

Daily News-Sun • Saturday, Feb. 24, and Sunday, Feb. 25, 2001

## Founder of Sun City PRIDES, Joe McIntyre dies

STAFF REPORT

Joseph Z. McIntyre, 86, the Sun City resident who in 1980 founded what became the PRIDES, died Thursday in a Glendale care center.

McIntyre always saw life as an opportunity to be of service to his fellow man, two of his granddaughters said Friday.

"He never spoke about how he had accomplished much," said his daughter, Audrey Ross, also a Sun Citian. "He took pride in the PRIDES as an organization, and downplayed what he did for it."

The first PRIDES meeting was at the old Valley National Bank Building on the northwest corner of Union Hills Drive and 99th Avenue in 1980, with just three people there.

It came about after McIntyre put an ad in the Daily News-Sun, asking, "Are you tired of our streets not being cleaned?"

He suggested there might be a volunteer way of handling that chore, and the PRIDES, an all-volunteer group now 300 strong, was the result.

From that first meeting, attended by Ann Foster, 88 and still a PRIDE, arose the group that regularly cleans public spaces in Sun City.

### From A1

behalf of the PRIDES, McIntyre was named Sun City Christian Man of the Year, a recipient of the Carnegie Good Human Relations Award, and the Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award. He was a member of the American Lutheran Church of Sun City.

McIntyre is survived by three daughters, Audrey Ross of Sun City, Ann Cooper of Youngtown, and Patricia of

Residents can see its members at work in the community just about any day of the week.

In April 1985, McIntyre was honored by President Reagan for his efforts. And those efforts spread to a PRIDES group in Sun City West.

McIntyre was born in Los Angeles attended Walsh Institute (of Business) in Detroit, became an accountant, and worked for many years at Himelhoch's before moving to Arizona in 1976. In addition to accepting a presidential award on

**See PRIDES founder, A5**

Tampa; and a son, John of Santa Theresa, N.M.; his siblings, Richard McIntyre and Marie Reifel of Detroit; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Visitation is 2 to 4 p.m. Monday in Sunland Mortuary, 15626 N. Del Webb Blvd. Service is 11 a.m. Tuesday at Sunland.

Memorials may be sent to the Sun City PRIDES, P.O. Box 1463, Sun City, Ariz., 85372.



**Joseph McIntyre founded the Sun City PRIDES in 1980.**



## Volunteer team fill life through selfless giving

By YOLANDA MUHAMMAD  
Sun Cities Independent

A frail and infirm woman, 82, was due to accept a delivery at noon.

When the driver knocked at the door and received no answer, he went straight to the nearest telephone.

Al MacCorkell took the call. First he tried to contact a neighbor and then he called Philadelphia to reach the woman's daughter. Still no answers.

So he was in his car in a flash to check on the woman. He was at first relieved, then a little irritated to find that she had gone shopping and forgotten the appointment.

But he smiled and reassured her that he would deliver the meal himself in a short while. "Just don't forget tomorrow, okay?" he said as firmly as he could, softened by the look of remorse in her eyes.

Al and Martha MacCorkell are the coordinators for the Meals On Wheels program in Sun City.

It is their job to organize the delivery of the 125 meals that go to the homes of house-bound residents seven days a week.

The MacCorkells will be among those honored at a ceremony being held Jan. 16, at Sundial Auditorium.

The event is part of the 30th Anniversary of Sun City, to thank the many volunteers who keep community services flowing smoothly.

Al and Martha have been with Meals On Wheels for eight years — four years as drivers and four years as coordinators.

Before the MacCorkells, it was a paid job, but when they took over as coordinators they felt they wanted to volunteer their services as the others do.

"A phone call starts it off," Martha MacCorkell says.

Mr. MacCorkell adds, "They call 974-9430 and say they want to get on Meals On Wheels."

It's a 24-hour line, seven days a week.

From there an interviewer contacts the inquiring party.

"We don't just deliver meals to anybody," Mr. MacCorkell says. "We are not a restaurant or a catering service."

"They have to be on a special diet, they have to be homebound and they have to be unable to prepare their own food, for medical reasons."

It is the job of the interviewer to make sure these criteria are met.

The meals are purchased from Boswell Hospital and Meals on Wheels charges the customer the same price that the hospital charges.

"If a person cannot finance the meal, we subsidize them," Mrs. MacCorkell says.

"We get no funds from state, county or federal government — it all comes from donations," Mr. MacCorkell says proudly.

All the money comes from local donations: civic clubs, corporations, churches and individuals, even wills.

Over 700 meals a week are ordered from the hospital. Cost is \$5.70 for two meals, one hot and one sack lunch.

At Christmas and Thanksgiving "little extras" are added to the meal by Boswell kitchens, which the customers appreciate.

Kiwanians donate fruit-cakes to give out as gifts at Christmas.

Clubs at Bell Recreation Center make favors to place

on the trays for all the holidays.

The MacCorkells find their work gratifying because Meals On Wheels provides a balanced diet and keeps many of their clients from having to go into a nursing home.

"One lady called the other day," Mrs. MacCorkell says, "to tell me that when she started Meals On Wheels she was malnourished and now the doctor says she is in very good shape."

The MacCorkells also drive for the Red Cross on Monday. "We don't play golf or cards," Mr. MacCorkell adds.

"We are second generation Sun Citians," Mrs. MacCorkell says.

They first came to visit Mr. MacCorkell's mother, who lived in Sun City, in 1962.

"We have been retired for over 20 years, since 1966," they say.

They were involved in manufacturing in California and had a vending business in Phoenix and Tucson.

Then they spent seven years on a boat sailing the coastal waters of the continental United States and Mexico.

"We got tired of that and we bought a motor home and travelled around the United States for seven more years," Mr. MacCorkell says.

"We are very fortunate. We have done it all. We have done as much as we wanted."

"People ask us why we never take a vacation. Well ... where is there left to go?"

"We retired from hard work," Mrs. MacCorkell says, laughing, but after enjoying 14 years of retirement, they went back to work volunteering their time to fellow Sun Citians.

MAC CORKELL AL-MARTHA

OVER-





**AL AND MARTHA MAC CORKELL**

"We enjoy doing this. Meals On Wheels is a great organization and everyone does a great job. We are happy to be a part of it," Mrs. MacCorkell says.

Motivated by the desire to help others, Al and Martha MacCorkell are dynamos; and the force of their giving hums as sweetly as the song of a bluebird.



SL-32 Sun., July 8, '79 The Arizona Republic

## Unregistered voter beware: The Macys are out to get you

By THELMA HEATWOLE

SUN CITY — Homer Macy, 79, realizes that for senior citizens there are more yesterdays than tomorrows.

"But, their todays are like everybody elses'," he says.

Macy, retired from Sears and Roebuck, and his wife, Myrtle, make their todays count. They could scarcely be busier in their volunteer work.

For openers, they serve as deputy registrars. Since 1971, they have registered 12,134 persons to vote.

Also, they are both Republican precinct committee members and inspectors of Recreation Centers of Sun City. In 1978, they enabled 121 persons to cast absentee ballots — some in the Macy home, others in nursing homes.

Macy is vice chairman of the county Republican Party, helps with registration in Sun City West, provides election board members — Democrats and Republicans — and negotiates for polling places in Sun City.

"The senior citizen has lived long enough to know that whatever is good for America is good for them," Macy said.

Macy and his wife say the fringe benefit of their volunteer work is talking with people.

"Besides, it's a civic duty. Somebody has to register voters," Macy said.

Mrs. Macy shares her husband's enthusiasm.

"It is good for people our ages to serve in church, political and community activities," she said. "We meet so many nice people and working with the party is one way to get acquainted with candidates and elected officials."

The Macys set up their card table in the Thunderbird Bank lobby on Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On request, they go to homes — and farther.

"Three half-days a week I go out in my golf cart and ring doorbells and ask people if they are registered," he said. He may have to curtail this work as the summer heat increases.

"According to the Republican Party's master file, ZIP code 85351 band doesn't know how old she is. She number of individual contributions to the Republican Party nationally," Macy said.

There have been incidents along the way.

"One day a woman came to register. When it came to indicating her age in the affidavit she said her husband did not know how old she is. She left without registering," Macy recalled.

In a highlight since coming to Sun City, Macy was a delegate to the National Republican Party convention in 1976.

"We really never lived until we came to Sun City. I've had a ball working for the Republican Party," he said.

OVER

MACY, HOMER &amp; MYRTLE





Republic photo

Mertle and Homer Muey prepare to register another voter.



NEWS-SUN  
Sun City, Arizona  
April 20, 1967

## Science Education Recognition Awarded To Mrs. Maddux

Mrs. Grace Curry Maddux, 12023 Pebble Beach Dr., was recently honored as recipient of the 54th Science Education Recognition Award from the National Association for Research in Science Teaching, according to Science Education magazine published at the University of Tampa, Tampa, Fla.

Mrs. Maddux was formerly science supervisor of the Cleveland (Ohio) Public Schools.

The Cleveland Public Schools elementary science program, developed primarily under her direction and during her classroom teaching, attained recognition as one of the finest elementary science programs in the United States.

"Mrs. Grace Curry Maddux ranked over a long period of years as one of America's most noted science supervisors in a large city school system," wrote Clarence M. Pruitt, editor of Science Education, in the February issue of his magazine.

"Many youngsters who have had Mrs. Maddux as their grade school teacher have gone on through high school and college to become noted professional workers, scientists, and engineers in their adult lives, not to say the many hundreds more Cleveland elementary pupils who were influenced by the fine Cleveland elementary science program."

Mrs. Maddux was supervisor of science for the Cleveland Board of Education from 1947 until 1962. During the summer of 1958 she was co-director of a course for science teachers at Western Reserve University Cleveland.

She is a member of the National Education Association, Ohio Education Association, Cleveland Education Association, National Science Teachers

Association, National Audubon Society, Central Association of Science and Mathematics Teachers, American Nature Study Association, Cleveland Natural Science Club, Council for Elementary Science International, National Association for Research in Science Teaching, and Delta Kappa Gamma, national honorary society.

Both Mrs. Maddux and her husband, H. Bruce Maddux, are currently interested in photography. He was power supervisor of the Cleveland Union Terminal until his retirement.

She is active in United Church work and gives talks before local civic groups and educational groups, including nearby school systems.



MRS. GRACE MADDUX . . .

. . . receives honor  
(News-Sun Staff Photo)



# A very exclusive organization

## Order of the Purple Heart chapter welcomes combat-wounded vets

By GREG ZEMEIDA  
Staff writer

It was November 1944, and Mike Mahoney had just crossed a river into German-held territory with the rest of his squadron.

Suddenly, gunfire erupts and Mahoney is struck in the right arm and chest. He falls to the ground while bullets blaze back and forth around him. He waits patiently for a medic's attention as his life slowly begins to drain out of him.

But help wasn't soon coming. Because of the fighting, medical personnel couldn't cross the river to reach him.

Mahoney spent 24 hours on the cold, snow-covered battlefield before help finally arrived. The chilly November air forced his blood to congeal during his wait, perhaps the only thing that saved his life.

Mahoney did contract trench foot during his ordeal, but knows the outcome could have been much worse.

"Accepting trench foot for your life is an even trade, to say the least," he said.

Mahoney is one of a "select" few who have been wounded in combat and survived. For his sacrifice to his country, he was awarded the Purple Heart.

Now Mahoney is looking for others in the area who have made the same sacrifice. He recently started a new Military Order of the Purple Heart chapter, the first ever based in the Sun Cities area.

So far, he has found 60 local combat-wounded veterans to join the chapter. Mahoney knows there are more out there and hopes they will contact him.

He said he was asked to serve as commander of the new chapter by Bill Harper, state commander of the order. Mahoney said local residents belonged to other chapters around the Valley, but had to drive to Glendale or farther for meetings. His new chapter meets in the Sun Cities, which is convenient for everyone, he said.

Harper said the Sun Cities chapter is the 10th to be started in the state. The Arizona chapters have a combined membership of about 750. Nationally, nearly 40,000 veterans belong to the Order.

He said the first Purple Heart was awarded by then-General George Washington in 1782. Since then, more than 900,000 veterans have received the medal.

Harper said the order is a relatively small group compared to

► See Order seeks, A5



Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Mike Mahoney displays his World War II medals, including the Purple Heart in the upper right. He recently started a new chapter of Military Order of the Purple Heart, the first ever based in the Sun Cities area.

on or delivery questions, call 977-8347.

## Order seeks funds for state memorial

■ From A1

other veterans organizations. He said that is because there isn't as big a push for membership and the simple fact that it is harder to become a member.

"It's the only organization that the medal is awarded to you by the enemy," said Harper, who received his Purple Heart after being hit with shrapnel during a bombing run over Japan.

The organization acts as a support group to its members, helping those in hospitals and other care centers. Members also provide numerous hours

of community service around their chapter locations.

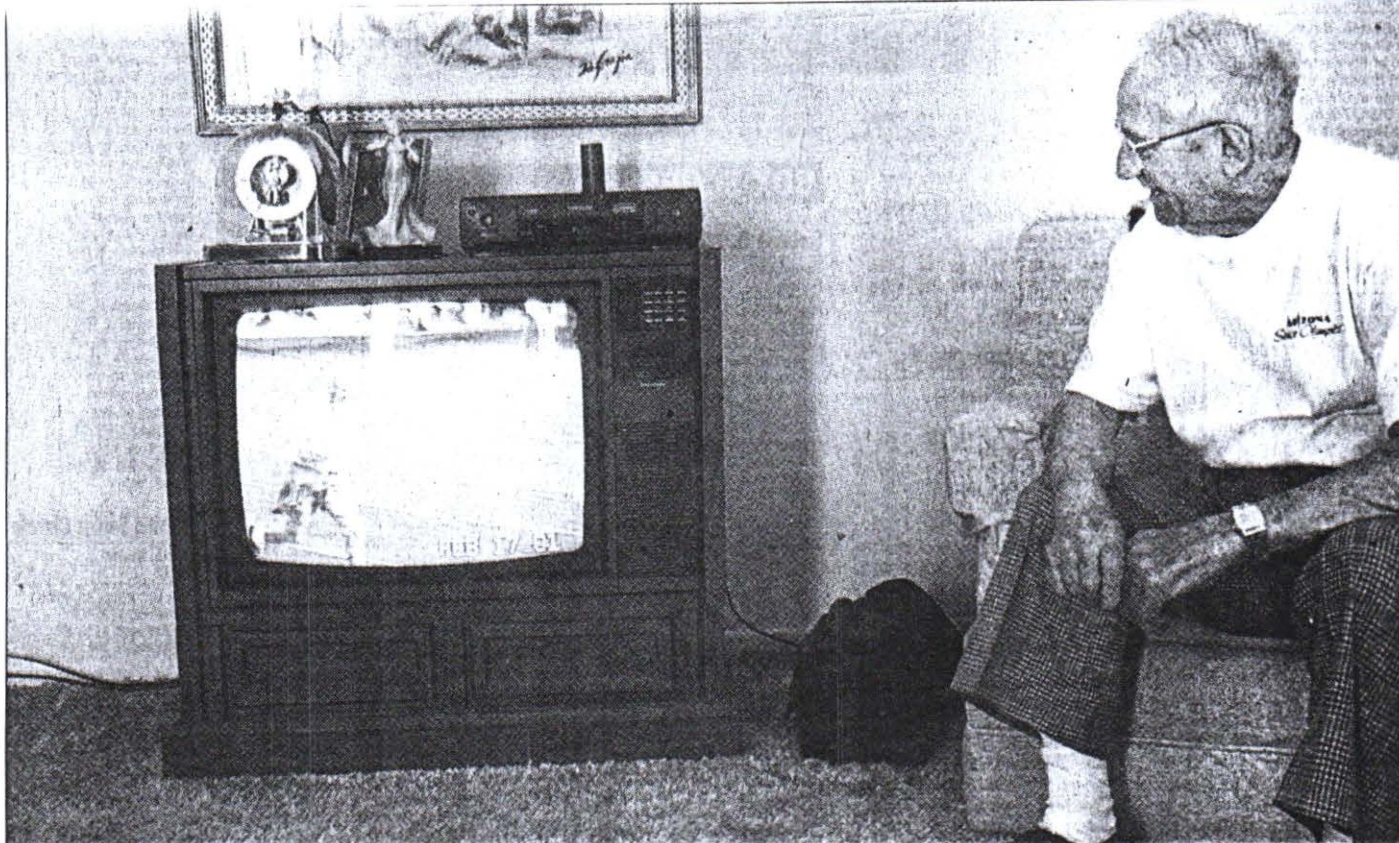
Currently, the state chapters are trying to raise enough funds to create a combat-wounded veterans memorial to be placed in front of the state Capitol.

All combat-wounded veterans of all wars are welcome to join the organization. All former prisoners of war hurt while in captivity from World War II to Korea are also eligible.

For information or to donate to the memorial, contact Harper at 895-0676 or Mahoney at 584-3384.

Mahoney, Mike





MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Carl Mancuso of Sun City watches a video of himself crossing the finish line in the 50-meter run at the Arizona Senior Olympics. Mancuso won three events in the 90 to 94 division.

# GOLDEN OLDIE

Monday, Feb. 26, 2001

## Nonagenarian has run of success

**RICH BOLAS**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Carl Mancuso lives life in the fast lane, even at age 90.

The Sun Citian won three events at the Arizona Senior Olympics, sprinting for gold in the 50- and 100 meters as well as capturing the running long jump.

### ARIZONA SENIOR OLYMPICS

"I used to run really well when I was back in high school and I wanted to see if I had a little left," Mancuso said. "That's all I had — a little."

As a high school athlete in East Rochester, N.Y., Mancuso spent countless days on the running track. He held the school mark of 19 feet in the broad jump and also participated in the pole vault and shot put.

"Back when I was a kid you had to have a bicycle to get around or you ran or walked," said Mancuso, who

worked for Kodak in Rochester. "Running was something all the kids did."

Mancuso has lived in Sun City for 25 years and still maintains an active lifestyle. He does his own yardwork and painted his house last year.

"It had to be done, so I did it," Mancuso said. "I take it a day at a time. I feel good and I don't take any medicine for anything although I do take some vitamins."

Mancuso participated in an Arizona Senior Olympics warm-up event in October before deciding to enter the official games.

After the October trials, I decided I better get in better shape," Mancuso said. "I did aerobics three times a week and went to the track to get in a little better shape."

Mancuso and other senior athletes met in Sun Angel Stadium on the campus of Arizona State University Feb. 17.

The 90-year-old Mancuso even carried the Sun City sign during the parade of athletes prior to the start of

the games.

"The sign was just lying there so I went over to pick it up," Mancuso said.

"With his nephew manning the video recorder and his brother and friends in the stands, Mancuso posted wins in the 50 and 100 last Saturday. He won the 50 in 11.9 seconds and the 100 in 27.4.

Mancuso returned the next day and completed the trifecta with a victory in the long jump. Battling a pulled leg muscle, Mancuso mustered enough strength for a 5-foot effort. It proved good enough for a victory by the narrowest of margins — a quarter of an inch over the same opponent he'd bested in the running events the previous day.

Mobbed by friends and family after the win, Mancuso eschewed a big victory celebration last weekend.

"We went out to dinner and then I came home and went to bed early," Mancuso said. "I had to recuperate."



# Man wrote life of Riley

**READING:** Poems from Indianan's work read aloud

**BRUCE ELLISON**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The first edition of Sun Citian Donald Manlove's book about Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley rolled off the presses in 1982.

Since then, Indiana University Press has sold more the 30,000 copies of the book, "The Best of James Whitcomb Riley," in both paper and hardbound editions.

"That puts it among the top five books we've ever published" and is a very high number of copies in print for a scholarly book, said Marilyn Breiter, marketing manager at Indiana University Press.

Manlove joined two other Sun City authors at the Bell Library Wednesday to show why his work is so successful, reading aloud several familiar poems in a flat Midwestern twang that added to their appeal.

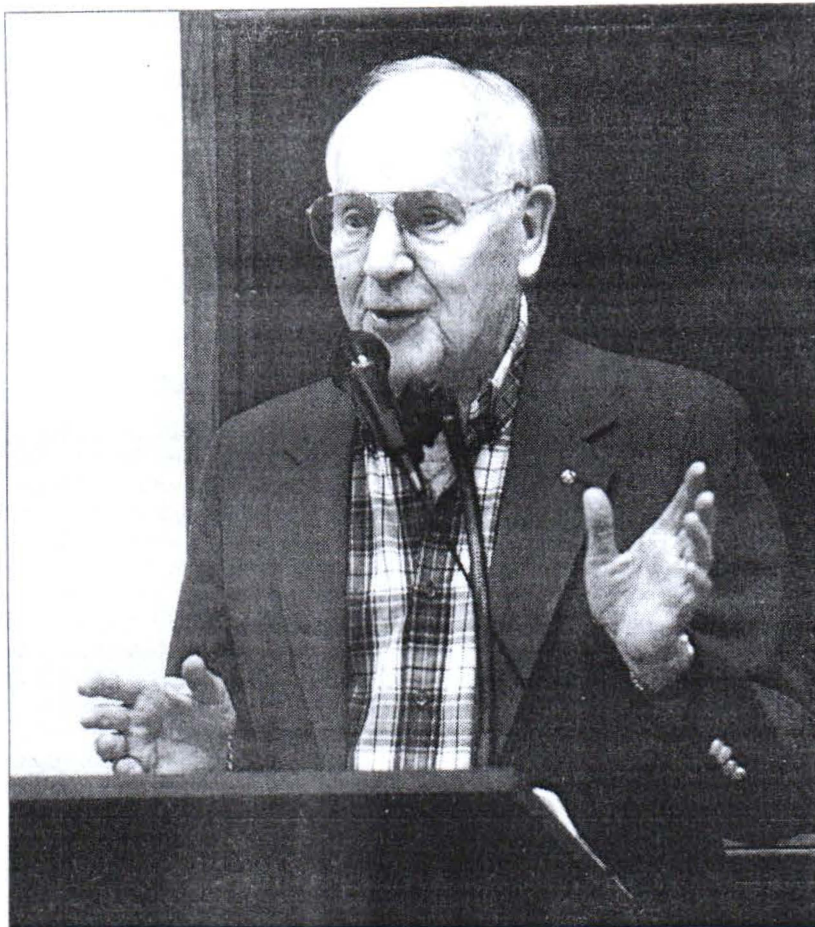
Appearing with him were Joseph T. Keenan, whose book "The Constitution of the United States," is in its new third edition, and Howard Matthias, whose book "The Korean War: Reflections of a Young Combat Platoon Leader," endured a 25-year gestation period before the story about the war in which he served as a U.S. Marine emerged.

Manlove noted Riley was a hugely popular poet at the turn of the 20th century, "and one of the few in his time who became rich and famous by writing poetry."

Most poets, he said, did the work as an avocation and held other full-time jobs.

In all, Riley wrote 144 volumes, and more than a thousand published titled works. He never went to college, but used the English language well, said Manlove, a retired professor at IU.

Riley is the subject of a new



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Don Manlove speaks at a Sun City Library luncheon about a book of poetry by James Whitcomb Riley, which Manlove edited.

biography, "James Whitcomb Riley, a Life," by Elizabeth Van Allen, just recently published by Indiana University Press.

While the scholarly discussion of the poet was interesting, audience response was greatest when Manlove read — or rather, recited, since he used no text — three of Riley's poems, "Little Orphan Annie," "When the Frost is on the Pumpkin" and "The Tree Toad."

Many in the audience of about 40 at the library monthly author luncheon silently mouthed the words as Manlove uttered them.

Keenan said his book on the Constitution took a complex document and made it simple and easy to follow and understand, without legal jargon.

He called the Constitution "a

living, viable, continuous blueprint for the government's way of life" and suggested that many commentators on it today fail to read its simple words before telling the world what the authors meant.

Matthias, known for his local work with the Sun City Home Owners Association, said that he "had no desire to become a Marine" after college, "but there was a war on, and I had a choice, be drafted or join up, so I joined."

Recently married, he was sent to lead a platoon in Korea soon after with the knowledge that "the life expectancy of a Marine platoon leader is one out of three."

All three books are available in the Sun City Library, said librarian Chuck Youngman.



# Medals long overdue

**WORTH THE WAIT:**  
Sun City resident  
receives recognition  
for his service in  
World War II

MONICA ALONZO-DUNSMOOR  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The thrill of returning home from World War II and from freezing nights in combat far outweighed any thoughts Bert W. March had of collecting medals he was due.

On the morning of June 8, 1945, with crutches tucked under his arms and discharge papers in his hand, the wounded March got off an airplane in Great Falls, Mo., and rejoined his family after 15 months in the service.

"It was the greatest day of my life," he said. "I walked to my beautiful family."

A Purple Heart was among the medals the then 30-year-old March never received.

That all changed Friday in the Phoenix office of U.S. Sen. Jon Kyl when, in a small ceremony, Kyl presented March a Purple Heart, and medals for Good Conduct, being in the European/African/Middle Eastern Campaign, World War II Victory and a Honorable Service Lapel — all 56 years after the fact.

Kyl presented the medals to March "on behalf of a grateful nation."

He said the "pomp and circumstance (of the ceremony) has a purpose. It's to remind us of the service, dedication and sacrifice of those called into service."

