

CAP founder still flies high

By DAVE REUTER
Daily News-Sun staff

Tom Laird still has his head in the clouds after all these years.

And today, with his feet firmly planted in Sun City, Laird enjoys flying back in time and recalling how he and six others in the late 1930s agreed to do something about improving the nation's civil defenses.

Fifty years after helping get the Civil Air Patrol off the ground and as the sole survivor of the founding group, Laird was honored last month at a CAP celebration at the Wigwam Resort in Litchfield Park.

"I've always had a love of flying," Laird said as he sat in the living room of his Sun City home. "In 1920 when I was 15 years old I used to beg to go flying.

"I got a job cleaning planes for some former World War I aviators who had started a flying service. I'd clean the planes and fly along with people who were afraid to fly. In return I'd get a chance to fly every Sunday."

For the next several years, Laird flew whenever the opportunity presented itself.

Then, in 1939, a conversation with an old friend in New Jersey inspired his involvement in what was to become the Civil Air Patrol.

"Gill Robb Wilson, who at the time was a writer for a

flying magazine, talked to me about a recent trip he took to Europe. He talked about the huge air forces he observed in Europe. He said, 'Tom, we've (the United States) got to do something to strengthen and expand our air forces. The Germans have more than 100 airplanes and 100 crewmen for every plane and crewman in the United States.'"

Wilson, with Laird's help and a blessing from the governor of New Jersey, launched the New Jersey Civil Air Defense Services in 1940. Six men, including Wilson and Laird, a woman and two small single-engine airplanes began patrolling the New Jersey shoreline as Germany pounded the drums of war across the Atlantic Ocean.

Wilson's plan called for using light planes for liaison work and for patrolling uninhabited stretches of coastline as well as enhancing security measures for protecting vital installations such as dams, aqueducts and pipelines.

In a matter of months, similar organizations sprang up in Colorado, Missouri, Alabama, Kentucky, Ohio and Texas.

Six days before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the N.J. Civil Air Defense Services became the Civil Air Patrol through a stroke of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's pen.

On Dec. 1, 1941, the CAP

took flight with its volunteer members providing support to the Army Air Corps, which at the time was composed of less than 800 planes.

Today the CAP has more than 64,000 volunteer members across the country who fly, maintain and support thousands of privately owned airplanes.

In Arizona, there are 1,400 CAP volunteers comprising five squadrons in Glendale, Good-year, Wickenburg, Deer Valley and Sky Harbor International Airport.

The mission of the CAP today, said CAP Glendale Composite Squadron Commander Capt. Mina Wiley, is much the same as it was 50 years ago.

"Our role is to save lives. The Civil Air Patrol is the official auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. We conduct search and rescue missions for the Air Force. We are involved in civil defense, emergency services and now we have added counter-narcotics reconnaissance."

A smile crosses Laird's face as he looks at his original CAP identification card, one of the few mementos he has from his early flying days. "I'm proud of what we accomplished. It was a tough sell. The country at the time just didn't take the threat of war seriously. People thought we were crazy when we talked

See CAP's goal, A5



Rick D'Elia/Daily News-Sun
Civil Air Patrol cadet Maj. Devona Abel holds the flag during CAP's 50th anniversary celebration at the Wigwam Resort.

CAP's goal remains to help save lives

—From Al
about protecting our shores.”

Laird, who never obtained a pilot's license, logged hundreds of hours flying CAP missions in 1941 and 1942 as a “Flying Minuteman” providing intelligence and charting the movement of German submarines along the East Coast.

In those days the planes were so small that I had to use an inner tube as a life jacket. The Piper Cubs were just too small for me and a regular life jacket,” Laird said with a laugh.

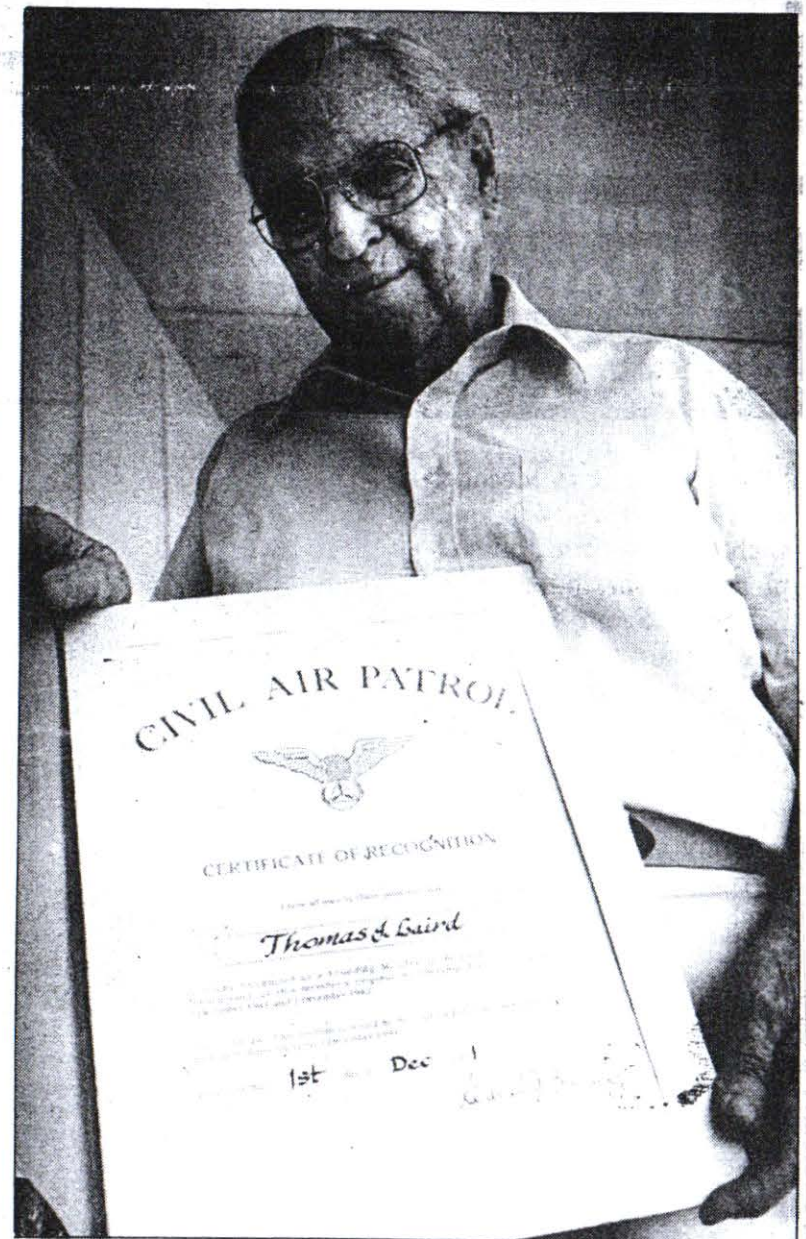
The lanky Laird, who at 87 stands ramrod straight, stayed in the Civil Air Patrol for a year — not because he lost interest, but because he was busy

with the responsibilities of a family and career.

Age and the obligations of a family kept Laird out of the military as the United States dug its heels into World War II. He busied himself with careers in sales, publishing, investing and running a travel agency.

When Laird and his family moved West in 1949 he came by air. “Hell, I wasn't going to take the train.”

His love of flying is etched into more than just Civil Air Patrol record books. In 1960 Laird's name was written into another record book when he flew across the Atlantic in record time aboard a Pan Am commercial flight in five hours, 25 minutes.



Patrick Knight/Daily News-Sun

Tom Laird proudly displays the Certificate of Recognition he received from the Civil Air Patrol for his efforts founding the organization 50 years ago.

JULY 25-31, 2001

A Name to Know

Florence and George Landgraf moved to the City of Volunteers 17 years ago from Garrison, N.Y., and it only took one year for them to live up to the name of their newly chosen home.

Mr. and Mrs. Landgraf have been volunteers at Sun Valley Lodge for the last 16 years and during that time, the husband and



wife volunteer duo has performed many different duties.

They volunteer two to four hours a day, three or four days a week.

Mr. Landgraf drives residents to appointments, while Mrs. Landgraf works in the gift shop of the lodge. They also spend time taking residents on outings.

When holidays come calling, Mrs. Landgraf will also cook, bake, do needlepoint and decorate for the lodge residents.

Together, the couple calls bingo twice a week and also plays penny poker with the residents.

They fondly refer to the residents at Sun Valley as their "kids."

Both Mr. and Mrs. Landgraf said they enjoy the entire aspect of volunteering.

"We really just enjoy it," they said.

According to Jim Green, resource development director at the lodge, "It's wonderful when we have couples who want to volunteer together. It brings an additional feeling of cheerfulness when couples can work together in an environment like Sun Valley Lodge and the people love it."

12 WHO CARE HISTORY

The 12 Who Care Hon Kachina Awards were born of a desire to both recognize the achievement of volunteers and to increase the need for public awareness of volunteerism.

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

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

Nominations for the 12 Who Care Hon Kachina Awards are received by The Luke's Men and Channel 12 from

individuals and organizations throughout Arizona. They are all screened by the nomination committee. The committee then selects twenty-four finalists, and conducts personal interviews with them and their nominators.

The final 12 Who Care honorees are selected by a prestigious Board of Governors composed of business and civic leaders, members of The Luke's Men and KPNX Channel 12.

Each of the honorees receives a hand-crafted authentic kachina encased in glass and a \$500 cash award donated to the charity of his or her choice. They also receive a Jefferson Award Medallion from the American Institute of Public Service, which makes them eligible for national recognition.

Over the years, more than 2,000 individuals and organizations have been nominated. From these, 141 individuals and 37 organizations have been honored.

**The 14 Annual
12 Who Care Hon Kachina Awards**
Saturday, October 12, 1991
The Scottsdale Princess Resort
Scottsdale, Arizona

THE 14TH ANNUAL 12 WHO CARE HON KACHINA AWARDS

Tonight we salute twelve individuals who are brave enough to think big. These people have the foresight, the strength and the dedication to make dreams of a better world come true. They are people who have given selflessly of their time, but who, without exception, are certain that they are the ones reaping the rewards. Let us each be inspired by their example.

Tomorrow, let us each strive to become a volunteer and to think big.

WILLIAM LANE



With a sparkle in his eye and a ready song on his lips for 70 years educator William Lane has been a natural at reaching the minds and hearts of children. Whether singing an Irish lullaby or reciting Wordsworth, Bill breathes life into each tune or written word for students of Peoria's Alta Loma Elementary School.

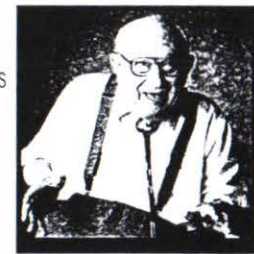
At 85 years young, Bill dedicates his time and special teaching genius to assisting Alta Loma students by sharpening their reading skills. Tutoring at least 24 students weekly, he more than "teaches" poetry to sixth graders by selecting poems which have relevant meaning for them. He delights kindergartners by reaching for his guitar and singing their lesson.

With the cooperation of B'nai B'rith Lodge of Sun City, Bill initiated an essay contest for seventh and eighth

graders. Each year, he awards \$25 to two pupils in each grade who write winning compositions on brotherhood and social consciousness.

When active with New York City's East Harlem Council for Community Planning he helped establish a "play street" for Harlem children and was instrumental in building an East Harlem hospital.

But closer to home, Bill feels his volunteerism is an extension of his profession, bringing meaning to his daily life. He certainly has brought meaning to the lives of many children by sharing the joy and power of knowledge -- a lesson which goes beyond the classroom.



DAILY NEWS-SUN

For a man who "wandered into the state" as he likes to put it, Will Langdon's roots go deep into the Sun City soil.

Illinois transplants, Langdon and his wife of 41 years, Naomi, were looking for a "small" place to settle in 1960 when they bought their first — and last — home on Alabama in 1960.

They weren't searching for fabulous amenities or the latest and greatest in retirement living. They had years of work ahead of them and didn't meet the minimum age requirement of 50.

"We thought it would be small like Youngtown. That's it," said Will, a matter-of-fact cowboy who worked 30 years as a fifth-grade teacher and girls volleyball, basketball and softball coach at Peoria Elementary School. His summers, and a few weekends, he worked the land and the cattle at J & B Ranch and slaughter house.

They couldn't get into Youngtown, where Will's parents lived, so like underaged teen-agers trying to sneak into an R-rated movie, they tried the next best thing. "We came over here and they took us," said Naomi, adding, "This young salesman was going into the service and I think he just wanted to make a sale."

They plopped down \$9,600 for their three-bedroom, two bath block home and moved in on Sept. 10.

At first, Sun City, set in the midst of cotton fields far to the west of Phoenix, was small.

"That's why we've got telephone poles," Will said, gesturing out the window of his rustic family room addition with the massive rock fireplace he built

sure it would go over."

Naomi once had a view of the mountains out her kitchen window. That's why they picked model No. 2, the only one of the five that offered a window over the sink.

The closest grocery store was in Glendale. "It was so hot you had to have a cooler to bring the groceries home," she recalled, and mail was delivered out of the Marinette post office.

Like a good neighbor, the Del Webb company kept a key to everyone's house, just in case of a lock out.

Black bugs from the cotton invaded the clean, new homes, and armies of wooly worms emerged from the fields during irrigation. The farmers put up a fence of tin foil to keep them from crossing the irrigation ditch along 111th Avenue, Will said, but to no avail.

"There were millions, I mean millions. You want to have fun, you drive down 111th Avenue and put on the brakes and just slllllide," Will said, enjoying the reaction his story elicits. "I've slid along there once in a while."

There was a doctor who lived in a log cabin along the bank of New River, the site of Rock-A-Zona on Grand Avenue today. "Everybody went there," Will recalled.

