antiques or old books that provide her with the keys to unlock her characters' pasts.

Griffith slipped into the role of Eleanor Roosevelt during our meeting; even without the costume, she was quite convincing. It was easy for me to see why the former first lady, reformer and humanitarian is Griffith's most-popular personality with audiences.

As far as first ladies go, Griffith said she is a great admirer of Hillary Rodham Clinton. However, don't expect to see Griffith portraying Hillary anytime soon.

Why not?

"She's doing herself too well," Griffith said.

I asked Griffith about her most memorable performance. Although there are many, she said, the first time she took the stage as Queen Victoria proved unforgettable.

"I walked in and the people immediately stood. Women were bowing. ... It was one of the moments when I hadn't even started performing and they believed. I felt that if I never was able to perform again, that would be all right."

The actress is married to the **Rev. Dr. William D. Griffith** from Willowbrook United Methodist Church in Sun City.

"I'm not the typical minister's wife," she said. "The first year I was here, people did say they didn't expect me to be so approachable. They said, 'We didn't expect you to be so giving to our congregation.' Now people say, 'You have to meet our minister's wife.'"

If you haven't seen her perform but would like to, you're in luck. Griffith will portray Alice Roosevelt Longworth (Teddy's daughter) at 7 p.m. Thursday in Crown of Life Lutheran Church, 13131 Spanish Garden Drive in Sun City West.

Admission is \$5 at the door; For information, call 584-0136

DOERS PROFILE

Tanya Griffith

Vita Bachelor's degree in political science and journalism from Ohio Wesleyan University. Professional actress.

Hometown Muncie, Ind.

Valley home Sun City, 6 years.

Marital status Married to William Griffith, 40 years.



Self-portrait Intensely loyal, very creative, constantly inquisitive.

Motto Look up.

Greatest feat Keeping the ideals of my youth.

Walter Mitty fantasy To be discovered big time.

Inspiration The lives of all the great women who have gone ahead and left their legacy to us.

Good/bad habits I always read books and newspaper columns to the end. My bad habit is certainly coffee, or driving too fast.

Favorite food/drink Maryland crab cakes and coffee.

TV programs "Murder, She Wrote" and "60 Minutes."

Books at bedside "This Incredible Century" by Norman Vincent Peale and "Healing and the Mind" by Bill Moyers.

Vacation spot/luxury: A trip on the trans-Siberian railway; a Porche.

Key to longevity Looking ahead.

Last words As Susan B. Anthony said, "The woman is really free who wants to do what she has to do."

Artist brings history to SC audiences

Daily News-Sun staff

Sun Cities actress Tanya Griffith has dozens of women in her repertoire and, this fall, Sun Cities audiences will have an opportunity to enjoy "visits" with some of them.

Griffith, whose cache of characters include famous females from Naomi and Ruth to Maria Callas and Susan B. Anthony, mixes humor and drama in presenting one-woman shows revolving around the lives and times of her characters.

Sun City and Valley performances in October

and November include:

■ **7 p.m. Oct. 19**, Masonic Fellowship Center, 18810 N. 107th Ave., Sun City. Griffith's show is titled "Famous Women" and will feature a look at many of her characters. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the MFC office or by calling 972-1368.

■ **7 p.m. Oct. 20**, El Zaribah Shrine Temple, 552 N. 40th St., Phoenix. Griffith will again present "Famous Women." Tickets are \$5 and are available at the El Zaribah office or by calling 265-0630.

■ **2 p.m. Oct. 30**, Lakeview United Methodist Church. Griffith will portray Maria Callas, the controversial opera singer who had 25 curtain calls at her Metropolitan Opera debut. Tickets are \$5. For information, call 972-2276.

■ **2 p.m. Nov. 10**, Masonic Fellowship Center, 18810 N. 107th Ave., Sun City. In a show hosted by Chapter 66 of O.E.S, Griffith will star as Sacajewea, the Indian princess, translator and guide who accompanied the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1805. Tickets are \$5. For information, call 972-8631 or 972-8580.



Submitted photos

Lakeview United Methodist Church will host an Oct. 30 show starring Tanya Griffith, shown here in the role of Maria Callas.



Tanya Griffith, pictured as Susan B. Anthony, will present shows throughout the Valley this fall.

The many faces of Tanya Griffith

By BRITT KENNERLY
Daily News-Sun staff

From Susan B. Anthony to Queen Victoria, Sun Citian Tanya Griffith has portrayed women of strength and courage for many years.

Known for her ability to slip into a character, attired in authentic period clothing, the actress is well-known in the Sun Cities for her one-woman shows.

Griffith, who has visited the Smithsonian Institution to gain knowledge of women she portrays, seeks characters who are enlightening, amusing or historically important, and she begins character development long before the character takes the stage.

Through extensive research in archives, the actress makes pilgrimages to homes where her characters lived, to the places where they died and to their gravesites.

This fall, Griffith will perform for many Sun Cities organizations spearheading charitable efforts.

Griffith will launch her newest character, "The Unsinkable Molly Brown," at 1 p.m. Monday in the Bell Recreation Center Social Hall, 99th Avenue and Bell Road, Sun City.

Proceeds from Griffith's premiere performance as the high-spirited Irishwoman will benefit the library. Tickets are \$7.50 and are available at the Sun City Library and at Fairway Library, 10600 Peoria Ave., Sun City.

The Beth Emeth Congregation will present Griffith in dual roles as Biblical character Naomi and as Naomi's daughter-in-law, Ruth, at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 21 in the synagogue. The performance will chronicle the dedication of Ruth to her husband's mother.

Tickets are available from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Friday through Oct. 18 at the synagogue, 13702 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West. Tickets for "Ruth and Naomi" also are available by mail. Send checks for \$6 to Helen Padnick, 13227 Shadow Hills Drive, Sun City West, Ariz.,

On stage:

Upcoming Tanya Griffith performances include:

■ 1 p.m. Monday, Bell Recreation Center Social Hall, 99th Avenue and Bell Road: **The Unsinkable Molly Brown**

■ 7:30 p.m. Oct. 21, Beth Emeth Congregation, 13702 W. Meeker Blvd., Sun City West: **Ruth and Naomi: Whither Thou Goest**

■ 2:30 p.m. Oct. 25, Sundial Auditorium, 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard: **Susan B. Anthony**

■ 3 p.m. Nov. 10, Desert Garden Church, 18818 N. 128th Ave., Sun City West: **Queen Victoria**

85375, or to Alice Gimpel, 12419 LaPaloma Court, Sun City, Ariz., 85351.