"It's important ... because it's something we can do to recognize people's sacrifice. You want to preserve the memory of that time," Kyl said. "We hope there is no war in the future, but if that time comes, we'll need people with courage. It's important to continue the courage between generations, and tell it to our children and grandchildren. It gives them a sense of pride. Some



LISA GOETTSCHE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Bert W. March receives his long-awaited Purple Heart medal from U.S. Sen. John Kyl Friday morning.

day, we may need to call on that."

March said it was his children and grandchildren who prompted him to, after more than five decades, collect his medals.

He wrote a letter in January to Department of Veterans Affairs in hopes of collecting the medals, but it went unanswered. That's when he visited Nancy Gilliam, a constituent service representative in Kyl's office.

During one of her monthly visits to the Sun City Home Owners Association, the two spoke, and with some help from Sandy Ledy, another constituent representative in Kyl's office, arrangements were made for the backlogged medals to be sent from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Gilliam said March was "so deserving."

"This is one of the nice things I get to do," she said.

March admired the Purple Heart in its case after it was presented to him.

He was awarded the Purple Heart for being wounded in combat — once, when a bullet ripped through his flesh at the bottom of his nose, and, a second time when a bullet grazed the top of his head, causing him to fall 12



LISA GOETTSCHE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Bert W. March and his wife, Irene, said their grandchildren were the reason they decided to collect his medals.

feet.

Larry Brown, state commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and Byron Norrell, who is also part of the organization, congratulated the newly decorated veteran.

"Thank you for serving our country," Brown said. "Welcome to our club, and welcome home."



THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

WEDNESDAY

October 30, 2002

# Prize Patrol visits SC woman

By Stephanie A. Miller  
The Arizona Republic

Those who might think that the Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes Prize Patrol won't ever show up at their door might want to ask Doris Maron.

The Sun City resident won \$12,000 last week from the sweepstakes.

"I said I've been waiting 10 years for this, and I couldn't believe it," Maron said after receiving the prize from Clearing House representatives.

Maron, who has been a subscriber since 1994, was pre-

sented with a \$10,000 check. She will receive an additional \$2,000 for presenting a sweepstakes voucher to Prize Patrol representatives.

Since it started in 1967, Publishers Clearing House has given more than \$186 million in prizes, company representatives said.

But Maron almost missed the visit.

The 74-year-old was not available when the Prize Patrol first visited her home.

Maron said she had some reservations about leaving, and almost left a note for the representatives.

"I just had this funny feel-

ing that they would come by," she said.

Maron returned home and was filling out her next subscription card, but soon left for a bridge game.

The representatives tried to contact her a second time, but it was neighbor Cathy Crowle who found Maron and brought her the good news.

"I just said, 'Doris,' and she just looked at me and said, 'Is it Publishers?' and I said 'Yes!'" Crowle said, grinning.

Maron rushed home and was elated to receive her winnings.

Maron subscribes to five magazines from the company.



Sarah Locke/The Arizona Republic

Sun City resident Doris Maron, 74, holds a \$10,000 check from Publishers Clearing House Sweepstakes.



## Charlie and May Martins look to 64th

By Vera Petrovic  
Staff Writer

He likes her as well as he ever did. She has not seen anyone yet she would want to trade him for.

Charlie and May Martens of Sun Valley Lodge have anticipated many good years together. They will soon have their 64th wedding anniversary.

"Every couple is bound to have problems. We had our ups and downs, just like everybody else, but we've never thought about a divorce," May said.

When she married Charlie, one of her bridesmaids told her to be ready to "bear and forebear" if she wants to have a happy marriage.

"The problem with some couples nowadays is that they won't forgive or forget. That is one of the reasons so many of them get divorced," May pointed out.

In Charlie's opinion, another reason why couples do not get along is the women's emancipation.

"A man used to be the boss in our times. Modern women get educated and are able to take care of themselves. They no longer depend on men," he explained.

May said Charlie was always pretty easy to get along with. If they were about to have an argument over something, he would not argue, "he'd just pick up his hat and leave."

They knew each other since May was 15. Charlie was a rancher in Wyoming and he used to visit May at her parents' ranch in the neighborhood. Then, May's family moved to Minnesota. They were married many years later, when Charlie was 29 and May turned 25.

"We got married in Dec. 1916," Charlie recalled. "It was 48 degrees below zero, but we didn't need electric blankets," he said laughing.

May clearly remembers how wonderful it was to live in "those days."

"Charlie built me a new house and furnished it completely before we married. He even taught me how to cook. We lived in a beautiful countryside," she said.

They worked very hard, though, but it was a good life in many ways. Even filled with hard work, those years in Wyoming were the happiest, they said.

Besides being a rancher for many years, Charlie ran the Ford garage, owned Wyoming Gas and Oil Company, and was elected mayor of Newcastle. He has also been a Mason for 68 years.

The Martens had a productive life together, but their biggest pride are their four children.

The Martens enjoy reminiscing. Charlie remembers events that happened in the 19th century.

"My grandfather went to the World's Fair in Omaha in 1899. When he came back he told us about all the wonderful things he had seen there. They had a buggy, he said, that could propel itself



Charlie and May Martens of Sun Valley Lodge, will soon have their 64th wedding anniversary.

on its own power. My father told him they had probably had a wire to pull it back and forth. No, it couldn't be, grandfather said, there were no wires. It could back up, turn around, go forward. It was going under its own power, I know it!"

That was the automobile, the first one to come to Nebraska.

The first car Charlie had was a second-hand, one-seater Model T.

"One day I was going to town and I decided to take kids along since they were small," May recalled.

She sent children out to wait in the car until she got ready.

Charlie had shown her how to drive and how to use the "foot feed," but he did not show her how to handle the accelerator.

While the children were waiting in the car, they turned all the buttons and played with all the levers. When May came out and started the car, it took off at high speed, because the kids moved accelerator to "fast." She did not know how to slow it down.

"We got to the highway pretty fast. Then, the car jumped both barrow pits and we blew out two tires," May said with laugh.

The Martens lived in Wyoming until 1962 when Charlie retired. They moved to Sun City and have lived here for 18 years.

Charlie was the first patient to be treated at Boswell Hospital when he had eye surgery.

Charlie, now 93 years old, does not want his 88-year old wife to take care of him all the time (he had a car accident some time ago and cannot move.)

"She's done so much for me. I want to go to the skilled nursing instead of troubling May, but she wouldn't let me do it. She wants to help me as long as she can," Charlie said.

MARTENS, CHARLIE & MAY



# League lends voter-education expertise

By CANDACE S. HUGHES  
Daily News-Sun staff  
SUN CITY — The revolutionary concept that voters should educate themselves before going to the polls was the force behind the founding in 1920 of the League of Women Voters.

That idea also is what has attracted 100 residents of the Sun Cities to the local chapter of the league. Included in those residents is Dorothy Martin, who joined the league more than 25 years ago.

Locally, Martin and other members are advocating easier methods of voter registration such as instant registration for a new resident upon applying for an Arizona driver's license.

Under "motor voter" registration procedures recommended by the league, eligible citizens may register to vote at motor-vehicle offices where the staff asks citizens if they would like to register.

In some cases, the driver's-license application includes voter registration.

Currently, Arizonans register to vote on a separate form when applying for a driver's license.

The league reports turnout increases in the 1990 elections in states with the "motor voter" laws, with the average turnout in Maine, Minnesota, Nevada, North Carolina and the District of Columbia at 46 percent, or 11 percent higher than turnout in the remaining states.

The estimated national turnout in the November 1990 elections was 35.6 percent.

Voter registration and education are two of the items that have brought the League of Women Voters to the attention of the public.



Daily News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**DEDICATED** — Dorothy Martin of Sun City West calls members of the Sun Cities League of Women Voters. Martin, who has registered voters in the past, has been a member of the voter-education group for 25 years.

Besides continuing its focus on education, the league has expanded to study other issues such as providing voter information and encouraging citizens to vote.

In the Sun Cities, the league has examined the issues of incorporation and water supplies, and organized candidate forums.

Also, observers are sent to the meetings of the Sun City Fire District Board of Directors, the Recreation

Centers of Sun City Board and the state Legislature.

On a national level, the league has sponsored televised presidential debates for 16 years. On a local level, the league organizes candidate forums where citizens may question candidates for the state Legislature and other offices.

Chapters also publish voter's guides offering impartial information on candidates. The organization does not

align itself with any political party and does not endorse candidates.

"Tell It to Washington," a publication of the national organization, is a guide packed with addresses, telephone numbers and other vital information to help voters make their voices heard in Congress and at federal agencies.

This year's annual meeting is an example of the league's interest in health care.

Dr. Leonard Kirschner, director of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, will speak at the group's annual meeting at 12:30 p.m. Thursday in the Lakes Club. Members also will elect new officers and decide on its program for the 1991-1992 year.

Martin is glad to see that voter education is starting earlier and participated in the kids voting project in November.

"I worked in Glendale and that was a great experience. I liked the way the kids came in purposefully and knew who and what they wanted to vote for. The schools have done a a good job in getting students interested and in talking about the issues and the candidates," Martin said.

This practice will translate to adults who are more likely to vote and to educate themselves before going to the polls, she said.

Although the name remains League of Women Voters, eight men are members of the Sun Cities group. "The men come to our meetings and say, 'This is the best meeting I go to,' and they join, totally surprising their mates," Martin said.

Bill Thompson, the league's treasurer, joined after his wife, Emlou, who is membership chairwoman, became active.

'I liked the way the kids came in purposefully and knew who and what they wanted to vote for. The schools have done a a good job in getting students interested and in talking about the issues and the candidates.'

Dorothy Martin  
League of Women Voters  
Sun Cities chapter

"I like the way they study the topics so thoroughly and then take a position. They don't take a position until they have examined all sides and that's the way I like to work," Thompson said.

Thompson served as the Sun Cities League of Women Voters delegate to the national organization's convention in Washington last November. "There were eight or nine male delegates and 1,200 women. I had a good time," he said.

One of Thompson's delegate votes was in favor of gun control or what now is known as the Brady bill.

Another male member is the Rev. Nathaniel Lauriat of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of the Sun Cities, who observes recreation-center board meetings.

"Our goal is to have active and concerned voters," Martin said.



# Statues honor fathers

## Sun City artist casts memories in bronze

By KIMBERLY HICKS  
Daily News-Sun staff

To Kathryn Ralph Martin, no scene is more nostalgic than a father and his child.

And for 10 years, the Sun City artist has celebrated the image of fatherhood with a series of bronze sculptures she calls "padonnas."

Her idea was born a decade ago, when she began sculpting lifelike figurines.

"I had just finished a small clay madonna when I thought, 'Why is it always *mother* and child?' " she said. "Why not fathers and children?"

Martin, 80, said she coined the term "padonnas" to contrast traditional madonnas, which typically depict mothers and their children.

Her carefully crafted, all-bronze sculptures stand 9-to-14 inches, and reflect what Martin calls "nostalgic, happy childhood."

Ironically, Martin never knew her own father, who died when she was 2 years old.

"It's sort of amazing. I didn't have any models for this. You couldn't get anybody to pose like this. ... I think I thought first of my husband. He used to read to the children before they went to bed," she said. "In a way, these are a tribute to him."

Martin and her husband, Sylvan, had two sons and one daughter. Sylvan died in 1987.

See Works sold, A5

OVER



Polle J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Sun City sculptor Kathryn Martin admires "Let's Play Ball," one of the bronze statuettes she created as a tribute to fatherhood. Martin specializes in sculptures that celebrate father-child activities.

MARTIN, KATHRYN



# Works sold in Sun City

—From A1

Each of Kathryn Martin's works is given a characteristic name; all are mounted on a rotating base made of walnut.

"Let's Play Ball" depicts a father teaching his son how to swing a baseball bat; "Riding High" captures the image of a father carrying his child on his shoulders.

Martin said her most popular work is "Bedtime," which shows a father reading a book to a child clutching a teddy bear. She has sold 22 "Bedtime" statuettes since she began marketing her work in 1984.

Her first sales were made at Tlaquepaque in Sedona; since then, Martin's works have been sold in galleries and shops in Surprise and Sun City, and in New Orleans, St. Louis and her hometown of Springfield, Ill.

Currently her work is on display in Carmel, Calif.

"Very few artists do this," she said, referring to her father theme. "People think it is unique. They especially like the expressions on the faces. Most (of the expressions) are happy. I think that's a carry-over from my portrait work."

Before she discovered sculpting, Martin painted oil and pastel portraits. Many — except those on display in her home and hanging in her garage — are now part of private collections across the country.

Martin has long had an affinity for art. She earned a bachelor's degree in art from the University of Illinois and worked as an art teacher in the public schools in Illinois and New Jersey.

Martin discovered sculpting 10 years ago, at the age of 70.

She started with clay, but

began experimenting with bronze a year later.

Now, Martin spends four to six months perfecting each of her works in an oil-based clay before having a rubber mold made and eventually having the statue bronzed.

For the past two years, Martin has been sharing her craft with others, offering a program that explains how each of her statuettes is made.

"People have no idea just what this entails," she said.

Martin is continually creating pieces, and finding ways to portray father-children activities. She has even created "Grandpadonna," featuring a grandfather rocking his grandchild.

"I just liked this idea, and I can think of so many things to do. It seems a lot more interesting than just a mother holding a baby."





Sam Martin is making up for lost time after taking a 30-year break from bowling. Martin rolled a perfect game in Bell Lanes on Aug. 30. His wife, Charlene, is bowling in the background.

## Perfect game turns SC bowler into hot commodity

RICH BOLAS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sam Martin has been getting a lot of phone calls.

Most come from bowlers trying to recruit the 63-year-old Sun Citian for the upcoming season.

"The phone has really been ringing off the hook," Martin said. "Even my barber asked me to join his league."

Martin has become a hot commodity since he rolled a 300 game on Aug. 15 in Bell Lanes.

"It didn't really sink in that I bowled a 300 until the next day," said Martin, a right-handed bowler who accomplished the feat on lanes

1 and 2 in the Sun City facility. "After I rolled seven or eight in row, I wasn't really nervous because I figured that I had my limit, that was all I was going to get."

Martin got more than he expected in becoming the second bowler to roll a perfect game in Bell Lanes this year. He's just the third bowler in the history of Bell Lanes to roll a 300 game.

Martin moved to Sun City last July and decided to resume bowling after a 30-year hiatus. His work as a union representative as well as other athletic pursuits kept him away from the sport until retirement.

"My wife and I decided to start bowling when we moved here," said Martin, who participated in the Kings and Queens League last winter. "She had never bowled before and I had never tried golf so we both decided to take up those sports."

With league bowling set to resume this month, the couple decided to practice on Aug. 15 in Bell Lanes.

Martin's first game provided no indication of what would transpire later in the afternoon.

"I think I had four splits in that first game and finished in the 120s," said Martin, who was experimenting with a 16-pound ball he brought

with him from Omaha, Neb.

"It was a hook ball, and I figured if I was ever going to control it, I might as well try it in practice," Martin said. "I'm the kind of bowler who rolls a lot of strikes, but I'm not too good at spares."

"Martin didn't need to worry about spares in the second game, rolling 12 consecutive strikes for a 300.

"I was more nervous than he was," said Charlene Martin, who was on hand to watch her husband's feat. "I was afraid to talk to him as he got closer to 300."

Now she has other concerns — like when the phone will stop ringing in their Sun City home.



JIM MATISE

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Thursday, July 16, 1998

# Disabled people find champion in Sun Citian

By DANE D'ANTUONO  
Staff writer

Jim Matisse was happy managing an upscale resort in Palm Springs, Calif., even if it meant commuting back and forth to his home in Tucson.

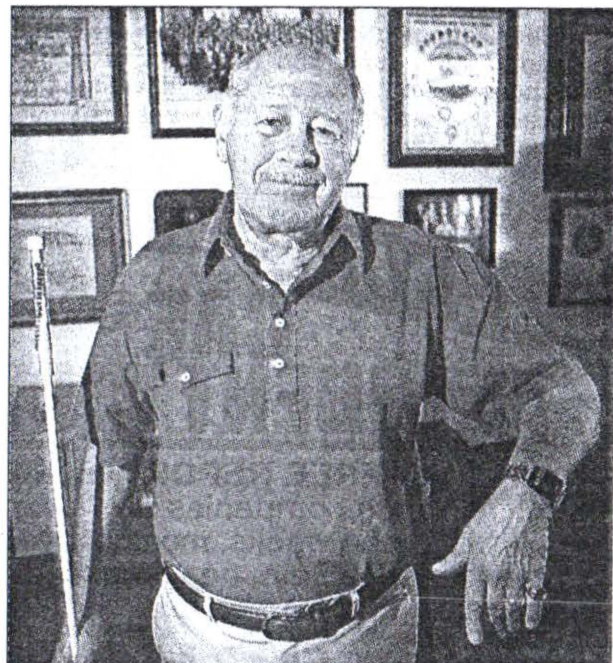
For more than 30 years, the now retired Sun Citian dedicated his life to realty and property management in several states including Texas, Arizona and California.

But in January 1990, a day after his 60th birthday, Matisse was given a birthday present by his boss in Palm Springs that he'll never forget.

It was a negative experience that ended up bearing good fruit, resulting in Matisse being honored by the Arizona governor's office last week in appreciation for his contributions improving services for disabled individuals.

Matisse recalls the life-changing event with clarity, and at times tones of a little anger can be heard in the drawl he acquired growing up in Tyler, Texas.

"I was informed that my services were no longer needed," Matisse said, adding, "I was told it was because I lost my vision and it just wouldn't work out.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Jim Matisse of Sun City was recognized for his service to the Governor's State Rehabilitation Council.

"Up until that time, I had never had anything but accolades and praises in my file."

Although Matisse still had some peripheral vision, he was declared legally blind by his doctor seven days earlier.

While he and his wife, Peggy, were dealing

► See Governor's council, A5

◀ From A1

with the emotional adjustments of Matisse's vision impairment, they also faced financial insecurities.

They had to use their savings to pay off debts, they didn't own a home and Matisse faced further employment discrimination when he returned to Tucson.

"I was given the common response by prospective employers saying, 'You are over-qualified,'" Matisse said.

During this time, mandates of the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibiting such discrimination had not taken effect. So after filing an unsuccessful suit against his employer and being turned down for unemployment be-

cause of his vision and age, the beleaguered man turned to the Veteran's Western Blind Rehabilitation Center conference in Palo Alto, Calif. for help.

He attended a three-month training session and learned how to sew buttons, clean and cook, use computers, typewriters and all sorts of other tools.

"His confidence increased greatly," Peggy Matisse said. That confidence slowly inspired him to becoming an advocate for people with disabilities through a handful of agencies.

Shortly after Matisse and his wife moved to Sun City, he was appointed to the newly formed Governor's State Rehabilitation Council.

The council is a citizen's advisory body appointed by state governors for three-year terms. Members have a strong role in shaping the Vocation Rehabilitation Program.

"The council's mission is to help improve the quality of life for Arizonans with disabilities by assisting them in obtaining satisfying employment," said Linda Lund-Wyatt, the state council's executive director.

Matisse served one full term and was reappointed to a second in October 1996, which he resigned to take a post on the board of the Sun City Recreation Centers Inc.

While working on the council he helped to develop a three-year plan and organizational structure that would help the state's vocation re-

habilitation program effectively assist its clients. He also participated in projects and attended public forums.

His wife Peggy describes the time he invested and volunteered each year in this way: "It took 50,000 miles and 10,000 gallons of gas to get him there."

For all that time selflessly given, the council decided to express its appreciation to former members serving one full term.

Matisse was recognized along with five other individuals in a reception on Sept. 24 at the Arizona Capitol.

Although he's not in the council anymore, he plans to keep on helping others like his old business card says "making dreams come true."



## SUN CITY DESIGNER

# His pen created beauty

By TOM BAUER  
Staff Writer

"I did that over there," said Wesley Matthews, pointing to a Spanish-style home south of Peoria Avenue.

"And that duplex there. And the French-type here; the salesmen thought that would never sell, but it sold like crazy."

What Matthews "did" was design those three houses and about 997 others in the Sun City area. He also did the Church of the Palms, the American Lutheran Church, Lakeview Center, the Sun Bowl, was an advisor for the plaza at 107th Avenue and Peoria, and was coordinating architect for Boswell Memorial Hospital.

"NOW THAT'S architecture," he said, pointing to the homes in Villa Del Sol. "Look at that detail."

And detail there is. On the Spanish style, the colonials, the French, and all the others that he and his nine-man staff designed from 1963 to 1970.

"We took special care to make sure that two of the same type house weren't built close to each other. And if you look, you'll see that the same style won't

be seen for at least 10 other houses."

Matthews' architecture career began in 1933 when he graduated from the University of Nebraska, not far from his birthplace of Grand Island, Neb.

"THOSE were hard times back then," he says, "we did everything we could to make a living. I used to chase ambulances so I could draw the intersections for accident reports."

But those days ended when the Roosevelt administration began the Works Project Administration and the Public Works Administration. Matthews said the WPA and the PWA gave architects a chance to design houses.

From there Matthews went into the Air Force in Fort Logan, Colo., to work in a hospital helping in a recovery program for pilots returning from missions in Europe. Matthews said that during his "chairborne" days he taught a class in designing houses that began with 30 student-soldiers and grew to 75 students a day, seven days a week.

After World War II and

during his long-established practice in Denver, Matthews was called by Jack Ford, then a vice president for the Del E. Webb Development Co., who told him that Webb was looking to hire full-time architects who were nearing the retirement age.

AT AGE 50, after a series of discussions and negotiations with the Webb people, Matthews was hired in 1963 and worked in Sun City, Ariz., Sun City, Fla., Sun City, Calif., Seattle and Hawaii.

"Our staff was the first in-house staff Webb hired. We replaced the 'midnight patrol' that used to go to new sub-divisions in Phoenix, take the measurements of new houses and come back to the office to design them for Sun City," Matthews said.

He claims that the secret to his success was hiring nine architects from nine different universities. "Nobody does anything alone and with that staff we could design just about anything."

Matthews and his staff designed the houses south of Peoria Avenue and "about half the houses

north of Grand from 99th Avenue to the western boundary."

HE SAID one of his ideas was to change all the four-plexes in the area to duplexes. "The four-plexes were a good idea," Matthews said, "but nobody wanted to buy in the middle. So we decided on duplexes and they sold like crazy."

So did the others he designed, too. In fact, he said he was reluctant to accept a job with Webb because Sun City only went south to Peoria and he felt work was going too slowly.

Matthews, however, doesn't live in a house he designed. He says he had

to buy a different house because it's the only one he could find with the kind of view he wanted.

A member emeritus of the American Institute of Architects, a title that comes from "50 years with a clean record," Matthews no longer designs. He occupies his time with golf and other activities.

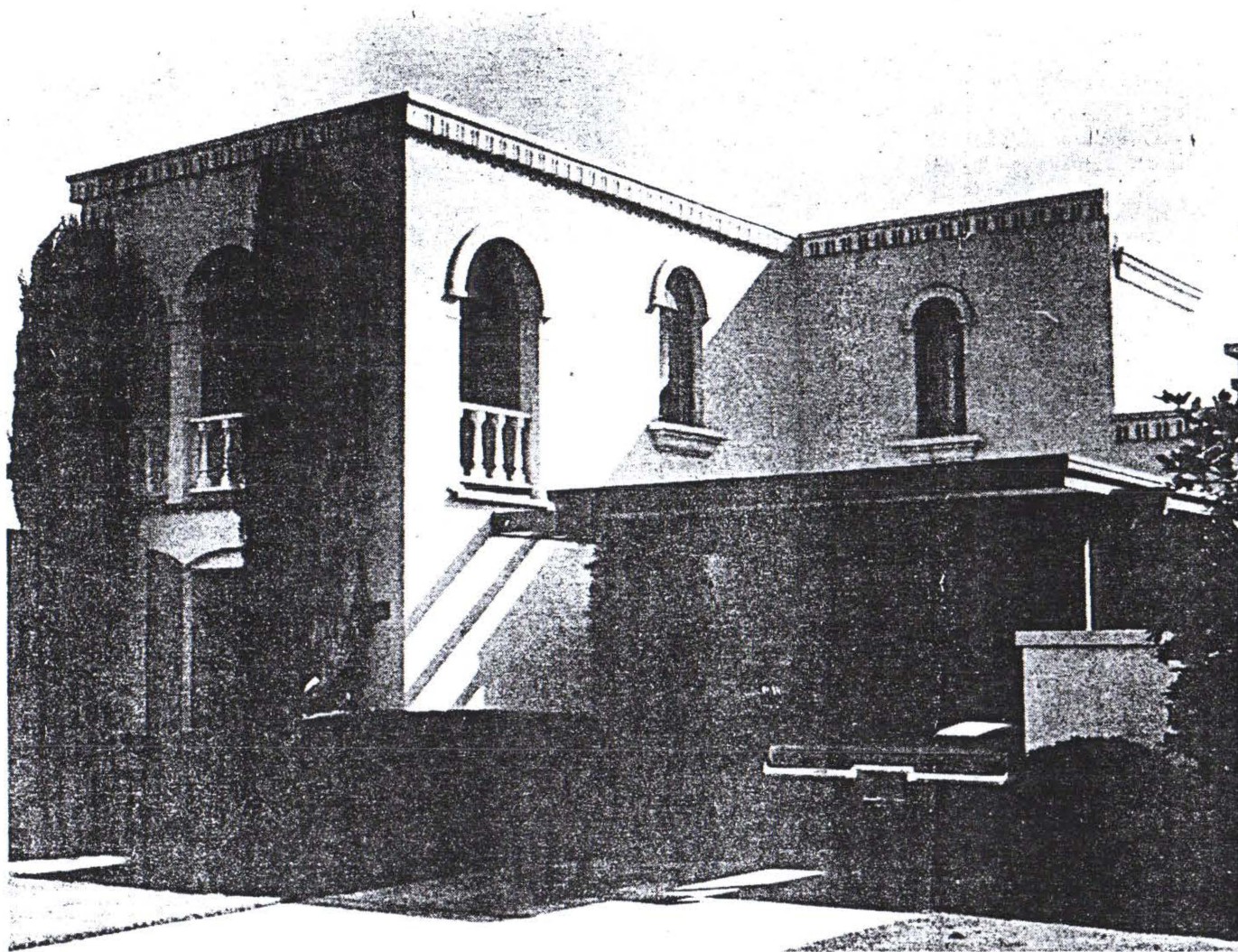
Webb President John Meeker, the only remaining Webb employee who worked with Matthews in Sun City, described Matthews as "very conscientious and very good at his job. He still gives a lot of his personal time to the hospital."