For food and fun, the Hiway House on 107th and Grand avenues was the hot spot, he said.

Naomi got a job as a manicurist and receptionist at the Pin Curl Shop in Youngtown, where she worked until her retirement in 1973.

Will didn't quit until 1987.

Until then the Langdons didn't have much time for Sun City's social scene. They did



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Will and Naomi Langdon moved into their home on Alabama Avenue in 1960.

some swimming at the recreation center, and in 1973, took up square dancing. Naomi, who once worked as a seamstress, joined the sewing club, and nowadays, Will paints tree trunks for the Sun City PRIDES.

But, they did get to know their neighbors. That was easy, Naomi said, because "everybody was from every place else" and were looking for friends.

There were complaints — Naomi heard her share at the Pin Curl Shop. She told 'em it was their own fault if they

couldn't find something to do with the wealth of activities available in Sun City.

They had a few of their own. They admit there were times living in an age-restricted community got to them. "You've got to have young ones around," said Will, who spoke out more than once about selfish attitudes and an inward focus.

But moving wasn't an option they considered. "Roots," Will simply said. "I wouldn't take any amount of money. This is home."

There were those who moved

away, back home, wherever "home" was, Naomi said, a smile emerging. "But you know, it wasn't long before they were back."

All the old-timers on the Langdons' block are gone now. They either died or moved away.

"We were the first ones to come in and we'll be ..." Will lets the sentence fade, though this cowboy poet shares a few words of the eulogy he's written.

Adds Naomi, "We love it here."

Illinois transplants find place in sun

6/11/75

Tributes To John Lanni

Editor:

To say that, in the death of John Lanni, Sun City has lost a thoughtful citizen, an honest advocate, and a productive stimulant is to strain the acceptable limits of understatement.

He was so much more. Never content with prejudices or casual opinions on matters of importance, he felt the necessity for getting facts to support studied judgments. He was an avid student of everything that is Sun City. His expanding files bulged with clippings and data on everything pertinent to the community which he knew so well for so long, and loved so much.

As an opponent, he was relentless; as an ally, tireless. Occasionally, he was wrong...which is merely proof that the only people

who don't do anything wrong are those who don't do anything at all. John was a doer.

John Lanni is now part of the history and heritage of Sun City. He will live long in affectionate memories. It would be only reasonable to hope that, in our expansion, we will find a place for a Lanni Lane. Certainly not a dead-end street!

John was a good man...a good Sun Citian...and good fun. One of our torches has burned out; but heaven is now a little brighter. I'll miss him.

Doug Morris

Editor:

There is a void today in Sun City which will never be filled. John Lanni had devoted all his years in town to the betterment of his fellow human beings.

John loved Sun City and his enthusiastic pride in the community was exemplified by his dedicated and continued efforts to improve the quality of life for all Sun Citians: He was an outspoken critic of whatever he deemed an "injustice" despite hoots, jeers and catcalls from the noisy majority who spend their days playing golf and cards, or lolling about the swimming pools, and guzzling booze at the "Lakes Club" at night, but never lift their pinkies to help the community.

John was my sparring partner, my teacher, my friend and my inspiration. In my small way, I will follow in his footsteps by continuing to be the "Voice of Conscience" in Sun City.

Lew Singer

LANNI, JOHN

Sun City couple corner kids-doll market

GRANDPARENTS:

Custom made or ready made, their uniqueness makes the sale

BRUCE ELLISON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Like most Sun Citians, Barbara Lanoux loves her grandchildren — all 300 or so of them scattered across the nation.

For eight years, Lanoux and her husband Larry have made life-size dolls of three- and four-year-olds, selling them under the name Corner Kids.

They represent grandchildren everywhere, she says, or the early days of grandparents.

People buy the dolls as decor, Lanoux said, and end up loving them like grandchildren.

The life-size dolls sell for \$30 to \$45 in the Sun Cities, and for \$45 or more back home in Minnesota.

Each is different, the only pattern being for size and shape. Hubby does the carpentry to make the wooden skeleton; he also is the clothier, journeying to thrift shops and malls to pick up sale-priced children's clothing.

"If I had to sew all the clothes, I'd never get any dolls done," Barbara said.

She began her little craft project when her brother retired and began attending craft shows selling bird houses.

One thing led to another, and he soon had Barb making tents about a foot square for Barbie, Ken and other eight- or nine-inch dolls to spend the night camping out.

The tents led to the dolls, and to the busy work that Larry and Barb now have in retirement. She's 65, he's 69.

Most of the dolls are sold to grandparents, Barb said, and often are customized.

"People come to me with the cowboy outfit that their three-year-old wore 40 years ago and have me make a Corner Kid to fit it; then they give the doll to the son for his birthday," she said.

She's also done an office gift, for an executive of the former Norwest Bank in Minnesota, which merged with Wells Fargo and changed its name.

"It's a chief-executive-officer doll named Bruce," she said. "He, the man, was transferred to California after the merger, but when they have meetings in Minnesota they plop him in the chair so he can sit in."

The doll wears Dockers, a casual shirt

and loafers; it's about 30 inches tall, she said.

Competition has come to the Corner Kids business since Barb and Larry started. Other craftspeople are making the dolls, and calling them Pouty Kids, or Time-Out Kids, as well as Corner Kids, which does not appear to be a brand name.

"They sell them at Osco," Larry said. "They're made in China, and they are still, and they all have the same outfit. They're pathetic" rather than cute.

"Maybe that's why Barb's business is so good."

The Lanoux' dolls have moveable arms and legs so their clothes can be changed.

None of them have names, perhaps because they're all different and perhaps because their owners would prefer to name them.

"There's no real way to know what will be popular," Barb said. "We go to a show and take a couple dozen, and wait to see what happens. You never know what will strike someone's fancy."

Prospective buyers find the dolls resemble one they had in their youth, or someone they knew, or something they think a granddaughter will love, and they're sold.

At other times, youngsters see dolls that match the criteria they have in their heads for an imaginary friend, much as Calvin had Hobbs, and the sale is made. For a 10-year-old, the sale money comes from the youngster, not the parent.

Lanoux said she'll be at the new Goodyear Flea Market this weekend, on McDowell Road just west of Cotton Lane, across from the Perryville prison just off I-10.

She and her husband enjoy the companionship craft shows and fairs give them — both say they love sitting and talking with a variety of people.

One reason the dolls seem so popular, Barb said, is that "these days kids have nothing to treasure."

Everything is mass-produced, from Cabbage Patch dolls to action figures, and available by the millions.

For grandparents, the Corner Kids' uniqueness often turns the sale.

"I hear them saying, 'I know they haven't got one of these,' or 'I've never seen one like that — let's get it,'" Barb said.

BARBARA LANOUX

OVER



E.B. MCGOVERN/DAILY NEWS

Barb and Larry Lanoux make Corner Kids — life-size, life-like dolls standing about 32 inches. The dolls are dressed in children's outfits Larry picks up at area store sales, but can be custom made to look like whatever a customer wants.

Swimmer passes on skills to youngsters

Local resident continues lifelong endeavor of teaching kids to swim

By CHRIS RASMUSSEN
Independent Newspapers

Esther Larimer has two passions in her life — swimming and children.

Unfortunately, the two can be a deadly combination.

In an effort to help keep children safe around water, the former professional synchronized swimmer has dedicated her retirement years to the children of El Mirage and Surprise.

For the past 17 years, Ms. Larimer has managed the El Mirage Community Pool, teaching countless children of all ages how to swim. Years ago, Dysart Unified School District utilized the pool for all of its schools.

"Every child in the district had swim classes," Ms. Larimer remembers. "The buses would roll up at eight in the morning and wouldn't stop coming until four in the afternoon."

"Unfortunately, because of budget problems, swimming was one of the first things cut, because they said it wasn't a necessity."

Ms. Larimer, however, knows just how important basic swimming skills are and gathered a group of Sun City swimmers to provide lessons to children during the summer.

"Our goal is to give children the knowledge of swimming for a lifetime of enjoyment," she said. "But also, it is so important to teach these kids how to swim so they can be safe. Not only around pools, but canals and rivers."



Esther Larimer

Lessons are provided to children of every age including infants and toddlers.

"We are so fortunate to live next to the Sun Cities, there is so much help coming in from out there. They not only help us out financially, but they bring swimsuits for the kids who don't have them. Whenever I need something, I just have to make a call," she said.

Classes for the children do carry a nominal fee, Ms. Larimer said, but no child is turned away. If a child's parents cannot pay, Sun City West's American Legion picks up the tab.

"We try to teach them anything that will keep them safe around water. Like, how if you fell out of a boat, you can lie on your back and

kick. We concentrate on teaching them how to kick, because if they have a good kick they can get to the side of the pool," she said.

Ms. Larimer's passion for swimming began when she was a 10-year-old girl growing up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. With only one pool in town, which was only open for boys, she thought she would never be able to swim. But, at the insistence of her parents, she was finally allowed to swim at the YMCA pool.

Her love for swimming began to pay off as a young adult, when she joined the Aquarelles synchronized swimming team. Performing in the 1950s and '60s, the group is the only synchronized swim team to be inducted into the U.S. Swimming Hall of Fame in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

However, Ms. Larimer's swimming experience is not limited to dancing in water. She became the first woman to swim 50 consecutive miles. She performed the feat about 20 years as part of YMCA endurance program.

Ms. Larimer continued to swim

with the Aquarelles and teach swimming lessons in Cedar Rapids until she moved to Sun City in 1981.

"I love swimming and I love children, so I really love what I am doing," she said. "We really work hard with these kids."

Esther Larimer's love for children and swimming didn't just begin when she moved to Sun City 17 years ago. The El Mirage pool manager taught children's synchronized swimming in her hometown of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where she was a member of the world-famous Aquarelles. Ms. Larimer currently spends her time providing swimming lessons to children who would not otherwise be able to afford it.



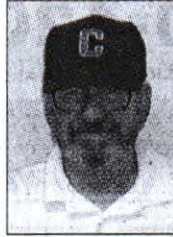
SEPT. 12-18, 2001

A Name to Know

On your mark ... Get Set ...
Go!

Sun City
resident
Robert
"Bob"

Lawley is quite familiar with those words. They happen to go hand-in-hand



with the volunteer job he took 10 years ago.

Mr. Lawley, 76, moved to the City of Volunteers in 1987 after a career spanning 36 years as an aerospace engineer.

He quickly found that the day-to-day activities of retirement were not enough.

So, in 1991 Mr. Lawley contacted Centennial High School and since that time, he has coached track and acted as the chief team manager and statistician for the school's cross country teams.

For the last 10 years, Mr. Lawley coached long-jumpers, triple-jumpers and even pole vaulters. He also worked with distance runners.

DOERS PROFILE

Edla
Leavitt

Hometown: Goshen, N.Y.

Family: Two sons and five grandchildren

Inspiration: "I want to help people."

Volunteer won't let cancer slow her down

By TINA SCHADE
Staff writer

As a former nurse and hospital volunteer, Edla Leavitt of Sun City never imagined she would be under somebody else's care. For more than 15 years, she had helped people in their time of crisis and never anticipated she would find herself in a position of need.

But in 1982, Leavitt was diagnosed with breast cancer and had a mastectomy. She underwent chemotherapy treatment for one year.

But instead of dwelling on her losses, Leavitt decided to take a different approach.

"I believe in thinking positive. I don't dwell on my problems," she said.

Leavitt credits this kind of positive thinking to helping her beat cancer and used her experience as a springboard to help others.

Almost as soon as her health permitted, Leavitt began volunteering with a program known as Reach for Recovery. Through Reach for Recovery, Leavitt visited breast cancer patients in their homes and chatted with them about some of the aspects of the disease.

She also delivered prostheses and exercise equipment designed to help women build upper arm strength.

Since 1985, Leavitt has been involved with another cancer support group called Cansurmount, as in "you can surmount cancer," Leavitt said.

Cansurmount is similar to Reach for Recovery, in that volunteers visit patients in their homes. But through Cansurmount, the patients, not the volunteers, decide when and how frequently visitation occurs.

Leavitt feels strongly that this type of program can be a huge asset to those battling cancer.

"The problem is people do not take advantage of this organization. It's here for them, but I don't think people understand the importance of a support group. ... It's important to share problems," she said.

The 84-year-old said it is especially critical for widows or people who have family in other states to become part of a support group.

"It's rough to be alone and not have a family ... to go through it alone. I emphasize support," Leavitt said.

Even though Leavitt is passionate about helping others, sometimes, because of the nature of her work, volunteering can get a little tough.

Both programs require that volunteers have a personal experience with cancer, which Leavitt thinks is important.

"I think because of my own experiences, I can relate to other people's problems," she said.

But the requirement can also have dramatic effects. Leavitt said that she has lost friends, both fellow volunteers and clients, to the disease.

"Cancer is a vicious thing, but I feel like I'm helping someone," she said.

And Leavitt understands well how vicious cancer can be. Last year, she was diagnosed with cancer again, but this time it was bone cancer. She received 30 radiation treatments and said through good nutrition and prayers, the disease is in remission.

Leavitt said a healthy dose of volunteering may have aided her recovery, as well.

"I think I'm blessed to come back as strong as I have. But I take care of myself and get plenty of rest and keep active. I think it's good to give of yourself and doing volunteer work is very important too," she said.

And Leavitt isn't paying lip service. Besides her work with the cancer organizations, she is also a member of the Lioness Club, which raises funds for the blind. She also belongs to the Philanthropic Education Organization which provides money for college scholarships.

Leavitt has also volunteered at Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital on and off, taking blood pressure and caring for the nurse's children. She sings in the Willowbrook Methodist Church choir.

