

## Meet author of Sun City photo history book at reception this afternoon

### STAFF REPORT

It's not often that a reporter's on-the-job photos turn up in a book, but former Sun City reporter/editor Bret McKeand has written a small format picture history book for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

McKeand will talk about the book and sign copies from 2 to 5 p.m. today at a wine and cheese reception in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum at 10801 W. Oakmont Ave.

The book is the latest addition to Arcadia Publishing's popular "Images of America" series, and is their first of a retirement community.

It has a sepia tone cover, like the others in the series, and includes more than 200 historic photographs. The soft-covered book illustrates the pre-Sun City area, the building of Sun City, and continues through events of the recent 50th Anniversary year.

"Many of the photos in the book haven't been seen in years, and they reflect the joy and excitement felt by those who built the community and of those early residents responsible for its success," said Bill Pearson, president of the SCAHS Board of Trustees, of which McKeand is a member.

The book sells for \$21.99, and all author royalties benefit the Sun Cities Area Historical Society located in the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, one of the city's first five model homes. The museum is open 1-4 p.m. weekdays, and preserves and displays the history of Sun City and Sun City West.

Speakers are available and tours may be scheduled when the museum is open or not open. For information, call 623-974-2568.

# Community News

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your news tips  
Got a tip? Contact News Editor  
Rusty Bradshaw at  
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## IN MEMORIAM

# Sun Cities lose key player

## Meade remembered as nurturer, family man

By Rusty Bradshaw  
INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

A long-time fixture in the real estate industry in the West Valley was remembered as a key player in Sun City's development following the community's 1960 opening.

Ken Meade, a successful Realtor and dedicated civic leader, died of respiratory failure, chronic kidney disease and conjunctive heart failure May 5. He was 91.

In addition to his work as a salesman, Mr. Meade was also remembered as a civic leader, patriot and devoted family man.

"He was very committed

to his family," Steve Meade, his son, said. "He loved our mother immensely."

The family often had a routine during the children's younger years, according to the younger Mr. Meade.

"We would play volleyball or badminton," he said. "We had that routine especially on Sundays. I remember a lot of family dinners."

Born in Brooklyn, New York Nov. 25, 1925, the elder Mr. Meade, the oldest of three children, enjoyed baseball and music, often playing drums in local bands. He left high school and enlisted in

» See Meade on page 8



Ken Meade

Personalities  
Meade, Ken  
SC Independent  
May 17, 2017

## Meade

» From page 2

the U.S. Navy after the Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, serving until the end of the war in 1945 when he returned to New York to complete his education.

"He was proud to serve his country," Steve said.

He met Alice Steinman in 1951 and married her one year later. The couple had three children — daughters Janet and Patricia joined Steve. His family devotion showed again when, in 1958, he moved the family to Arizona hoping to improve Steve's severe eczema. The move did the trick, and was fortunate for Ken in other ways.

A course on public speaking sparked a long career in sales, first as the sales director for Arizona Land Company and later as the sales manager of Legend City, a large amusement park that was constructed in Phoenix in the 1960s. Ken also sold printing for almost 10 years.

He joined the Del Webb Corporation in 1974 and became one of its leading sales associates.

He founded Ken Meade Realty in October 1983 and built it to what was the largest real

estate company in the Sun Cities at the time of its acquisition by Coldwell Banker in 2014. For more than three decades, his company played a major role in shaping the way the Sun Cities matured and evolved as retirement communities.

"Del Webb set up a great model, but at that time, since it was difficult at the start to anticipate all the changes over the years, there were a lot of decisions to be made," Steve said. "Dad felt good about those things he got involved in. He enjoyed that."

Serving on the boards of numerous charitable and civic organizations, Ken used his influence to help the Sun City area successfully tackle a wide variety of important issues.

"I had quite a few dealings with Ken when I was president of PORA," Sun City resident Larry Woods stated in an email. "He was always a big supporter of PORA and of Sun City West."

Mr. Woods added that each time he and Mr. Meade talked he wanted to know how he could help get more interest in PORA because he believed a strong PORA was critical to the future of Sun City West.

Ken worked at the real

estate company until 1999, when his wife suffered a debilitating stroke. His family devotion showed again when he decided to retire and spend his time caring for her in her remaining eight years before her Jan. 1, 2007 death.

"He was not resentful (of caring for her)," Steve said. "He threw himself into it fully."

Ken's last years were spent reading and supporting numerous social causes.

"His civic work in the community was done later in life, after we were grown," Steve said. "We did not miss out on time with him."

Steve worked with his father at the real estate company. One of Steve's sisters also helped with financial audits for the company and his other sister did some information technology work for it as well.

"Dad was from the generation that taught him to try to be a good provider," Steve said. "He always gave us a safety net to learn and grow, and always supported us in all our endeavors."

Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or [rbradshaw@newszap.com](mailto:rbradshaw@newszap.com). Continue the discussion at [www.yourwestvalley.com](http://www.yourwestvalley.com).