And testimony to Matthews' ability is given in the 1,000 houses and buildings he did in Sun City.

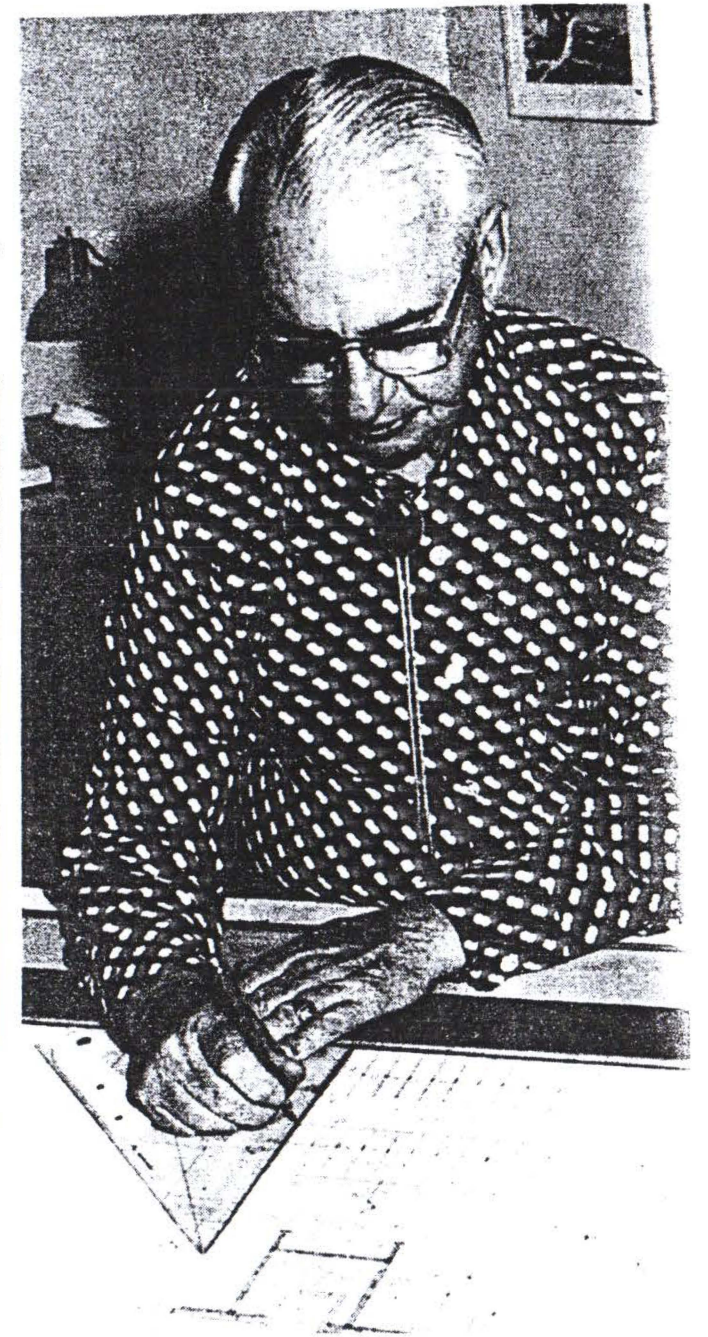
MATTHEWS, WESLEY

OVER





One of more than 1,000 homes and buildings in Sun City which were designed by Wesley Matthews.  
(News-Sun Photos)



Wesley Matthews works on designs at drawing board.



# Architect leaves mark on evolution of Sun City

By GILLIAN SILVER

"Shades and shadows are important to architects," says Sun Citian Wes Matthews, but apparently so are connections. For it was professional associations that brought him to the area and Del Webb.

Matthews' friendship with ex-Del Webb vice president Jack Ford led to a series of attractive offers to create a new type of retirement housing for the building and construction firm.

The two men met sometime before World War II, shortly after Matthews opened his own architectural design office. Ford asked for a job and although Matthews had nothing to offer him, he later heard of an opening with Webb Development and passed the tip along to Ford.

Several years later Ford became a vice president and was in need of technical people to spearhead a "program in its infancy," — Sun City.

Knowing of Matthews' experience in residential work, Ford immediately offered him the job. However, Matthews was initially unimpressed, repeatedly turning down the position.

"I had a nice contract in Denver and didn't know if I wanted to make a move," he says.

But the Webb people were persistent. By December 1962 he had agreed to visit the site.

"I came down here and it was all cotton fields, but I could see the embryo of the idea," Matthews recalls.

After visiting the area, and being wooed by beautiful offices and an enterprising concept, Matthews was asked to give Webb officials a decision within two weeks.

"You know," he says, "those rascals called me every day offering me salaries and compensations. Well, finally, I couldn't resist any longer."

Accepting the position as chief architect, Matthews organized a staff of ten and began his work. Among his new responsibilities

were the design of several models for the Sun City retirement project.

Buyers would be coming from throughout the country and Matthews needed to create homes that would appeal to their particular tastes. Using three basic styles — colonial, french provincial, and ranch — he offered potential customers homes with regional similarities to their past residences.

The basic aim of the development, however, was to provide custom-look houses at a nominal expense.

"We tried to create an area of individual houses in appearance and at the same time keep in line with standard production building methods and keep costs down," he says.

By alternating the placement of models on a street no exact duplicates were built side by side. Models of different colors were rotated about every tenth house and distinguished by stylized courtyards and ornamental iron.

"Our idea was that you could drive down the street and see your house as yours even though there was a repeater later down the block," says Matthews. "The houses sold like fire."

The single-family models sported center hall plans, large, accessible closets and kitchens in the front part of the house.

"We gave the kitchens and dinettes special attention," says Matthews. "If at all possible we arranged them facing the street."

You're retired for the first time, spending time in the kitchen and would want to see people."

Although certain features were carried through each design, some adjustments were made along the way. For instance, some difficulties were encountered with the fourplexes. Purchasers approached them with some apprehension.

"Salesmen could sell the end ones but not the middle ones so I said, 'why don't we get rid of the middle ones.' That's how we got the duplexes," he says.

Matthews' personal favorites, two-story mediterranean homes featuring an upstairs den, weren't successful sellers. Even when first built, the models were too expensive for the designer himself to purchase.

"I like two-stories but they didn't seem to work in this area," he says. "I have a theory that a home should have areas for men and women and designed the stucco mediterraneans with that style in mind. But the salemen wouldn't sell them and if the people don't know about them they won't buy them, and didn't."

"They're very special, even today," he says.

Matthews estimates that along with his other work for Webb, he has designed over 2,000 homes for seniors. Despite his numerous accomplishments, he remains modest about his contribution to the area.

"You had to have the product," he says. "But the people sold Sun City."

MATTHEWS, WES





Photo by Laurie Hurd

**ARCHITECT WES MATTHEWS** has left his mark on the look and feel of Sun City. Matthews, who once worked for Del Webb, had a hand in designing the original homes in Sun City.



## DOERS PROFILE

Howard  
Matthias**Hometown:** Sun City**Family:** Wife, Lorraine**Motto:** "Survive one day at a time."**Inspiration:** "I guess to be worthwhile in life  
so you can look back and say  
you did a good job."

## HOA president takes pride in serving others

By RUTHANN HOGUE  
Staff writer

**N**ot everyone has what it takes to be president of the Sun City Home Owners Association.

"It's a well worthwhile job, but it does demand a thick skin and many hours of work," said the organization's current president, Howard Matthias.

"You are constantly under pressure. If you want to have an action program like we do, you are bound to step on some toes, but it is for the benefit of the entire members."

Matthias' one-year term as president of HOA began in January. He hopes to accomplish many things while he's in office. He realizes he can't do it alone.

"You have to work at it, and we're very fortunate that we have a fine staff and board of directors who are very hard workers," he said.

The Sun City Home Owners Association acts as an advocate for residents. A deed restriction compliance officer follows up on reports of suspected violations regarding proper conduct. The most public incident was when an Avon sales representative was accused of operating a business from her home. Such activity is prohibited.

"We have been criticized for our position on water, transportation and dropping membership, but all three are shaping up very well," Matthias said.

HOA's position on water has largely been misunderstood, support of completion of highways 101 and 303 are actually desired by the majority of residents but not in their back yard, and waning membership is beginning to rally, Matthias explained.

"Membership dropped mainly to our pursuit of the infamous Avon Lady," he said. "It was a misunderstanding. Once they understood our position, our membership has been coming back strongly."

Matthias puts in 20 to 25 hours each week at HOA offices, not including meetings. He attends functions at various organizations and presides over HOA board meetings.

His goal is to have action programs for the betterment of HOA members. He believes that meeting that goal is well under way with the appointment of Mort Reed as deed restriction compliance officer.

"Mort at times can be abrasive, but he's a hard working man," Matthias said. "He covers an awful lot of different cases."

Twenty-five cases of suspected violations are now under investigation.

"In the past, that has not been done," Matthias said. "We now have the manpower and means of actually going out there and investigating."

A year ago Matthias was president of the Sun City PRIDES. He and his wife, Lorraine, still maintain five blocks along Del Webb Boulevard in Sun City.

"That's a job that won't stop," he said.

Matthias was recruited by HOA's board of directors three years ago before he was elected president of the organization. He served simultaneously for HOA and the PRIDES until last year.

Matthias maintains his connection as the HOA liaison to the PRIDES.

"It was a good combination because we were able to help each other out," he said.

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

Matthias, Howard



## DOERS PROFILE



**Bette Mayhew**

**Hometown:** *Ilion, N.Y.*

**Family:** *4 children,  
3 grand-  
children*

**Inspiration:** *"My moth-  
er. She was  
very bril-  
liant."*

**Key to Longevity:** *"Fun.  
Love.  
L-O-V-E."*

## World traveler volunteers in 2 communities

By JENNIFER JENKINS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

**W**hen she isn't out doing a little world traveling, Bette Mayhew divides her year between Sun City and Canton, N.Y. She likes to keep her head, heart and hands busy in both communities, volunteering her time for several organizations.

A member of the Sun City branch of the American Association of University Women since 1979, Mayhew has twice served as its president. She said she became involved with AAUW because of its commitment to education.

"It's the kind of program that isn't just fluff, there's some substance. They take action to improve things in school for women and girls, and in the end, that's good for men and boys too," Mayhew said.

In past years, Mayhew has taught English to Spanish-speaking students at the Dysart Unified School District. She hopes to do so again in January. In the meantime, she has been helping out with career days in the Peoria Unified School District.

Through AAUW, Mayhew makes tray favors for long-term care residents who cannot leave their rooms to eat. The favors are small Halloween ghosts, Thanksgiving turkeys, and Christmas Santas, meant to stimulate conversation and make mealtime festive.

Mayhew also stays active with her sorority, her church and a support group for Parkinson's disease. She recently became a delegate for Interfaith Services.

A retired teacher, Mayhew never stops learning. Right now she is studying computer skills, taking line dancing classes and learning to be a healer with the Order of St. Luke the Physician.

Mayhew has been out of the country three times in the past four years. She hit Thailand in 1997, Peru in 1996 and the Scottish Highlands in 1995. Homesickness is never a problem.

"Wherever I lay my head, I'm happy," she said.

Mayhew said that she owes her good attitude to her family.

"I got so much love from my parents and grandparents, I think it gave me a great start in life. Now I try to pass it on."





Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Mary McBain of Sun City works on a synchronized swimming move at Lakeview Recreation Center. McBain won the gold medal in the Masters solo category at Cactus Pool in Scottsdale.

# Solo act

Thursday, April 16, 1998 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

## Sun City woman outlasts competition

By MAGGIE REED  
Staff writer

Inclement weather forced many synchronized swimmers to trade in the pool for the warmth of home during the Classic Invitational.

### Synchronized swimming

But not Sun City's Mary McBain. Her unyielding will paid off as she won the gold medal in the Masters solo category at Cactus Pool in Scottsdale.

"It was so cold and rainy that day that Green Valley went home," she said of what would have been her competition. As it was, McBain was the lone swimmer in her category.

McBain persisted in order to see how well she scored in anticipation of the Masters Nationals. The event, the "olympics" of synchronized swimming, will be in late October in Oregon.

A more difficult routine is planned for the nationals. However, she stayed with her old routine for the classic, not wanting to push herself with surgery slated in the near future.

McBain competes in the Masters division in the most difficult of the three flights offered in each age category. Once you choose a flight, you can advance in future events, but you can't go back.

Anyone can choose to compete in the Masters division. "But you have to be halfway decent or there's no sense in competing," McBain said, sitting beside Lakeview pool on a cool, blustery day.

McBain started her synchronized swimming career at 63. "I knew how to swim already but I decided to take lessons to learn to swim the right way," she said.

She pursued her instruction at the Lakeview Recreation Center.

"We were swimming on one side and the Aqua Suns were practicing on the other. I watched them and thought it would be really neat to be able to do that," she said of the Lakeview team that sports swimmers from age 57 to 83.

While the squad practices four times a week for two hours a day, that's not enough for McBain. She swims four to five hours a day

nearly every day of the week. She also builds up her strength and stamina by spending time in the exercise room.

She credited coach Sue Cox of Moon Valley Country Club in Phoenix for her success. She practices with Cox two nights a week.

Her diligence has paid off. She has won numerous medals during her five-year swimming stint, including four golds at this year's Arizona Senior Olympics at Cactus Pool.

McBain's goal is to keep improving and add to her already impressive accomplishments. Her husband, John, videotapes her frequently so she can review her performances.

He has also donned swim trunks and thrown in some muscle.

"When I was starting out, I couldn't do the back flip so John would get in the pool and flip me over," she said with a chuckle.

"What I like best about synchronized swimming is that you always learn more and it teaches you to get along with people," she said.



DAILY NEWS-SUN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2003

# Passion for peace GRRROWLLs

Sun Citian hatches  
idea for current-  
events discussion  
group

ERIN REEP  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The buttons cover Paul McBroom's dining table.

"Dissent is Patriotic," "Don't get Bush-whacked again," "Resist deception," they read.

"I've had a request for more than 50 of that one," McBroom said, pointing to a button with photos of President Bush and the White House and the words, "Regime change begins here."

The Sun City resident has founded a current-events discussion group called GRRROWLL — "Geezer/ette Rabble Rousers Resisting Oppression, War and Loss of Liberties."

McBroom and his wife, Martha, started the group in June after months of grappling with strong feelings against the war in Iraq and disagreeing with the policies of the Bush administration.

McBroom is a former minister and college professor, with a

## IF YOU GO

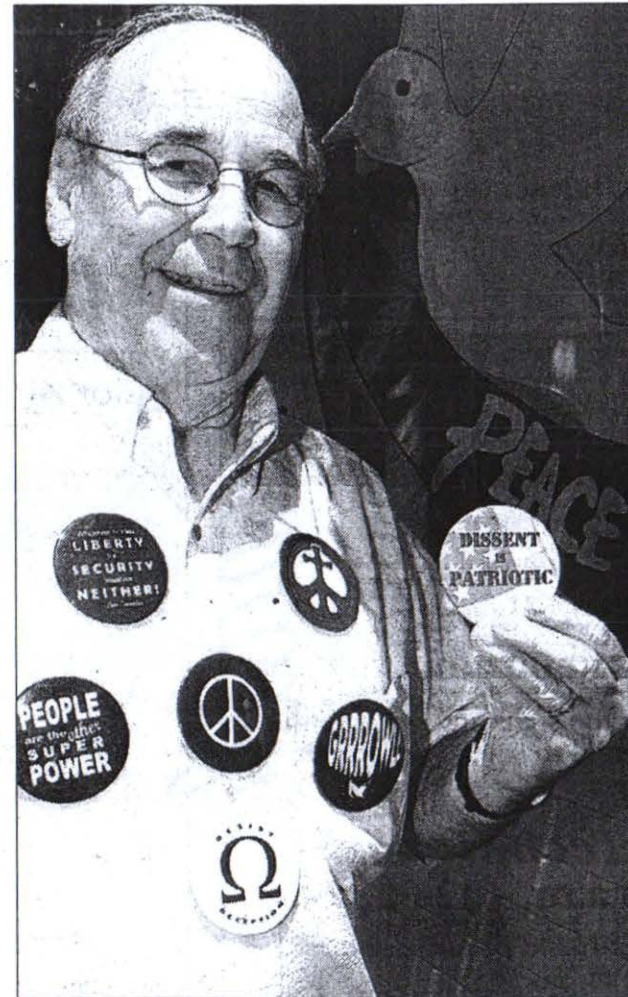
- **WHAT:** GRRROWLL — "Geezer/ette Rabble Rousers Resisting Oppression, War and Loss of Liberties" Discussion Group
- **WHEN:** 9 a.m. breakfast, 9:30 a.m. discussion Thursday
- **WHERE:** Helene's Cuisine Cafe, southwest corner of 99th Avenue and Bell Road, Sun City
- **WHY:** To gather people who are growling about the Bush administration's policies and become watchdogs of democratic principles

background in theology, sociology, history and politics. As an active member of the United Church of Christ, he attended a rally in downtown Phoenix in February to protest the war. Among the 2,000-3,000 participants were a number of Sun Cities residents, he said.

McBroom was surprised to meet others who thought as he that President Bush and his staff were morally wrong to invade Iraq and to alienate other nations of the world through American foreign policy.

"So many people had said, 'Sun City is so conservative, there wouldn't be any interest out here,'" McBroom said.

To the contrary, McBroom said he has met a number of like-minded individuals with whom he discusses



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Paul McBroom of Sun City stands in front of a peace flag and sports buttons espousing the philosophy of a current-events discussion group he formed.

current events and political and social ideas and philosophies.

The idea for the discussion group was born on McBroom's back patio. Upon moving to Sun City from

Texas last winter, he sat outside each evening and listened to the F-16 jets from Luke Air Force Base

See GRRROWLL, A5

OVER



flying overhead.

"I started to pray for the pilots as they landed," he said.

Soon those pilots might be sent to Iraq, where they could potentially have lost their lives in the war, he said.

Spurred by his troubled conscience, McBroom dug out an old button-making machine and created logos and political slogans on his computer. He fashioned buttons protesting the war and began handing them out in the community. The buttons are sold for \$2 apiece, with the profits benefiting GRRROWLL.

McBroom said he has been asked to leave a local restaurant, barbershop and church because of wearing his protest buttons.

McBroom was involved in facilitating discussion groups and town-hall meetings during the Vietnam War while teaching at Jamestown Community College in Jamestown, N.Y., he said. As director of cultural events, he created a series of seminars on "-isms" — Nazism, fascism and racism, to name a few.

As a Western Civilizations teacher, he once divided a class of Italian Catholic students and Swedish Lutheran students in half and had them act out a role-playing exercise on the Reformation. The Italian students were assigned to play the part of Martin Luther; the Swedish students filled the roles of Catholics at the time of the Reformation.

"I was Baptist at the time," McBroom said, chuckling.

Out of the ensuing controversy from argumentative students, McBroom invited priests and ministers of various sects and denominations into the classroom. This evolved into the first interfaith ministerial alliance in Jamestown, which later created community programs for troubled youth, he said.

Martha McBroom said the alliance is



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Paul and Martha McBroom of Sun City make buttons reflecting their beliefs.

a classic example of her husband's passion for pursuing peace through unusual methods: "He stirs the water and then he tries to calm it."

McBroom also worked for the Peace Corps. He earned a master of divinity degree from Bright Divinity School at Texas Christian University and a master's degree in Russian studies from American University School of International Studies in Washington, D.C., as well as a bachelor's in interdisciplinary studies from the University of Texas.

The McBrooms met in high school in Houston, and married in 1956. The couple moved to Sun City in December to be near family.

GRRROWLL will meet Thursday for the second time. Its June meeting drew

15 people, which surprised McBroom, as many people are gone for the summer. The discussion group is a forum for people to talk over ideas, educate each other and possibly arrange for peaceful demonstrations in the future, McBroom said.

The United States was "blindsided" by terrorists on Sept. 11, 2001, McBroom said. Yet he disagrees with the current administration's reference to Islamic militants as evil.

"There's a natural tendency to say these people are evil," he said. "I think, if at the highest level of government we start branding people as evil, we become evil."

Martha added, "By branding people, that precludes reconciliation."

The purpose of GRRROWLL is twofold. First, McBroom hopes it will facilitate discussion of ideas among like-minded thinkers. Second, he foresees GRRROWLL becoming a political-action group — writing letters to Congress on various issues or even protesting peacefully.

Sun City resident Jack Bessler attended the first GRRROWLL meeting, but said he doesn't plan to go back, as the group wasn't for him: "It was kind of far-fetched; it wasn't a cohesive group."

Bessler said the discussion included some criticism of the president, something he doesn't want to be part of.

"I am an American and a veteran of World War II," he said, "and proud to be an American." A button reading "Dissent is patriotic" somewhat offended Bessler.

"Dissent and patriotism don't seem to go together to me," he said.

For more information on GRRROWLL: Geezer/ette Rabble Rousers Resisting Oppression, War and Loss of Liberties, call Paul McBroom at 815-5229. Visit the group at 9 a.m. Thursday at Helene's Cuisine Cafe in Sun City.

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





Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

Paul McBroom flashes a peace sign at a meeting.

# Sun City residents organize for peace

By Rhea Davis  
The Arizona Republic

Paul McBroom, 66, sat at a restaurant in Sun City on Wednesday sipping coffee and talking with friends, but they weren't indulging in small talk. The impassioned conversation focused on President Bush's foreign policy, the war in Iraq and how to protest Congress' proposed privatization of Medicare.

McBroom and his wife, Martha, 66, recently founded a current event discussion group called GRRROWLL, "Geezer/ette Rabble Rousers Resisting Oppression, War and Loss of Liberties."

GRRROWLL has held two meetings, one drawing 15 people and the other, 30. McBroom said he was pleasantly surprised by the turnout and hopes the numbers will grow.

"We are seekers of truth and freedom," he said. "We want to be watchdogs. We're not just grumbling, we're growling. We want people to hear us."

McBroom, a former college professor, minister and longtime activist, hatched the idea for GRRROWLL while sitting on his front porch listening to planes from Luke Air Force Base fly overhead. He said he felt the United States was get-

From Page 1

ting involved in an unjust war and worried the people flying the planes would soon be deployed to Iraq.

As war loomed, the McBrooms dusted off an old button-making machine and began printing out slogans such as, "Dissent is Patriotic," "No War," and "Regime Change Begins Here." McBroom said he was shocked by how many Sun City residents asked for his buttons because he believed the community was conservative.

He said he's been kicked out of some Sun City restaurants and a barbershop for wearing his anti-war buttons.

McBroom's wife, who voted for Bush in the last election because of his education and domestic policies, said she feels betrayed by the Bush administration.

"I have never been so scared in my country as I am right now," she said. She described herself as a quiet person, but said she must voice her belief that President Bush used the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to wage an unjust war and de-

stroy civil liberties in the United States.

McBroom, who moved to Sun City from Texas six months ago, said he hoped group members would continue to exchange ideas, write letters to Congress and possibly arrange peaceful demonstrations.

A member of the group, Aute Carr, 86, of Sun City, hopes the group can focus on key issues and work for change.

Some members plan to attend a rally at the office of Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday to try to prevent Congress from privatizing Medicare.

Dawn Nolan, 56, a substitute teacher who lives in Sun City, is concerned about low-income families and the working poor. She thinks Sun City is perfect for an activist group because retired people there have time to get involved.

"We've got to do something," she said. "We've got to wake up. If we just sit and don't speak out about injustice, we've lost."

McBroom, the son of a Texas lawyer, has a long history of

"rabble rousing." He was fired from teaching jobs at three universities for holding seminars on communism, fascism, nazism and racism and arranging sit-ins to protest the Vietnam War.

He has held a variety of jobs,

counseling young men on how to become conscientious objectors, working for the Peace Corps, directing crisis-intervention hotlines and teaching children at home who were too sick to attend school. He now sits on the board of the Foundation for Contemporary Theology, a not-for-profit educational organization based in Houston.