Mail-order tickets may be picked up at the door.

In a benefit for Big Brothers Big Sisters, hosted by the organization's Sun Cities branch, Griffith will portray Susan B. Anthony at 2:30 p.m. Oct. 25 in Sundial Auditorium, 103rd Avenue and Boswell Boulevard, Sun City.

As the pioneer of the women's movement, Griffith will dramatize the 60 years Anthony spent campaigning for women's right to vote, to own property to speak at public meetings and for the abolition of slavery.

Tickets are \$5 and may be purchased at Sundome Cards and Gifts, Sun City West, Al Mart in the Greenway Shopping Center, Sun City, or by calling 972-3272 or 974-6581.

Queen Victoria, Griffith-style, will take the stage at Desert Garden Church, 18818 N. 128th Ave., Sun City, at 3 p.m. Nov. 10.

Griffith's portrayal of the life of the queen of Great Britain and Ireland, who was also empress of India, in-



Griffith as Susan B. Anthony



Queen Victoria, a la Tanya Griffith



A Griffith look at Bible's Ruth

cludes a look at the queen's life with Prince Albert, her views on government and her dealings with prime ministers including Benjamin Disraeli.

Tickets are \$4. For information, call 584-8832.



Tanya Griffith — in character.

The 169 faces of Tanya

Sun Citian's many 1-woman shows take her to stages nationwide

By Julia Jones
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Her husband says she's always looking for women who are "going off the edge."

But as an actress, she has made a good, steady income — enough to be self-supporting — for 25 years.

And she only ventured into her life's work — portraying famous women in one-woman shows — after having been caught improving just a bit the book she was reviewing.

Actress Tanya Griffith, originally from Muncie, Ind., and a resident of Sun City for about three years, has a portfolio of 169 characters she portrays in about 200 performances a year, all over the United States. Her characters range from the biblical Ruth and Naomi and history's Mary, Queen of Scots, to humorist Erma Bombeck, whose column appears daily in *The Arizona Republic* and who happens to be Griffith's third cousin.

"But I started out as a book reviewer

Her characters range from the biblical Ruth and Naomi and history's Mary, Queen of Scots, to humorist Erma Bombeck, whose column appears daily in *The Arizona Republic* and who happens to be Griffith's third cousin.

when that was considered an art form," said Griffith, 60, recalling the dramatic readings she gave.

It was a little something to do while she carried out the regular duties of a young Methodist minister's wife. Her husband, the Rev. Dr. William Dudley Griffith, is senior minister at Willowbrook United Methodist Church in Sun City. She picked up a mentor, who recommended her to those who planned such programs, and that business prospered, as she read and reviewed about 15 books a year.

See TANYA, Page 3



Mike Himmes / Staff photographer

An audience of several hundred at United Church of Sun City watches the "Queen Mum" (actress Tanya Griffith) as she makes her way to the stage.

TANYA

From Page 1

"When I was about 30, there was big, big trouble," Griffith said.

A woman in the audience confronted Griffith with a problem. "She said she loved the review, went out and bought that book, spent all that money and that great story I told wasn't in it," Griffith recalled.

She changed her act immediately — "I said I'm reviewing this book, but also drawing material from this and this" — and started pondering a first-person show.

The idea actually took shape when she bought a trunk of old clothes at auction. They had belonged to "Goldbrick Cassie" Chadwick, a woman, Griffith said, who in the late 1800s bilked financiers along the East Coast and in Cleveland, where the Griffiths were posted.

"Lots of families prominent in the Cleveland area were touched innocently by Cassie," she said, and the program, incorporating morgue and courthouse humor, became wildly popular. Griffith became something of a local treasure, steadily developing new personas and adding old clothes to her collection so that her dress was

authentic to the period of the character she was playing.

Unlike Hal Holbrook's Mark Twain characterization, she said, she doesn't use putty noses and bushy eyebrows.

"And I really don't look like any of these women," she said.

But endless research and reading makes her thoroughly familiar with each character, and a sort of unwritten script takes form.

"I have that kind of head," she said. "It's in there." And that enables her to bring up a complete program on any of her 169 characters, or call up, on audience request, bits of various ones for a program, "The Best of Tanya Griffith."

Although the preparation is all hers, she said, she relies on her husband to help polish each characterization. "He's a history and theater buff," she said, "and I constantly rely on his marvelous critical eye."

She does look for that spark of something different in developing her characterizations, she said.

O'Keeffe to Addams

Eleanor Roosevelt is probably



Mike Himmes / Staff photographer

her most popular character, she said. "Most people under 35 don't know anyone ever hated her." (She'll do Eleanor Roosevelt at Aunt Pittypat's Pantry in Glen-

Tanya Griffith is "Queen Mum" in a recent performance in Sun City. The characters she portrays come from history as well as contemporary times. She calls early-20th-century American social reformer Jane Addams one of her favorite characters.

dale at 7 p.m. Saturday.)

And Susan B. Anthony. "People have no idea of her sense of humor."

She did Georgia O'Keeffe for the Chicago Art Institute, Mrs. Wood-

row Wilson last year for the congressional wives, "Queen Mum" for Interfaith Services Auxiliary in Sun City in September, and she premiered "Unsinkable Still — Molly Brown" as a benefit for the Sun City Library on Oct. 7.

If she could be judged on only one presentation, it would be Jane Addams, she said, although Mary Todd Lincoln and Florence Nightingale are also favorites.

Flops?

"I had trouble at first with Alice Roosevelt Longworth," Griffith said; "she dabbled in voodoo, and that's just not my thing."

"And Tallulah (Bankhead) was just too raunchy for me and the audience I work to."

She's thinking about working up a presentation on Arizona's own Winnie Ruth Judd, while she's reading up on other characters, generally at a rate of about six books at a time. Some of those books will become book reviews, since she continues to do reviews at Willowbrook every Thursday.

The truth is, she said, "I don't know why people go through this (solo performing). There's no way you can rest your voice or get a cue line, and if I ever lose my memory,

I'll be in big trouble.

"But I've never even had an agent, and I've really been so fortunate to have this wonderful life."

"When we first came out here, I'm not sure Willowbrookers knew what they were getting for a minister's wife," she said. "I was always jetting off somewhere." In May, for instance, she was off for 11 days, giving shows from the East Coast to Nebraska. And this month, she'll give six performances in three days in Ohio.

She'll be back to present "Ruth and Naomi" at Temple Beth Emeth, Sun City West, Oct. 21, and "Duchess of Windsor" at Sun City's Lakeview United Methodist Church on Oct. 31.