Deirdre Hamill / Staff photographer

Bingo guru Frank Miller gets a hug from friend Beatrice Pedersen of Peoria during his 100th birthday celebration at Sundial Recreation Center. Miller started the bingo club in Sun City in 1973 and has been playing every week since.

# Century marker

## Godfather of Sun City bingo reaches 100

By Jeffry Nelson  
Special to Community

### Sun City

**T**he godfather of bingo in this northwest Valley retirement community has turned 100 years old.

Frank Miller, a Sun City resident for 32 years, helped organize the first bingo games in Sun City in 1973.

The games were sponsored by the Sundial Men's Club, of which Miller was a member.

He would show up hours before the first letters and numbers were called to set up chairs and distribute bingo cards at the Sundial Recreation Center.

These days, he lets others do the heavy work. He just shows up, bingo marker in hand, ready to play.

In the 1970s, as many as 1,200 people would show up to play the popular board game, club members say.

These days, with churches and other organizations sponsoring bingo games, about 400 show up.

Miller says the game and the women he meets at the bingo hall keep him young.

He said his wife, Helen, doesn't feel a need to accompany him to the bingo games for that very reason.

"She says I have enough girlfriends without her," Miller joked.

Miller, whose first job was working in a coal mine at the age of 8, also credits hard work for his longevity. He still can be found clipping shrubs and trees in Sun City.

John Kroll, a member of the first board of directors of the men's club, said many don't realize how the bingo games that Miller helped start have benefited the area.

Profits from the bingo games go to more than a dozen

See BINGO, Page 3

social and service organizations. Those who benefit include underprivileged children in El Mirage, the Peoria Boys & Girls Club, Westside Food Bank, Interfaith Services, Meals on Wheels, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Sheriff's Posse. All this wasn't forgotten by those who attended a bingo game at the Sundial Recreation Center on Sept. 8.

Before the 7 p.m. game started, Miller was presented with a birthday cake, a birthday card from the Oval Office and an old proverb from bingo club member Douglas Caravaggio.

"Frank, we hope you live as long as you want to and want to as long as you live," Caravaggio told Miller.

Miller smiled, waved his hand in the air and returned to his chair to play another game of bingo.

**BINGO**  
From Page 1

MILLER, FRANK



Bingo guru Frank Miller gets a hug from friend Beatrice Pedersen of Peoria during his 100th birthday celebration at Sundial Recreation Center. Miller started the bingo club in Sun City in 1973 and has been playing every week since.

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# BINGO

From Page 1

MILLER, FRANK

MAY 7-13, 1997 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

# SWEET REWARDS

## Del Webb names Sun Citian volunteer of the year

By JULIA DE SIMONE  
Independent Newspapers

There's no doubt the sugar and spice of the Peoria Unified School District is called "Sweet Jean."

Since 1980, the woman with the snow-colored hair has made life a little sweeter for Valley children and adults.

Mary "Jean" Miller takes pride in a handmade sign that reads "My mom is Peoria School District's Volunteer of the Year."

Last month, the Sun City resident was the recipient of Del Webb Corp.'s "Volunteering is Priceless" award. In addition, she received a clock.

The 25-year veteran of education currently volunteers four days a week at Peoria's Cheyenne and Santa Fe elementary schools and the district office, tutoring more than 200 children since she started.

"I feel if I can reach one child then I have accomplished something," she says.

Gloria Warnick, Peoria school district coordinator of the volunteer program, says it wasn't tough selecting Ms. Miller as the award winner.

"When she walks on campus

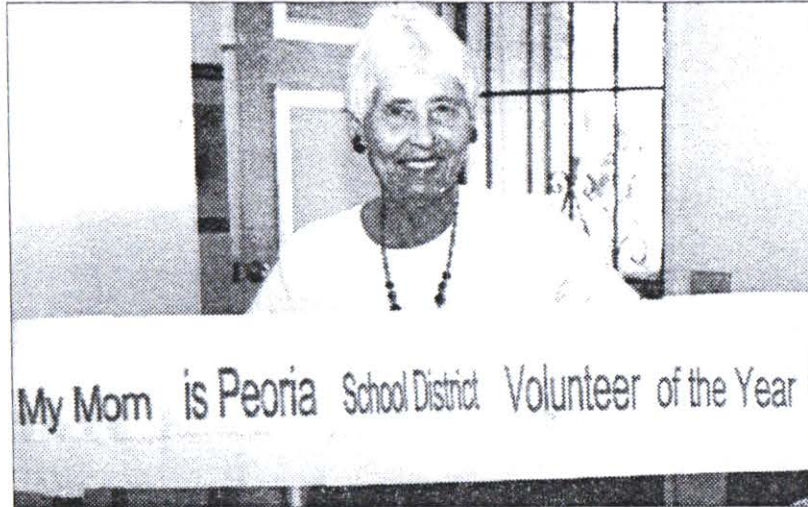


Photo by JULIA DE SIMONE/Independent Newspapers

### Del Webb honors 'Sweet Jean'

Sun Citian Mary 'Jean' Miller received Del Webb Corp.'s "Volunteering is Priceless" award last month. She has tutored more than 200 students in the Peoria school district.

everyone calls her "Sweet Jean," she says. "She's always enthusiastic. She is extremely reliable. She loves going to the schools to help students and the kids just love her."