He says his three children have mixed emotions about his

activism, particularly his son who served in the Army in Operation Desert Storm.

McBroom said he dreams of a "Geezer Brigade" made up of Sun City residents taking to the streets with canes, walkers and golf carts screaming about injustice.

He said he's gotten a few angry phone calls and letters about GRRROWLL, but isn't discouraged.

"I'm really not that radical," he said. "I'm just an average citizen who believes in freedom of speech."

GRRROWLL members meet at Helene's Cuisine Café, 10001 W. Bell Road, at 9 a.m. for breakfast and 9:30 a.m. for discussion every other Thursday. The next meeting will be Thursday. Call McBroom at (623) 815-5229.

MC BROOM, PAUL

VF

PERSONALITIES



## DOERS PROFILE

Monday, April 13, 1998 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

**Pam  
McClarin****Hometown:** Long Island, N.Y.**Family:** Married to husband, Robert, for 35 years and has five children**Inspiration:** "We have our convictions that we are on earth to make our brothers' lives better."

## Education still part of life for ex-teacher

By TINA SCHADE  
Staff writer

**T**he greatest part about retirement for Pam McClarin is that it is the ultimate equalizer.

After a successful career as a psychologist and professor, McClarin is finally able to unhook the prestigious academic abbreviations from behind her last name and refuses to reveal her age. Sometimes revealing this information to people can lead to assumptions and discourage relationships, McClarin said.

"I loathe to have anyone to box me ... and I have a real hard time putting other people in boxes," she said.

But even if McClarin almost denies her credentials, she has no qualms about using her education and experience to free others from their "molds."

McClarin breaks the age barrier by teaching communications classes to seniors at the Rio Institute for Senior Education in Surprise. McClarin initially worked on the marketing committee for the institute and then took on the responsibilities as an instructor.

For two years, she has been teaching classes on topics such as "Birth Order and Family Conflict" and "The Queen is Dead," about the changing roles of parents after children leave the nest.

Initially, she was hesitant to teach the classes after so many years as an instructor at Paradise Valley Community College, but she decided to give it a go anyhow, and she said she's happy she did.

"It's just like a whole bunch of friends sitting around and talking," she said.

At the other end of the spectrum, McClarin likes to teach classes to young folk.

For three years, McClarin has worked for the City of Phoenix Youth at Risk program, where she has taught communication and anger management classes to former gang members.

She is also involved in Ex-Tattoo, a program through the City of Phoenix that allows former gang members to have their tattoos removed by volunteer plastic surgeons.

McClarin is responsible for updating member charts and teaching a few classes.

McClarin said this procedure allows former gang members to pull their lives together and get a job. Employers typically don't hire people sporting gang-related tattoos, she said.

Last Tuesday, McClarin received recognition for her efforts at the Phoenix 100, a ceremony at Heritage Square in Phoenix which honors the top 100 outstanding volunteers.

Away from teaching, McClarin is active in her parish, St. Raphaels Catholic Church.

Staying true to her pioneering spirit, McClarin decided she would try putting out the church's newsletter every month. She said it was rough at first, but she's learned a lot and continues to work on the letter monthly.

In addition to volunteering, McClarin enjoys traveling with her husband around the United States. Each summer, the couple takes the back-road approach to exploring new states.

So far, the McClarins have visited 38 states and are in the process of planning a trip this summer.

One of the more unique experiences they had was at Yellowstone Park, where they watched geysers for almost 18 hours at a time.

But she won't accept the tag of adventurer. "I think the only identifications I'll take is I'm my husband's wife and a Christian, a mother and a grandmother," she said.

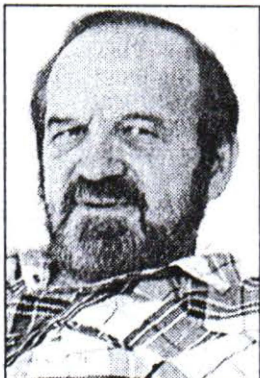
To nominate a Doer, call Tina Schade at the Daily-News Sun, 876-2514.

McClarin, Pam



Monday, Jan. 13, 1997 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

## DOERS PROFILE

Ron  
McCollor

- Hometown:** St. Paul, Minn.
- Family:** Wife, Anita; two daughters.
- Self portrait:** "I try to think of myself as dedicated to the project I'm participating in. Once you zero in on something, you should do it with all the force you have to do it."
- Greatest feat:** "Marrying my wife. She's very supportive of what I do, and she tolerates me and all of my little idiosyncrasies."
- Motto:** "This time, like any time, is a good time, if you know what to do with it."

## Ex-dentist fills ache for acting

By RUTHANN HOGUE  
Staff writer

**T**rying to get Ron McCollor to act serious can be a bit like pulling teeth.

The retired dentist turned comedy actor and impressionist enjoys delivering one liners or getting into character every chance he gets.

For McCollor, tickling funny bones is more than a way to amuse himself since his retirement six years ago. It's been a way of life.

Although McCollor is shy about sharing his life's story, Irv Rothman isn't. Rothman seems to enjoy bragging about his new friend and fellow Theatre West workshop member.

Rothman chuckled when reminiscing about customer reminder cards McCollor used to send to patients. The post cards showed McCollor in pain, or with a tooth attached to a string. The other end of the string was tied to anything from a door, a car or a bulldozer, with captions such as "I still A-door this technique," "You 'AUTO' see your dentist before a toothache 'DRIVES' you crazy" or "I'd move heaven and earth to get this tooth."

Once, while on a cruise, McCollor asked the ship's photographer to take his picture with the string tied to the ocean liner instead of the traditional portrait.

"He has such a sense of humor that's extraordinary," Rothman said.

The cards started out as gag Christmas cards. They were a big hit because patients got to see their dentist in pain for a change, and they were funny. People started asking for them.

McCollor looks back on his dental career with mixed emotions. He finds irony in the reputation dentists have of causing pain, when their patients are usually in pain when they call for an appointment.

"They are there for me to get rid of it," he said. "We dentists have so much guilt piled on us."

Still, McCollor has no regrets about his former profession. It gave him a chance to work with his hands, something he has enjoyed since he learned to whittle at the feet of his childhood inspiration, Lawrence Unger, the neighborhood woodcarver. Unger had no sons, so boys flocked to him for whittling tips.

"I was really impressed with this guy because he was a craftsman and that's what I like to do," said McCollor, who also makes leather purses and can fix just about anything with dental bonding materials.

Even as a dentist, McCollor found ways to be creative.

"I was always fixing things besides teeth," he said. "If a young patient came in and his shoe was coming apart, while he's numbing up I'd get a clamp and put some glue on his shoe."

The Sun City West resident still enjoys reminding people to brush and floss, but has turned his principal attention to acting. He joined Theatre West acting workshop about two years ago after working backstage for a year at Stardust Theatre in Kuntz Recreation Center.

McCollor plays Charlie, the obnoxious son-in-law, in "It's Never too Late," which opens next month at Stardust. The production, one of three the workshop will present this year, is already sold out.

McCollor previously appeared at Stardust in a female version of "The Odd Couple," in which he played one of the boyfriends. He also directed "New Faces."

McCollor, Ron



# Sun Citian in class of his own

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Daily News-Sun staff

Gordon McCoy has a lot in common with the hundreds of Peoria school district volunteers who will be recognized during a party Wednesday.

The Sun City resident likes children and wants every one of them to succeed. He has some extra time on his hands and would rather spend it with kids than on the golf course.

One thing sets McCoy apart and will earn him special recognition from the school district on Wednesday: His volunteer tenure in Northwest Valley schools has spanned 20 years.

McCoy, 85, is proud of the milestone but is not so sure he deserves to be honored.

"I don't know what all the fuss is about myself," he said.

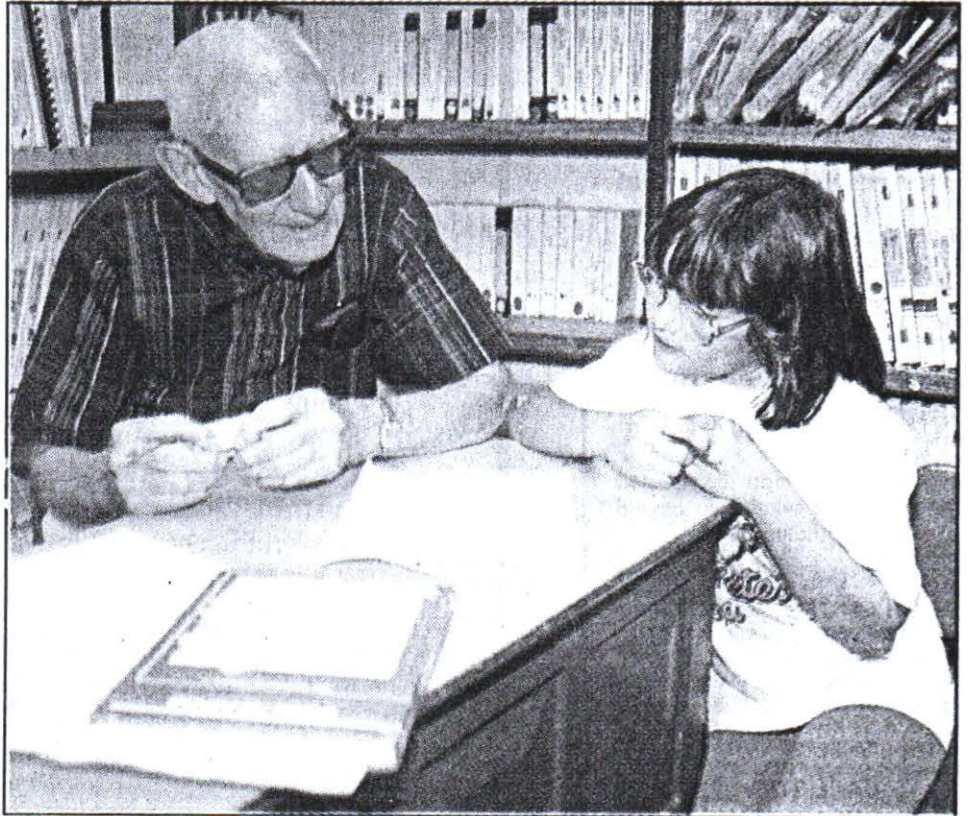
He definitely didn't think his 20-year anniversary as a math and reading tutor warranted an interruption while he was on duty Thursday at Sundance Elementary School in Peoria.

"My idea is not so much to celebrate the fact that I've been here 20 years, but to get other people to be volunteers. That's what would make me feel good," he said.

McCoy and a third-grade pupil named Rafael were reading about Italy, answering study questions and practicing some spelling words associated with the reading assignment.

"He's getting smarter all the time this guy," McCoy said of Rafael. "Isn't he a good little worker?"

A retired sales and manufacturing representative for a textile company, McCoy keeps a list in his back pocket of every child he has tutored. The names on the multi-page list number more than 200. The earliest names are those of El Mirage School pupils.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Gordon McCoy of Sun City and Laura Chelpka, 8, review a spelling assignment at Sundance Elementary School.

McCoy began volunteering in El Mirage in 1974, then moved to Peoria Elementary in 1978. He has been at Sundance since 1984, except for a brief stint at Apache Elementary. He returned to Sundance because he missed his friends on the faculty there.

"I've gotten real attached to the staff," he said.

McCoy spends eight to 10 hours at Sundance two mornings a week. He works with usually four or five third-graders from Marrily Duffet's class each morning out of a storage room adjacent to the school library.

"As you get older you begin to

think about all your aches and pains. This gets your mind off that," he said.

The Peoria Unified School District's volunteer recognition party is set for 9 a.m. Wednesday at Centennial High School, 14388 N. 79th Ave. All area residents who have volunteered in a PUSD school are invited.

The celebration and the district's volunteer program are financially supported by the Del Webb Corp.

Information about volunteer opportunities with the Peoria school district is available by calling, 486-6052.



Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2001



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Charles and Chrystal McEown of Sun City have been married more than 70 years.

## Sun City couple aim for 71 years

JEANNE WINOGRAD  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Not too many people can say they've celebrated a 70th wedding anniversary.

But Chrystal and Charles McEown, who have lived in Sun City for 30 years, are now aiming for their 71st anniversary on March 14.

Mary Lynn Kasunic, executive director of the Area Agency on Aging, said she hears about such long-term marriages from time to time, but the agency doesn't keep statistics on just how rare couples celebrating 70 years of marital bliss are. AARP doesn't keep tabs on the milestone either.

The McEowns met when they were 20, when Chrystal visited the sandwich restaurant at which Charles worked.

"We were married in 1931 in Kansas City during the Depression," said Charles McEown. "We took the bus to Denver, because there were very few job opportunities in Kansas."

"It's unusual to see people married this long because of divorce rates," Kasunic said. "It's a great celebration that people have been able to work things out over the years, have stuck it out and been married for so long."

Charles displays photos of Chrystal that give the impression of a 1920s movie star. In one photo, Chrystal wears a

crown with jewels and feathers, her long hair and fresh-faced complexion heightened by a soft silk dress and a Romanesque setting. The photo brings to mind some Rudolph Valentino films about heroes and maidens.

Together the McEowns shared a life of struggles and achievements. Charles worked for Kansas City Power and Light from 1935 to 1971. When he retired, the chairman of the company, Robert A. Olson, sent Charles a personal letter of gratitude and commendation, which Charles has framed near a picture of Olson shaking his hand.

When the McEowns first moved to Sun City, they lived on Buttercup Drive, and Charles was fond of riding his bicycle. The two were attracted to the mild climate, which seemed to clear up their bouts of hay fever.

Chrystal still has that movie-star aura, and Charles is fond of reminiscing. On the wall, he has framed a poem he wrote about perspective:

"Now I've reached my golden years,

Watched the sunsets in the West,

Good fortunes have overwhelmed my fears,

I know now that I've been truly blessed."

Jeanne Winograd can be reached at [jwinograd@aztrib.com](mailto:jwinograd@aztrib.com) or 876-2532.

McEOWN, CHARLES & CHRYS TAL



# Hall of fame bowler delivers one for ages

**RICH BOLAS**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dick McGlynn's bowling game keeps getting better with age.

## **SUN CITY BOWLING HALL OF FAME**

includes his upcoming induction into the Sun City Bowling Hall of Fame.

McGlynn rolled a personal-best 713 series which featured games of 279, 233 and 201.

"I rolled eight straight strikes, then left a 10 pin, and then I struck out the rest of the way," McGlynn said of the 279, which also tied a personal high. "I had to push a little bit at the

F o u r  
weeks ago,  
the 75-year-  
old added a  
new feat to a  
b o w l i n g  
r e s u m e  
which already

end to get that 700 series."

McGlynn and four others will be inducted into the bowling hall of fame this Saturday. Dale Gleesing, Bert Hamilton, Ray Keller, John Nugent and McGlynn make up the Class of 2001, which will be honored at an 11:30 a.m. luncheon in The Lakes Club.

Each qualified for the hall of fame based on superior performance, which requires a bowler to carry a minimum 170 average for at least five consecutive years.

"The hall of fame caps everything I've done in bowling," said McGlynn, who participates in three leagues — Sun Sons, Mixed League at Lakeview and the Sun City Classic.

McGlynn's father introduced him to bowling, a tradition McGlynn continued with his own wife and children.

"We had two boys and a girl and we

all would go bowling," said McGlynn, a Kansas native who moved to Phoenix in 1945.

McGlynn has carried a 180 average for the last 10 years.

"He's a smooth bowler and has a very nice delivery," said Dallas Barker, McGlynn's teammate in the Sun City Classic. "He keeps things simple and doesn't have to make many changes with his game."

McGlynn said he tries to pattern his style after bowling great Brian Voss.

"I use a fingertip grip with a small hook," the right-handed bowler said. "I use a four-step approach and have straight followthrough so it's a style that's effective no matter the lane conditions."

*Fourth in a series of profiles on the Sun City Bowling Hall of Fame's Class of 2001.*

OVER





STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-S

Dick McGlynn will be inducted into the Sun City Bowling Hall of Fame Saturday.



## Volunteer Spotlight

### Belva McIntosh Helps Preserve Sun City's Interesting Past

History is alive and well for Belva McIntosh, who volunteers at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. Belva has been an Historical Society volunteer for the past three years. After reading an article in the *SunViews* about the Historical Society and its need for volunteers, Belva decided to join their volunteer corps. She has been a resident of Sun City since 1979, so naturally she has seen the community go through many changes, but know many details about Sun City's history. "Really the history of Sun City is fascinating," she said. "I had no idea."

Belva's tasks at the Historical Society include leading tours through the Society museum, which is housed in the first home built in Sun City (see p. 11 for more information about the house and its history). "I enjoy talking to people," she says. "They're always so interested and enthused." Belva also helps out with clerical tasks and archiving materials. She keeps track of the Society's membership list and assists with issuing membership cards and sending out letters and other materials to new members.



Belva volunteers at the Society at least twice a week during the busier winter season, and also finds time to volunteer for Meals on Wheels. She has also been a volunteer at the Sun City Library and the Sun Valley Animal Shelter, and truly values the opportunity to give back to her community.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society welcomes new volunteers and members. If you are interested in volunteering or would like to learn about becoming a member, please contact the Society at 974-2568.



# Celebrating a full century

JOHN SOKOLICH  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Marguerite McGowen has accomplished a lot in her first 100 years.

Born 100 years ago today, McGowen is quite a remarkable person," said Katie Eriksen, the woman's niece. "She still lives on her own, and her mind is still quite sharp."

With her roots planted in Kansas, McGowen moved with her family to Colorado where she graduated high school and attended the University of Colorado. Her later work took her to China.

At the age of 24, McGowen took post-graduate work at Wellesley College in Massachusetts. It was the contacts she met at the school that eventually led her to China.

But before heading to the Orient, McGowen spent several months in Europe during breaks from her teaching at Colorado College.

When her contacts from Wellesley offered her a job at the Fenching University in Peking, China, McGowen jumped at the chance. Three

years later, she took a trip around the world before ending her teaching career in 1932 to join her mother in the family business back in Colorado.

But the job with her mother was interrupted in 1943 when she joined the Women's Army Corps. Members of the WAC were the first women other than nurses to serve in the ranks of the U.S. Army. The women served as medical technicians, cartography clerks, secretaries and the like in the U.S. and in all the theaters of war.

McGowen's work in the WAC took her to the Philippines and other points in the South Pacific.

But that was enough for McGowen. In 1948 she moved to Arizona and finally retired in Sun City several years ago.

Eriksen, who lives next door to McGowen, said even though her aunt has hit the century mark, there is not much that slows her down.

"She still loves a good story, and she strips and makes



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Marguerite McGowen of Sun City turns 100 years old today. Here she is in her home, telling stories of pranks she pulled as a kid.

her bed every day," Eriksen said. "She has a wonderful sense of humor. She does very good for herself."

A birthday party was held for McGowen Sunday afternoon.



# Charles McKinnis dies; founded local dial-a-ride

Daily News-Sun staff

TUCSON — Charles C. McKinnis, 73, a founder and first president of the Sun Cities Area Transit System, died Feb. 2, 1992.

McKinnis lived in Sun City from 1973 to 1989 and was active in a number of civic activities.

"He was very dedicated to getting a transportation organization going in the Sun Cities/Youngtown area. He spent a lot of time on it and was a very effective leader," said Dale Shockley, who took over as SCAT president in 1988.

In 1982 McKinnis helped establish a dial-a-ride system and worked with the Lions Foundation to get an office built in 1985.

McKinnis was born in Burns, Ore. He enlisted in the Army in 1941 and retired as a

colonel after 31 years of service. He was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal and the Legion of Merit.

He was a member of Disabled American Veterans Star 24, Reserve Officers Association and Retired Officers Association.

He graduated from Glendale Community College with honors in 1979.

In Sun City he was co-founder, vice president and director of the Sun Valley Gleaners, co-founder and treasurer of Sun City Area Interfaith Services, president of the B-4-9 Lions Club and named Sun City Man of the Year in 1984.

See Memorial, A5

## Memorial services set in Tucson, SC

— From A1

He also was secretary of the Arizona Reserve Officers Association, member of the Arizona Long Term Care Gerontology Advisory Council and was on the Human Services Advisory Curriculum Committee for GCC.

McKinnis moved to SaddleBrooke Country Club in Tucson in 1989.

There he was a member of Catalina Lions Club and president of the SaddleBrooke Republican Club.

He is survived by his wife, Donnagene; two brothers, Douglas and Alexander of Oregon; two sisters, May Patterson and Lois Novell of California; a son, Jack of Lawton, Okla.; a daughter, Sandra Kennedy of Phoenix; and four grandchildren.

Memorial services will be at 3 p.m. Friday in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Tucson. A second memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday in First Christian Church of Sun City, 14001 Thunderbird Blvd. Interment will be in Arlington National Cemetery.

Memorials may be sent to Sun Cities Area Transit System, P.O. Box 19872, Sun City, 85372.

McKINNIS, CHARLES



# Ex-banker values healthy lifestyle

JEANNE WINOGRAD  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

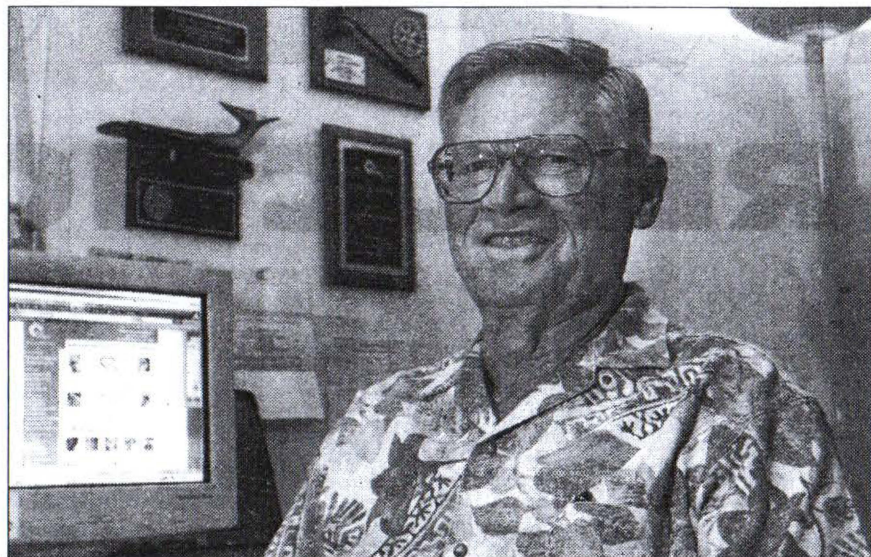
Most Sun Citians probably don't know that Dick McKnight, Sun Health's chairman of the board, has a knack for artistic woodworking and a practical bent for plumbing and wiring.

"I occasionally lend a hand when a neighbor needs help," McKnight said from his home office behind his garage in Sun City.

Walk from the office into McKnight's garage and you'll find a tidy workshop where he has been putting finishing touches on three highly-polished cedar and manzanita lamp bases. The cedar lamps were once fence posts on the South Dakota ranch owned by his father. A swirled manzanita lamp is from the woodpile at his sister's Jerome bed and breakfast, Surgeon's House.

Self-taught, McKnight grew up helping his family run a cattle ranch through southwest South Dakota's harsh winters and hot summers.

"I decided I wanted to get out of ranching ASAP," McKnight said. "My dad passed away in 1948, but he



MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dick McKnight, chairman of the board of Sun Health Corp., enjoys woodworking when he is not spending his time attending board meetings of the non-profit organization.

would have approved my choice."

Following his 18th birthday, McKnight taught country school for two years, then joined the Navy where he was a personnel officer for

four years. Two miscellaneous jobs spurred him to take courses in business college.

"In 1959, I went to work for First National Bank of Black Hills in

Rapid City, South Dakota," McKnight said.

That move established McKnight's banking and trust career, helping build his financial, managerial and diplomatic skills now counted among Sun Health's most valuable assets.

McKnight moved to Arizona in 1978, developing and managing Valley National Bank's Sun City and Green Valley trust services. When Bank One merged with Valley Nation in the early 1990s, McKnight was running trust services for the Sun City and Sun City West banks.

"That merger was a big deal. VNB thought they'd do all the acquiring, but we got acquired," McKnight said.

McKnight worked for Bank One until retiring in 1996. His volunteer work began 10 years earlier with Sun Health. His first role was as a member of the Sun Health Foundation board, serving as president from 1990 to 1991.

"I got that job two months after Valerie and I married. Valerie helps me stay organized," McKnight said,

about his wife, who is battling inflammatory breast cancer.

"Valerie is always on my mind. We're relieved she has almost completed her therapy," he said.

The couple has six children from their previous marriages. Valerie has four children and Dick has two.

"Valerie's daughter called me this morning and said 'Thank you so much for being there for our mother. We don't tell you enough how much we love you,'" McKnight said, his eyes shining.

McKnight said he contributes "maybe twenty to thirty hours a week" to Sun Health, while at the same time, admitting he's never actually counted the hours.

"When you become chairman of Sun Health, you also become chairman of many other Sun Health boards. I attend as many meetings as possible. Everyone on the boards is a volunteer. Everyone contributes many hours each week," he said.

Jeanne Winograd can be reached at [jwinograd@aztrib.com](mailto:jwinograd@aztrib.com) or by calling 876-2532.