The schedule is so packed, she regularly produces a monthly calendar of bookings, and admits the current season is her busiest since moving to Arizona.

"This can spoil you for ensemble acting," she said. "I don't have to share the stage with anybody."

"But that's not saying I wouldn't love a juicy role on Broadway, if someone just offered it to me."

Actress portrays famous women

By P. ATWOOD WILLIAMS
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — The open suitcase sets on the southwestern motif bedspread as sun pours in through the windows of the parsonage.

Next to a brown leather flight jacket, Tanya Griffith unpacks a pair of men's slacks and short-sleeved blue shirt with white scarf and goggles; a Western hat and skirt, glass target ball and medal on a bright ribbon; a black vintage dress and high boots; a fluffy feather hat and peacock blue chiffon coat over a floral print dress and more.

Amelia Earhart, Annie Oakley, Mary Todd Lincoln, Georgia O'Keefe and the Queen Mum have returned from Ohio.

The suitcase also contained one outfit for Tanya Griffith; she had carried Amelia's flight jacket onto the plane for her appearances before the Cleveland Plain Dealer, Ohio State University and others on a four-day trip, which included a visit to Chagrin Falls, her former home.

She gave performances Sunday evening, Monday, Tuesday morning and evening and on Wednesday morning.

The closets of the Willowbrook United Methodist Church parsonage are "crammed" with outfits for the 112 women the wife of the Rev. William Griffith portrays professionally in about 200 full-length monologue performances each year.

In the next month, she will perform locally as Pearl Buck, Golda Meir, Irma Bombeck, Annie Oakley and Mrs. Calvin Coolidge. Last week after returning from Ohio she appeared as Mrs. Jefferson Davis in the American Lutheran Church, where she made her first Northwest Valley appearance a year ago after moving to Sun City.

During a performance of Amelia Earhart in the area last year, members of the audience told her they had participated in the air searches for the aviatrix lost with

her navigator over the South Pacific in 1937.

Griffith makes her entrances down the aisles of the churches, halls or theaters in which she appears. She wears a microphone and begins speaking as she walks. As Verina Davis she carried a couple of fresh roses and set the scene for her persona by recalling the roses of the southern cities she had known.

She was dressed in a black hat tied under her chin and a vintage mourning garment, trimmed extravagantly in black jet beads and suitably elegant for the wife of the late president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis. An hour and 15 minutes later the audience learned that in the early years of this century, Verina Davis had a full military funeral, befitting the wife of a head of state.

She researches her characters diligently, (her degree from Ohio Wesleyan is in political science and journalism) and since moving to Arizona, the actress has begun studies on several potential subjects.

One is Winnie Ruth Judd, who served a lengthy sentence for murder in Arizona and now lives in California.

Another is Isabella Greenway, builder of the Arizona Inn in Tucson. Griffith's parents lived there in 1928 at the time the Greenways turned the building of the inn into job opportunities for the unemployed.

She has also considered the possibility of adding a second American Indian to her repertoire, which now includes only Sacajawea, who had belonged to many Indian tribes.

"I played her as an older woman, and the audience of 700 at my first performance was disappointed in her costume, that of a midwestern farm woman, so I compromised and had a new costume made," she said as she displayed a handsome garment reminiscent of a plains Indian with pale shades of turquoise and coral blending with natural muslin fringes.

To learn about Verina Davis the actress went to Richmond, the capital of the Confederacy; she returned to perform as Varina at the dedication of the restored Confederate White House. From a Davis grandson she learned that "Winnie" was Verina's pet name.

"I can't know anything the person didn't know in her lifetime," said Griffith. At the end of each performance, she steps forward and out of character to explain what happened after the subject's death. She also answers questions from the audience.

...

Following is a list of some of Griffith's future performances:

- 3 p.m. Oct. 28: Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 Del Webb Blvd., she will portray Nobel and Pulitzer prize writer/humanitarian Pearl Buck. Suggested donation \$2. Information: 974-3611.

- 8 p.m. Oct. 30: Temple Beth Shalom, 12202 101st Ave., she will portray the late Israeli president Golda Meir. Tickets are \$5 and are available at the Temple office and Madison House. Information: 974-6182 and 584-7073.

- 6:30 p.m. Nov. 4: Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, 13658 Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, she will perform "Books of Irma Bombeck." Tickets are \$4. Information: 584-2280.

- 2 p.m. Nov. 5: Smoot Hall of Lakeview United Methodist Church, 10298 Thunderbird Blvd., she will perform expert marksman Annie Oakley. Tickets are \$5 and will be for sale between Sunday services Oct. 28 and Nov. 4. Information: 974-4108.

- 1 p.m. Dec. 10: Desert Palms Presbyterian Church, 13458 Stardust Blvd., Sun City West, she will perform Mrs. Calvin Coolidge at a "Tea in the White House," which includes high tea. Tickets are \$6. Information: Bernice Just at 584-0007.



Daily News-Sun photo by Priscilla Williams

UNPACKING COSTUMES — Actress Tanya Griffith unpacks her suitcase from four days of performances in Ohio. She unloads costumes for Amelia Earhart, Annie Oakley, Georgia O'Keefe, Mary Todd Lincoln and the Queen Mum.

Minister, wife create balance

Sun City cleric, actress not split by differences

When a woman marries a minister, she marries his ministry as well.

And often, the demands put on ministers are also put on their wives.

Years ago, many ministers' wives dedicated themselves to church programs to help the less fortunate, the homeless, migrant workers and abused women and children.

In some cases, their efforts led to the formation of today's government programs.

Today, many ministers' wives live a different life. Some pursue careers of their own. Others may take liberal stances on issues their husbands' congregations do not support.

In coming weeks, the Daily News-Sun will explore the lives of several local ministers' wives.

By **KIMBERLY HICKS**
Daily News-Sun staff

She's a successful actress who embraces strong Democratic and feminist beliefs, and has a penchant for basketball and fast cars.

Her manicure is embellished by one, eye-catching, solid-gold fingernail.

And for 40 years, Tanya Griffith has been a minister's wife.

"I think the mind set is, 'How can a minister's wife be interesting?'" said the Rev. William Griffith, who knows nothing could be farther from the truth. "I don't think there is such a thing as a 'typical minister's wife.' And there is no such thing as a typical ministerial couple.

"The Lord calls people with different gifts and graces and puts them in different places to do different jobs."

Six years ago, the Griffiths were called to Sun City, where William became senior pastor at Willowbrook United Methodist Church.