In her spare time, Leavitt enjoys oil painting and sewing and goes to aerobics three times a week at Bell Recreation Center.

LEAVITT, EDLA

LEE, AL

SC retiree hams it up with radio operators

By JONATHAN DALTON
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — When Al Lee earned his first amateur radio license, “ham” operators usually built their own equipment and were not required to have call signs.

How times have changed.

“It used to be standard procedure in amateur radio that you would build your own equipment but now almost no one does,” said Lee, speaking before the Sun City-Youngtown Kiwanis Club Monday afternoon. “The technologies have changed considerably.

“Its a very popular hobby, to say the least.”

There are more than 750,000 amateur-radio operators worldwide with 477 belonging to the Sun Cities Amateur Radio Club — one of the largest amateur radio clubs in the country.

Lee, who received his first license in 1950, was one of the first ham operators to adorn their cars with

‘It used to be standard procedure in amateur radio that you would build your own equipment but now almost no one does. The technologies have changed considerably.’

**Al Lee
amateur radio operator**

personalized plates using their call signs. He also was one of the first to earn an extra license — the highest classification possible — that required the ability to send and receive Morse code at 20 words per minute in addition to considerable knowledge of electronics.

Of course, it took Lee two tries to get that license.

“I taught the class, but when we took the test everybody in the class passed except for me,” Lee said.

Lee only needed one attempt to become licensed in Great Britain, and he made it count as he became the first American licensed to broadcast from a British ship. In 1967, Lee operated the amateur radio on the Queen Mary when it made its final voyage from Southampton to Long Beach, Calif.

Lee said he made contact with more than 4,000 people during the voyage, and each received a commemorative certificate bearing the ship’s specially issued call sign — GB5QM.

The certificate was reproduced in a book detailing the history of amateur radio which Lee shared with the Kiwanis Club.

Lee also displayed his proficiency at Morse code, the lifeblood of amateur radio. Most of the Kiwanis members seemed confused by the unending series of beeps emanating from his straight key, but Lee said that was natural.

“When you’re learning it, it’s like learning a new language,” he said. “You learn it one letter at a time.”



Rick D’Elia/Daily News-Sun

Al Lee talks to fellow Kiwanians about ham radio and the Morse code transmitter at the Sun City-Youngtown group’s luncheon at Nancy’s Country Cupboard in Sun City.

Film buff: Hobby aids in recording history

By LAURIE HURD-MOORE

As a child, he played with a 35 millimeter projector, a present from his older brother. Decades later as a retired Sun Citian, Eldon Legg continues to tote around a movie projector and will show any one of his film productions at the first indication of a willing viewer.

"When I was a boy, the local motion picture operator in my little town of Chewelah, Wash., suddenly became the most important man in town because he furnished me with short strips of 35 mm film. And he even taught me how to splice the film (to unite by lapping two ends together) and furnished the film cement.

"I then had shows in our woodshed for my friends and if they did not possess the required one-cent fee, I would let them in anyway."

Later, he went to Iowa State University with just enough money to complete one quarter of school. A operator's job at the Twin Star theater allowed him to continue his education and ultimately graduate.

When Legg was not working as the superintendent of quality control for motive power under Chicago Northwestern Railway System or as superintendent of the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Division of Grain Inspection, the production of motion pictures received much of his attention.

Today, Legg continues to use the skills he has acquired over the years.

His theater is now located in the back portion of his Sun City living room. A closet stores necessary supplies, film and equipment, as well as the projector. Much like a regular movie theater's projection booth, only in miniature, the closet has been modified to contain a small, sliding glass window, which opens out from the closet wall, allowing films to be viewed across the room on a screen.

Dozens of films are stored in Legg's home, both in and out of their canisters.

And from his first film in 1927 for the French Pathe Film Company contest, "The Capture of Bad Eye Bodie," a thriller of which a villain ties the heroine to the railroad track as a train approaches, to one of his more recent films depicting the Sun City lifestyle, Legg has in his own way recorded 60 years of history.

The Leggs came out from Chicago to visit relatives and saw Sun City for the first time 20 years ago. "I thought it was wonderful," he says.

And doing what came natural, Legg decided to make a movie about Sun City.

The project took two weeks and resulted in a 30-minute color film of the various attractions in Sun City.

"In the first place, I needed to get permission. So I set out to look for someone in the community. I ended up asking Del Webb Corporation's right-hand man, Jerry Svendsen," Legg says.

Svendsen has since retired from the Webb Corp. and is now publisher of a local monthly magazine.

"He was just as enthusiastic in making a movie as I was. Svendsen made out a schedule for me on where I should be at certain times and places and he gave me his assistant to show me around and help carry equipment," Legg says.

It was Svendsen who narrated "Sun City Grows Up," the name of Legg's film.

The producer says he knows of no other such film on Sun City.

When Bell Recreation Center was opened in 1978, Legg decided the movie needed updating. Svendsen was unable to assist the producer this time, because of an increased workload, so Legg employed a professional narrator, Ralph Warren, of KWAO-FM radio.

"Wake up and live in Sun City, for an active way of life.

Wake up and live in Sun City, Mr. Senior Citizen and wife.

Don't let retirement get you down, Wake up and live in Sun City."

This theme song begins Legg's motion picture. And Warren went on in the film to reveal several facts about the young retirement community:

"Del E. Webb Corp. learned through their studies that loneliness and inactivity were barriers to successful retirement.

"They also learned that older people are reluctant to purchase on the basis of promises, so Webb gambled \$3 million."

And on Jan. 1, 1960, the date of Sun City's grand opening, one nine-hole golf course, a recreation center, swimming pool, lawning bowling greens, an 11-business shopping center and a 12-unit motel were completed and awaiting scrutiny.

In all, 272 homes were sold on the opening day."

Although Legg call his interest in films, merely a "hobby," it is a hobby which started out as child's play, grew into a life-long interest and will ultimately even outlive the films' creator and exist as valuable glimpses into the past.

LEGG, L. ELTON



L. ELTON LEGG

VF- PERSONALITIES 6-7

Sun City, Az.

Oct. 7. 1986

Jane Freeman,
Sun City Historical Society

Dear Ms Freeman

I thought it would be well if you knew something of me and my interests. I have been interested in motion pictures since I was a little boy and my older brother gave me a toy projector at Christmas time. It took 35mm film so the operator in the little theatre in my home town of Chewelah, Washington became the most important man in the town to me. He saved pieces of 35mm film for me and furnished the film cement to splice them. When I was attending Iowa State University at Ames, Iowa, I worked my way thru Electrical Engineering as an operator in a local theatre at Ames, Iowa.

In about 1929 I became interested in a film making contest staged by the French Pathe Company. This was before 16mm film equipment became available so I had to use alphabet spaghetti for making the silent titles for the film which I called, "The capture of Bad Eye Bodie". Believe it or not, I won first prize in this International Contest. Second and third prizes went to Japanese in Japan.

With my interest in motion pictures, my wife and I traveled over half way around the world making 16 mm for exhibition. I still have many of them. The last picture I made was one I called, "Pilgrimage to the Land of the Bible" and it was color and sound which has been shown many times in Sun City churches.

In about 1959 we visited Sun City for the first time and recognizing that Sun City would be a good subject for a film, I then inquired around and found Jerry Svendsen who was glad to help me make the production on Sun City. In fact Jerry narrated the first Sun City film but when I later updated it to the opening of the Bell Center, Jerry was too involved with the Del Webb company to spare the time so I hired a professional from KWAO to narrate it. I call it "Sun City Grows Up". I paid for all costs including hiring the plane for taking the aerial shots. When I needed poetry for a couple of introductions, I composed the words myself. The narration states, "Listen to the words of an enthusiast" I am the enthusiast and I believe those are true words because we fell in love with Sun City when we first saw it. And that is the reason we are a pioneer home owner in this city. When I had a tape made of my film so I could

LEGG, L. ELLTON

show it on our television, I mailed a copy of the tape to the Del E. Webb Company in Sun City West and received the following letter from Ken Plonski, Public Affairs Manager for Del E. Webb.

In addition to my motion picture interest, I was Chief Electrical Engineer for the Chicago and North Western Railway for many years in Chicago. After retiring at age 65, I was asked to take a job with the State of Illinois which I did. I worked under Governor Ogilvie for four years. A copy of my business card is shown.

Yours very truly

L. Elton Legg
13645 Newcastle Dr.
Sun City, Az. 85351



L ELTON LEGG

SUPERINTENDENT
DIVISION OF GRAIN INSPECTION
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE OF ILLINOIS

BOARD OF TRADE BLDG.
141 W. JACKSON BLVD.
ROOM 2304
CHICAGO
HARRISON 7-9601

LEGG, L. ELTON

**Del E. Webb
Development Co.**

June 6, 1986

Mr. L Elton Legg
13675 Newcastle Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351

Dear Mr. Legg,

I watched your film about the early years of Sun City with great enjoyment yesterday. Because I have only been with Webb for five years, it was a valuable history lesson for me as well. Let me compliment you on a very professional job.

In your letter, you asked if I could offer any suggestion about what you might do with the film. I do have one. I think the Sun City Library and the newly formed Historical Society would find your production an important addition. I would suggest you contact Jane Freeman at 974-2569 and offer her an opportunity to view the film.

As for any use at DEVCO, I must apologize, because we cannot find an immediate use for the piece. We are now involved quite fully in Sun City West. While a historical perspective would be nice, we already have a number of video presentation we make to our visitors. We cannot include another at this time.

I'd like to wish you the best of luck with the library...I think they will be very receptive. Thanks again for allowing me to view your production.

Sincerely,

Ken Plonski

Ken Plonski
Public Affairs Manager

*I just recently received this letter from
Mr. Plonski,
L. Elton Legg*

LEGG L. ELTON



MRS. HARVEY A. LEISY
Hollett of Sun City

SUN CITY SUN CITIZEN * August 8, 1968

Profiles By Esther Morgan

Sun Citizen Profiles

Secretary and member of the board of directors of the Sun City Community Hospital is Mrs. Harvey A. (Lue) Leisy, 10808 Alabama Avenue.

Many Sun City residents first make the acquaintance of Mrs. Leisy as she participates in her many activities as a hostess for the Del E. Webb Development Company, a position she has filled since 1961.

Mrs. Leisy, nee LuElla C. Libby, was born in Minot, N.D., and moved with her parents to Fort Benton, Mont., at the age of four. She received her elementary schooling in Fort Benton and Cut Bank. Her high school years were spent at Great Falls.

In 1922 she moved to Portland, Ore., where she was employed as a secretary for a Texas Oil Lease firm. In Portland she met and married Harvey A. Leisy, who was employed as plan engineer for the Portland American Can Company for 35 years.

Mrs. Leisy served as wedding director at the

Centenary-Wilbur Methodist Church, Portland for 10 years. As a wedding director she gave advice on all stages of the planning of weddings, and acted as hostess for the receptions. She participated in 220 weddings in her 10-year tenure.

Moving to Sun City April 11, 1960, Mrs. Leisy is a member of the United Church of Sun City, a member of Colony 3, and Phi Sigma Alpha, Psi Chapter, an international study sorority. She is a member of the Sun City Republican Club, and of the Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital Auxiliary.

Her hobbies include gardening and making friends. She is the writer of Lue's Scrapbook which appears in the Sun Citizen.

Mr. and Mrs. Leisy have one daughter, Mrs. Douglas Jasper, five grandchildren and one great granddaughter living in Portland. One son Kenneth, Detective Juvenile Division, Portland Police and one granddaughter living in Scottsdale.

Daily News-Sun

June 9, 1992

Pom founder dances on air

By BRITT KENNERLY
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Firmly planted again on terra firma, 89-year-old Corena "Corinne" Leslie shouted "Is that me?" as she watched TV coverage of her first parachute jump.

Dancing on air, it seems, is just a natural progression for the former ballet dancer, founder of an internationally renowned dance troupe, the Sun City Poms.

"I'm so happy," said Leslie, who made the jump to celebrate her 90th birthday, which is Thursday. "I've always said that before I leave this earth, I wanted to skydive and go up in a balloon."

The first leg of Leslie's long-standing elevated dream came true in a postcard-perfect blue sky Monday.

A crowd of friends and members of Valley media were on hand to ooh and aah as Leslie, decked out in a fire-engine red jumpsuit, and Bill Will, a jump instructor for the Desert Skydiving Center at Buckeye Municipal Airport, leaped from a 12-passenger plane in a tandem jump.

They fell with grace to Mother Earth from about 12,500 feet above the airport — landing without a hitch after a 40-second freefall and a 10-minute descent.

Pulling the plug that released the hot-pink parachute was exciting, said the 25-year resident of Sun City, but she doesn't remember her first thought after she and Will tumbled out of the plane.

"I do remember thinking, 'I wish I had a stick of gum,'" she said. "We were going so fast, and it was the strangest feeling. I could hardly believe it when we first went out. It takes your breath away."

Her friends, on the other hand, had no doubt that Leslie would float through the air with the greatest of ease, and greeted her post-jump with

balloons, hugs and cheers.

"Corinne has always been a gutsy lady," said Alverta Hettinger, a Sun City Pom. "It didn't surprise me a bit. She's talked about it from time to time, and when Corinne makes up her mind to do something, she does it."

The feat may just catapult Leslie into the Guinness Book of World Records.

Guinness' 1992 edition lists the oldest parachutist in the world at 89, a tad shy of Leslie's 89 years and 362 days. The man who set that record in 1986 is deceased. The oldest female on record was a youngster — a mere 85.

"She's certainly the oldest woman to jump, and perhaps the oldest person ever to parachute," said Mark Young, editor of the U.S. edition of the Guinness Book. "We would have to find out the birthdate of the man who set the record to confirm who was oldest."