**Working  
for you**



# Sun City woman dedicates life to local arts

BY PATRICK O'GRADY

Connie McMillin took to center stage when it mattered most.

With a lengthy history for Theater Works hanging in the balance after its venue at Arrowhead Mall was closed because of fire code violations, McMillin took to the podium and said, forcefully, the show must go on.

"It's out of that comes community," said McMillin, sitting in the theater company's new temporary digs in Sun City. "It needed to be saved, and those are pivotal moments."

McMillin, a Sun City resident, has been one of the players that during Theater Works' years in the West Valley, among other projects she's been involved with including the West Valley Art Museum and the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

For McMillin, bringing together the arts and community is a must. Her outlets in groups like Theater Works present a way to bring quality performance to a larger audience.

"As you get older and have the ability to go to the top shows anywhere, there's still a draw for the live, local theater," she said. "I've seen shows here that rival some of the performances I've seen in New York and London."

The arts were always of interest to McMillin. Growing up, she said she took part in plays in junior high, but her career path took a more business direction, spending time in Boston with much of her career dealing with community and urban planning.

It was her parents move to Sun City in 1970 that got her involved in the local arts scene. At that time, the West Valley was nothing more than a loose collection of cities that didn't even border each other, and when McMillin came out it was difficult not to get involved.

"I couldn't sit still while I was vis-

iting," she said. "For a while I was the only out-of-state member of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society."

Even prior to becoming a second generation, full-time resident of the area about 12 years ago, McMillin said she got involved. She remembers going to see some of the first Theater Works shows in the barn that served as its home in the early days, and her mother, Winifred McMillin, was one of the early patrons of the West Valley Art Museum.

She has continued her mother's tradition of backing the arts. In 2004, she underwrote Theater Works' performance of Stephen Sondheim's "Company." During the run, McMillin threw a party and met a woman who attended the same college, Stephens College in Columbia, Mo., that she had. The performer decided to take a shot at New York, and McMillin said that kind of spirit typifies what she has come to know about the people in Theater Works.

"I'll look for her wherever she goes in her career, and if she makes some fame, maybe she'll come back here."

Most of those performers and people who make the productions, however, don't leave. Many stick around to perform in the less glamorous but still rewarding community theater.

McMillin said she sees the draw that keeps seasoned thespians and production people coming back, and the draw that will make someone try out for a production on a whim. It represents community coming together of all ages and a chance to do something they might not find

in any other arena. It involves many disciplines, from singing and acting to musicians and carpentry that don't always get noticed but are equally valuable to every production, McMillin said.

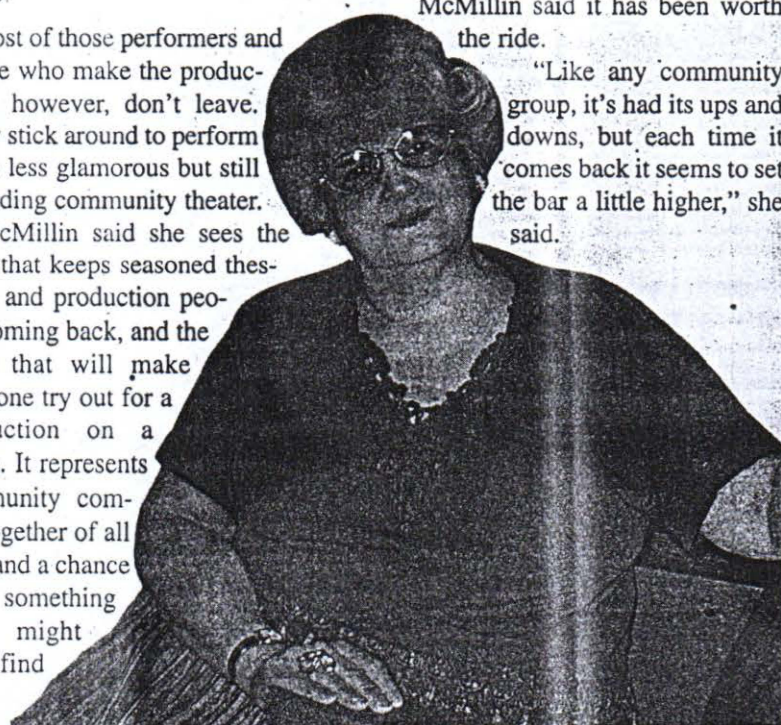
One fond memory was during the production of "Confetti," based on the poems of Pat Mora. Sitting next to the author, McMillin said it was an amazing experience watching as the words came to life before the person who originally created them.

"For myself, to be involved in the arts, I've been telling everyone to see the words come alive," she said. "It's amazing. At the end, you're just standing up and applauding, and you never forget experiences like that."

Now McMillin and the entire Theater Works community is watching as its future is being assured with the more than \$12 million Peoria Center for the Performing Arts near 85th and Peoria avenues, where the theater group will be the main tenant.

It's come full circle since she rose up and said what she felt everyone in the room wanted to say, and McMillin said it has been worth the ride.

"Like any community group, it's had its ups and downs, but each time it comes back it seems to set the bar a little higher," she said.





## SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

APRIL 3-9, 2002

**Name to Know**

**Connie McMillin** enjoys the idea that she is a second-generation resident of Sun City.

Living in the same home her parents once occupied before her, Ms. McMillin has been a



full-time resident of the community since 1994.

"I love being a second generation resident ... in a town where no children are born," Ms. McMillin said.

Fondness for the quirks of the community and its history are well-suited to her volunteer endeavors as head of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. A self-proclaimed city person, Ms. McMillin is well-versed in the many peculiarities of the community in which she now resides.

In her career, which included working in the financial industries to architecture and urban planning, Ms. McMillin always found time for volunteer and philanthropic work.

Beyond her current volunteer work at the Historical Society, Ms. McMillin holds several volunteer positions at the West Valley Art Museum including docent, editor of the museum's newsletter, board member, chair of the museum's building and grounds committee and serves on various museum committees.



# Volunteer lifts visitors' spirits

## Sun Health waiting room helper shines

By MONICA ALONZO-DUNSMOOR  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Vikki McNelly has spent the last 21 years of her life volunteering and helping others. During those years, she has worked more than 21,000 hours. That's 875 days. A full 2 years and almost five months.

Time well spent, if you ask McNelly.

"You get more out of it than you put in," said the Sun City resident. "I feel like I've made a lot of friends (over the years)."

Her volunteer work — she normally works at least four hours a day, three days a week — includes making visitors comfortable and easing their worries as they sit in the waiting rooms, anxious to visit their family or friends.

McNelly's hours contribute to the almost 7 million hours donated by volunteers at different Sun Health facilities since the Sun Health Auxiliary began in 1968.

Her career began in Cedar Falls, Iowa, where she was a volunteer in a surgical family waiting room for two or three years. She would take visitors back to the patients or talk with individuals to put them at ease.

"If the person wanted to talk, we'd just talk. If they don't want to talk, I just offer them coffee. I don't argue with them," she said. "If there isn't anyone real sick inside, we'd talk



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Vikki McNelly is a volunteer in the emergency department waiting room at Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, where she says it's her job to make visitors comfortable.

about their professions or their hobbies. Some had met important people and we'd talk about that."

Not everyone feels like chatting it up, though.

McNelly has encountered a variety of personalities, some friendly and others not so friendly. No matter the attitude, McNelly realizes that people visiting their loved ones in the

hospital are under stress and on edge.

Yet, she always tries to find a way to make it a positive experience for her and those around her.

"One time a man walked in and was very crabby," she said. "I thought to myself, 'I am going to make him smile.'"

And she did.

**L**oving thy neighbor and community spurs the volunteer spirit in the Sun Cities. Thousands of residents give thousands of hours each year to making life better for their neighbors. While the Daily News-Sun recognizes these people every day, we will be focusing on several volunteers and organizations during this National Volunteer Week.

**National  
Volunteer  
week**

*Saluting America's volunteers*

VIKKI MCNELLY



# Former editor overcame paralysis to return to job

By THELMA HEATWOLE

SUN CITY — A U-shaped desk, once the hub of the Wall Street Journal's Midwest edition newsroom in Chicago, now fits snugly in a den here.

The electric typewriter from which assignments and directives once were tapped out by one of the Journal's Chicago editors is still in place.

So is the former editor himself — John A. McWethy, 66.

A quadriplegic, paralyzed from the shoulders down, McWethy's accomplishments despite his handicaps defy expectations. He "hunts and pecks" at the typewriter with the aid of hand splints, pencils and sheer determination.

He operates the television with gravity touch to a remote-control device and dials the telephone with special equipment.

Such adaptations and countless others make life more than just tolerable for the retired newsman.

McWethy could match troubles with anyone since a cold day in February 1971 outside St. Louis.

He was en route in a rented car to the University of Missouri at Columbia to recruit reporters. For an unaccountable reason, his car went off the road and crashed.

"I've been a quad ever since," McWethy said. "Maybe the remarkable part is that after nine months in a rehabilitation hospital, I went back to work at my regular job."

Workmen's compensation and insurance afforded him the lengthy therapy. He continued to work until his retirement in October 1977, and still receives insurance benefits.

McWethy, who worked for the Wall Street Journal for 40 years, credited his wife Mary, as being an inspiration to him.

"She is the one making me go," he said.

Mrs. McWethy attributes her husband's comeback to his attitude and the will to make things work.

"He likes people and has the inquiring mind of a good reporter. These same attitudes make him a fascinating person to live with," she said.

After McWethy's return to work, his wife drove him 20 miles to work in downtown Chicago each day. McWethy readjusted to the Journal, and the staff to him. At his request the special desk giving him maximum range from his wheelchair was placed in the center of the newsroom.

The Journal once carried a story on Sun City that McWethy thought poked fun at the elderly here. Somewhat irritated, he was instrumental in getting the National Observer, owned and later suspended by the Journal, to send a reporter to Sun City.

"That story was better balanced," the former editor recalled.

Today, McWethy can not turn over in bed, nor get out of bed by himself. But with braces and splints and some arm movement, he can feed himself, shave and type.

He moves around the neighborhood in his wheelchair, but sometimes needs help. A friend at Motorola is working on a two-way radio that will operate from his wheelchair.

The Sun City resident does some writing. He has revamped a manual for Journal reporters and written a chapter for a book to be published on rehabilitation nursing.

He keeps pace with the news and sees the key issues today as the petroleum situation and inflation — especially as they affect those on fixed incomes.

"The gasoline shortage is for real," he said. "It's ridiculous to think otherwise. The United States will have to adjust its standards of living to the supplies of oil."

He believes people still are interested in serious news and the details provided them through the print media.

"That part of the newspaper doesn't have competition on television," McWethy said.

He said he believes a better understanding of difficult issues is gained by reading newspapers and magazines. (The McWethys have a son covering the White House for U.S. News and World Report.)

Asked if he has a special formula for his personal accomplishments, McWethy chuckled.

Then, he read from a plaque hanging on his den wall:

"Life is hard, yard by yard. Inch by inch, it's a cinch."

B-8 Wed., June 20, '79 The Arizona Republic



John A. McWethy, 66, a former editor of the Wall Street Journal, uses hand splints and pencils to type at his Sun City home. McWethy was paralyzed by an automobile accident in 1971.

McWETHY, John



# Jim Mead, longtime Boswell associate, dies

News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — John Rogers "Jim" Mead, former president of Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, died Monday in Boswell Hospital. He was 86.

Boswell officials would not release the cause of death.

In 1969, Mead joined the board of directors for the Sun City Hospital, now Boswell Hospital, serving first as secretary, then president from 1974 to 1981, and continuing as an active member of the board until his death.

Austin Turner, president of Sun Health Corp., parent company of Boswell Hospital, said Mead's death was a great loss to him personally.

"He was on the selection committee that hired me," Turner said. "I looked to him for 20 years for advice and consolation. I'll miss him a lot and I'm sure the other hospital employees will also."

Turner said Mead liked to talk to people who worked at Boswell Hospital because his first concern was developing a good relationship with the employees.

Mead was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., and

reared in Lexington, Va. He attended St. Paul's School in Baltimore and the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington.

In 1922, he joined the U.S. Army and was stationed in Hawaii. Upon his discharge in 1928, he became director of industrial relations for the Ewa Plantation in Ewa, Hawaii.

Following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the military governor recruited him as director of labor control for the Hawaiian Islands. Later, Gen. Douglas MacArthur placed him on his staff as director of civilian personnel for the Pacific and Far East Command. At the same time, he was a representative of the Secretary of War, Robert Patterson, for civilians working in the Pacific Theatre.

Mead was awarded the U.S. Medal of Freedom, the highest award given to a civilian, by President Harry Truman. He was also presented the Exceptional Service Award by Secretary of War Patterson.

After serving with MacArthur for 13 years, Mead became a management analyst for the U.S. Bureau of Public Roads Interstate Highway Program in San Francisco.

In 1965, he retired to Sun City, where he served as a member of the board of directors for the Recreation Centers of Sun City and was chairman of the coordinating committee of the Lakes Club, in addition to his Boswell Hospital service.

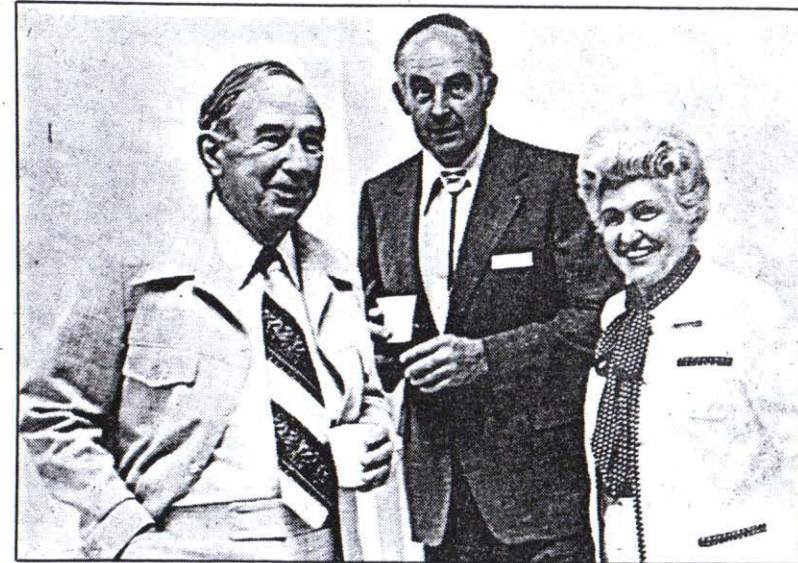
Mead also was elected to the board of directors of the Western Division of the American Geriatrics Society. In this role, he was instrumental in persuading the western division to move its headquarters from California to Sun City.

Mead was also a member of the Blue Lodge in Hawaii, the Scottish Rite in Japan and the El Zaribah Shrine in Phoenix.

Mead is survived by his wife, Lucille, and one brother, Frank of Baltimore.

Services will be 2 p.m. Thursday in United Church of Sun City. Arrangements were made by Menke Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, 10401 W. Thunderbird Blvd., Sun City, 85351, or United Church of Sun City, 11250 107th Ave., Sun City, 85351.



**FORMER BOSWELL PRESIDENT DIES** — John Rogers "Jim" Mead, above left, is shown with Austin Turner and Robert Shantz. Mead, former president of Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, died Monday at the age of 86. Turner is president of Sun Health Corp., parent company of Boswell, and Shantz serves on the hospital's board of directors. (Photo courtesy of Lucille Mead)

MEAD, J.R. "Jim"



Daily News-Sun • Monday, April 2, 2001

# Sun City Realtor finds Golden Success

**GIVING BACK:** Ken Meade contributes to community's well-being

JEANNE WINOGRAD  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Spend five minutes with Realtor Ken Meade and you'll know why he's a great salesman. The man has a comfortable knack for putting people at ease.

Perhaps it's the way Meade asks questions and listens to the answer. Perhaps it's the way he seems to tell it like it is — with a bit of gentle humor.

"Most people don't speak highly of Realtors, but I'd hate to be a lawyer," said Meade, his light blue eyes twinkling as he refers to jokes people make about salesmen and other professions.

Meade's kindly manner reflects the company's mission statement, the first thing you see walking through the door of Ken Meade Realty in Sun City.

The No. 1 company directive is: Follow the Golden Rule.

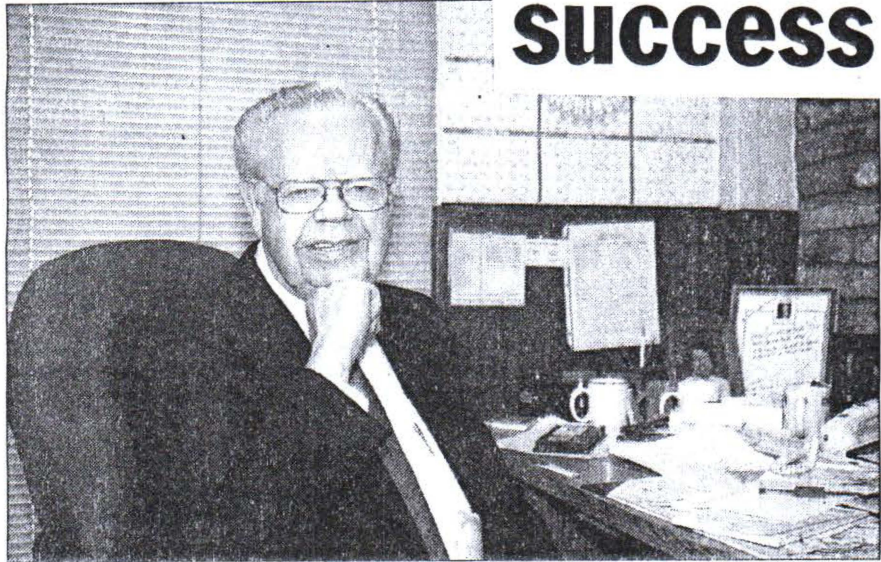
Adopted 10 years ago, Meade's mission statement also emphasizes exceeding expectations, applying ethical practices, providing an enjoyable work environment, and supporting the communities the company serves.

Meade lives what he preaches.

Living in, working in and contributing to the Sun Cities, you can find him everywhere — on the boards of the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts, Sun Health, West Valley Art Museum and Sun City Community Fund. He also was a founding supporter of the Sun City Visitors Center.

"If somebody wants to raise money, they usually find me," said Meade. "Somebody recommends me."

During the past 18 years, Meade



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ken Meade started Ken Meade Realty in Sun City in 1983 with 15 agents and \$100,000 in capital.

said he has built solid friendships that can take "a little arm-twisting." And as he nurtured his company, he prepared his children to eventually take over the business.

In October 1983, Meade started his company with "15 great agents," many of whom still work for the company, and \$100,000 cash he earned selling houses.

In 2000, with annual revenues of \$500 million, the company ranked 94th nationwide in transactions tracked by the National Association of Realtors.

Locally, Meade received the Metropolitan Club's Community Leadership Award for 2000.

"The award is given annually to an individual who's outstanding leadership and vision has furthered the development of the Northwest Valley communities," said Jeff Flynn, membership director, of the Metropolitan Club, a private business club which is part of The Lakes Club in Sun City. "Ken has been a member since we opened five years ago. (His award) was voted on by our board."

And it was a unanimous decision.

"It wasn't a tough decision, because Ken has been so supportive of everything that happens out here," said Martin Ganzel, an executive with Compass Bank in Sun City, and last year's chairman of the Metropolitan Club's board of governors.

"(Ken) is financially and personally involved in every organization you can think of, he's been an outstanding contributor to the community, what we'd all like to say we are, but not everybody is — he earns his money here, but gives back to the community as well."

Previous winners of the award include Dr. Joe Rogers, president and senior scientist, Sun Health Research Institute; Chuck Roach, former general manager and executive vice president, Del Webb Corporation; and Leland Peterson, CEO of Sun Health Foundation.

Since October 1999, however, Meade has spent most of his time working with his wife, Alice, on physical therapy to help her recover from a stroke she suffered.

"I believe I'll get her to walk again and use her right hand," said Meade. "She needs me to push her

KEN MEADE

OVER



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## WORKING FOR YOU

■ In 2000, Ken Meade Realty ranked 94th nationwide in transactions, with annual revenues of \$500 million, according to the National Association of Realtors.

■ Meade's community service has included member of the board of directors for the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts, Sun Health, West Valley Art Museum and Sun City Community Fund. He was a founding supporter of the Sun City Visitors Center.

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in a nice way. I've had her walk without the 'assist' by holding my two hands lightly. She wants it, too — a couple of weeks ago, she turned on the organ (which she used to play.)"

Supporting Meade's efforts to spend more time away from the business, the Meade children — Steve, Janet, and Patricia — are running the business.

Steve Meade, now president, leads the company on a daily basis, with assistance from sister Janet, who handles all of the books. Patricia, the youngest of Meade's children who has a degree in computer science, set up the company's original computer program.

"I've enjoyed being successful, which is usually defined with money," said Meade. "I got all three kids through college and they got their degrees. I've been married 49 years, have a wonderful wife, Alice. I'm the eternal optimist — I believe we'll get (Alice) back to 90 percent of where we need to go."

Jeanne Winograd can be reached at [jwinograd@aztrib.com](mailto:jwinograd@aztrib.com) or by calling 876-2532.



# Sun Cities realtors honor Ken Meade

## Honoree matches contributions

By MIKE GARRETT  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Ken Meade, owner of Ken Meade Realty, picked up a personal first Sunday night as Realtor of the Year at the annual Sun Cities Area Association of Realtors awards banquet in Sun City Country Club.

Meade said he has contributed his time and \$1,000 or more to the Sundome Center for Performing Arts, the Sun City Ambassadors and their Sun City Visitors Center, Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital, Interfaith Services, the Sun Health Research Institute, Sun City Libraries and the Sun City West Prides, Sun City West Posse, Lending Hands, Sun City West Foundation and Property Owners and Residents Association.

Meade donated \$1,000 to

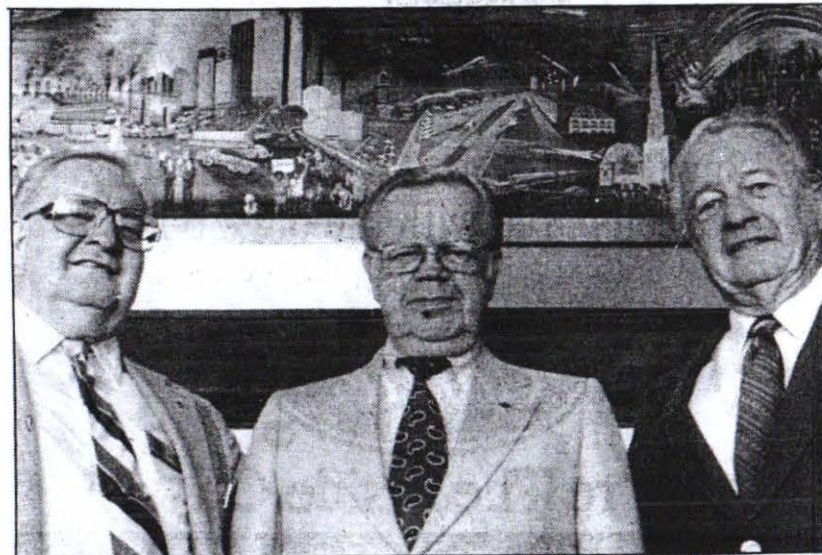
SPAA last week and will again match whatever contributions his agents give to this year's campaign.

Last year Meade said his offices participated 100 percent in contributing to the Realtors' Alzheimer's research project to raise funds for the new research building.

Campaign chairman Joe Davisson said Meade contributed \$5,448 to the \$335,000 SPAA raised last year to keep the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts open and operating. Davisson said that contribution was the largest of any Sun Cities businessman.

Meade has been a Realtor in Arizona since 1960 and started selling real estate in Sun City in January 1974.

He started selling Sun City



Stephen Chermek/Daily News-Sun

Ken Meade, center, Realtor of the Year for the Sun Cities Area Association of Realtors, was honored Sunday night for his charitable contributions. Flanking Meade are Joe Davisson, left, and Don Heyl.

real estate for Del Webb Centre. Home Realty. In 1983 Meade launched his own company, Ken Meade Realty, opening his first office in LaRonde

Ken Meade Realty is the Sun Cities largest real estate company with four offices and 290 sales agents.



# 70-year-old activist making a difference

By Jim Gintonio  
The Arizona Republic

Her son the lawyer offered this advice: "Don't get arrested."

And Marge Mead, volunteer and political activist, has managed to stay out of jail while stumping for causes and advocating change.

Her efforts, although often behind the scenes, have attracted the attention of many in the past few years. Recently awarded the first "You Make a Difference" award from the League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa County, she shows no signs of letting up.

Mead, 70, a retired English teacher from Glendale Community College, didn't start college at GCC until she was 42. She earned a master's degree from Arizona State University nine years later, the same year one of her daughters graduated.

Mead wasn't politically active when she, her husband, Frank, and six of their eight children moved to Arizona from Wisconsin in 1979. That has changed in recent years. She is a member of the National Organization for Women, the Sun City Democratic Club and the American Association of University Women, and now she is a lobbyist. Mead also is a board member for the Arizonans for Clean Elections Institute and its subsidiary group, Next Steps, and is secretary of the Fair District/Fair Elections Redistricting Board.