For Tanya — best known to many as Eleanor Roosevelt or Golda Meir — the move meant relinquishing a successful acting career in Cleveland, where she earned more money than her husband and had a dedicated following dubbed "Griffiths' Groupies."

Tanya admits, she struggled with the move.

"I wasn't sure I could move away from my friends or my career," she said. "But we made the adjustment ... I'm loyal, I'm not a 'looker-backer.'"

The Griffiths met 43 years ago in college. Tanya remembers hearing the gossip on campus about a tall transfer student named Bill.

William Griffith admits that he began following Tanya around.

"One of the things I wanted from my college years was to meet a woman who was smarter than I and who could express her own opinion," he said. "I found this opinionated, smart woman quite easily."

Their first date was to an on-campus lecture being given by a preacher.

"Right away, that first night, I think we knew," Tanya said.

When they married on June 20, 1953, Tanya became part of her husband's ministry.

"When a woman marries a minister, she becomes 'co-partner,' like it or not," William said. "And the people (in the church) expect it."

"And when that doesn't happen," Tanya added, "people are shocked."

Early in the marriage, Tanya said, she began to strike a balance between being involved in the church and developing her career.

"Lots and lots of ministers' wives have tried to go into that 'mold' and play that traditional role. I admire them for that, but it's not for me. Very early on, I began doing what I could do," she said. "I would hope I could combine the best of the old with the best of the new."

She taught Sunday school for 30 years and raised three children, all the while fostering an acting career that often requires her to travel.

William, who said his mother was among the first women to attend college, had learned as a child to fend for himself.

"Bill learned early on that it was OK to be responsible in your own home," Tanya said. "And he has always had good-size churches with lots to do. It's not like he doesn't have anything to do while I'm away."

These days, William tries to travel with Tanya when he can. Like thousands of others, he has grown to love her portraiture of famous women in history.

Tanya said she is equally intrigued by her husband's sermons — even after sitting through thousands of services.

"I have been listening to Bill preach for 40 years and I'm not the least bit tired of listening," she said. "And I am always amazed at the creativity he exhibits."

While Tanya and William encourage one another, which Tanya cites as "a big key to the marriage," they do not practice their lines on one another.

She doesn't select his sermon topics and he doesn't tell her who to portray on stage.

They share insights, however, with hopes of helping each other do a better job.

"Tanya has a way of seeing what needs to be done for the health and needs of the church," William said. "You don't really have anyone in the church who helps the minister see the way programs should be or what things need to be changed."

Tanya credits William for encouraging her to embark on such a unique career and for helping out at home, especially in her absences.

"And he constantly reinforces my religious beliefs. I would say, definitely, that my husband is my religious mentor and my teacher."

She said they have developed a terrific balance with each other, which has been vital to the relationship.

He's a Republican who jokes that he didn't know a person could be a Democrat and a Christian until he met Tanya.

She strews her shoes throughout the house, while his are neatly lined up in the closet.

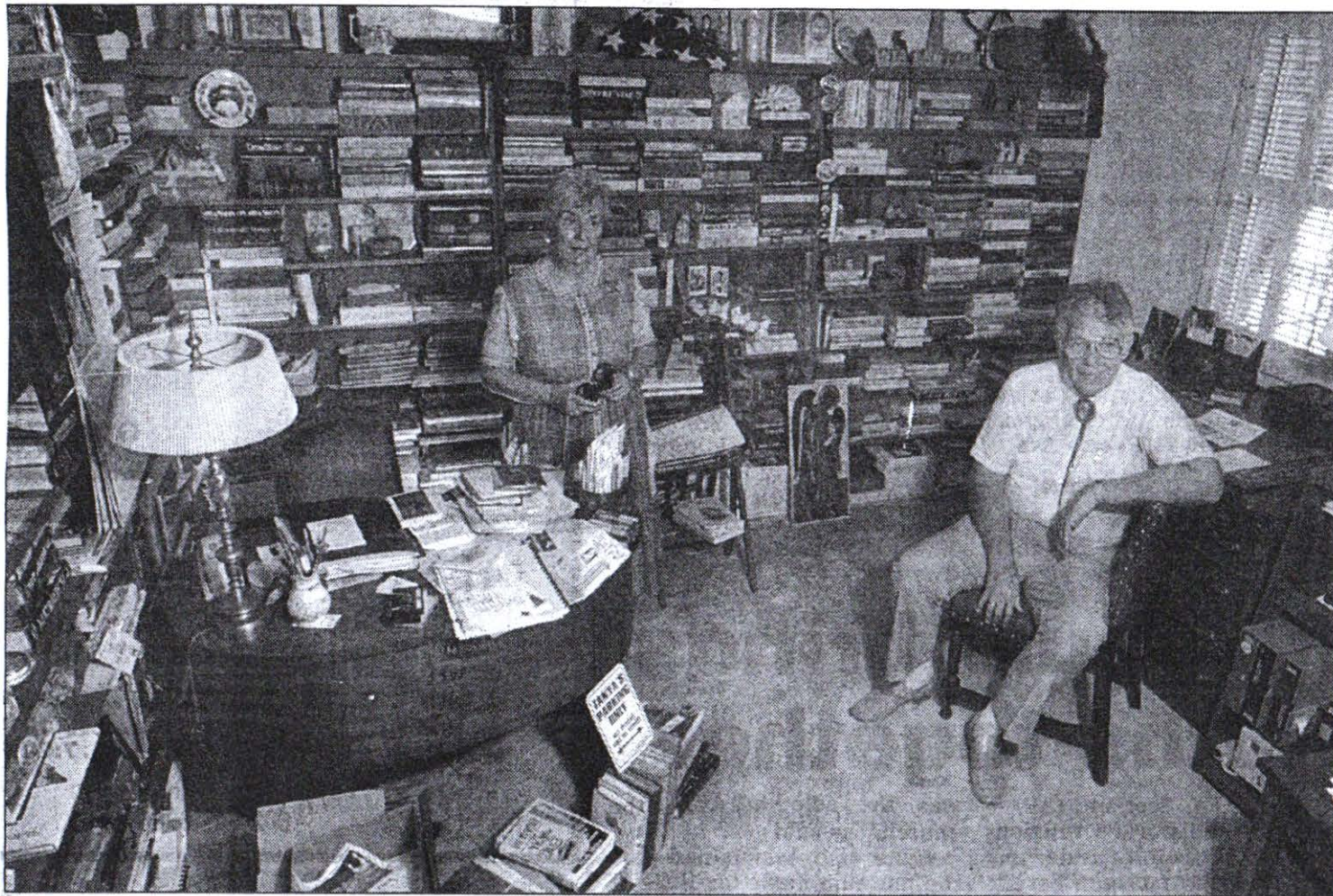
He's a morning person.