Leslie, who likes to play golf and shoot pool when bound by earthly ties, is not sure what her next lofty stunt will be. She's pretty sure, however, it will be hot-air ballooning — which, she said, a friend told her is "probably too tame for you."

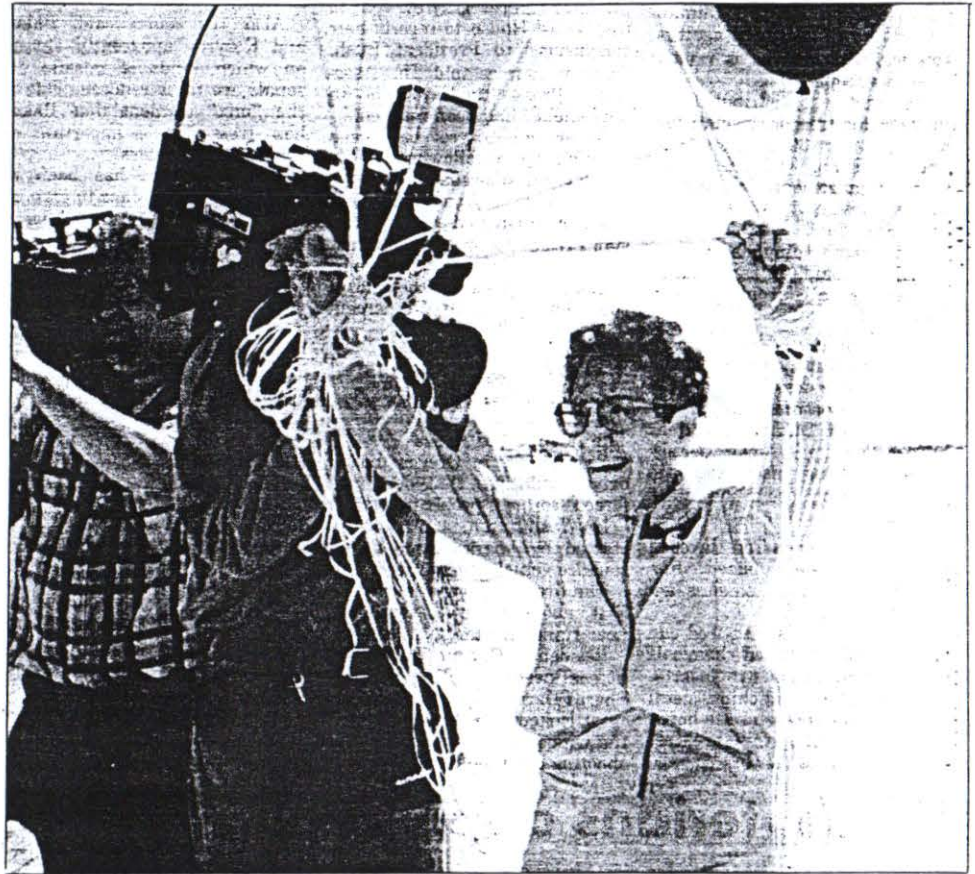
And there's always the possibility that she and 52-year-old daughter Mari Ann Blankenship, a former stunt woman, will tackle a mother-daughter death-defying feat.

Blankenship, who lives in Panorama City, Calif., recently made her first bungee cord jump — something Leslie said she'll bypass in deference to her back.

"I don't think I'd like to be tied to anything and hanging by my feet," she said.

Other than that, the sky — well, sort of! — is the limit.

"I feel about 39," Leslie said. "I don't like to do the things 90-year-olds usually do."



Submitted photo

Sun Citian Corena "Corinne" Leslie celebrates after sky diving for the first time at the age of 89 years, 362 days.

Sky diver, 89: 'Balloon riding was a little tame'

Lifelong dream realized,
feat may have set record

By Fred Smith
The Arizona Republic

Corina Leslie was a bit young for aerial antics when the Wright brothers embarked on their maiden mission in 1903.

She made up for that Monday.

With 40 friends and several cameras focused on her, Leslie donned a bright-red suit, boarded a 12-passenger Queen Air plane, jumped out about 12,500 feet above Buckeye Municipal Airport and landed perfectly.

It was her first parachute jump.

And at age 89 years and 362 days, it apparently was one for the record books. Guinness, which keeps those records, lists 89, with no mention of days, as the age of the oldest male parachutist, and age 85 for a woman.

The record makes no difference to Leslie.

"I've wanted to do this for years, ever since I started watching these people jump out of planes and land exactly where they wanted to," she said.

"So I decided that before I died, I was going to either jump out of a plane or go balloon riding. But one of my friends said balloon riding was a little tame, so here I am."

She made the jump with a tandem-type parachute connected to Bill Will, jump instructor for the Desert Skydiving Center.

The two fell freely for about 40 seconds, reaching a speed of about 100 mph. Then, at about 4,000 feet above the ground, Leslie pulled the plug that engaged the pink canopy, and she and Will floated gently for about 10 minutes before landing.

"It was wonderful," Leslie said. "The wind (during the free fall) was a little too much, but once that chute opened, it was heaven. I'd recommend it for everyone."

Not everyone was interested.

"Not me," said Fay Weagant, of Sun City, who watched. "They couldn't pay me enough to do that. I'll be 84 this month, and I think that's a bit old for jumping out of a plane."

Leslie, who plays golf and shoots pool when she is not thinking about derring-do, was a ballet dancer before moving to Sun City about 25 years ago. She was the founder of the Sun City Poms, a dance troupe, and many of its members also were on hand at the airport to view the event.

The age factor for such feats, the perky Leslie said, is just a relative thing.

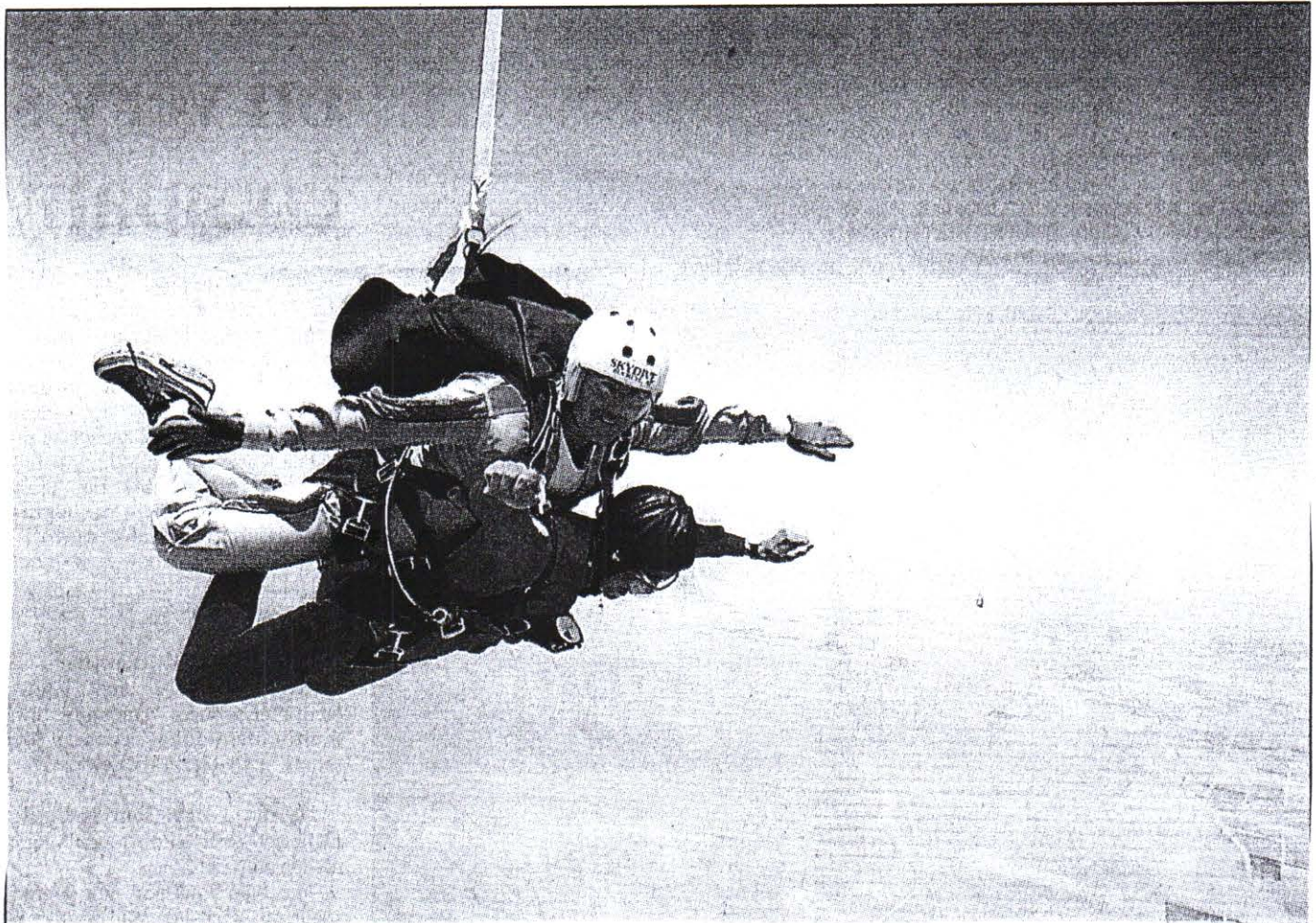
"It's true I've lived 90 years," she said, "but I'm not 90 years old.

"I'm really about 39."

TIME FLIES AT 89

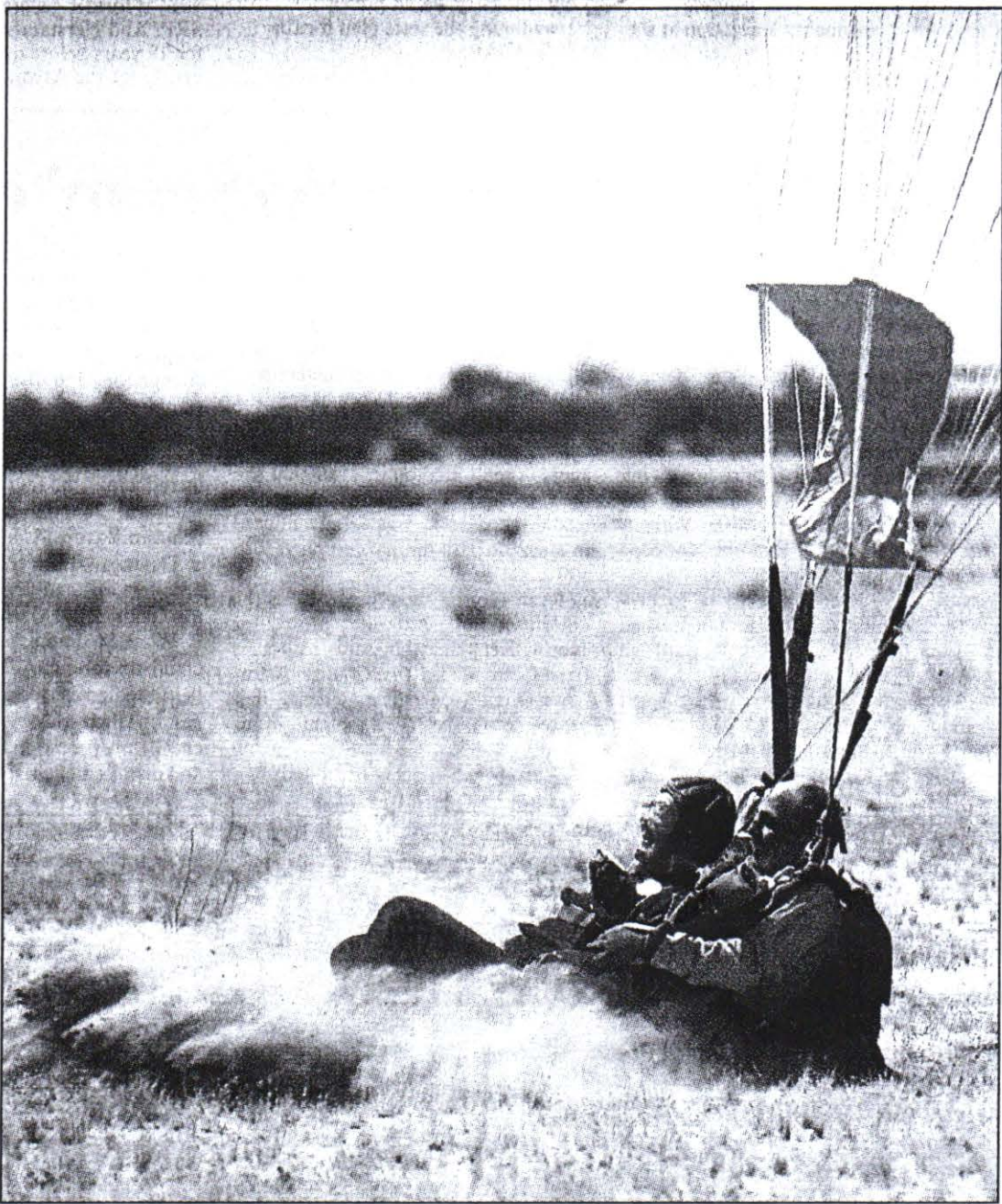


At age 89, jumping off a plane at 12,500 feet may seem extreme to some, but to Corina Leslie it was a dream come true. Leslie, shown gliding through the Valley sky with jump instructor Bill Will, apparently broke a Guinness record as the oldest parachutist in history. Leslie and Will boarded a 12-passenger Queen Air plane, jumped out above Buckeye Municipal Airport and landed perfectly. "It was wonderful," Leslie said Monday. "I'd recommend it for everyone." **Story, B1.**



LESLIE, CORINA

OVER



Photos by Rob Shumacher/The Arizona Republic



After jumping about 12,500 feet from a plane (top photo), 89-year-old Corina Leslie and Bill Will, jump instructor for the Desert Skydiving Center, make a perfect landing. Earlier Monday, with the cameras rolling, Leslie and Will were the center of attention (left) at Buckeye Municipal Airport. "I've wanted to do this for years, ever since I started watching these people jump out of planes and land exactly where they wanted to," Leslie said. The age factor for such feats, the perky Leslie said, is just a relative thing. "I'm really about 39," she said.