She has worked steadily on campaign-finance reform, redistricting, managed growth,



Jim Gintonio/The Arizona Republic

**Marge Mead is a volunteer, political activist and lobbyist.**

health care and education.

Bonnie Saunders, president of the League of Women Voters of Northwest Maricopa County, said she gets tired just hearing about everything that Mead does.

"She's cheerful and gung-ho," Saunders said. "What she tells us is very educational. She cares about people, about helping people — the poor or women or minorities or whoever it happens to be needing assistance. She deals with it in a 'Let's make it happen' kind of way."

Mead says with a laugh that she puts in so much time, it feels as if she has a full-time job again. Although many of the issues she is passionate about aren't laughing matters, she tries to keep a sense of humor.

"Moving to Sun City (from Phoenix) and getting involved has been a wonderful experience," she said. "Most people volunteer for altruistic reasons, and this is very fulfilling."



# SC flight instructor, 78, takes to sky

By LYNN PYNE  
Emphasis Editor

Sun Citian Bertha Meana, at age 78, is looking for students who want to get their heads in the clouds... literally. Mrs. Meana is a flight instructor.

She is looking both for novices and for former pilots who need a refresher course. She envisions a Sun City flying club someday.

"It would be nice to get people interested in aviation. I love flying and want others to love it the way I do," she says.

**CAN OLDER** folks really learn to pilot a plane?

"The airplane flies. You just tell it where to go," she says. "I recommend learning to fly to everyone and anyone, as long as you are in fairly good shape."

She tells about a Sun City man who has no legs, but who flies a plane. He cannot walk, but he can fly.

**MRS. MEANA** has found that her age, plus the fact that she is a woman, makes it doubly hard for her to find work as a flight instructor.

"A woman who wants to get ahead, especially an older person, has to be better than anyone else. You have to really fight to get a job," she says.

Mrs. Meana is a member of the Sun City Hiking Club and she also swims about one-half hour of laps in Lakeview pool nearly



Bertha Meana, Sun City flight instructor, also teaches German on Wednesdays in a local bank.

(News-Sun Photo)

every day. This, in addition to a healthy diet, helps her to stay in shape.

**MRS. MEANA** was born in Kermanshah, a camel

town in Iran (Persia). She was reared by an aunt in Germany, where she attended college in Berlin to learn metalography, the

microscopic photography of the crystal structure of metals.

She worked as a secretary-stenographer in foreign languages for an export business, and for a while took care of the family lottery business.

In 1923, Mrs. Meana traveled to the United States to visit her mother, who lived in a small Iowa town.

"**I HAD** always lived in Hamburg, Berlin... big cities. And I was used to making my own money," she recalls. "I went to Chicago and stayed in the YWCA. For three days, I found no job and was desperate."

Finally, she took a domestic job, baby sitting and doing housework. "I handled the baby all right, but they asked me to make toast—'what is toast?' I thought. Of course I let it burn. And I got lost on the subway."

Then she worked as an English stenographer in an export office and then in a German investment office.

**SHE WAS** married to a Spaniard in 1924 and in 1925 the first son arrived.

Later, she worked as a transcriber on test results gathered by technicians on atomic bomb research. "Then came the witch hunt," the German-reared Mrs. Meana recalls. She had to quit the job.

MEANA, BERTHA

PERSONALITIES

OVER



However, in 1949 she obtained security clearance to work in the U.S. F-86 airplane factory.

**IT WAS** in 1947 that Mrs. Meana was introduced to flying planes. She was commuting regularly between homes in New York and in Chicago at the time.

She walked down by the Hudson River one day and met a pilot with a seaplane. "Do you want a ride?" he asked her.

"A ride?" she said

laughing. "I commute between Chicago and New York. If I go up in that I want to fly it."

**SHE DID.**

"I was enthused," she recalls. "I had a lot of free time and nothing else to do. I am an active person and have to have something to do. Flying took care of a lot of time."

"Mom (Mrs. Meana) would clean up the house and set off to the airport. In the evening I'd be back in time to quickly fix supper."

Mrs. Meana earned her commercial pilot license, her instructor's rating, multi-engine pilot's rating and instrument pilot's rating. This means she is a certified flight instructor for single and multi-engine instrument airplanes.

**TO GET** the multi-engine pilot's rating, she used the money for lessons that her husband had given her to purchase a fur coat. "I handed over the money and said, 'Here's one sleeve, here's the front panel. . .'"

When Mrs. Meana's husband died, she had to earn a living. She took \$1,000 and bought a two-seat

trainer plane and opened a flight school in 1954. She prospered for a year and a half until the airport, where she was based, closed.

She then went to Fort Worth, Texas, to be a ground instructor, teaching radio navigation and meteorology, and to be a Link trainer (simulator) instructor.

**SHE THEN** was employed as a Link instructor for an Army base in San Marcos, Texas. The base closed and she then taught several other places before joining the Peace Corps in 1962.

Mrs. Meana describes as "very gratifying" the feeding program in which she participated in Peru. She drove a jeep to small schools in the mountains until 1964.

She returned to the Peace Corps in 1971, teaching macrame to 13-14-year-old girls in Columbia.

**MRS. MEANA** visited Sun City in 1976, with no intention of settling here, and ended up purchasing a house.

But that doesn't mean she's hung up her flight cards. She still is teaching

and in fact was recently named "instructor of the year" by the Western Aviation News, a Chandler-based publication for flyers.

Mrs. Meana, 977-9468, is registered with several area flight schools and teaches out of several local airports.

**"YOU HAVE** to make life a little bit exciting," she says. "I like flying because of the feeling of liberty and being away from everything. There are fewer distractions."

"You're sitting on top of the world. It's something beautiful. You are the master of your own ship."



# FLYING SOLO

*At 83, Sun Citian  
Bertha Meana  
refuses to land*

By PAT KOSSAN  
Emphasis Editor



"I don't mix in with other people's affairs," said Bertha Meana when asked about her secret to 83 happy years. "I'm very independent. You have to stay active."



"Love is very important, not only sexual love but children and grandchildren."

(News-Sun Photos by M.J. Hoppes)

MEANA, BERTHA



It didn't worry Bertha Meana when she stepped off the boat from Germany in 1923 and had to wend her way from New York City to Iowa alone.

She wasn't worried when, without training, she took over the controls of a Piper Cub airplane and soared above the clouds.

It doesn't worry Mrs. Meana, now 83, that she'll be spending this summer alone in a tower working as a U.S. Forest Service volunteer fire spotter 65 miles outside the nearest town.

"I'M JUST NOT a worrier," she said. She's always made it on her own.

Mrs. Meana was born in Iran and doesn't remember her German businessman father who died when she was less than a year old.

Her mother, also German, left for America where a brother had found her another husband. She left little Bertha behind in the care of her sister in Essen, Germany.

Bertha was 17 before her aunt told her that she wasn't her real mom. "She was afraid to tell me. It didn't bother me. I knew—I had guessed it many years before because of the long letters my 'aunt' in Iowa would send me."

**BERTHA'S FAMILY** worked hard to send her to a fine private school for girls, where she excelled in mathematics and languages. She suffered through the hunger and anguish World War I brought to

Germany and lost her 'puppy love sweet-heart' in combat.

It was in 1923 that Bertha decided to go to America to meet her mom. Her family opposed the decision. "I was beautiful like my mom. They were worried I would fall into the wrong company."

But, of course, Bertha went anyway.

"I arrived on the 4th of July. I had to spend the day on the boat and watched the fireworks over New York."

**THE NEXT DAY**, because of her excellent English, she was processed through Ellis Island and into New York in a matter of hours. She explored the city and bought a sleeper on a train to Iowa. Bertha, used to the big city fashion and culture of Hamburg where she had worked as a stenographer, wasn't impressed with the tiny farming hamlet of Britt, Iowa.

"I remember they sent a newspaper person to interview me then and he asked me what I thought of the American music. I said it was noisy," Bertha laughed as she let out a chorus of "Yes, We Have No Bananas."

Less than a month later, Bertha left her mom for Chicago and a room at the YWCA.

Bertha had never done housework in her life, but a housekeeping job was what kept her surviving in the Windy City until she cornered a position as a Spanish interpreter in an import-export business. That's where she met her Spanish-born husband.

**WHEN HER FAMILY** (she had two sons) moved to a home on the Hudson River, she spent her mornings strolling along the river's edge.

It was during one of those walks that she discovered a tiny air strip with a young pilot dressed in a leather jacket sitting in a Piper Cub airplane.

"He asked me if I wanted a ride. I told him that if I go up I wanted to fly it." She did. "It took me above the clouds. I loved it the first thing. Flying is a love affair."

"After that every penny I spent went toward lessons. I would save and save. My husband would go out to work, I'd make the beds, do the dishes and head out to the airport. I guess you could have called me an airport bum."

**BUT MRS. MEANA** didn't waste her time. She earned her pilot's license and began flying to Long Island for lunch.

"My husband didn't like to fly, he didn't even drive a car. But he was so good natured and just let me continue to fly."

After the Meanas moved to Montreal, she earned her commercial license.

She used the money her husband gave her for a mink coat to earn her multi-engine license. "Every time I took a lesson I would say, 'Here is a sleeve, here is the other sleeve, here is the front panel.' I had just enough money left over for a coat from Sears Roebuck."

**MR. MEANA DIED** two months after he retired to Florida. "He left no money. He had no money sense. If anyone asked





"I don't belong to a church. I believe in all religions. There is that feeling in a human being that there's something there."

him for money, he would just reach into his pocket and give it to them."

Every penny of the meager amount he did leave went into Mrs. Meana's first plane. She taught, flew the Everglades on fire patrol, and took people sea turtle spotting.

After a friend destroyed Mrs. Meana's plane in a crash (he was not injured), the spunky widow earned her ground instructor and simulator instructor ratings and learned to fly by instruments. Fighting her way into the man's world of flying, she eked out a living.

When the air force base where she was working closed, Mrs. Meana decided to enter the Peace Corps. The year was 1962 and morale and idealism in the newly formed organization ran high. "But I needed the money and couldn't find a job in aviation," she quickly admitted.

**SHE WAS ASSIGNED** to a nutritional program in Peru and eventually landed an assignment visiting schools in the Peruvian back country as a nutrition teacher.

Alone at the wheel of a jeep, the 62-year-old fought her way up treacherous mountain roads and through rivers. "There was a spot over a canyon where there was just two logs for a crossing. You had to back up and line your wheels even with the logs. Each time I was on the other side I'd say, 'Well, I made it again.'"

When Mrs. Meana's assignment was

up, the Corp couldn't find a volunteer willing to run the same route or capable of keeping the jeep in working order. "I used to use bobby pins to make repairs. Anything to keep it running. But it was all very rewarding."

Back in the states, Mrs. Meana cut herself a 50-percent contract with a tiny flying school that had one airplane and two students. She went to work, built the school to 30 regular students and two more airplanes.

**DURING HER YEARS** with the school, Mrs. Meana arranged a 50-75 percent discount on major airlines and took several trips around the world.

It was 6½ years ago that Mrs. Meana was considering retiring. She was on her way to California when she passed through Sun City and decided to stay.

Mrs. Meana doesn't fly as much as she used to. "If I had the money I'd fly every day."

Last summer she went to China, and the year before she took her travel trailer along a 9,000-mile route to Nova Scotia—alone.

**THIS SUMMER** she will serve as a U.S. Forest Service volunteer in the New Mexican wilderness.

They will provide her with a crude cabin and five days a week she'll climb a tower and watch for fires. "So why shouldn't I? I don't like to be here in the summer. Why should I just drive around? I've seen everything—and I don't want to wash dishes."





Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Martin Mearson sits with boxes of his research into the attack on Pearl Harbor in his Sun City home.

# Pearl Harbor research

## Local man delves into responsibility for infamous attack

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Martin Mearson has spent 20 years unraveling the mystery surrounding what he calls the Pearl Harbor cover-up.

Despite a tremor that does not allow him to even write his own name, Mearson, 85, is compiling his research into a book "on the real story" about Pearl Harbor commanders Admiral Husband E. Kimmel and Lt. Gen. Walter C. Short.

"They were scapegoats, plain and simple. I am convinced the politicians in Washington found them as scapegoats because the public was so upset and they needed someone to blame," Mearson said.

Mearson's Sun City home is filled with files, notes and letters he has accumulated while investigating the events that led to Kimmel and Short being blamed for the 2,500 killed or injured in the Japanese attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

Kimmel was commander in chief of U.S. Navy forces in the Pacific and Short was commander of U.S. Army forces in Hawaii.

Mearson said he is convinced that Kimmel and Short were blamed to deflect the public's criticism of the White House following the attack.

This month marks the 50-year anniversary of the Roberts Commission decision that held that the two Pearl Harbor commanders were in "dereliction of duty."

The Roberts Commission, handpicked by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, was charged with determining if U.S. military leaders were at fault in the attack.

"When the president of the United States says these men are responsible for this disaster, everyone in the country wanted to hang them," Mearson said. "We lost a lot of lives from that attack and the public pressure began to point to President Roosevelt. All the Navy's ire was reserved for Kimmel and all the Army's ire was reserved for Short."

Mearson has written six articles on the Pearl Harbor incident. Six of them were printed in a Military Order of the World Wars publication.

The military order is a patriotic, non-partisan organization of commissioned and chief warrant officers who have served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces. There are 18,500 members in the nation.

The military order has awarded Mearson a \$4,000 first prize for his

See Sun Citian garners, A5

OVER

Mearson, Martin



# Sun Citian garners award for article

—From A1

articles on Kimmel and Short.

Mearson will be awarded the Vice Admiral George C. Dyer Memorial Trust Fund award at a meeting of the Sun Cities chapter on March 14.

Since Mearson's first article was published in the mid-1980s, hundreds of people from across the country have mailed Mearson letters giving him information about the attack.

"One man said he knew a police officer who was assigned to safeguard the secretary of state after he got out from a late-night meeting the night before the attack. He walked the streets all night after that meeting and was very upset. I think that late-night meeting revealed that the Japanese were going to attack the next morning," Mearson said.

In one of his latest articles, Mearson discussed whether Kimmel and Short were received due process of law in the investigation.

"The answer was clearly a resounding no. It was quite clear that the furthest thing in everyone's mind, including FDR and his entourage, was to avoid, at all costs, affording Kimmel and Short anything resembling a fair hearing," Mearson wrote in an article that appeared in "Officer Review."

"They were not able to introduce witnesses, cross-examine or be represented by counsel. The commission went by their own rules and conducted this kangaroo court."

Mearson said his book will prove that officials in Washington deprived the two commanders of important information that would have prepared them for the attack.

For example, James Richardson, who preceded Kimmel as commander in chief of the Pacific Fleet, urged Roosevelt to move the fleet out of Pearl Harbor, Mearson said. Richardson was then fired and replaced.

A machine that deciphered the Japanese diplomatic code was

sent to the British and to the Philippines instead of Pearl Harbor, he said.

Mearson said the Japanese requested and got a copy of a consular code map that showed the exact locations of ships in Pearl Harbor several days before the attack.

"What would that have meant. If they requested that map that should have given the White House a good indication that they were planning on attacking," Mearson said.

Mearson, who keeps in contact with the sons of Kimmel and Short, said he hopes to write his book as soon as possible.

Lt. Gen. C.M. Talbott and Lt. Karl B. Justice of the Military Order of the World Wars, have offered to write a preface to the book backing its claims.

"It's time consuming because I can barely write my own name and need a typist to do everything for me," Mearson said.

While serving the Navy in the Guadalcanal, Mearson became very ill and was in the hospital for six months. Since then he has had many bouts with malaria, which has hit his nervous system and affected his speech and hand coordination.

"I spent hours in hospital beds so I had time to wonder how they (Kimmel and Short) got in this situation," he said.

In addition to the countless hours Mearson has devoted to research, he has also spent a lot of money.

Mearson estimates he has spent \$10,000 a year for the past 10 years.

Mearson, a retired federal administrator who served in the state department, graduated from Annapolis, studied law at Harvard University and had doctorate in political science from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

He is a retired Navy commander who rejoined the forces the day after the Pearl Harbor attack launched the United States into World War II.



# John W. Meeker Jr. dies

## He was responsible for planning Sun Cities

By JULIE RIDDLE  
Independent Newspapers

Time was when Sun City was nothing but 10,000 acres of cotton fields, a lonely stretch of land occupied by whiskey drinkers and carousers, and a place folks tried to avoid at all costs. By 1960, prospective residents, eager to get a look at a new retirement lifestyle, lined the highway between Phoenix and Los Angeles for two miles.

Key in that turnaround was retirement planning pioneer John W. Meeker Jr., who died Feb. 5, at 73.

Perhaps the most vital cog in Del E. Webb's infinitely rolling development wheel, Meeker is considered to be one of the founding fathers

of retirement community planning at a time when such a thing seemed ludicrous.

Mr. Meeker, who prior to World War II worked as Mr. Webb's golf caddie, assumed the presidency of Delbert E. Webb Corporation (DEVCO) in 1965, a position he held 16 years.

Faced with lower home sales during the recession of 1964-65, it was Mr. Meeker whom Del Webb himself turned to, asking "Do you think you can turn things around, John?" Meeker did, as sales spiked sharply upward in successive years.

Known for taking business ventures that many considered foolish at the time, Mr. Meeker ignored his critics and built, usually with little backing. After completing the Sun Bowl in 1967, Mr. Meeker attracted names like Lawrence Welk and Pete Fountain to entertain, amazing those who said the location was too remote to bring headliners.

Jerry Svendsen, one of Mr. Meeker's former employees, said Meeker was a visionary who



John W.  
Meeker Jr.

carried out the dreams of Del Webb, and eventually, himself.

"All of the major projects and visions do stem back to John Meeker," Mr. Svendsen said. "He was the man with the biggest ideas. He was also a great man because he listened to his people."

In his mission to grow the community, Mr. Meeker's plans worked. In an effort to bring more churches to the area, he offered land at a reasonable cost, provided residents with agricultural plots at no charge and constructed a large compound for parking recreational vehicles.

H. Allen Winter, financial analyst for Webb, once called Mr. Meeker a catalyst who struggled to gain support.

"Mr. Meeker constantly fought to get the money to do those projects. He did a great job. He committed himself to that place and made it happen. He deserves the credit."

Mr. Meeker, according to Sun City Historical Society President Jane Freeman, was also a man of the people who knew what the community needed.

"John Meeker made Sun City what it is," Ms. Freeman said. "He believed in involving himself with the people — he gave us what we wanted before we even knew what that was. He was able to bring people together as a cohesive unit. It was not just a lot of houses — he was one of us."

His legacy, Ms. Freeman said, is evident.

"He is responsible for the indoor pool at the Sundial Recreation Center, Viewpoint Lake and the Sundome. He put air-conditioning into the houses. He had a lot of foresight — people came first," Ms. Freeman recalled. "He was largely responsible for making the retirement community what it is today. He set the tone," she added.

In tribute to the man instrumental in developing the community, the street now circling the very heart of Sun City West was named Meeker Boulevard, though Mr. Svendsen

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From Page 1

Carol Jones; sons, John Wesley III, Mark Richard and Scott Andrew Meeker; stepson Randall Richard King; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

says that more than a street should have been dedicated to his former boss.

"It is much more than just Meeker Boulevard. Everyone use to look at Del as the father of retirement, but it was Meeker who built that dream, and had little dreams along the way," Mr. Svendsen said.

Mr. Meeker is survived by his wife, Bonnie; daughter, Suzanne

■ MEEKER

JOHN MEEKER

VF SC Personalities



# Sun City's man of all seasons *sun city*

By TIM CLARK  
Staff Writer

The man's life has a certain storybook flavor to it, and those stories often have their bittersweet moments.

For John Meeker, 51-year-old president of Del E. Webb Development Co., 1977 was a bittersweet year.

The Webb company experienced its sweetest year ever in Sun City, selling 3,485 new homes. And Meeker believes twice that number could have been sold if "the product" had been available. You can't sell what you can't build.

**THE YEAR 1977** also saw approvals for Sun City West, and Meeker is visibly excited about moving across New River to apply what the development firm has learned in 18 years of creating Sun City.

But 1977 had to be a bitter year for John Meeker the man, as opposed to John Meeker the construction executive. His wife Dorothy died after a long illness Sept. 4, the same day long-time friend and associate Bill Heavlin was found murdered in his home near Sun City.

**MEEKER SHRUGS** off queries about his reaction to those tragedies—"lousy" is as far as he'll go in describing 1977 in a personal sense—and he gives the ap-

pearance of a man looking ahead, not back.

His wife's passing has not, he says, driven him to seek refuge in his work, because he always has been so involved that it's hard to point to any change.

He does get started a little later each day, because he has to see his 11-year-old son off to school before getting into his car, with telephone, for the drive from Phoenix to Sun City.

When you can distract Meeker from talking about Sun City and the Del Webb firm, you'll find him talking enthusiastically about the home he has built on a mining claim near Walker, southeast of Prescott.

**WITH THE HELP** of a son and nephews, Meeker has done much of the work himself over the last seven years. Only the finishing touches remain, and the Meeker clan enjoyed Christmas holidays at the home.

An old mine shaft on the property dates back to the 1860s, and the mine itself was worked off and on until the early 1950s. Once the house is completed, Meeker speaks of trying his hand at the gold mining business.

Golf is the other major leisure activity for Meeker, who carries a 10 handicap. He once was a five-handicapper but the press of business allows him to play only

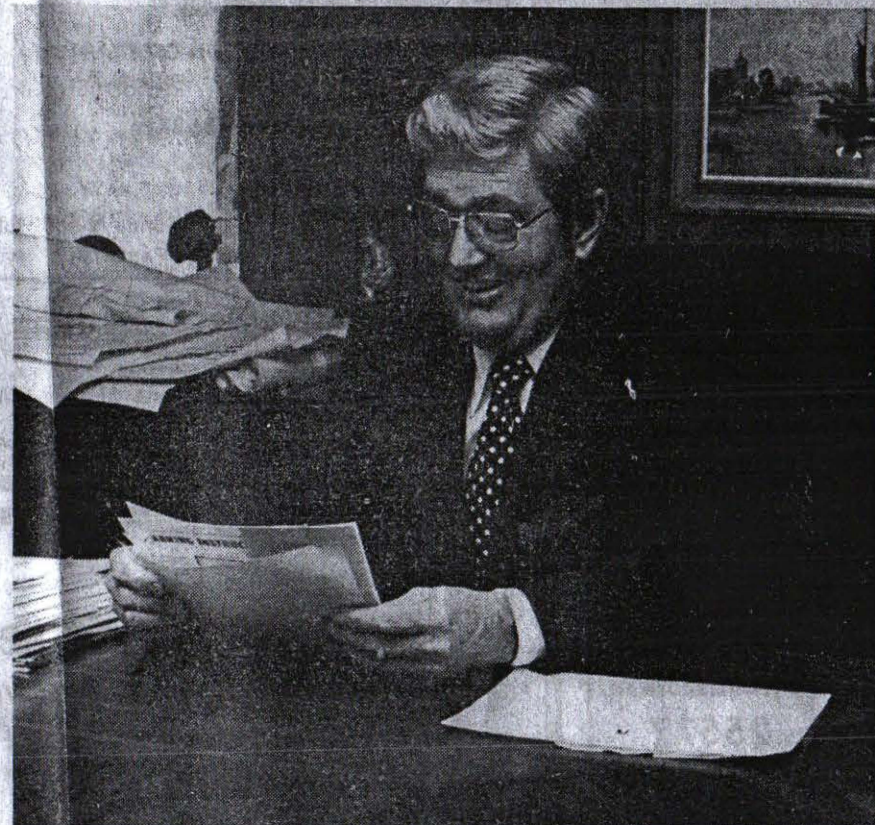
once in two weeks.

Appropriately, it was golf that allowed the 14-year-old John Meeker to meet construction executive Del E. Webb in 1941.

**"THEY RAN OUT** of caddies one

day, and I was the only one to be Mr. Webb's caddy," recalled Meeker. He carried Webb's golf bag regularly until he joined the Air Force in 1944.

(Continued on 2-A)



John Meeker starts through stack of paperwork on his huge, half-moon shaped desk in Del E. Webb Development Co. offices. (News-Sun Photo)



Returning from the war in 1946, Meeker was planning to go on to school. Webb urged his former caddy to give the construction business a try first.

He started Dec. 16, 1946, as an assistant mail clerk, but during the next eight years he got a taste of all aspects of managing the construction business.

By 1954 he was working on local subdivisions in Phoenix, a job he considers good training for what lay ahead in Sun City.

Today Meeker estimates he has been involved in planning the construction of 35,000 units of housing, including some 22,500 to date in Sun City.

**HE RECALLS** a hot July day in 1959 when he, Owen Childress and Jack Ford spent hours and hours looking at flat land, cotton fields and irrigation ditches that Webb just had purchased.

"It was difficult even to imagine what we have here today," said Meeker of the agricultural land that is today Sun City.

Six months after that uncomfortable July day, motorists were backed up for miles along Grand Avenue as Del Webb's Sun City opened with 20 motel rooms, a small restaurant, 18 rental apartments, a nine-hole golf course and five model homes.