She sleeps late.

He likes a quiet house.

She never turns the radio off.

"We are very, very different," said Tanya. "But we fell in love. And it's the love of God and the teachings of Christ that have kept us together."



Rick D'Elia/Daily News-Sun

Tanya Griffith and her husband, Rev. William Griffith, pose in the office of their Sun City home. Despite their differences, the Griffiths have enjoyed a 40-year marriage.

'We are very, very different. But we fell in love. And it's the love of God and the teachings of Christ that have kept us together.'

Tanya Griffith

Artist loves her patchwork existence

Museum exhibits quiltmaker's work

STAFF REPORT

Sheila Groman describes her quilts as "original contemporary traditionals."

This may sound contradictory, she says, "but there is appealing rhythm and symmetry in traditional quilts, while contemporary quilts have newness and excitement. My work seems to reflect both areas of quilt-making. Bright, bold color combinations and fresh designs are elements in my work."

Groman's love of nature is evident in her transformation of the world's beauty into art. Her quilts involve daring geometrics and architecture, and lively florals and landscapes, often with rich surface embellishment.

Her quilts are now the centerpiece for an exhibit at the West Valley Art Museum. The exhibit runs through Jan. 17.

The museum is located at 17425 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise. There is an admission charge. For more information call 972-0635.



Submitted photo

Sheila Groman shows off one of her colorful quilts, which are the focal point of a current exhibit at the West Valley Art Museum. The exhibit is open to the public through Jan. 17 during the museum's regular hours.

Thursday, Sept. 10, 1998 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

Destiny called

Walkie talkie inventor was ahead of his time

By JANICE TARLETON
Staff writer

If you used a cellular phone, pager, cordless phone, citizen's band radio or garage door opener today, you've got Sun Citian Al Gross to thank for it.

And that wristwatch with a two-way radio, made famous by cartoon character Dick Tracy — that was Gross' idea too.

But if you think these wireless necessities of the nineties are Johnny-come-latelies, think again.

"If the patents were still in force, Bill Gates wouldn't be the richest man. I would. I guarantee you that," said Gross, who at 80 works full time as a senior engineer for Orbital Sciences Corp. in Chandler, makers of satellite launch systems.

"You've seen history here today," a smiling Gross said, referring to the black, steel

two-way radio he built in 1938 at age 20, in his basement workshop in Cleveland, Ohio.

Later dubbed a walkie-talkie, it was the forerunner of the multi-billion dollar wireless communications industry now taking the world by storm. "I hear Saddam Hussein even communicates by cell phone. On Wall Street they all have cell phones," he remarked.

It seems Gross, who in the 1950s tried to sell his cell phone and cordless phone ideas to AT&T as well as beepers to doctors and nurses, was a man ahead of his time. Unfortunately time wasn't on his side — the five patents he held for transceivers, oscillators, tuners, antennas and fabrication methods — were only good for 17 years.

"The market wasn't ready



Gregory Harris/Daily News-Sun
Sun Citian Al Gross is the inventor of the walkie talkie. Gross, 80, still works full time on satellite launch systems.

OVER

AL GROSS

◀ From A1

for it yet," Gross said simply. He sold about 25,000 of the personal radio sets to farmers, and a few to the movie industry. "The farmer and his wife could talk to each other without having to run across the field," said Gross, who sold the first sets under the brand name "Airline" for \$200, and later for \$100 as sales volume increased. Montgomery Ward sold them under the "Ultraphone" name.

As for beepers, nurses not wanting anything "extra" on their uniforms nixed the idea and doctors, who were afraid the device would scare patients or interfere with their golf games, declined as well. "That was the end of the subject," he said.

But if he had known then what he knows now, Gross said, he would have been more persistent.

Though the recognitions, awards and offers to speak are flowing in regularly these days, it was the part Gross played during World War II that has brought the most satisfaction.

The story goes that President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill regularly exchanged information during the war, but, despite their friendship, FDR was frustrated that Churchill seemed to have more current, detailed information on battlefield situations. So in 1942 he summoned William Donovan, chief of the Office of Strategic Services — forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency — and commissioned him to find a way to get information faster.

Donovan, recalling a brief

article he had read about Gross' walkie-talkie in a radio magazine, asked the inventor to develop a two-way radio that the United States could use behind enemy lines in Europe.

Gross, commissioned as a captain at 23, took an exploratory trip to England, where he worked with William Casey, future director of the CIA. Flying in a B-17 bomber equipped with radio detection equipment, Gross determined that no one was using frequencies above 180 MHz, so he would design one that would operate in the 250 MHz band.

Gross was at the Statler Hotel in Washington, D.C. when FDR gave blank-check approval to the idea.

The government set up operation in a machine shop in Youngstown, Ohio, burrowing a tunnel to a wood-frame house 10 feet away. There Gross began work on the project code-named Joan/Eleanor. That the name Eleanor, the name of FDR's wife, was used is said to be coincidence.

Joan was the ground unit, a hand-held radio with detachable antenna and small battery pack, and Eleanor was the receiving equipment located in the fast, high-flying British Mosquito bomber.

"This is Joan," Gross said, attaching the T-shaped antenna and demonstrating how agents located in key European cities relayed 15 to 20 minutes worth of information to the plane flying 30,000 feet above, out of the range of anti-aircraft fire — information that was relayed to FDR as soon as the plane landed.

The first successful oper-

ation was in Holland in November 1944. Twelve agents were placed in key cities in Germany by March of the next year and between March and April, missions were flown almost daily, according to a now-declassified memorandum to the Joint Chiefs of Staff dated July 6, 1945. "In actual operation it proved a valuable new tool for penetration of any desired depth into enemy territory," wrote Charles Cheston, acting director of OSS.

A 17-minute training film purports that potential users of the Joan/Eleanor can, "Rub shoulders with the enemy one day, and rub him out the next."

The project was so secret even Harry S. Truman didn't know about it until he became president upon FDR's death in 1945 and neither did Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, commander of the Allied forces in Europe, until the war ended.

It was in 1948 that Gross received the "blessing of the FCC" as he put it — the go-ahead to start producing wireless radios for personal use.

In was that same year, cartoonist Chester Gould, wanting to get a look at these walkie talkies, visited Gross. Gross had something better to show him: a wireless microphone implanted in a wristwatch.