6A News-Sun - Tuesday, April 16, 1974

LESLIES

Hoofing career paves colorful lifestyle

BY SUE VAN WYNGAARDEN
Staff Writer

Ray Leslie learned how to dance on a flat rock in the middle of a Virginia river when he was nine by mimicking a black boy who stood on another rock.

Corinne Leslie began dancing when she was three.

The Leslies, who have never stopped stepping, have a colorful career that dates back to 1934.

"As far as we know, we are the oldest professional team still performing," she said. "We've been doing it all of our lives," he added.

Although she was active in high school dance and gymnastics, Corinne hoped to become a sewing teacher. But after a school gymnastics exhibition, her home economics teacher told her to put away her needle and thread and take to foot.

Leslie was raised close to a resort in Hot Springs, Va. As a local soda jerk, his fry cook friend offered to teach the young man to dance. "The only place we could dance was in a boiler house where the big turbines generate electricity. So I learned to dance on big steel sheets in front of the boilers."

"Boy, what do you intend to do with yourself after you graduate from here?" Leslie's high school principal asked one day. "I wanted to be an electrical engineer, but after he looked at my grades, he said, 'Boy, you ain't gonna make it.'"

"So the principal suggested I save my money, go to New York, and get into vaudeville," Leslie explained.

In the meantime, Leslie won several charleston contests and danced in churches and schools. He went to New York and "played burlesque, third-rate vaudeville, and the Rice and Straw Circuit. Finally I learned I could make money by teaching and opened a school in New York City."

Corinne studied dancing in a Chicago normal school and returned to her South Bend, Ind., home where she assumed the role of her retiring dance teacher. She taught ballet four years and journeyed to New York to study each summer.

The young gal was advised to study under the famous Albertina Rasch, and after three days of instruction, the woman sent Corinne out with a road show.

She traveled extensively in Europe and the United States, and danced for a time with the Russian ballet, "until the road man

ran off with the company's money," she said.

She appeared in several New York theaters, including the Roxy, and soloed in the two closing performances at Grauman's Chinese Theatre in Los Angeles.

It wasn't until the ballerina visited Radio City Music Hall that she heard about "Ray Leslie—the hottest thing in town." So love was 'on tap' as Corinne decided to take a little soft shoe from the handsome teacher.

When she returned to California, Leslie left all of his equipment, packed his bags, and followed his new-found love to the Golden State. "That's what romance will do for you," he sighed.

"In 1935-36 Paul Kelly was making a movie with Claire Trevor, and I became the man to double for Kelly," he said. "We danced a trio, we two girls (Corinne and her roommate, Dorothy) and Ray," Mrs. Leslie added.

After working in the Paramount Theatre and other California dance houses, the three hoofers returned to New York where they auditioned for the William Morris agency.

"They only handled the big names and we were astounded they even wanted to see us!" Corinne exclaimed.

Since Leslie was "making money hand over fist teaching at Dance Masters (the world's largest professional organization of dancing teachers)," he was skeptical when the agency signed them with a troupe to Rio de Janeiro.

Nonetheless, the couple was married in 1936 and honeymooned in South America. "Those were the days when there was lotsa glamour in show business," he said.

The trio returned to the United States with new costumes and fresh ideas and toured the country until 1939, when the Leslies "decided to give up show business, settle down, raise a family, and teach," Corinne said.

They moved to California, opened up a dance studio, and raised a pretty young gal named MariAnn, who is now a professional printer in Silmar.

For a time, MariAnn worked as a stunt girl and with the (Ozzie and Harriet) Nelson boys on trapeze. "Dave was the catcher, and Rick and MariAnn were flyers," Leslie said. "She appeared on the Laramie TV show."

In 1948, the couple taught

LESLIE, RAY & CORINNE

OVER

dancing over TV on their own show, "Meet the Leslies." "It was on channel nine, KFI in Los Angeles," he said.

"We came here to retire almost three years ago, and believe it or not, we have 42 students. We do teaching at the (Peoria) Boys Club, too," she said.

"We go to the exercise room way down at Mountain View, or we work out on the back patio. We ride bicycles and play golf," Leslie explained. "We dance to exercise, and I do dance exercises to keep limber," his wife added.

Residing at 10319 Prairie Hills Cir., the couple belongs to the Sundial Dance Club. On their own, Leslie is a Toastmaster and Mrs. Leslie is a member of the Sew 'N Sew Club.

"She makes all of my clothes—how do you like these pants?" he asked.

"I like to sew for men, but not for myself. But with the prices nowadays, I will have to learn to like sewing for women," she admitted.

Whether it's tap, exhibition ballroom, or comedy dance, the hoofers are far from taking their last step.

They will perform at a recital in Tempe in the studio of a former student, and will appear in a summer Sun Bowl show.



From ballroom to tap to comedy, Leslies (many years ago) display touch of dancing artistry that made them hit at Roxy and Paramount theaters.

LESLIE, RAY - CORINNE

B-2 The Arizona Republic Phoenix, Sunday, Jan. 19, 1975



Professional dancers Corinne and Ray Leslie show their old style in a picture taken 40 years ago.



Republic photo by Thelma Heatwole

The Leslies today are still high steppers. They now live in Sun City and are teaching their craft.



DOERS PROFILE

Helen
Lerner

- Hometown:** *Born in Iowa and raised in Minneapolis*
- Family:** *Two children and seven grandchildren*
- Motto:** *I think we all have an obligation to give back and not always be a taker.*
- Greatest feat:** *Being a wife, mother and grandmother.*

Volunteering adds light to her life

By TINA SCHADE
Staff writer

Cobalt blue shards of glass artistically arranged on canvas reflect the afternoon sunlight. Other iridescent pieces also catch a few rays, and together make up an eclectic work of art that hangs outside the entrance of Helen Lerner's Sun City home.

The piece seems to function as a personalized welcome mat. However, when taken along with the rest of Lerner's art, it functions as a crystal ball of sorts, offering clues to visitors about the person who lives inside.

Some of the things that you discover about Lerner don't seem all that surprising. For example, she earned an art degree from the University of Hawaii and has a love for painting.

You could probably also deduce that she has a knack for innovation, having used pieces of tiffany glass — which were originally intended for a lamp — to create her own unique art form.

Looking at her paintings, you might be able to guess that Lerner is well-traveled and has lived in every corner of the world.

In Lerner's living room is a picture of Spanish corridors decorated with hanging flower boxes. Near her hallway is a picture of the countryside and milky waterways of Scotland. But the story behind this picture reveals that Lerner is more than an artist.

Lerner said she remembers the waters of Scotland being murkier and the scenery more dark than reflected in her painting. She said she brightened the landscape a little, adding color when it was really more gray and adding light where shadows were actually more prominent. Lerner has applied that lighter touch to her life as well as her art.

While in Spain, Lerner heard about an orphanage where children were sharing toothbrushes. She used her creative energy and resourcefulness to organize a woman's group which collected and packaged hygiene products and toys for the children.

In Hawaii, Lerner introduced needy children to art through the use of narrow paint brushes (the least expensive) and newsprint. She taught them how to use egg whites and mucilage as binder. Now Lerner introduces Sun Citians to art as the receptionist at the Sun City art museum, where she has volunteered for nearly six years.

Lerner has shared her unique vision of life with the people of Sun City in other ways. For 22 years, she volunteered as a reader for Recording for the Blind, a position that gave her great satisfaction after her father became blind and her mother became deaf.

Although she doesn't read anymore for the Recording for the Blind, Lerner is still involved in the literary world through her work at the library, where she volunteers a couple of times a week in circulation.

Past volunteer projects include canvassing the neighborhoods to raise funds for the American Red Cross and the March of Dimes.

Away from her volunteering and away from her easel, Lerner enjoys needlework, bridge and reading.

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

Lerner, Helen

Amelia Lewis, Attorney, Opens Office In First Federal Building

Sun City-Youngtown area has a new resident, Mrs. Amelia D. Lewis, a widow, and practicing attorney. She is living at 10837 Hope Drive, Sun City, with Mrs. Frances Van Houten.

March 15 she moved into offices in the First Federal Savings Bank Building on the Youngtown side of 111th Ave.

Mrs. Lewis comes to this area from Winslow where she has practised for five years, having been in Phoenix prior to that when she came out from New York.



AMELIA LEWIS

While in Winslow, Mrs. Lewis was a deputy county attorney in the years 1958, 1959 and 1960. She was Chairman of the Heart Committee there and is a member of the Executive Board of the Arizona Heart Association. She is a Soroptimist and states she will be transferred to the Valley of the Sun Club. She also will transfer her VFW Auxiliary membership to the Sun City group.

Her family of three sons is somewhat scattered. David, the oldest, is a heart research man, on the staff of the Heart Station at Philadelphia General Hospital. He is credited with having invented a microphone the size of a grain of rice which goes on the end of "Richard's" catheter and is fed into the heart to obtain heart sounds. He was a research fellow of the Heart Association, spending last year in Göteborg, Sweden, in further study of the areas of the brain that control circulation.

The second son, Frank, is an attorney practicing and living in Phoenix. His wife, Anita, is an economist, on leave from college teaching to have their second child, the first being two year old Vickie.

The youngest son, Peter, is the only member who remained in New York, and is a corporate executive; he is unmarried. David's family consists of two boys, 8 and 10.

Mrs. Lewis is a member of the Arizona Club, and various Bar Associations, including American Bar, Arizona Bar, New York County Lawyers, NAACA Bar. She leaves membership in the Winslow Woman's Club and

Writers' Club and Navajo-Apache Bar Association, and states she hopes to join similar clubs in Sun City.

While in Winslow, she was President of the Navajo County Democratic Women's Club, vice chairwoman for Navajo County, and a member from that County of the Democratic State Central Committee and Executive Committee, where she worked with Mrs. Denis (Sally) Ryan, of Sun City.

Mrs. Lewis is a member of the American Judicature Society, the National Committee on Crime and Delinquency, the National Legal Aid and Public Defenders Association, Arizona League of Women Voters, Brooklyn and New York Law School Alumni Associations, National Hemophilia Foundation, Maytag Zoological Society, Phoenix Little Theater and Arizona Repertory Theater.

While in Phoenix she worked on costumes for the performance of Othello, given by the Little Theater at its Shakespearean Festival a number of years ago. She is also a member of the Board of Directors of Arizona Girls Ranch, serving her second term.

SC woman wins state bar award

By CANDACE S. HUGHES
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — When Amelia Lewis was 17, a teacher took her to a meeting and told to pay attention. She did.

Carrie Chapman Catt, one of the leading proponents of suffrage, had called the meeting at which women discussed their next move after the 19th amendment to the constitution was ratified.

The leaders of the suffrage movement went on to found the League of Women Voters as a non-partisan organization that would provide information on issues but would not support political candidates or parties.

Her use of the advice and knowledge gained from the meeting has paid off over the years and Lewis soon will celebrate her 60th anniversary as a member of the League of Women Voters.

Lewis joined the league in 1932 when she took some time off from her law practice to raise three children, and now is a member of the League of Women Voters of the Sun Cities.

Her early support of equal treatment of all citizens resulted in a case that went to the U.S. Supreme Court.

An opinion written by Justice Abe Fortas found that juvenile courts must tell the parents of juveniles that children have the right to an attorney, the right to face their accusers and the right to cross-examine witnesses.

Lewis' many efforts for equal justice

over the years were recognized June 14 when the Arizona Bar Association gave her an award of appreciation for her 65-year legal career.

The award cited her "tenacity, humor and courageous years of trailblazing."

Lewis' career in the law may have begun because she wasn't afraid to do the gopher work or take cases or jobs unappealing to others.

"When I was 15 years old I worked for a summer at a law office and it was the first time a woman was permitted to be inside the office. It was gopher work, running to the post office, serving papers, running errands," Lewis said.

Lewis started Hunter College when she was 16, and left the college when she was 18 because she was admitted to the St. Lawrence University School of Law in New York. She also was graduated from the New York University Law School with a master's degree in which she specialized in drafting legislation.

She was able to use her education when she assisted the League of Women Voters in the early 1930s by studying and taking a position in favor of Social Security.

Lewis took a job in 1958 as deputy county attorney in Navajo County handling cases in the Winslow precinct.

"The Winslow precinct had the most happening as far as prosecuting rapes and murders. I prosecuted a man who was accused of killing his mother-in-law and half the town supported him and said

he should have had a license to kill her," Lewis said.

Lewis moved to Sun City in 1963 and her legal work now includes wills, trusts, probate, guardianships and collections.

Lewis' volunteer work also extended to her law practice where she has taken cases for nonprofit organizations. In the Gault case that went to the Supreme Court, she wasn't paid enough to cover the filing fees and copying costs, and received no fees for her time.

"The attorney general's office called and said they needed an attorney to represent a juvenile. At the time, Sun City was receiving some rather bad publicity from people saying that we hated children. I thought it would be a good thing to take this pro bono," Lewis said.

The case involved a Globe boy named Gerald Gault who was accused of being part of a scheme to make an indecent telephone call, and was sent to the state industrial school, Lewis said. A hearing was held in which there was no court reporter and no opportunity for an attorney to be present, she said.