John Meeker was the first project operations manager here and supervised the golf course and model homes in that initial setting. He has remained intimately involved in Sun City's growth since that day.

**HE IS GIVEN** major credit for the concept of circling Sun City avenues and boulevards around the golf courses. He also is credited with generating the ideas for neighborhood shopping centers, the Sun Bowl, ball park, picnic area, indoor swimming pool and tennis courts.

However, Meeker is quite willing to share any credit with his Webb colleagues and, even more, with Sun City residents themselves.

He likes to talk about how Sun Citians themselves generated ideas for the hospital, for Sunshine Services and even for design of model homes. Before Sun City reached its present proportions, Webb passed out questionnaires so residents could comment on what they liked and didn't like about the new models.

**"THE PEOPLE** have, since the first day, kept immaculate care of their homes. They have a total sense of pride not found anywhere else," he commented.

Sun City's first year produced 1,301 home sales, and competitors and imitators soon entered the market. Housing sales dip-

marks 1966 as a major watershed in Sun City's development, "the real beginning of Sun City."

Until then, he said, "The philosophy was to sell a home and a way of life, but the staff was almost totally uninvolved." In 1966 the developer, under Meeker's leadership, decided to create a retirement lifestyle through greater involvement in the community.

**THE SUN BOWL** was built and Webb promoted entertainment. Mountain View Recreation Center was built and, though modest by Bell Center standards, it was a step up from the two older centers.

The new philosophy was based on the premise, which Meeker still adheres to, that "the residents themselves are our best salesmen."

Meeker said his management style is activist. "I feel that someone, whoever is at the top, has to make the decision.

"I guess I'm a pretty expensive coordinator," he added.

However, some of Meeker's colleagues at Webb feel he has allowed subordinates to make more and more decisions. One perception is that Meeker has mellowed in recent years.

A publicity-shy man, he has spoken to more groups in 1977 than ever before. In his most recent talk, he spoke extemporaneously rather than from the prepared text he normally uses.

**MEEKER HIMSELF** alluded to a mellowing process when asked whether reports of a quick temper are accurate.

"I don't have the longest temper in the world, but I think that it's gotten better with age," he said.

He remains deeply committed to the Sun City retirement concept and to residents here. "We would not like to see any special interest group from within or without to guide the lives of Sun Citians, now or in the future."

Meeker said Webb is not going to pull out of Sun City when it finishes construction here and turns west to Sun City West. Webb offices will remain here and the firm will continue to operate the shopping centers.

He spoke of the Webb-funded study of options for Sun City's future. "We feel very strongly that the residents and they alone should make the decision. We may have and will express an opinion, but they will vote."

**MEEKER PROFESSES** few personal goals outside his work, but he has looked ahead to retirement and where he wants to settle.

Not surprisingly, he thinks he would like to live in Sun City some day and



# Wisconsin honors Sun City man

By ANN T. DALEY  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — The Rev. Walter Mehl fondly remembers discovering how well-known he was for his track feats at the University of Wisconsin in 1940.

"I had a small class on the third floor of this one building," the 76-year-old said. "I was running a little bit late, so I sprinted up the stairs. When I got there, I was a little embarrassed, so I said, 'Boy, am I winded.'"

"The rest of the class roared. They



Mehl

thought it was funny that I could run track so well, yet be winded running up the stairs. I didn't know so many people knew about me."

Mehl, a national champion 1,500-meter runner, will be honored for his achievements on and off the track as he is inducted into the university's Athletic Hall of Fame this weekend.

The Hall has 35 members, with only two former track and cross country standouts.

"It makes me feel like the accomplishments I made at the university have been recognized," said Mehl, a retired Presbyterian minister.

The formal induction ceremony will be on Friday, followed by an in-

troduction at halftime of Saturday's football game between Wisconsin and Bowling Green.

"Only the old-timers will recognize my name," said Mehl, who retired his running shoes in trade for tennis, swimming and bicycling upon moving here in 1976.

"I used to work at football games at the stadium. I looked at the old graduates of one kind or another and wondered who they were.

"When you're a top athlete in your sport, they know who you are. I didn't realize that until I was out of school."

Candidates, dating back to student-athletes from the 1870s, were judged based upon athletic achievement and

participation in extracurricular activities.

Most notable of Mehl's track performances came in 1940 when he set a 1,500-meter national record time of 3 minutes, 47.9 seconds by beating Kansas' Glenn Cunningham.

Mehl also set an American record in the NCAA two-mile championship in 9:11.1 in 1938 and won the AAU indoor mile in 4:10.9 in 1941.

Among Mehl's contributions off the track are service as president of the Student Athletic Board, a student representative on the Faculty Athletic Board and president of the Student Religious Council.

See Mehl held, B2

## Mehl held U.S. mark in 1,500

— From B1

Last year, Mehl earned selection into the Hall of Honor, the school's track and cross country honorary club. He is also a member of the Drake Relays Hall of Fame.

This weekend, Mehl will stay with former roommate and teammate, Riley Best. Mehl's wife, Ruth, and brother, Arthur, also will attend this weekend's ceremonies.



## Impressions: Doris Melleney takes life on the run

By DOUG DOLLEMORE  
News-Sun staff

The professors told Doris Melleney she was too old. She was too old to go back to school. She was too old to learn. At 41, Melleney was an old lady, they said.

They were wrong. "I thought they were exceedingly stupid," says Melleney of the University of Hawaii professors who tried to deny her admission to graduate school in 1957.

"Here were a bunch of professors who were all over 40 telling me that nobody over 36 years old could still learn," Melleney says. "I fought their ruling and I won. I told them they were wrong, and I proved it."

The professors relented and admitted Melleney to the university. Two years later, she graduated with honors, earning a master's degree in social work.

The story is typical of Melleney. No doubt about it, she's a fighter. As a child, she helped her father fight poverty in Boston. As a psychiatric social worker, she helped her patients fight mental illness in Hawaii. And as volunteer, she has helped retirees fight against elder abuse in Sun City.

"It's just natural for me to see when people have a need and can be helped," says Melleney. "I've seen it over and over again."

She learned what she could do about those needs from her father, a Methodist minister who supervised 21 missions in poverty-stricken areas of Boston.

The slums were filled with immigrants from many countries, and Melleney was entranced by the diverse cultures. But she also was overwhelmed by the conditions.

"Dad took me into the slums with him. I saw the good and the bad," Melleney says. "I saw

poverty, dirt and delinquency. But I also saw hope, intelligence and people struggling against all odds to get some place."

Her father showed her how small efforts could make a big difference, she says. He founded a summer camp program that got slum children out of the city. He also started an English language program for immigrants.

"My dad had what were called Chinese Sunday Schools. They had nothing to do with religion. They were classes for Chinese laundrymen who wanted to learn English," Melleney says.

"They were typical of the people we were dealing with. Just because they were poor didn't mean they were at a dead end. It didn't mean they had to stay that way. They knew that. Believe me, a lot of those people amounted to much more than Chinese laundry boys."

Her experiences in the slums committed her to helping others. After she graduated from Radcliffe in 1937, she planned to become a social worker. Instead, she married a psychiatrist and moved to Hawaii.

She spent several years raising her five children and helping her husband conduct research.

In 1957, that life ended when her husband died. After his death, she enrolled in graduate school at the University of Hawaii.

She earned a master's degree in 1959. Then she worked as a social worker at the Hawaii state mental hospital for two years.

"My office was right across the hall from the nurse's admitting station, so new patients would stick their noses up against my window," Melleney says. "I saw some strange things there. But I did help people get better."

Later, she became director of a vocational education program for paraplegics, quadriplegics,

amputees and stroke victims. The program assessed a patient's chances of recovery, then helped him find the proper rehabilitation programs, Melleney says.

In 1964, she became the director of the first Big Brother program in Hawaii. For nine years she led the organization, which encourages adult men to volunteer to spend time with boys who need guidance.

In 1973, she moved to Sun City. She remained a consultant to Big Brothers for three years, traveling throughout the western United States. In 1976, she retired, but remained active in several organizations as a volunteer.

"When you retire, your life changes completely. You have to find other activities to fill the void," Melleney says. "You just can't sit around. You have to be useful. Life would be pretty sterile if you didn't have anything to do."

But Melleney has had plenty to do. For example, she helped establish a volunteer bureau in Sun City. The bureau assesses a volunteer's skills and matches him with an agency needing those talents.

"Volunteering doesn't work unless it gives satisfaction to the volunteer. A volunteer won't do a good job unless he's happy," says Melleney. "Volunteering is something you do to help others. It makes life more interesting. But it has to be self-satisfying, too. It has to be the right job for the right person at the right time."

But the volunteer bureau is just one of Melleney's interests. In 1985, for example, she was bureau treasurer and chairwoman of the organization's budget and finance committee. She was public relations director for the Sun City Community Fund board. She helped her church select a new minister. And she coordinated a



Doris Melleney: "It's just natural for me to see when people have a need and can be helped." (News-Sun photo)

study of elder abuse in the Sun Cities.

Her study concluded that while physical abuse is rare in Sun City, many residents are being financially exploited.

"Fraud and overcharging are all too common here. People just aren't aware of it," Melleney says. "Some people might buy 20 insurance policies. They may not realize they might only need one, if any."

For her efforts, Melleney was named Woman of the Year in 1985 by the Daily News-Sun.

"She's one of the leading people in the community. She's the type of Sun Citian this community needs," says Mary Glen, executive director of the Sun City Volunteer

Bureau. "She's very enthusiastic, hard working and very thorough. She knows a lot of people, and knows how to get them to use their talents to get something done."

"She's a super lady," agrees Chuck McKinnis, who served with Melleney on the Sun City Area Community Council. "I count her as one of the most capable people in the community as far as putting together services that will help the community."

And helping her community is what keeps Melleney going, she says.

"It comes down to three little words," Melleney says. "Make life count — and have a good time doing it."



# Community activist Les Merydith dies

Les Merydith, community activist and long-time promoter of incorporation of Sun City, died July 3. He was 93.

A resident of Sun City for 28 years, Mr. Merydith was involved with numerous community campaigns and was known for his support of several prominent organizations.

He was one of the original founders of the Sun Cities Historical Society and was the founder and former president of the Sun City Water Users Association. With the water association, Mr. Merydith successfully lobbied state officials and agencies to fight proposed increases in local sewer and water rates.

He may, however, be best known for his tireless efforts in promoting incorporation of Sun City. As a founder and former president of Citizens for Self-Government, Mr. Merydith spearheaded two unsuccessful campaigns to secure a community-wide election on the issue of incorporation.

Born in Wheeling, W. Va., Mr. Merydith received a degree from Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio. He worked for Standard Oil for 37 years, retiring as a sales manager.

He is survived by his wife, Reba; one brother, one sister and several nieces and nephews.



Almost until the day he died at the age of 93, Sun Citian Les Merydith was pursuing solutions to the issues he felt were most important to his community.

"When Les felt there was a need to change things in Sun City, he jumped into it whole hog and invested everything he had — including his own money," says Bill Thompson, president of CSG.

"His passing will be a loss to the community from that standpoint."

Ken Larkin, president of the Sun City Water Users Association, says Sun City has lost a "true friend."

"I'm glad I knew and worked with him. If one man left his mark on a community, it was him," says Mr. Larkin.



## Merydith kept debate on issues at a civil level

Although he was better known more recently for his battles with Citizens Utilities Co., Les Merydith may be best remembered as the leading proponent of incorporation of Sun City.

Merydith succeeded at many efforts in his life, including a long career in the oil business and helping to found the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and the Sun City Water Users Association.

Nonetheless, the most vivid memories we have are of Merydith speaking with an array of charts and props in countless presentations on in-

corporation, before any audience willing to listen. Merydith didn't earn the moniker "Mr. Incorporation" for nothing.

When other proponents argued in the abstract for more local control, Merydith most often concentrated on the dollars that Sun City could receive through state shared revenue — if it would incorporate.

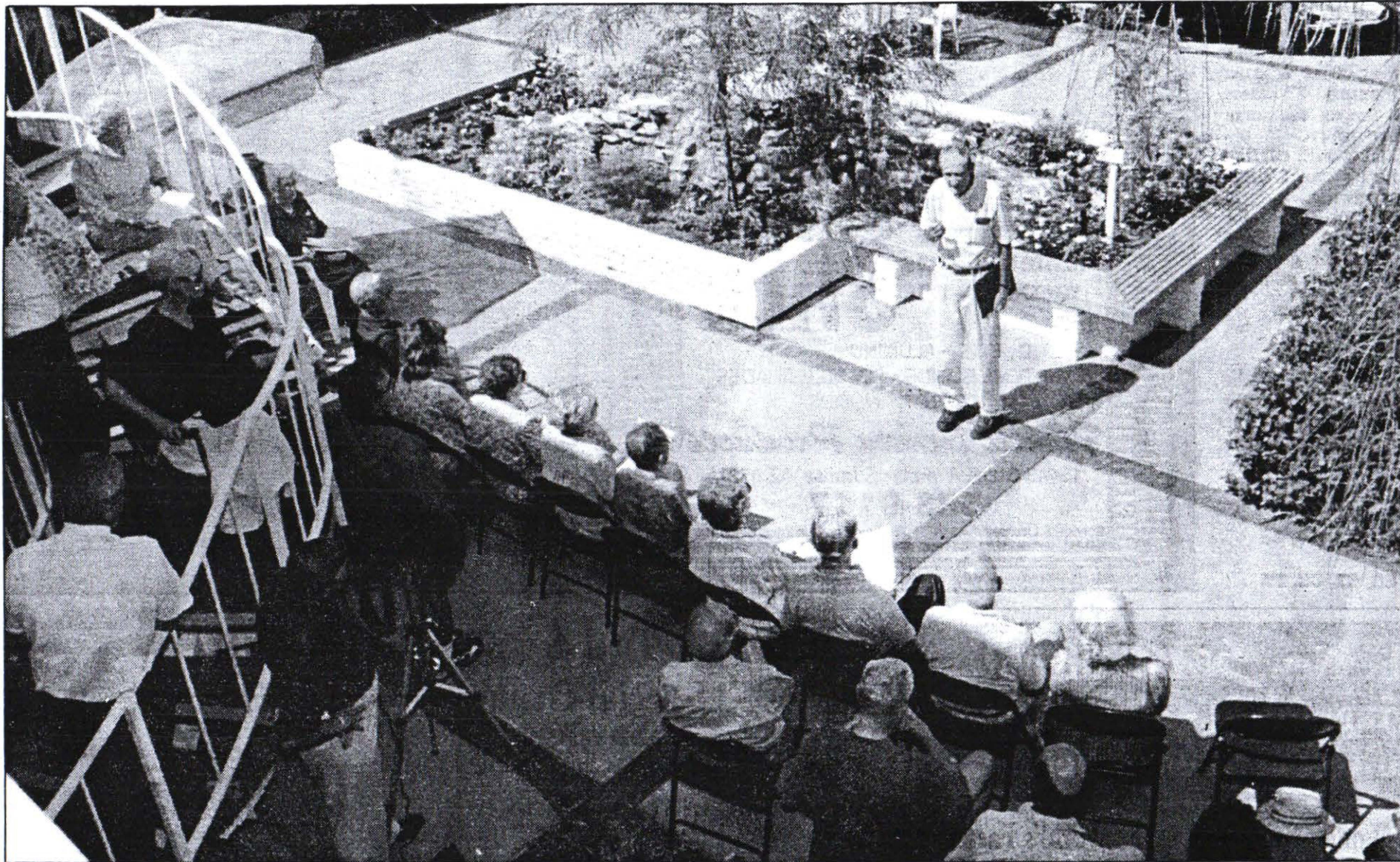
Even when the incorporation issue ran at a fever pitch, Merydith kept the discussion pretty much on the level of dollars and sense. He never resorted to tearing down the characters of his opponents.

Whether you agreed or disagreed, you could always count on Merydith to conduct himself as a true gentleman. Professional politicians could take a lesson.

OUR  
VIEW



# Remembering a friend



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Hawley Atkinson talks about Les Merydith during a memorial service at the Sun City Professional Building Monday morning. John and Marian Hack, owners of the building, honored Merydith by planting a tree in his memory. Merydith was a long-time local activist who founded the Sun City Water Users Association and was integral in the formation of Citizens for Self Government and the Sun Cities Historical Society.

MERYDITH, LES



Fourth in a series of profiles of frequent letter writers.

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Senior staff writer

If you've read any of Les Merydith's manuscripts about local water issues, past and present, you're probably wondering, why does he care so much?

Merydith answered that question the other day sitting in the office of the Sun City Water Users Association — his office. His desk, a long narrow table, is piled high with files and documents. Maps, drawings and newspaper tear sheets decorate the walls.

For 12 years now, Merydith has been keeping close tabs on Citizens Utilities Co., the local water and sewer-service provider. He does it primarily because he doesn't think the Connecticut-based company's chief executive or anyone else employed by the company should be getting rich off the Northwest Valley's aquifer.

Aside from his altruistic consumer watchdog leanings, monitoring Citizens operations is frankly a hobby for the 92-year-old retired marketing executive for Standard Oil Co.

For much of the past 14 months, Merydith has put his skills as a mathematician to work attempting to quash Citizens' plans to begin charging Northwest Valley customers a fee to offset the cost of the company's Central Arizona Project allocation. He is poring through well reports, financial data and other documents in preparation for a forthcoming Citizens rate case during which the CAP issue will be decided.

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Why should people believe him?

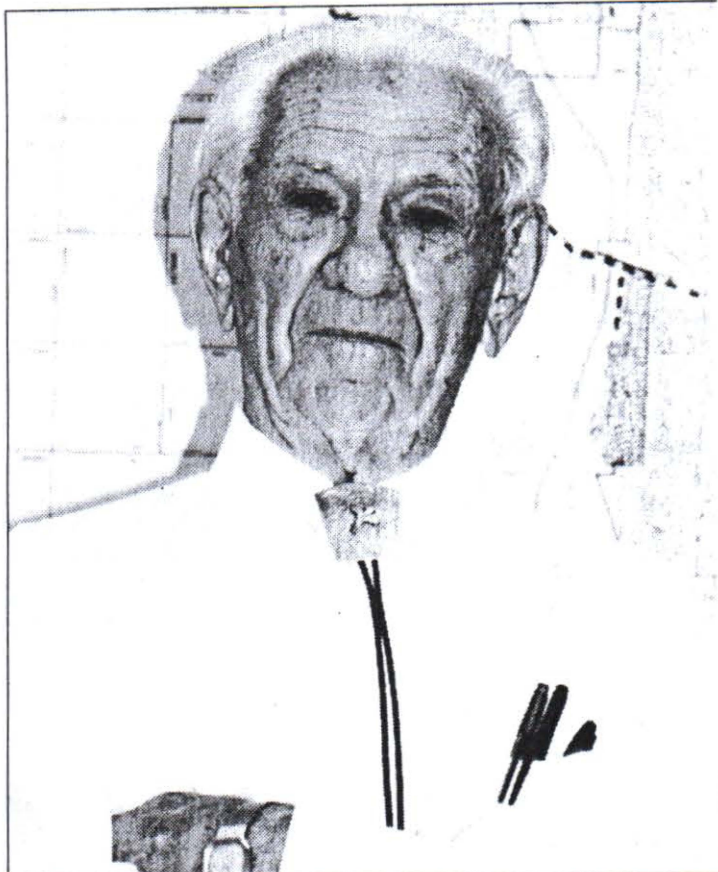
He replied that for one thing, he has learned enough about Arizona water laws, past and present, over the years that regulatory agency officials now look to him for information.

"The head of the legal department (at the Arizona Corporation Commission) calls and asks me questions," he said.

Merydith said his research findings are as credible as government regulators who, being neither mathematicians or engineers, too often take their cues from the utility companies.

## SALUTE

## TO LETTER WRITERS



**Les Merydith**

It was Citizens' CAP proposal that prompted Merydith to organize and, at the outset, personally finance the water users association. He has invested thousands of dollars of his own money to date on office operations and newspaper advertisements outlining the association's take on the CAP water issue.

Merydith has had more orthodox hobbies since moving to Sun City in 1969 from Ohio. He tried lapidary, woodworking and was an avid bicyclist before settling into consumer advocacy nearly full time. He plans to write a book and is poised to start his own water company in the mountain community of Walker, near Prescott, where he has a weekend retreat.

"If I don't have a half-dozen things I have to do when I get up in the morning, I'm bored to death," Merydith said. "I like to have a lot of balls in the air."

Merydith is a former leader of the Sun City incorporation drive. He threw in the towel several years ago, believing that battle wouldn't be won in his lifetime.



JULY 16-22, 1997 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

# Community activist Les Merydith dies

Les Merydith, community activist and long-time promoter of incorporation of Sun City, died July 3. He was 93.

A resident of Sun City for 28 years, Mr. Merydith was involved with numerous community campaigns and was known for his support of several prominent organizations.

He was one of the original founders of the Sun Cities Historical Society and was the founder and former president of the Sun City Water Users Association. With the water association, Mr. Merydith successfully lobbied state officials and agencies to fight proposed increases in local sewer and water rates.

He may, however, be best known for his tireless efforts in promoting incorporation of Sun City. As a founder and former president of Citizens for Self-Government, Mr. Merydith spearheaded two unsuccessful campaigns to secure a community-wide election on the issue of incorporation.

Born in Wheeling, W. Va., Mr. Merydith received a degree from Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio. He worked for Standard Oil for 37 years, retiring as a sales manager.

He is survived by his wife, Reba; one brother, one sister and several nieces and nephews.



Almost until the day he died at the age of 93, Sun Citian Les Merydith was pursuing solutions to the issues he felt were most important to his community.

"When Les felt there was a need to change things in Sun City, he jumped into it whole hog and invested everything he had — including his own money," says Bill Thompson, president of CSG.

"His passing will be a loss to the community from that standpoint."

Ken Larkin, president of the Sun City Water Users Association, says Sun City has lost a "true friend."

"I'm glad I knew and worked with him. If one man left his mark on a community, it was him," says Mr. Larkin.

MERYDITH, LES

VF  
PERSONALITIES

OVER



# REMEMBERING THOSE WHO MADE A DIFFERENCE

## ■ Les believed in himself

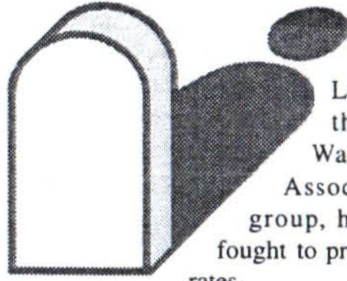
I believe in the man who believes in himself. I believe in the man who believes in his cause.

Today, July 3, 1997, the country and especially Sun City lost such a man. Lester Merydith passed away. Lester stood up and spoke up for what he believes to be the rights of his fellow man.

Born 93 years ago, Lester took every opportunity to educate himself, both formally and informally. He attended Marietta College and in later years established a generous endowment to that college so others may benefit.

Lester was greatly responsible for creating the Sun City Historical Society because he believed in this community. He was one of the first incorporationists for Sun City. He eventually had to abandon that belief when he realized it was not what the people wanted.

Lester was a part of the Sun City Water Watch Group formed in 1984



to protect our water rights. Later this became the Sun City Water Users Association. In that group, he successfully fought to protect your water rates.

Maybe people who have known Lester longer or better could note many more contributions made by this fine gentleman.

I believe for those of us whose lives he touched, that we can be a better person and remember him as a believer.

-PRESTON E. WELCH  
SUN CITY

*Editor's note: Mr. Welch is the vice president of the Sun City Water Users Association.*

## ■ He left his mark

Over the weekend Sun City lost a true friend when Lester Merydith passed away.

I am glad that I knew and worked with him. If one man left his mark

on a community it was him.

He helped create the Sun City Historical Society and in 1984 founded the Sun City Water Watch Group. He had been active with the Sun City Home Owner's Association and the Sun City Taxpayer's Association.

In 1996, Les spoke to Preston Welch and myself about forming the Sun City Water User's Association. He asked me to be president and Preston Welch to be vice president. The association was formed and Les put up all the money to start it. He was the driving force behind the association and he will be missed.

I will miss my doorbell ringing at all hours when Les would appear with a new report. At other times I would find in my mailbox new material he had left.

I will miss my friend and I am sure Sun City will also.

KENNETH J. LARKIN  
SUN CITY

*Editor's note: Mr. Larkin is the president of the Sun City Water Users Association.*



# Lester Merydith: 'He had done his work and done it well'

**L**ester Merydith was talking to Marian Hack about the diet she had started. "He told me that I should also exercise to make the diet work," Hack recalled. "Then he got down on the floor and did 25 push-ups."

No surprise here. Except the fact that Merydith was 93 at the time.

That incident was just one of many I've uncovered that suggests that Merydith was no ordinary man.

But I never met him and never will. On July 3, one month after wowing Hack with the push-ups, Merydith died of a stomach aneurysm.

Today at 10 a.m., some of his friends and family will honor him with a memorial service in the courtyard at the Sun City Professional Building, 12630 N. 103rd Ave.

Hack is manager of the building, where Merydith leased space for the Sun City Water Users



Herb Whitney

other guy."

So important was water usage to Merydith that in 1987 he teamed up with the climatology lab at Arizona State University to measure the

Association, a group he helped organize to monitor water rates and allotments in the retirement community.