Later that year Gould called and asked permission to give Dick Tracy the watch. "I told him sure," said Gross, who still has the first four panels that show Tracy using it.

Gross first became interested in wireless communication when his parents took him on a boat trip from

Cleveland to Buffalo and a kindly radio operator let the 7-year-old try on the headphones.

By age 13, he had put together a radio for his parents "so they could hear local broadcasts," and a project on fiber optics earned him an "A," though he is sure the teacher didn't understand the principle behind it.

Devouring math and science books, he said, "I knew nearly all the math I learned in college by my junior year of high school."

He attended Case School of Applied Science, graduating in 1939 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering.

Today, as senior staff engineer, he troubleshoots potential problems with the launching of satellites. His latest invention is a device to determine the origin and whereabouts of lightning. Considered one of the country's foremost experts on it, he calls meeting his wife of 16 years, Ethel, "one of the most electrifying experiences" in his life.

Gross said he has no need for retirement or a cell phone. "I can go to the office and my wife calls me on the phone there. Why do I need one?" he asked, though he likes to compare today's compact phones and beepers with his original creations.

"My fun is talking to people who want to hear about the old stuff ... what is past is prologue," he said. As for the future of wireless, "Oh my goodness!" he exclaimed, the possibilities are "innumerable."

GROSS, LU & ELMER

Shall we dance?

Lovers of tap seem straight out of Hollywood musical

By Julia Jones
Staff writer

SUN CITY — There he is, tapping the light fantastic, in golf hat, no tie and shades, with the strawberry blonde on his arm.

But wait: She looks more like Lucy than Ginger, and he's taller than Fred.

It's Lu and Elmer Gross, going through their paces in rehearsal for the "All New Dance Revue" at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Sun Bowl, 107th Avenue and Clair Drive. The performance is intended for recreation center members and their guests.

Participating in the event will be members of the Tip Top Dancers of Sun City and the Sun City Steppers, as well as specialty dancers.

At rehearsal Tuesday, those who weren't dancing were sitting in lawn chairs in front of the amphitheater, and more were on the terraced lawn beyond. More than a few, outfitted in silver tap shoes and bobby socks, were tapping right

along with the dancers, some more obviously than others.

They can't get enough of dancing, said Norma Jean Denny, director of the Sun City Steppers.

As kids back in Iowa, Denny and her brothers tapped professionally as The Risslers.

But after the juvenile act retired, gigs were few and far between until Norma Jean Rissler Denny and her husband, James, moved to Sun City about seven years ago.

"I heard they were teaching tap dancing, and I signed up," Norma Jean Denny said. Not too long after that, she said, the teacher quit and she was elected director.

"We have about 26 in the group now," said Ruth Gibbs, Steppers president and master of ceremonies for the show, "and they range in age from 62 to 78 years."

Gibbs, dressed in coral shorts, pullover

See STEPPERS, Page 3



Community



Russell Gates / Staff photographer
At left, Olympia Sorkin imitates Carol Channing. Above, members of a Sun City dance group, (from left to right) Betty Liden, Ruth Evans and Francis Krowne, rehearse a number in preparation for Sunday's "All New Dance Revue" at the Sun Bowl.

STEPPERS

From Page 1

and tap shoes, gave her strap of sleigh bells a practice shake in the balmy sunlight, and the group stepped out smartly to the tune of "Jingle Bell Rock."

"We're dancing all the time," Denny said. "We have class on Tuesdays and Fridays, and then we practice on Mondays and Wednesdays, and we're always giving a program somewhere, like the party at Union Hills Country Club (last) Monday or the program at the Arizona State Fair. Then most of the girls have tiled floors and mirrors in their garages, and they're practicing there five or six days a week."

"And I have over 130 in my beginners class at the Fairway Recreation Center," although the

Steppers rehearse in Marinette Recreation Center.

Denny makes the routines up, does choreography and finds the music.

"I'd never done anything like that in my whole life when I took the job," she said, laughing.

"But it's a lot of fun, and wonderful exercise," she said. "It's wonderful for the memory, too, because we're constantly learning all these routines."

Only a few members have danced onstage before, the director said. And that may be the secret.

"We're serious about what we're doing," she said. "We know we're not going to Hollywood, but we're serious about putting on a good show."

DOERS PROFILE

Sara
Grossman

Hometown: Milwaukee

Inspiration: My parents

Greatest feat: Learning to drive a car without being afraid. I had a driver's license since I was 16, but I was scared to death to drive. I didn't drive until I was 35.

Philosophy: Have something to show for each day.

Key to longevity: You have to keep moving and keep active.

Sun Citian hooked on helping out

By TINA SCHADE
Staff writer

For years, Sara Grossman of Sun City said one thing again and again.

"Over, under, pull. Over, under, pull. Over, under, pull."

Since 1982, this had been the mantra for the Wisconsin native who taught a class of 25 visually impaired people how to macrame.

Grossman not only sat with each student repeating the familiar chant, she guided their fingers through the process, helping them to create their own crafts.

But after her students had mastered the skill, they wanted more.

Grossman delivered. She moved on to the challenging task of teaching them to knit.

And while that class has recently disbanded because of declining student health, Grossman didn't skip a beat.

She has already made arrangements to teach a similar class to visually impaired residents in Wooddale Village Retirement Community in September.

Grossman puts her nimble fingers to use in other ways as well. For more than five years, she has patched together small knitted squares that have been donated, creating blankets for the "Warm Up America" project.

Since 1992, Grossman, and about a half dozen other women have assembled nearly 800 quilts and blankets and distributed them to homeless shelters, the New Beginnings shelter for abused women and children and to the Salvation Army.

Monday, April 20, 1998 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

Grossman taps into her characteristic agility to help people poolside, as well.

For nearly 15 years, she has been teaching "Handicapable" classes at the Sundial Recreation Center in Sun City.

Handicapables is a water therapy class that helps people with ailments such as arthritis or knee problems get a little exercise and, hopefully, a little pain relief.

"These people in the pool are very grateful ... I like doing things for people," she said.

Grossman said the class has changed and improved a lot over the years.

Before, many of the students just did a little walking. Now they participate in an exercise program that concentrates on range of motion exercises.

"They move everything from to the top of their heads to the tips of their toes, every muscle and joint is involved," Grossman said.

Grossman is passionate about exercise and likes to climb into the pool on her own a couple times a week, despite an arthritic condition that leaves her stiff.

She used to be an avid walker, as well.