The boy's father was working at a job near the Grand Canyon, and the mother did not receive notice of the charges against her son. Lewis lost the case when she appealed to the Arizona Supreme Court, but won when it eventually went to the U.S. Supreme Court.



HONORED — Amelia Lewis will soon celebrate 60 years in the League of Women Voters. Lewis is a

practicing lawyer who recently was honored by the Arizona Bar Association.

Daily News-Sun photo by Frances Guarino

LEWIS AMELIA

SC jurist lays down the law

By **KIMBERLY HICKS**
Daily News-Sun staff

Because of Sun Citian Amelia Lewis, juveniles accused of breaking the law are given a fair trial.

Her contributions to the development of constitutional law have been applauded by U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

And on Friday, Lewis — Sun City's third attorney — turned 90.

Her failing eyesight has forced her to relinquish much of her practice. However Lewis, perched behind a desk in the Sun City home she's lived in since 1963, is finishing a handful of cases she said she could not pass on to other attorneys.

And she still talks passionately about the case of Gerald F. Gault, which crossed her desk nearly 30 years ago and was eventually decid-

See Ex-governor, A5



Stephen Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Amelia Lewis uses a magnifying machine in her Sun City home to assist her with reading. She was the third attorney to practice in Sun City.

OVER

Ex-governor remains close friend

—From A1
ed in her favor by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"I had a boy who told me, 'I didn't do it, I didn't do it, I didn't do it,' and I believed him," said Lewis, remembering the day she met Gault in August 1964.

Gault was a 15-year-old from Globe who bagged groceries on Sundays after church and played catcher on his high school baseball team.

He had been accused of making an obscene telephone call and, hours later, was detained by Gila County sheriff's deputies.

"I got a call from the attorney general's office. They said they needed a lawyer to represent a 15-year-old kid," Lewis said.

What she discovered was a case seemingly void of due process.

Gault didn't have an attorney at his initial hearing, and a court reporter had not been present.

Gault's parents were never notified about the charges against their son.

And the woman who received the lewd telephone call was never asked to identify the voice she heard.

"I remember asking, 'Why isn't the woman here to hear which boy did the dirty talking?'" Lewis said, shaking her head.

With Lewis providing his defense, Gault saw his case propelled to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Lewis won the case, which later became crucial to the establishment of the juvenile justice system.

An opinion written by Justice Abe Fortas said juvenile courts must tell parents that their children have the right to face their accusers and the right to cross-examine witnesses.

The case also established that juveniles do not have to confess, and that they have the right to an attorney, which would be appointed if they could not afford one.

"I'm the reason we have the (juvenile)

'My message to young women is that you can always go back to a career. You have a responsibility to raise children. Nature didn't give that responsibility to the men. They gave it to us.'

**Amelia Lewis
Sun City attorney**

courthouse here," said Lewis.

Years later, Lewis recalled, she attended a luncheon where several judges were being honored, and was singled out before the crowd as the reason for a \$5 million increase in the state budget.

"So I responded in a voice loud enough for everyone to hear by saying, 'To whom shall I send the check?'"

Lewis has countless stories to tell about her legal career, which began in New York City 68 years ago.

In 1928, she was denied membership to the bar association in New York because, she was told, "The building did not have adequate powder room space."

Lewis had seen the women's bathroom in the building several times.

"I took a vow then and there that I would never belong to an organization that would do to women what the bar in the city of New York would do."

Despite her career and volunteer work with the League of Women Voters, she raised three sons: David, now a physician in Sweden, and Frank and Peter, both attorneys.

"It wasn't easy," she said. "I had to be at the office and I had a kid with pneumonia at home, but I had to keep my mind on the office."

"But we have to be the nurturer of the next generation, or there will be no next generation. If that strips me of my

feminism, so be it. ... My message to young women is that you can always go back to a career. You have a responsibility to raise children. Nature didn't give that responsibility to the men. They gave it to us."

She was a caregiver to her husband, Maxwell, who died in 1957.

Lewis then left New York and enrolled in a bar-review course at the University of Arizona in Tucson. Among her classmates were her son, Frank, and O'Connor.

According to Lewis, O'Connor once told her she was holding back the class by asking so many questions. Thirty years later, O'Connor praised her former classmate's selfless practice of the law.

When Lewis passed the Arizona bar at the age of 55 in 1958, she was given her first copy of the Arizona Revised Statutes from her friend "Rosie," who worked in the secretary of state's office.

"Rosie" later became Arizona Gov. Rose Mofford, and remains her friend.

She supports Ruth Ginsburg's appointment to the high court as well, saying Ginsburg appears to have "a strong center."

"She isn't going to be pushed too far to the right or the left, and she has a good, analytical mind."

She also lauds Hillary Rodham Clinton's efforts at health-care reform.

"She's brainy, and it is marvelous that she is giving up part of her own career to do what she is for the country."

Reflecting on her own career, Lewis said she would not give it up if her eyesight was better.

She said she never really thought about whether she would be poring over cases at 90.

"I would die if I didn't have something to work on," she said. "In 68 years, my clients have been satisfied — except one man who said, 'If I would have known you were going to charge me that much, I would've gone to a man.'"

STATE BAR SPECIAL SECTION

89-year-old veteran of law reviews accomplishments

1924 law school graduate winds down notable career

VICKI CABOT

Special for the Business Gazette

More than 70 years ago Amelia Lewis fell in love with the law.

Today, as she approaches her 90th birthday, the fascination remains.

"Everything in the law always has to be revisited," said the attorney, whose keen mind and sharp tongue were much in evidence during a recent interview. "Sometimes you have to do the same things over and over."

Case in point, she said, is that of Tammie Tomassoni. The local teen-ager confessed, without advice

of counsel of her surviving parent, to the Feb. 5 shooting death of her mother. As part of a subsequent plea bargain, she entered a guilty plea for reckless manslaughter.

It's a throwback to the 1967 U.S. Supreme Court decision *In Re Gault* that extended constitutional protections to juveniles in criminal proceedings and garnered Mrs. Lewis national recognition.

Gault, represented by Mrs. Lewis on the Arizona state court level, knocked the entire U.S. juvenile justice system on its ear. The case affirmed juveniles' rights to be represented by counsel, to refuse to incriminate themselves and to be notified of all charges and proceed-

ings.

"I would have hoped that the county attorney would advise the sheriff's office what the law is with respect to handling juveniles," bristled Mrs. Lewis about the Tomassoni case. "The confession should be thrown out of court."

The almost-nonagenarian has been honored by both the American Bar Association and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America for her work on the Gault case. She has also been recognized by the American Civil Liberties Union.

Until last year, Mrs. Lewis maintained a Sun City office. Ill health forced her to close it, but she still has two or three cases pending and occasionally sees clients in her home.

While moved by issues of social justice, Mrs. Lewis was drawn to the practice of law not so much to do good, but to do better.

"I saw it as a way to achieve, to pull myself up," says the daughter of a New York dressmaker and a men's window dresser.

A summer working as a gofer in a New York law firm convinced the then 16-year-old Mrs. Lewis to forsake her mother's dream of a dress designer daughter and to pursue a career in law.

"It seemed to me that it was a profession that would help me."

She attended Hunter College and received her law degree from St. Lawrence University School of Law (which later became Brooklyn College) in 1924, one of 12 women in a class of 300. She was admitted to the New York bar the following year.

Over the next 30 years she practiced law with a New York law firm, worked for the New York Legal Aid Society, did extensive volunteer work with the League of Women Voters and the ACLU, married and raised three sons.

Her approach to life was matter of fact, so much so that her children never thought her flurry of activity unusual.

"My mother was my mother," said Phoenix attorney Frank Lewis. "That's just the way she was. No time was ever wasted."

Mrs. Lewis said she got her work ethic from her parents.

"My father never sat still. He always had to be working."

Being a woman in a male-dominated profession didn't slow her down, she said.

Any closed doors or perceived slights she blamed on her "miserable personality."

"If I had an opinion, you had to sway me. I'd listen, but I was no 'yes sir' person."

Independent, strong, tenacious is how Phoenix City Attorney Philip Haggerty, Mrs. Lewis' adversary in the Gault case, characterized her.



PHOENIX NEWSPAPERS INC.

CAREER-MINDED:
As a young woman, Amelia Lewis viewed a career in law "as a way to achieve, to pull myself up." She pursued professional success and raised a family, too.

LEWIS, AMELIA

89-year-old veteran

Continued/Page 22

It was Mr. Haggerty who first sent 16-year-old Gerald Gault, sentenced without legal counsel to six years in a juvenile detention center for making lewd telephone calls, to Mrs. Lewis.

"I called her because I knew her name and her reputation," Mr. Haggerty said.

Mrs. Lewis, who moved to the Valley in 1957 after the death of her husband Maxwell, opened offices in Sun City in 1963 after a stint with the Navajo County Attorney's Office.

Mr. Haggerty described Mrs. Lewis' trial technique as "refreshing."

"She was exceptionally well-organized, following clear and direct lines of questioning and raising key issues on the record that would expedite an appeal," he recalled.

"She was not just a knight on a white horse," said Mr. Haggerty. "She knew how to get where she was going."

Her demeanor was forceful. Contrary to Arizona convention, she insisted on standing throughout the entire witness examination, recalled Mr. Haggerty.

She also knew her limits.

When the Gault case went up to the U.S. Supreme Court, Mrs. Lewis asked New York University constitutional law professor Norman Dawson for assistance.

"My mother seems to know what she doesn't know," Mr. Lewis said.

Mrs. Lewis' name appeared on the briefs, but Mr. Dawson argued the case.

Mr. Lewis related another example of his mother's tenacity.

A request for documents in a

medical malpractice case resulted in a five-foot-high stack, delivered two days before a scheduled deposition. Lawyers on the other side never expected Mrs. Lewis to get through the boxes. In fact, recalled Mr. Lewis, his mother "looked at every piece of paper," finding a wealth of pertinent information.

"Her strengths are her ability to

focus and her willingness to put in whatever amount of time for a client's interest," he said.

Mrs. Lewis, who worked hard to balance career and family, counseled lawyers starting out today to make time for both.

"We have to remember first and foremost that we are the progenitors and guardians of the next generation," she said. "There is nothing wrong with having a family first and then having your whole life for work. Even if you're anxious, you'll get on."

Family members, including her three sons, Frank, the Phoenix attorney; Peter, a Baltimore lawyer; and David, a cardiologist who practices in Sweden; will gather in Arizona to celebrate Mrs. Lewis' 90th birthday, June 25. She also is the grandmother of eight and great-grandmother of four.

Her greatest challenge now is keeping busy, she said. "Now that I've had to leave the practice, I'm having a hard time just sitting and contemplating my navel."

Sun Citian helped 'shape' notable students

Gen. Schwarzkopf, Haig among those taught by former West Point instructor

By LAURIE HURD-MOORE
Sun Cities Independent

Physical education expert Bill Lewis is proud of his role in shaping American history.

As a teacher for 33 years at the U.S. Military Academy, Mr. Lewis literally shaped the bodies and minds of future leaders.

Now retired and living in Sun City with his wife, Genevieve, Mr. Lewis humbly attributes his success at West Point to being "at the right place at right time."

His career brought him in touch with a number of cadets who would later go on to become famous and influential figures in the nation's

history.

West Point was established in 1802 by an act of Congress. It is located on the west bank of the Hudson River, approximately 50 miles north of New York City.

Today, candidates to West Point — both male and female — must be United States citizens, at least 17 years of age but not yet 22 years of age, and able to meet academic, medical and physical aptitude requirements.

As the instructor in the required physical education program, Mr. Lewis helped train a vast number of cadets, including some who would go on to careers in space, sports, politics and the military.

His list of students reads like a "Who's who" list of 20th century heroes:

- Astronauts Ed "Buzz" Aldrin, Frank Borman, Mike Collins, Dave Scott, Al Worden and Ed White,

See INSTRUCTOR, Page 11

OVER

who was the first man to walk in space;

- Heisman Trophy winners Doc Blanchard, Glenn Davis and Pete Dawkins;

- Mike Krzyzewski, basketball coach at Duke University, the 1991 NCAA champions.

- Former secretary of state under Ronald Reagan, Gen. Alexander Haig.

Another one of Mr. Lewis' former students is presently enjoying tremendous popularity and is probably one of the most recognizable celebrities in the country today: Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf.

"First of all, Norman Schwarzkopf's father is a West Point graduate," explains the Sun Citian.

"His father graduated in 1917. He retired as a brigadier general and became head of the New Jersey State Police.

The victorious commander of the Desert Storm operation was a "brilliant" student says his former teacher.

"Norman Schwarzkopf graduated in 1956 in the top of the class. Brilliant. He tried to play football. He's a big moose, but he never made a letter. Yet he was a good performer," adds Mr. Lewis.

Gen. Schwarzkopf left West Point to earn a master's degree in mechanical engineering but eventually came back to West Point to teach for three years.

"That's when I got to know him, really know him."

Mr. Lewis says the general then

went into the service from 1962 to 1965 and had a series of assignments.

"And something that is very rarely done — they brought him back to West Point to teach again for another three years in the mechanics department," explains the former associate professor.

Mr. Lewis would also meet football coaching legend Vince Lombardi and former President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The Sun Citian's career with the military began when he volunteered for service, the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.

Previously, he had been coaching football and basketball at a high school in northern Maine.

Mr. Lewis joined the Army Air Corp., now the United States Air Force, and was first stationed at Maxwell Field in Montgomery, Ala.,

His first assignment was to work with Royal Air Force troops from Great Britain.

"Now I was always a phys-ed officer. I've never been in combat. I had some wonderful assignments and after about six months there I was able to have time to get a commission," explains the Sun Citian.

With V-J Day in 1945, Mr. Lewis says he was looking forward to returning to his coaching career.