"Les used his own money to pay rent the first few months and successfully fought court battles over water issues," Hack said. "He had an influence on everyone he met, but he never took credit. He always applauded the

cooling effect of evaporation by setting up three weather stations in Sun City — one on a grassy lot, one next to a lake and one on a desert-landscaped lot.

"He was a very scientific guy who didn't get emotional, but was intent on testing a fundamental notion," said Anthony Brazel, associate dean of ASU's graduate college who in 1987 was director of the climatology lab.

"We agreed to monitor the three stations for a year if he built the shelters. He did that, and later he donated the equipment to the university."

The testing showed that evaporation from watered grass provided a level of cooling "sizeably different" from the other two sites, Brazel said.

Merydith used the findings to fight efforts by the Arizona Department of Water Resources to reduce the allocation of water to Sun City.

In a *Phoenix Gazette* story dated Oct. 7,

1987, Merydith said this:

"Everyone thought we would have to get rid of grass, lawns, trees and the like. Wait a minute. We want to see if the water that evaporates from these places is serving a purpose."

Another of Merydith's passions was incorporation. He formed a group called Citizens for Self-Government, which unsuccessfully campaigned for incorporation of Sun City.

He felt that the community was losing millions of dollars a year in state taxes, vehicle license fees and lottery funds, more than enough to offset the cost of forming a municipal government. But most residents didn't support his idea.

"People think of retirement as a time to kick back and have no worries," said Tracy Spoon, a niece of Merydith's who lives in Peoria. "Les never retired in that way."

Merydith was born in West Virginia and

grew up in Marietta, Ohio, where he attended Marietta College. He moved to Sun City in 1969 after retiring as a sales manager with Standard Oil Co.

"They don't make men like Les anymore — he broke the mold," said Spoon, who pointed out that her uncle set up a \$500,000 endowment to benefit the economics department at Marietta College.

Merydith never had children.

"Lester was very systematic and complete in the research he did, so whenever he wrote or spoke he knew he had the facts," said Reba Merydith, Lester's widow and second wife. "At his death, he had done his work and done it well."

Herb Whitney writes about the West Valley. He can be reached at 780-7129 or herb.whitney@pni.com via e-mail.

Monday, Aug. 18, 1997 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

## Merydith was role model for seniors

One hears a great deal today about how young people have such a need for, and are seeking, a hero as a role model, someone to whom they can look up and emulate in their lives.

I suggest that for us seniors a role model, and particularly people in Sun City, and that they can find no better senior role model in today's world than the late Lester E. Merydith. He was a gentleman, he had integrity he had honesty. He was a visionary. He had genuine social consciousness. He had perception. He was a doer. He was not one to say don't bother me with such a problem; let someone else do it, I am retired.

From when he first became a member of the Sun City community, many years ago, he worked hard for many Sun City causes, devoting his considerable talent, energy and most of his waking hours. He never deferred a project because of its enormity or difficulty. On July 3, Sun City lost a real champion.

I don't know that he was ever recognized as a volunteer, but he was recognized by all who knew him as an exceptional leader and doer. I suggest that here is our role model.

Thayer Hoff  
Sun City



## Merydith honored in Sun City

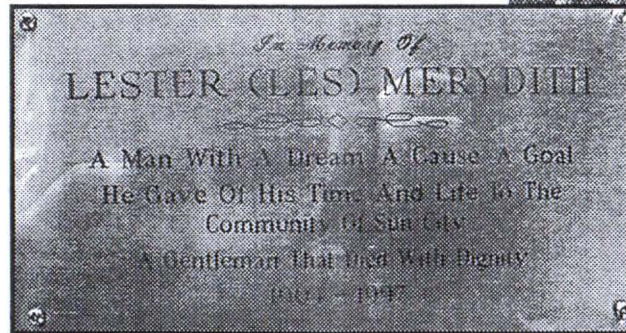


Photo by KATY BORNHOFEN/Independent Newspapers

Sun City community activist Lester Merydith, who died July 3, was honored Aug. 11 with a plaque and tree planting ceremony in the flower garden of the Sun City Professional Building. In attendance were Mr. Merydith's nieces and wife, from left, Carole Parnell, Alice Wasosky, Reba Merydith, Chris Buttes, Tracy Spoon and Alexis Merydith.

## Les Merydith honored

By KATY BORNHOFEN  
Independent Newspapers

Les Merydith's legacy is firmly planted in some of Sun City's toughest battles.

Now the "Water Warrior" has been memorialized with a tree and plaque in the courtyard of the Sun City Professional Building.

The building's managers, John and Marian Hack, joined Mr. Merydith's friends and family for a ceremony Aug. 11.

Mr. Merydith, founder of the Sun City Water Users Association and a long-time promoter of the incorporation of Sun City, died July 3 at the age of 93. The 28-

year resident of Sun City was one of the founders of the Sun Cities Historical Society, as well as founder and former president of Citizens for Self-Government.

Alice Wasosky, one of Mr. Merydith's five nieces, called her uncle "a man of vision and action" and remembered his travels through Canada.

"Lester's love of nature and knowledge of history were important to us as we navigated the rivers of Ontario," she said.

Ms. Wasosky called on others to meet "the challenge of his legacy."

Preston Welch, vice president of the Sun City Water Users Association, called his friend a warrior and a visionary.

"But most importantly, to me, Lester was an inspiration. ... We will continue to fight and always during our battles, he will be in our hearts and minds.

"Always first in mind with Lester was to do the right thing for the people," Mr. Welch said.

Hawley Atkinson, president of the Sun City Taxpayers Association, said the tree was an appropriate "living memorial" for Mr. Merydith.

"The Sun City Taxpayers Association is going to present a

living memorial for Les, too," Mr. Atkinson said.

That memorial is the absorption of the water users group by SCTA, a move Mr. Merydith had wanted, Mr. Atkinson said.

Referring to the close working relationship of the two groups, Mr. Atkinson said, "We made a good team. All of the times I brought problems to Les, he was never too busy to put aside what he was doing in his office to listen to me."

Elmer Becsi remarked, "Les Merydith to me was a man of social conscience and that's something that is lacking in the world today.

"One thing this warrior said was he would rather die with his boots on than in bed. And Lester Merydith died with his boots on."

Mrs. Hack concluded, "We promise we will keep the tree watered and protect it with kindness like (Les) did for us all his life."



# Water issues drive watchdog

Fourth in a series of profiles of frequent letter writers.

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Senior staff writer

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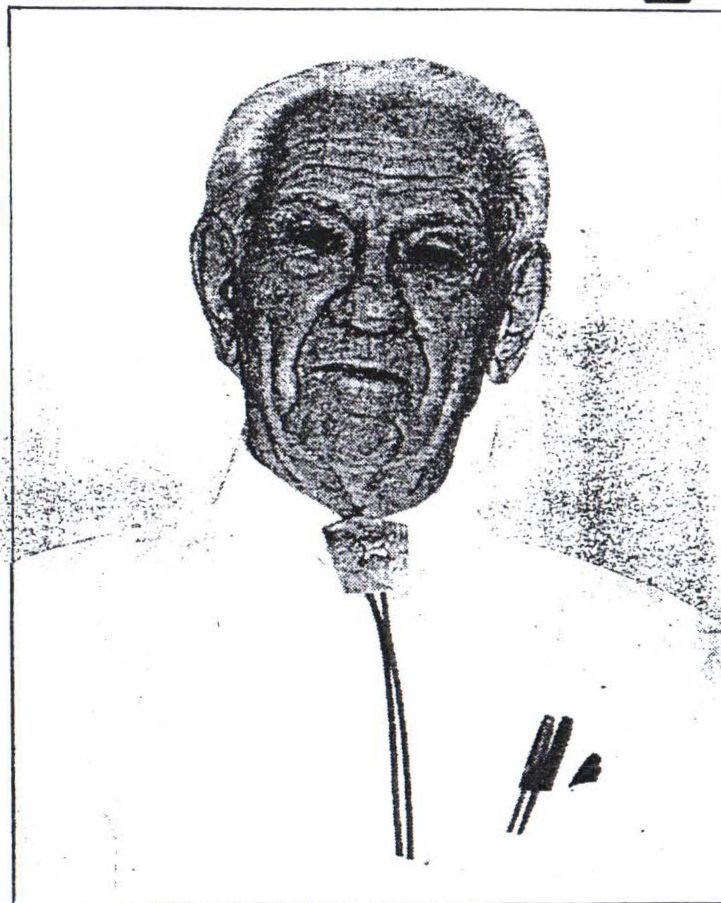
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**SALUTE**  
TO  
LETTER  
WRITERS



**Les Merydith**

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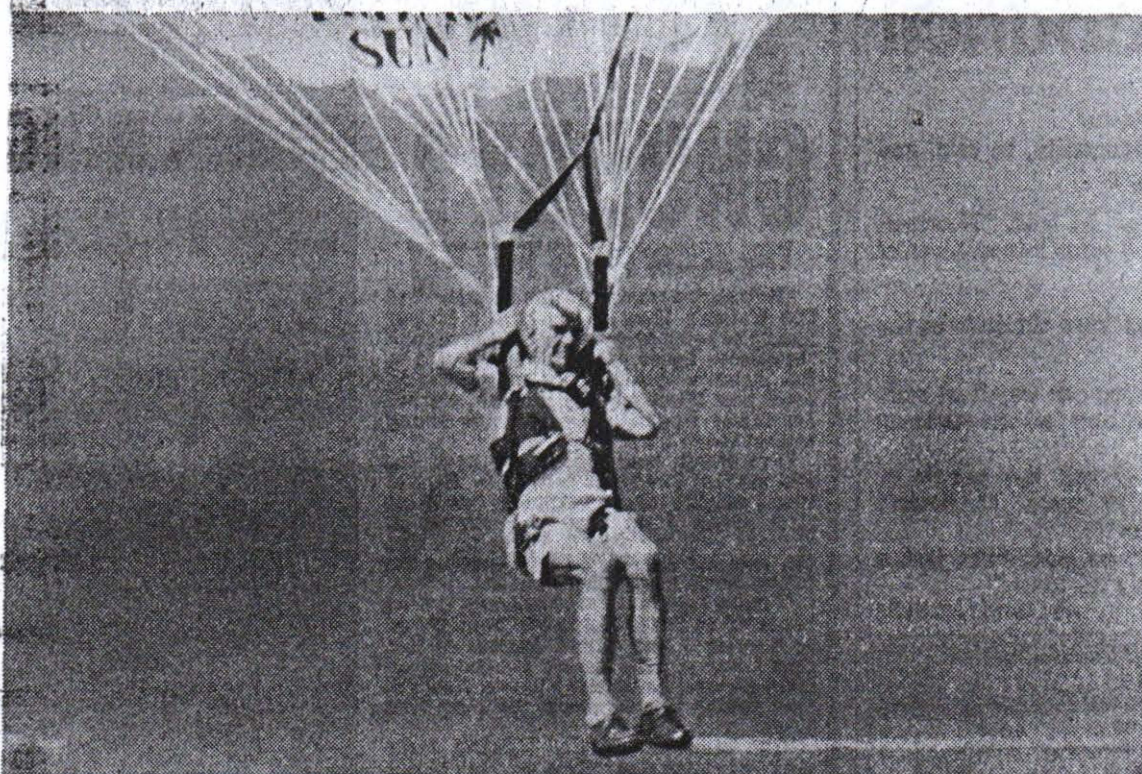
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Daily News-Sun

June 28, 1996



## Extra 6



Earl McCartney/Republic

Les Merydith soars through the air with the help of a parachute, motorboat and tow line.

## Sun City adventurer takes to air by boat

"All my life I've had a recurrent dream of running, taking off and flying and never coming down ... I've dreamt of flying as an effortless thing, as just sailing off."

Last month, Les Merydith came close to realizing his lifelong dream of breezing through the sky without mechanical means. The 77-year-old Sun City resident floated over a Mexican bay with the aid of a parachute, a motor boat and a 300-foot tow line.

Merydith, a member of the Sun City Cycle Mates, a cycling organization, had traveled with about 45 members of the group to Ixtapa, Mexico, a resort about 120 miles north of Acapulco. He and one other member of the group took parachute rides during their five-day stay.

The rides, which took off and landed on the beach in front of their hotel, took the passengers 10 miles around the bay and lasted about 15 minutes, Merydith said. It cost 225 pesos, or \$10.

"I wasn't afraid," he said, "You just ride up there as quiet and peaceful as can be."

Ann Trainer, the Cycle Mate who accompanied Merydith, said, "It was a great sensation. It was like going on a roller coaster but much more gentle. You could see all the beautiful hotels and the ocean."

Merydith said there were some risks involved in the ride, however.

"If the towing boat stalls or loses power, (the rider) lands in the water with no quick release from the chute," he said. "The chute would probably drag the passenger through the water on his back until (he was) rescued."

"(Or) if (the rider) lands on the beach too far from the shore crew, the chute could drag (him) until the crew gets there to collapse the chute."

He said that on the day he went up, one rider had broken an ankle and another had landed short of the shoreline.

Insurance rates and safety regulations probably prevent similar rides from being offered along U.S. beaches, he said.

"But I've never been much afraid of things," Merydith said, "I weigh the odds and if they're in my favor, I'm not afraid."

Merydith said the parachute used was an adaptation of that used for target parachuting. It



Sun City Cycle Mate Les Merydith.

is more bag-shaped than conventional parachutes and has semicircular holes that keep air currents flowing through and keep it from gliding sideways.

Although he had never taken a parachute ride before, Merydith at one time had been in charge of aviation for Standard Oil of Ohio. This job allowed him to fly small planes and "different generations of flying machines," like gliders, dirigibles and autogyros, a predecessor to the helicopter.

"(I was) born 32 days after the Wright Brothers flew at Kitty Hawk in 1903," Merydith said. "Flying has always fascinated (me) and (I have) never passed up an opportunity to fly."

— Cathryn Retzlaff

MERYDITH, LES



# Local woman delivers centennial key speech

By P. ATWOOD WILLIAMS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Few people have rescued an entire town from extinction.

But Alice Messick did.

She headed a fund-raising drive 25 years ago to save the Wyoming community of South Pass City, a once-thriving mining settlement about 35 miles south of Lander, from becoming an amusement park.

Last month, the 81-year-old "adopted daughter of Wyoming" was finally honored for those efforts.

Messick was the keynote speaker for Wyoming's Centennial Celebration at Douglas, about 80 miles east of Casper. Her speech recounted the state's "lasting legacy" of its pioneer and modern-day women.

Many Wyomingites fondly remember her as the "Flaming Mame." That's because she was "Head Madame" for a chorus line of Douglas area can-can girls who gained regional fame for their outlandish 1800's outfits and saloon-style dancing.

During the 1960's, Messick and the other "girls" performed at numerous state and county fairs, fund-raising events and other celebrations — not just in Wyoming but throughout the Rocky Mountains states.

Their earnings were used to purchase markers for the Oregon Trail. And they raised enough money to buy South Pass City before a California firm acquired it with the intention of turning it into an amusement park.

South Pass City was founded in 1836 and was a stopover along the Oregon Trail. In the mid-1800's, miners settled here

after gold was discovered in the nearby mountains.

In 1965, all that remained of South Pass City were its general store, hotel, boarding house, saloon, dance hall, school and jail. Because of her efforts, the town landmarks were refurbished and renovated and are now part of a state park and museum.

Messick married Ray, a mining engineer. After World War II, the couple moved to Douglas where he opened an automotive garage service and car dealership.

They were involved in many social and civic organizations. She headed Wyoming's 75th anniversary celebration. And for 25 years, she was the parade chairman for the Wyoming State Fair, which is held in Douglas.

Messick recalled an episode with a first-term governor who refused to follow the parade lineup and rode in advance of the colors, which always precedes parade units. She told the governor that he was out of order.

"That next year, he was nice as pie and did just what we had planned for him," she said.

Messick was born and raised in the Arizona mining community of Ray near Superior.

In the late 1920's, she worked as a carhop in a Phoenix drive-in rootbeer stand "on the edge of town" at 19th Avenue between Jefferson and Washington streets.

"It was the only one in town that did not sell alcohol, making it a family place," Messick said.

She and Ray returned to Arizona in 1970. They were in-



Submitted photo

**'FLAMING MAME'** — A life-sized portrait of Alice Messick as "Head Madame" of a can-can chorus line hangs in her home.

Involved with the Sun City Saints Booster Club until Ray died in 1977.

Messick is back on track now that her favorite team has rebounded. She is the president of the Saints and Sons Booster Club and collected team memorabilia, which she donated to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

She is involved with many Northwest Valley museum and art projects and says she is at home here. But her cherished life-sized portrait of her as "Flaming Mame" has been promised to the Pioneer Museum in Wyoming.





Daily News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER** — Sun Citian Alice Messick gave the keynote speech at the Wyoming Centennial celebration in Douglas last month. The 81-year-old woman was honored for her efforts 25 years ago that saved a Wyoming town from extinction.



METZ, ROBERT

# Looking at the world in black and white

## SC photographer wins national honors

By ROSA De SIMONE  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Robert Metz sees the world in black and white.

Whether the Sun City photographer is snapping a squirrel, a lighthouse or an old man smoking a pipe he is creating a composition without color, but full of expression.

"I love black and white because you can do so much with it," said Metz, whose work will be exhibited in the Sun Cities Art Museum Saturday through May 19.

Metz, who bought his first camera just after World War II, received his training through camera clubs and photographic schools in his native Indiana, and later in Chicago.

"It was at the Gary Photographic Camera Club where I started to learn what a good picture was," Metz said.

While living in the "windy city" in the late 1950s, Metz and his camera club friends, Bruce Miller and Bob Hutton, began submitting works to international photo salons and found success.

"We were so well known in the Chicago area that they called us the 'Three Bs,'" he recalled.

He has experienced much success with his black and white photographs, he said, having had works accepted all over the world. Today, he said, he limits his submissions to salons in the United States and Canada, usually about 2 or 3 a month.

Metz has earned about 50 medals in salons and is a Diamond Star Exhibitor in monochrome prints in international salons, the highest award for amateur photographers.

Metz has earned about 50 medals in salons, and is a Diamond Star Exhibitor in monochrome prints in international salons, the highest award for amateur photographers.

He's always trying new techniques and admits that he'll photograph just about anything or anyone, except weddings.

He has rather unpleasant memories of his first and last wedding shoot. He said he was already a bit nervous when the air conditioning system broke down mid-ceremony, and he had to work with sweat rolling down his face.

In each photograph — most are 16 by 20 inches — Metz has learned to relate a story to the viewer.

"You have to learn composition," he said. "You are taught to tell a story in a print."

Although Metz says he is an amateur photographer, he con-

siders himself an artist.

"This is artwork — this is not photography. It is artwork you do in the darkroom," Metz explained.

In addition to exhibiting, Metz has judged international salons across the United States. Most recently he and his wife, Josephine, helped with the International Photography Salon in the Sun Cities Art Museum.

"We worked hard on that," he said.

Locally, Metz also is involved in several photography clubs.

Creating pictures for more than 45 years, Metz said, has trained him to look at the world in an atypical manner.

"Photography has made me appreciate things more. Like cactuses. You drive by them 100 times a day, but if you stop and take a photograph of a cactus, you see how beautiful it is," Metz said.

...

Also on exhibition in the Sun Cities Art Museum, Tuesday through May 24, is the work of banner artist Fred Johnson, a Sun Citian who died recently at age 97.

Johnson, who never studied art, created all the banners for the Barnum & Bailey Circus for more than 50 years.

He painted clowns, snake charmers, sword swallowers and other attention-getters under



'PIRATES COVE' — Robert Metz manipulated two negatives to create this black and white work.

the big tent.

In addition to his work for Barnum & Bailey Circus, Johnson painted banners for amusement parks in Chicago, banners and scenery panels for the Century of Progress Exposition in 1933 and had an exhibit recently in the State of Illinois Art Gallery.

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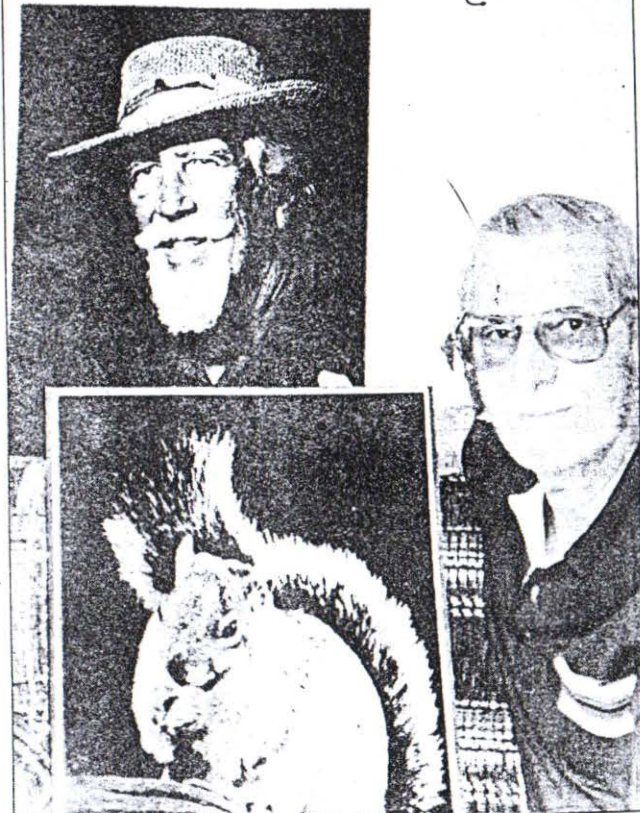
The Sun Cities Art Museum is at 17425 N. 115th Ave. Viewing hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays and 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays. Admission is free.

For information, call 972-0635.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

April 24, 1991

C



Daily News-Sun photos by Rosa De Simone

**CAPTURES LIFE** — Photographer Robert Metz, who captures people, animals and still objects on film, will exhibit his work Saturday through May 19 in the Sun Cities Art Museum.



May 6, 2009

SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

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# Hats Off: Murphy devoted to steady volunteerism

*As Sun Citians approach volunteerism for the 2010 Sun City 50th Anniversary celebration, volunteers take their cue from the serious time and effort that past volunteers have given towards the success of previous anniversary celebrations. Volunteers of the 50th and prior efforts will be saluted in this monthly column.*

**By Marilyn Holley and Darrell Bradshaw**

The Hats Off salute this month honors an active, devoted Sun City volunteer — Marge Murphy.

For the Sun City 40th Anniversary celebration, Mrs. Murphy spearheaded a group of volunteers that spent many hours "out in the kitchen." Despite how it sounds, they were not out there cooking and cleaning. Their valuable time was spent creating the 40th Anniversary Sun City Cookbook.

This book was the compilation of many recipes submitted by great cooks from all across the country who now called Sun City home. For many months during the year prior to the celebration these volunteers devoted their Saturday afternoons to sorting through and categorizing the stacks of recipe submissions. This hardbound book

was sold as a fundraising effort for the benefit of the celebration.

In addition to her efforts for the 40th Anniversary, Mrs. Murphy now serves on the Civic Foundation of Sun City and Sun City Area Transit boards of directors. She is a Royal Courts Condominium Association past president and served on the Recreation Centers and Sun City Home Owners Association boards. She has also given volunteer time to Boswell Hospital.

As serious as those volunteer positions are, she stated for fun she is a member of the Sun City Gourmet Club, which was established in 1962 and was one of the first official Sun City clubs. This group still meets on Sunday evenings twice a month at Oakmont Recreation Center, 10725 W. Oakmont Drive.

Mrs. Murphy is a self-described activist who strongly supports causes she deeply cares about. Combine that with a master's degree in social work and a license as a clinical social worker and it is understand-



**Marge  
Murphy**

able she makes an ideal Sun City volunteer. She is a people person to the core.

"It is a pleasure to work with and get to know all kinds of people," Mrs. Murphy said.

Born and raised in St. Louis, Mo., she met and married her husband, Francis, there in 1944. They raised a family of four daughters and a son. As their children reached their teenage years the Murphys decided they wanted to acquaint their children with the world outside their neighborhood. They joined the Christian Family Movement and became part of the Foundation for International Cooperation based in Rockford, Ill. This organization established exchange families in countries around the world. The children of these exchange families would each venture to the other's country and stay in their home one month learning the language and studying the culture and the people.

Mrs. Murphy's philosophy regarding getting to know all kinds of people could not be truer when one considers that through



the exchange program the Murphys hosted more than 100 foreign students. The Murphys' teachings were not wasted on their children as each child married a spouse from a different country, including France, India, Japan, Mexico and Turkey. The "international family" now includes 11 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

The Murphys' introduction to the Sun City lifestyle came courtesy of one of her cousins. Their annual visits to Arizona became too much for them to resist and in 1990 they left their Illinois home. They pulled into town, saw the "City of Volunteers" sign and knew that Sun City was now home.

When asked why she chooses to give so much of her time to volunteerism, Mrs. Murphy simply stated, "Life is just too interesting to stay at home."

*Editor's note: Authors Marilyn Holley and Darrell Bradshaw are real estate associates with Ken Meade Realty and are supporters of the 50th Anniversary celebration. Contact Ms. Holley - 623-505-8743/Mr. Bradshaw - 623-810-9183 to recommend an anniversary celebration volunteer for a deserving Hats Off salute.*