"I used to walk around my house 18 times, but my carpet is beginning to show wear," she said.

Now, she hops on her stationary bicycle.

Grossman is also a golf fan and a member of a computer club.

To nominate a Doer, call Tina Schade at the Daily-News Sun, 876-2514.

Grossman, Sara

and death notices can be accessed for up to 30 days after

623-876-2589 or emailed to sunclass@sun.com2/21/04
GUIDER, Hazel Simpson

Hazel Simpson Guider was born October 1, 1906 in Novinger, Missouri to John H. Simpson and Margaret Jobson Simpson. The following spring, John Simpson, following the common practice of would-be homesteaders, loaded his family and possessions into a railroad box car, along with hundreds and hundreds of white oak fence posts and headed for the treeless grasslands of western Oklahoma, where there were still homestead opportunities. They settled near May, Oklahoma, some 150 miles west of Enid. While "proving up" on the homestead, John Simpson, being qualified to teach school, became the teacher of the nearby country grade school and Hazel, when she reached age 5, became one of his students.

By the time Hazel finished two years of high school, she applied to the County Superintendent of Schools for a teaching certificate, which was granted, and at the age of 16, she began her teaching career.

Hazel hoarded her wages, passed college entrance exams at Oklahoma A & M., earned a

Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education, and kept teaching while taking courses toward a Masters Degree in Education! She never missed a year of teaching in Oklahoma for a total of 21 years, until 1943, when she applied for and got the job of teaching junior high English in Anchorage, Alaska! Before the year was out, the grade school principal resigned and Hazel applied to fill the vacancy.

When summer vacation time came, Oklahoma was too far away so Hazel got a job cooking in a railroad hotel in Curry, Alaska. One night she was awakened by a loud "ruckus" in the kitchen and slipped down the stairs to see a big black bear trying to exit a window with a frozen quarter of beef she had put on a table to be cut up the following morning. The bear had it crossways in his mouth and it blocked his escape through the window. He refused to drop it, and was still struggling when the local sheriff, who had a room in the hotel, took care of the situation with his hunting rifle.

The next summer Hazel got a job at the Post Exchange at a nearby Army Air Base where she met and fell in love with Lieutenant Colonel Fred Guider. They were married in May of 1945 and when he was later transferred to Honolulu, Hawaii, she discovered a teaching shortage and immediately extended her teaching career in yet another state.

When Fred was finally mustered out of the service, they let his skills in finance management move them around the west and southwest United States for several years.

Fred's health began to fail, so in 1960 they moved to Greybull, Wyoming to care for Hazel's Aunt Evelyn, who had a large two-story home, which Hazel later inherited when her aunt passed away.

In the meantime, Hazel found a school-teaching job in the neighboring town of Cowley, Wyoming. She, with her administrative talents, was soon discovered by the State Superintendent of Schools and was offered the job of Assistant Superintendent for Rural Schools of Wyoming. This meant traveling the back roads and mountain passes in all kinds of weather, which Hazel did bravely.

However, the harsh Wyoming winters finally

forced Fred and Hazel to consider a milder climate and in 1970 they found their way to Sun City, Arizona. There were no schools in the senior citizens community of Sun City - but - within two years Hazel became affiliated with the local library and helped relocate it from Fairview Center to Lakeview Center.

When Hazel became involved in talk of a new library to be located on Bell and 99th Avenue in 1973, she volunteered her knowledge and experience in planning and building design, while still working as a volunteer at the Lakeview Center. She served as Chairperson of the "Friends of the Sun City Library" from 1975 to 1976, when a massive stroke suddenly took Fred away. This brought on a brief period of readjustment for this 70 year old widow, but by 1978 she was again deeply involved in library matters and in October of 1978, Hazel was elected to the Bell Library Board of Directors. She served two 2-year terms as President of the Board, until 1983 when she stepped back to simple volunteer status.

For the next 16 years Hazel served as Wednesday morning "Reference Volunteer", researching the hard questions of all who came by or called in. This brought her Library career all the way to 1999, when she reached the age of 93, and declining health finally forced her to step aside ... **but** Hazel still kept in touch with her beloved Library and encouraged the volunteers to carry on.

In 2003 it was revealed that Hazel Guider had been the "secret sponsor" of the Annual Library Volunteers Breakfast for a period of 8 years. Health problems persisted and less than a year later, at age of 97, her busy hands, beautiful mind and generous heart were finally laid to rest on February 16, 2004.

Graveside service was held at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday February 18, 2004 at Sunland Memorial Park Cemetery in Sun City, Arizona with officiant Reverend Richard Adair.

Memorial may be made to the Sun City Library, 16828 N. 99th Avenue, Sun City, Arizona 85351.

Visit this person's Guest Book at www.dailynews-sun.com.

Did you know?



Connie Steele Young

Library fete opens sans aide

When other folks who love the Sun City Library gathered at 9:30 a.m. Saturday to celebrate the library's 30th anniversary, long time library volunteer Hazel couldn't be with them.

Guider had to first fulfill her stint with the Sun Health Telephone Reassurance Program at Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital.

"I'll be there as soon as I can," Guider said Wednesday.

She has helped direct the library as president of the board in two 3-year terms.

Despite her commitment to the library, Guider wouldn't give up her date at Boswell. Even for the library's 30th anniversary celebration.

Saturdays starting at 6:30, Guider made telephone checks on some 160 neighbors or friends.

"They either call in or we call them," Guider said.

She and another Sun Health volunteer call regularly and don't complete their list of more than 300 people before midmorning.

Guider's an example of the driving force behind many opportunities available to Sun Citians. As so many, she hasn't used retirement and a full past life as an excuse to just sit or play.

And her continuing efforts benefit her community.

Besides being a Sun Health volunteer, Guider for years has been a volunteer reference librarian with the Sun City Library.

Among the requests that she fields, "I don't think there is a common request," she said, laughing.

Although the library is well equipped to meet patrons' interest in investments, health and medicine, and estate planning, the library offers a good range of other information, said Charles Youngman, executive librarian.

"I believe a lot of our questions come from an argument around the bridge table," she said. "This morning I was asked, 'What is the birth date of Mary Magdalen?'"

She said a lot of people will come in recalling two or three lines from a poem and want to know the title and author.

Sometimes other patrons get into the act of satisfying patrons' need to know.

"Patrons are most gracious," she said. "They're often knowledgeable. They'll overhear a question and turn around and ask: 'Oh, may I help? I think I can.'"