"I had my heart set on the Rose Bowl. I dreamed of being a college coach. But a week after V-J Day, I got orders and they said you will report to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point without

delay. I was somewhere in Texas, at one of the air fields," he explains.

Mr. Lewis says he told the officials at West Point that he would prefer to stay in Texas and take a coaching job there.

"Their response was, 'Young man, you don't refuse an order, especially when it is signed by Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor.'

"He was one of the greatest heroes of World War II. I took a deep breath and said, 'Would you please give me two books of gas rationing stamps and I'll clear the post and be gone before supper.'"

He started as a physical education instructor 7:30 a.m. the next morning after his arrival at the academy.

Mr. Lewis taught everything from swimming, boxing, wrestling, gymnastics and hand combat but unarmed defense was his speciality.

Six months later, he was asked to become a permanent instructor at the academy.

"I resigned my commission and became a permanent academic. See, I still wore my uniform, but I was now academic rank instead of active duty rank. And I stayed there for 33 years," he says.

He retired an associate professor of the physical education department and was the recipient of

a West Point parade done in his honor upon retirement. The couple moved to a home in Sun City in 1978.

Mrs. Lewis, who also has a physical education background, describes West Point's physical education program as "absolutely supreme."

"I don't know where they have a better one (physical education program). All the boys and girls have to take the classes. They are motivated to be in good physical condition," she says.

"And it's not easy," adds Mrs. Lewis. "I think a lot of the fellows that Bill sees today remember how hard it was (in his class). It's always a laugh now, but when they were going to school it wasn't that funny."

DOERS PROFILE

Bill Lewis



- Vita:** Physical education professor at West Point Military Academy for years.
- Hometown:** West Point, N.Y.
- Self-portrait:** "I was in the right place at the right time."
- Inspiration:** "My father. He was an M.D. I grew up wanting to be just like him. I was pre-med at Duke (University), but I changed majors (to physical education) so I could spend more time on athletics."
- Greatest feat:** "My 33 years at West Point."
- Motto:** "Be happy."

West Point legacy rings loud, clear at Fourth regalia

By J.J. McCORMACK
Senior staff writer

As long as Bill Lewis calls Sun City home, freedom will ring on the Fourth of July. Lewis, a World War II veteran of the Army and a 33-year faculty member of West Point Military Academy, is the long-standing chairman of the "Ring that Bell" ceremony that takes place every July 4th at the Freedom Shrine at Bell Recreation Center. The shrine houses a nearly exact replica of the Liberty Bell.

The patriotic ceremony traditionally ends with emcee Lewis shouting, "Let that bell speak for freedom." With that cue, hundreds of Sun Cities residents line up to tug on the bell and hear the sound of freedom resonate over and over again in the crowded courtyard.

Lewis is quick to point out that he is not the originator of the Independence Day salute, but has worked hard to keep it going. He said many others, including the staff of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, make sure the ceremony occurs annually.

"There are many, many people who agree that this is a very important thing," he said.

Many of Lewis' other volunteer pursuits since moving to Sun City in 1978 have a patriotic ring to them.

Monday, June 17, 1996 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

Lewis is chairman of the West Point Club of the Sun Cities. The club boasts more than 100 West Point graduates, employees, their wives and widows, who get together at least five times a year to reminisce, root for the U.S. Army football team or celebrate the founding of West Point in 1802 — by Thomas Jefferson.

"What makes life worth living? Doing something that's important. Keeping the spirit of West Point is so important," Lewis said. "West Point is something we can all be proud of."

Lewis, who asserts that blue and gray blood runs through his veins, presents slide shows about West Point some 50 times a year to groups around the Northwest Valley.

Besides West Point, Lewis is passionate about physical fitness.

A college athlete and high school coach, he enlisted in the U.S. Army after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and was made a physical education officer. Before he could muster out of the Army after the war, Lewis was assigned to teach physical fitness at West Point and later resigned his commission to become a permanent faculty member. That assignment lasted 33 years.

For 10 years, Lewis taught aerobics at the Sun Bowl. He also helped organize an annual physical fitness festival in the Sun Cities.

Lewis' commitment to physical fitness continues today. He and his wife, who he affectionately refers to as "Sweet Genevieve," walk and swim nearly every day.

Genevieve Lewis is a former New York University professor and national health consultant. She is her husband's pride and joy.

"I thank the good Lord for my dear wife. We do everything together," Bill Lewis said.

The Lewises enjoy educational travel. Together they have participated in 26 Elderhostels in 10 countries.

"The day you don't want to learn, it's time to lay down and roll over and go to sleep. You've had it," Lewis said.

The couple make sure to schedule their annual trips so they're always in Sun City on the Fourth of July, Bill said.

Do you know a Doer? Send nominations to J.J. McCormack, P.O. Box 1779, Sun City, 85372, or call, 977-8351, Ext. 208.

Lewis, Bill

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Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Monday, May 16, 1988

Man too busy for awards

By DOUG DOLLEMORE and
CHRISTINE SELIGA
News-Sun staff

SURPRISE — When an 83-year-old El Mirage woman didn't pick up her food box at the Westside Food Bank in December Lloyd Liken decided to deliver it to her.

But when Liken went to the address the woman had listed as her home, he discovered she didn't live there.

But he didn't give up. He searched the neighborhood.

"Instead of just saying, 'I can't find this person,' Lloyd went driving around the neighborhood until he found her," says Debbi Dorman, a spokeswoman for the Westside Food Bank. "He asked and asked and asked until he found somebody who knew her."

When Liken found the woman, she was homebound and only had two pieces of lunch meat left to eat.

The woman only spoke Spanish, so Liken drove back to the food bank, found an interpreter and returned to the woman's home with more food. Through the interpreter, the woman told Liken she lived alone and had no relatives in the state.

"I don't know how some people get assistance," Liken says. "There are a lot of agencies out there, but boy if you don't speak English it can be difficult."

Liken befriended the elderly woman. He began to visit her daily. He repaired a black and white television. On Christmas Eve, he gave the woman the television and a decorated Christmas tree. The woman cried.

"That was one of the most emotional experiences I've ever had," Liken says.

The story is typical of Liken, a 77-year-old Sun Citian who often works more than 40 hours a week as a food bank volunteer.

"There are a lot of volunteers out here, but few put in the hours that I do," Liken says. "I work five days a week, eight or nine hours a day. Sometimes I work on Saturday and Sunday, too. I don't mind doing it. I like helping people."

Liken is different than most of the food bank's 150 other volunteers, says Louis Sandoval, the agency's warehouse manager.

"The average volunteer comes and just puts in his time, says, 'Well, I've done my good deed for the day,' and then leaves," Sandoval says.

"It comes from the heart, he's really sympathetic to those people who need help," Sand-

Impressions

oval says.

Because of his compassion and commitment, Liken was recently honored as Daily News-Sun Man of the Year and received a volunteer appreciation award at the Association of Arizona Food Banks fifth annual Hunger Conference in Tempe.

"Those were tremendous honors," Liken says of the awards. "But there are a lot of volunteers out here and in Arizona who deserve recognition, too."

And Liken's devotion to his work prevented him from acknowledging that recognition. He didn't go to Tempe to receive the appreciation award. Instead, he worked at the food bank.

"He felt that going on his bread run was more important than going down there," Dorman says.

"I just didn't have time to do it," Liken says. "There was work to be done and I wanted to do it."

Liken has been a busy volunteer since he moved to Sun City in 1963. He was a driver for the Red Cross, helped build the Southwest Indian School in Peoria and was a groundskeeper for the Sun City Saints softball team. He began working at the food bank about one year ago.

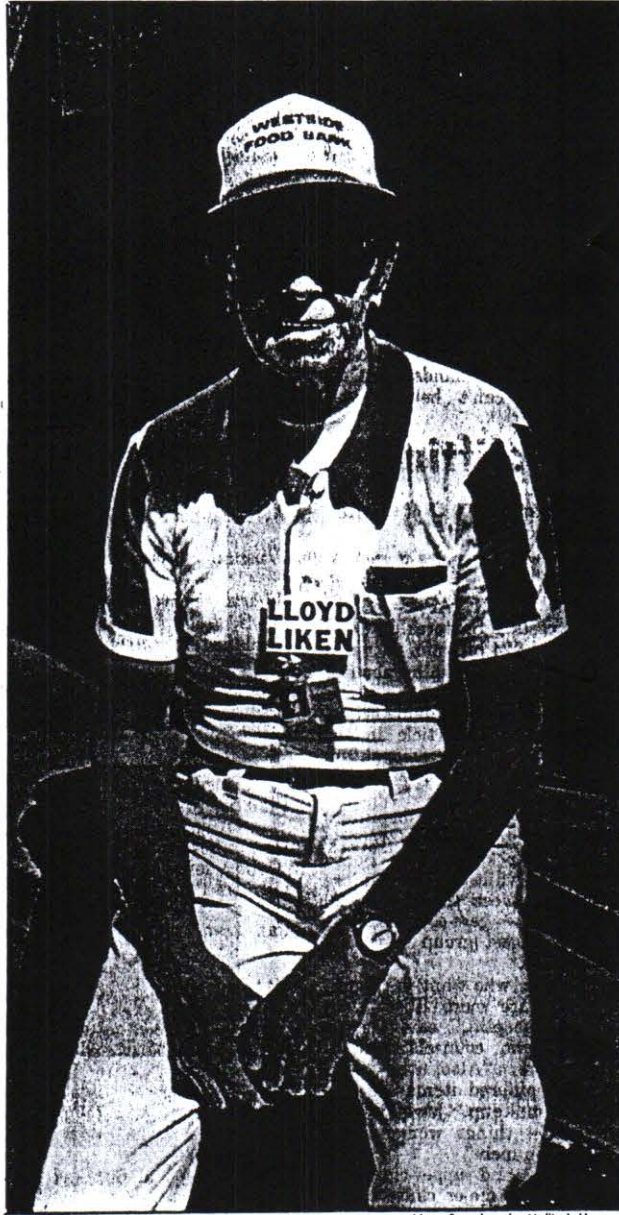
The bank provides food to the elderly and families whose income falls within 185 percent of the federal poverty level, Dorman says. In April, the bank distributed more than one million pounds of food to the poor in the West Valley.

Liken's workday usually begins at 6 a.m. when he checks in at the food bank. Then he makes a 13-mile drive to Avondale to pick food from a grocery store. Sometimes he fills his pickup truck with 1,400 pounds of groceries. When he returns to the food bank, he carefully weighs all the food so the grocery store can receive proper credit for its donation.

Later, he picks up food from groceries stores in Surprise and Sun City. Sometimes, he makes deliveries to a food bank in Glendale. He also delivers food to homebound recipients once a month.

In the afternoons, he packs food into boxes or helps Sandoval rotate stock so that the freshest goods are delivered first.

"There are so many different things he does for staff people at the food bank," Sandoval says. "I don't know what we'd do if



News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

FULLTIME VOLUNTEER — Sun Citian Lloyd Liken works more than 40 hours a week as a volunteer at the Westside Food Bank in Surprise. "Lloyd is a really special kind of person," says Debbi Dorman, food bank spokeswoman. "He's the kind of volunteer who will tackle any job."

we lost him."

"You don't have to tell Lloyd to do something," Dorman says. "He's very observant and sees things that need to be done. He makes really good suggestions that he often implements by his own work."

For example, Liken recently built two 5-foot-long, 3-foot-wide and 5-foot-high bread racks. The racks prevent donated bread from being crushed while in storage. The food bank probably

couldn't afford to buy the racks, Dorman says.

"It wasn't that big of a deal," Liken says. "I saw the need and I built them. It only took about a half of a day to do it."

"I feel good about what I do here," Liken says. "We're helping people out here who really need it. Even if they can't speak English they'll let you know how pleased they are. They'll say something to you and smile. That's a gratifying feeling."

LIKEN, Lloyd

LIP, BEN

Sun Valley Lodge recognizes senior leaders

STAFF REPORT

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

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

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

Freeman's recognition

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

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

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

hours per week."

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

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

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

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

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

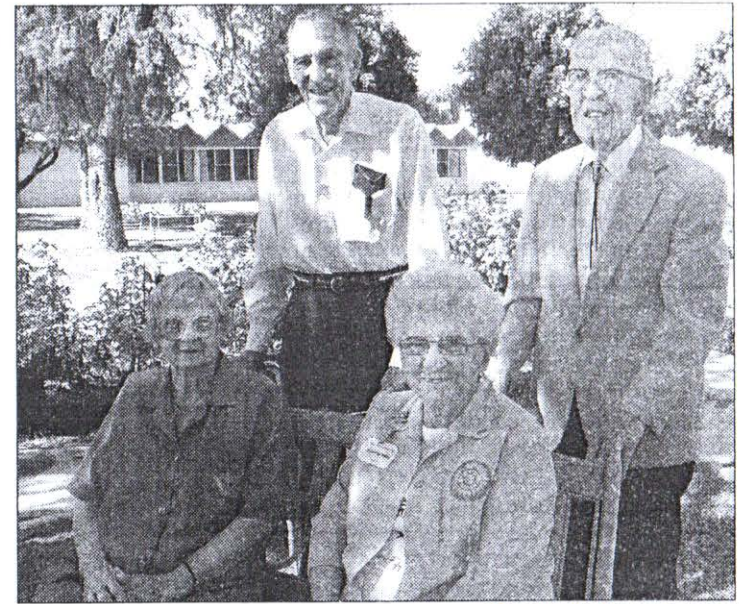
Emmerton's story has inspired others to maintain their health through physical fitness, Daniels stated.

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

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

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

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



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

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

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

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

Blind Foundation.