Guider began with the Sun City Library in 1971, the year the library became established as a non-profit organization under Arizona law. With the help of Maricopa County Library which in 1962 loaned 2,500 books to launch a lending service in Town Hall Center. The center later changed its name to Fairway.

She was also one of those on hand when the library moved from Fairway to Lakeview Recreation Center. And again when the library moved to its present location in Bell Recreation Center, 16820 99th Ave.

She told the story Wednesday of how it took a bit of pressure to convince Del Webb that Sun Citians wanted more

See Did, C5

Did You Know

From C1

than golf courses and swimming pools.

Before he died in 1974, a convinced Webb set plans in motion for a permanent library to be constructed in the soon-to-be built Bell Recreation Center, Guider said.

Finding the manpower to shoulder trays of books from the basement of Lakeview to a truck and onto shelves in the Bell library was no easy task, Guider recalled. Some 15,000 books had to be moved. Today it would mean 92,000 books.

"A lot of people came and helped for half a day," she said.

"It took several days and the recreation board did their share of helping."

OVER

Guider, Hazel

DOERS PROFILE

Hazel Guider

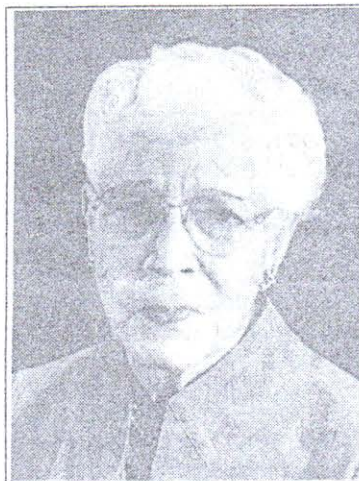
Vitae: Bachelor's degree,
Oklahoma A and M.
Master's coursework
in Hawaii.

Hometown: Lavern, Okla.

Marital status: Widowed.

Valley Home: Sun City 1971;
Peoria (Westbrook Village) 1983.

Self-portrait: Curious, I've
always wanted to see what's
across the next fence.



Motto: Never say can't; never stop building.

Greatest feat: Learning to roll with the punches in life.

Walter Mitty fantasy: To keep one step ahead of the old rocking
chair.

Inspirations: Books and my parents.

Good/bad habits: Exercise regularly//Should be more outgoing.

Favorite food/drink: Fruit//Water.

TV programs: "Jeopardy"

Books at bedside: Current books, not bestsellers.

Vacation spot/luxury: Glacier National Park//Anything that makes
life easier.

Key to longevity: A good mind.

Last words: Set goals and set them high.

GUIDER, HAZEL

Of note

Symphony pays tribute to contributor

By BRUCE ELLISON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Helene Gumina, who says she didn't know anything about classical music when she moved to the Sun Cities 22 years ago, on Sunday was made an honorary trustee of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association.

The award, presented at the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts before Sunday's concert, caught Gumina by surprise.

"I'm overwhelmed," Gumina said as she accepted a framed certificate and pendant from Symphony Association President Joe Schoggen.

"I don't know what to say.

"I have so many wonderful friends in the symphony and I love them all," was all she said.

Gumina and her husband Theodore, who was in the stock brokerage business in Minnesota and is now deceased, have been regular contributors of large sums to support the orchestra, something which Schoggen noted in his citation, which was printed in the program.

He also pointed out that the sym-

phony board had to change the bylaws to honor Gumina.

"Since the orchestra was founded 31 years ago, the bylaws have said that only the original directors would become honorary trustees," Schoggen told the crowd of about 3,000 people.

"No one has since been so designated, but once in a great while the contributions of an individual are so significant that something extra is needed" to recognize them.

"The bylaws have been changed," he said, to allow the board to honor Gumina whom he called "a very ex-

ceptional person and a true friend of the symphony."

Gumina also was given a small silver pendant with the words honorary trustee, "because it's hard to carry around a plaque with you," Schoggen said.

Gumina is a familiar sight at symphony concerts and related events, and carries on similar work for and makes similar contributions to the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society where she often helps out as an usher at concerts.

"I learned all about this (classical music) after Ted and I moved here, and I guess I just keep going at it," she said at intermission Sunday as she

showed the pendant to well-wishers.

The couple in 1988 endowed the associate concertmaster chair of the symphony, contributing \$25,000 to the endowment fund. They made the gift to honor their friend, Ted Dziubek, the man who introduced the couple to classical music and to the orchestra.

In 1996, Helene Gumina established a \$100,000 charitable remainder trust for the symphony. She sponsored concerts for three years, donated the hand-made conductor's podium, and this year contributed a \$10,000 matching grant to the endowment fund and \$5,000 to underwrite in part the symphony's fund-raising gala.



Lisa Goettsche/Daily News-Sun

Helene Gumina is congratulated by Joe Schoggen, president of Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association, during a reception in Gumina's honor at West Valley Art Museum.

Gumina, Helene

5-9-96

Community

W
H
D
C

Notable gift

Sun City woman adds \$100,000 to symphony endowment fund

Staff report

SUN CITY — A gift of \$100,000 from resident Helene Gumina has pushed the Endowment Fund of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra to more than \$400,000.

Mrs. Gumina's gift, in the form of a charitable remainder trust, was announced Wednesday at a "Luncheon with the Maestro" for orchestra board members and supporters.

Helene Gumina and her husband, Ted, who died in 1992, moved to Sun City some 20 years ago from Brookfield, Wis., and were early supporters of the symphony and of other area cultural events. The couple earlier endowed the Associate Concertmaster Chair of the Sun Cities Symphony in honor of Ted Dziubek.

The orchestra's endowment fund was established to support the continuing viability and success of the Sun Cities Symphony. It has received gifts in amounts ranging from a few

thousand dollars to the gift made this week by Mrs. Gumina.

Several principal chairs in the orchestra already have been endowed, with 13 chairs remaining. The minimum gift for endowing a principal chair is \$25,000, said Dee Hjermsstad, president of the Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra Association, the orchestra's fund-raising arm.

During the luncheon, held at the Union Hills County Club, other contributors to the orchestra (members of its Stradivarius Society), and corporate and individual sponsors of concerts during the just-completed 1995-96 season, were honored.

Music director James Yestadt spoke briefly, and concertmaster Frank Spinosa and pianist Toni-Marie Montgomery provided a musical interlude for the event.

Information on endowment gifts is available from the symphony society office at 972-4484.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Dee Hjermsstad, left, and James Yestadt, conductor for the Sun Cities Symphony, thank Helene Gumina for her donation of \$100,000 to the association's endowment fund.