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

PERSONALITIES

VF

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Wednesday, Oct. 27, 1999

Chef dishes it up at Olive Branch

By MONICA ALONZO-DUNSMOOR
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Larry Long is an award-winning chef, but he doesn't work at a fancy country club or a ritzy hotel. His heart — and cooking utensils — are at the Olive Branch Senior Center.

"I worked at two country clubs for 20 years and the pay was better," Long said. "But there is more harmony here. The people are so nice and smiley. It's like having 150 grandparents."

One of his awards is from the Chef's Association of

Greater Phoenix. He was chosen as Chef of the Year from among the 160 members of the association. He also received the Alice B. Drought Award for his service at the senior center.

About 10 volunteers help in the kitchen every morning — chopping, dicing and slicing.

Long prepares dishes each day to serve the 150 or so participants at the senior center.

"They like what I do and I like to do it for them," he said. "It makes me feel good."

Jan Goodwin of Peoria is one of the volunteers who works

with Long.

"Larry is terrific to work with," she said. "He's very good-natured and he knows what he's doing. He's the best cook in the world."

Starting Nov. 1, Long and the volunteers will step up their work in the kitchen to provide extra meals for another a senior center program: Mobile Meals.

Olive Branch already has the Home Delivery Meal program which participants must qualify for financially. Under

See Hot dinner, A5



Monica Alonzo-Dunsmoor/Daily News-Sun

Larry Long, an award-winning chef at the Olive Branch Senior Center, looks through a van-load of donated food and chooses items to use for the day's meal.

Hot dinner delivery added to program

From A1

the new program, the focus will be more on an individual's physical limitations.

"What we want to do is provide a service to people who may not necessarily be eligible for Home Delivery Meal program," said Ivy Wixson, manager of the senior center. "Our

intention is to provide quality meals to homebound and shut-in people who can't cook for themselves."

The new program will provide a hot lunch and a sack dinner for \$7. It will be coordinated to work in conjunction with other meal delivery programs, like Meals on Wheels.

"If people call we will refer

them to Meals on Wheels, if they can't help them (because they don't qualify) then we will," Wixson said. "If people have a financial need there are other programs. But there are people out there who don't qualify for other programs, but fall somewhere in the middle."

Although the delivery boundaries haven't been set,

the coverage areas are Sun City and Youngtown, Wixson said.

"We've been thinking about doing this for a long time, but we needed volunteers and vehicles and ... we finally got them," she said.

For information about participating in the Mobile Meals program, call the senior center at (623) 974-6797.

Sun City woman one of first in Army

By THELMA HEATWOLE

SUN CITY — Mary Warton Long believes she was the first enlisted woman in the U.S. Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. (WAACS).

This was on May 18, 1942, four months after Congress established the WAACS. The name later was changed to Women's Army Corps. (WAC).

An enlistment blank for male soldiers was improvised for her acceptance.

There was no immediate place to send her, so she started her Army career with a two-month furlough.

"And," said Miss Long, who lives here at 10322 Kingswood Circle, "I went in the WAACS without a physical. They accepted me on my exit examination from the Royal Canadian Air Force."

Miss Long had joined the Royal Canadian Air Force in October, 1941. When her own country became engulfed in World War II, she was discharged to go into the WAACS. She was then 31.

Her enlistment papers and early newspaper stories about her career are among her treasured souvenirs.

Miss Long was a corrections officer in the House of Detention for Women in Greenwich Village in New York when war started in Europe. In spare time, she worked for such causes as "Bundles for Britain" and "Forward France," all the time yearning for more that she could do for the war effort.

This wish prompted her to apply for entrance in the CAF. She drove to Ottawa to see if she could hurry up the process. In her impatience for acceptance, she wrote a letter to the editor of the newspaper there.

That triggered action, she said, that led to her acceptance. She worked for the CAF at a training school for pilots at Hagersville, Ontario.

Sometime after Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, she learned that Americans serving with the RCAF could apply for transfer to serve under their own flag. On Friday, May 14, 1942, Congress established the WAACS.



Then and now; Mary Long, left, the day she became a WAAC officer in 1942; right, she retires at Sun City.

The following Monday, Miss Long was the only woman standing in a long line of men when a U.S. recruiting office on a train pulled into Toronto.

"Brig. Gen. Guy V. Henry, who was in charge, had never seen a woman soldier before," Miss Long recalled. "I gave a brisk salute and he was impressed. He was unaware, however, that Congress had established the WAACS until I told him. He called Washington, D.C. and checked. The next day I was a junior leader, the equivalent to a corporal in the WAACS."

Miss Long said that Oveta Culp Hobby was sworn in the same day or the day before as director of the WAACS.

After her initial furlough, Miss Long reported in her Canadian sergeant's uniform to The Ft. Des Moines, Iowa,

WAAC training center. She attended officer's training, became a captain and served during the war in England and France. In England, she was in command of a WAAC detachment, serving under Gen. Curtis LeMay.

Discussing the changes in uniform over the years, Miss Long recalled that at first women's underwear was issued by the government. Once a minor uproar occurred when a shipment of brassieres turned up missing.

"Finally," she said, "the dozens and dozens of garments were found in a mess hall warehouse. They had been mistakenly placed there probably because the outside of the boxes were marked 'A, B and C cups'."

Miss Long was separated from active duty in 1945, but remained on reserve officer duty as a major with the WAC until October 1964.

Meanwhile, she attended the University of Chicago, re-

ceiving a business education degree. Afterwards, she served 17 years in Japan as a civilian employe with the U.S. Department of the Army. Her last service was at Camp Zama, 18 miles from Yokohama, where she was budget officer.

Miss Long said she had mixed thoughts on the women's lib movement.

"I think women have a right to seek equal recognition with men," she said. "But some of their methods defeat their purpose and antagonize people instead of winning them over."

She learned about Sun City through a magazine and visited here on vacation from Japan in 1970.

"I immediately fell in love with Arizona," she said.

*H3. Republic
Jan 24, 1972*

LONG, MARY W.

Sun Citian helped plan ceremonies for 3 presidents

By HELEN ALLEN
Staff Writer

Although the pomp and ceremony of a presidential inauguration takes place a day late this year, Ronald Reagan will still begin his second term Jan. 20.

Reagan will be sworn in as usual, at noon Sunday, said Hildreth Sharp Ludewig, who helped arrange four presidential inaugurations. That's when his first term comes to an end.

But the swearing-in is expected to be a quiet, simple affair, she explained, as Jan. 20th falls on a Sunday this year. Because it is a Sunday, the whoop-la normally accompanying the event gets postponed a day.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, she noted, faced a similar situation when he began his second term.

Protocol, however, allows the president to be sworn-in again with all the traditional trappings Monday, said the former executive secretary of the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies, who handled the inaugurations of John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

The Sun City resident also served as Democratic advisor for the two Richard Nixon events.

"MY FUNCTION," she explained, "was the actual swearing-in on Capitol Hill and setting up the official luncheons." The parade and various gala events were handled by others.

Her regular job on Capitol Hill was that of assistant chief clerk for the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration. That post also gave her an opportunity to meet top government officials, three First Ladies and the wives of three vice presidents.

Mrs. Ludewig said she planned and coordinated numerous Senate functions such as luncheons, receptions, breakfasts, coffees and teas.

HER POST ALSO called for her to assist the wives of Vice Presidents Nixon, Johnson and Spiro Agnew, who as presidents of the Senate Ladies Club, honored the First Ladies at an annual luncheon. Those honored during her tenure were Mamie Eisenhower, Jacqueline Kennedy, Lady Bird Johnson and Patricia Nixon.

Mrs. Eisenhower was described as a "very amusing" person, "so delightful." Her favorite, however, was Mrs. Nixon—"She was tops as First Lady, always so gracious."

Regarding the inauguration, Mrs. Ludewig said most of the program is set up according to tradition. Tradition also dictates who is invited to sit on the presidential platform for the swearing-in ceremony.

AMONG THOSE invited are families or close friends of the president and vice president-elect, former presidents and vice presidents, congressional leaders and members of the Joint Congressional Committee.

Her duties for the Kennedy and Johnson inaugurations, Mrs. Ludewig said, included making sure the stands were erected, arranging for the official filming of the ceremony as well as the printing of programs and tickets, arranging for a military escort of the president-elect, meeting with news media to assist in its coverage of the event, and meeting with the staff of the president-elect and vice president-elect.

Sessions with the liaison staff, she mentioned, determined which clergy would participate, which family members or special friends were to be invited to the presidential stand, the entertainment to be provided during the ceremony, the menu the president-elect wanted served at the official luncheon and where it would be held, and who would administer the oath of office.

MRS. LUDEWIG said that while the oath is usually administered by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Johnson chose his old Texas friend, Sen. Sam Rayburn.

The official luncheon, she added, is normally held in the old Supreme Court chambers of the Capitol Building, but Reagan selected the Capitol's Statutory Hall for his first presidential affair.

The period between the November presidential election and the January inauguration, Mrs. Ludewig declared, is an extremely busy time in Washington. "I worked 15 hours a day."

AND AFTER everything is perfectly arranged, anything can happen—such as Washington, D.C., getting a 12-inch snow fall the evening before Kennedy's inauguration.

The Army had to be called out during the night, Mrs. Ludewig said, to clear off the parade route along Pennsylvania Avenue and the east side of the Capitol Building, where the inauguration was to be held. But, she added, "for people trying to get to the balls and galas later, it was awful."

The inaugural ceremony went off on schedule, but while Robert Frost was reading one of his poems, a gust of wind whipped-up, playing havoc with his papers. "Then, the podium began smoking," Mrs. Ludewig remarked.

AND JUST BEFORE Johnson's second, formal inauguration, daughter Lynda discovered a part of her dress hem hanging loose. Mrs. Ludewig got the hem stapled.

The Mormon Tabernacle Choir, invited to perform at the inauguration, barely made it, again because of snow, the former executive secretary recalled.

Two planes were sent to Salt Lake City to pick up the choir, she said, and one got back out, but the other was snowed in. Choir members not able to fly out had

* Sun Citian, C3

SHARP, HILDRETH
Ludewig

*Sun Citian helped with inaugurations

—From C1

to catch a train for Sacramento, Calif., where they were met by another plane.

The second half of the choir arrived in Washington at 6 o'clock on the morning of the inauguration.

Asked what might have been a major difference between the Kennedy and Johnson inaugurations, Mrs. Ludewig didn't need to think long before declaring: "Security. It was tremendous (at the Johnson ceremony) due to the Kennedy assassination."

Mrs. Ludewig also revealed that participants in the inauguration ceremonies

really didn't get cold sitting outdoors in the middle of winter, before glass partitions were added for security reasons.

"There were little heaters under the chairs and infra-red lighting in the ceiling," she explained.

Mrs. Ludewig smuggly recalled that her 32-year career with the federal government started without the help of Harry S. Truman whom she once approached about a job.

"I knew him from Missouri politics," she commented.

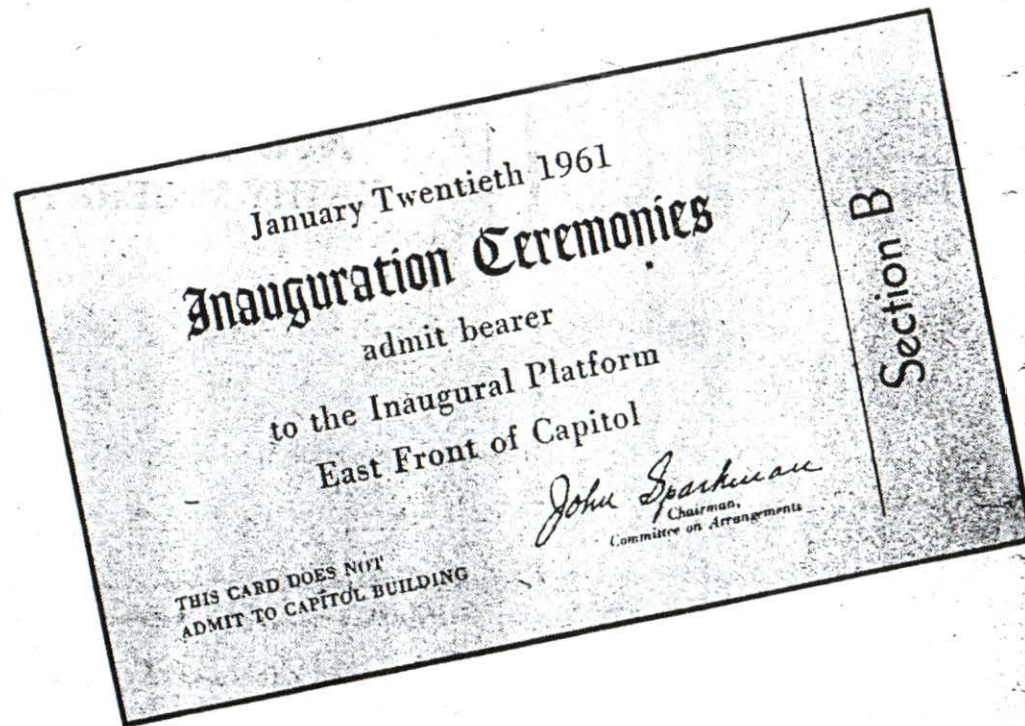
However, when she broached the subject with Truman in the 1940s, he told her:

"I'm not going to find you a job, but if you find one, I'll help you get it."

Mrs. Ludewig said she landed a job with the U.S. Department of Justice in Kansas City, Mo., in 1946, and "I got it on my own."

Four years later, she headed for Washington as a secretary and stenotype machine operator for the antitrust division. "I traveled throughout the country," she said, accompanying trial attorneys on their appearances before federal grand juries.

In 1962, she moved to the Hill.



Hildreth Sharp Ludewig with some of her mementos from past inaugurations. (News-Sun photo by Jim Painter)