And so do the adults.

"All the teachers sit together (during lunch)," Ms. Miller says. "They're such nice kids. They even invited me to go to a hockey game. Imagine me, an old lady at a hockey game!"

In fact, the retired teacher says it

wasn't the kids who first dubbed her "Sweet Jean." It was one of the school educators.

"She said I reminded her of her grandmother," she says.

In 1991, however, Ms. Miller almost lost herself to depression while dealing with her husband's death.

At the urging of her family, she moved closer to them and continued volunteering.

"I can't stay home," she says.

"I'm fulfilling my needs (as a volunteer) as well as their (students') needs. ... To me it's rewarding. The little bit I give is so appreciated."

Her volunteer efforts have ranged from work at the Pappas Elementary School for Homeless Children to St. Joseph's Hospital, where she dressed as a real-life Raggedy Ann and read books to children.

Although the school environment has changed since Ms. Miller last taught, many of her techniques have remained intact.

"You have to be honest with children — they respect you for that," she says. "I always valued my children's opinions because they tell it as it is, and they respond to you if you're willing to help."

Ms. Miller says it's also important people don't judge students, but understand them and their situations.

"I think you have to have a feeling for the kids and put yourself in their place for awhile," she says.

Ms. Miller says she'll continue volunteering "as long as I'm able and until my son says I can't drive anymore and then I'll crawl in a hole."

## Sun Citian portrays Francis Scott Key in classrooms

By Marie Scotti

Roland Miller, a Sun City resident serves on the Board of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, Phoenix Area Chapter and brings "Living History" programs to the classrooms of Maricopa County. He is a volunteer actor who portrays—in costume—Francis Scott Key.

These programs are presented free-of-charge to schools and are available to adult groups for a donation to the scholarship fund of the Chapter.

Miller said, "After several years of disillusionment with inaccurate and misleading history teaching in the schools, I found that the Freedoms Foundation was an organization emphasizing historical correctness and patriotism in schools and country. As a 20-year volunteer for Recording for the Blind, I became agitated by the increased tendency to water down textbooks on American history in deference to political correctness and apologies.

"Portraying historical characters based on their actual writings and accompanied by eyewitness accounts is one way to dramatize real events to school children and other groups of people. The story of the Star Spangled Banner as told by Francis Scott Key is one such program I perform." The script was written by Barbara Dienes, a former president of the Phoenix Chapter, Freedoms Foundation.

Francis Scott Key, was born in 1789, and came from a wealthy family. He became a prominent lawyer and by 1814, he had appeared many times before the Supreme Court and was appointed U. S. District Attorney for Washington, D. C.

Key was a deeply religious man. At one time in his life he almost gave up law practice to enter the ministry.

Roland Miller, a member of the Freedoms Foundation, Phoenix Area Chapter, portrays Francis Scott Key in costume in the classrooms of Maricopa County.



by Congress in 1931 to be the national anthem.

The original flag flown at Fort McHenry that inspired "The Star Spangled Banner" is now on display at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D. C.

Roland Miller participates in other Freedoms Foundation programs. He does the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution through the eyes of James Wilson who signed both.

Miller recently performed as

Francis Scott Key on Flag Day at the Litchfield Park Library.

Miller has a B. A. degree in radio and television production from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. He has lived in Arizona since 1958 and has lived in Sun City since 1997. He has worked for the Boy Scouts of America as professional and volunteer, Salt River Project in community relations department, insurance sales and auditor for various insurance companies.

Because of his religious convictions, Key was strongly opposed to the War of 1812, yet his love of his country drove him to join up and serve during the war.

In the midst of the war, Key was sent to help release a captured New England doctor who was being held on a British ship off the coast of Baltimore, Miller said.

Key successfully negotiated the release, but he got stuck on the water and watched as the British fleet bombarded Fort McHenry for 25 straight hours.

When daylight broke and Key still saw the fort's flag through the gunpowder smoke, he began writing a poem on the back of an envelope, Miller said.

That poem was eventually put to music, called "The Star Spangled Banner" and commissioned

# Freedom focus

## Her efforts bring classroom history lessons to life

By JANICE TARLETON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Betty Mills doesn't like to talk much about herself, but ask her a question about the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and you're likely to get an earful.

Since she joined the non-profit group four years ago, it has become the passion of this Sun City woman's life. The Phoenix Area Chapter of the Freedoms Foundation, one of 29 in the country, presents free programs on historical events and people to school children, and for a nominal charge, to adults.

"I don't know why I'm doing this (interview) except that this means so much to me," said Mills, past president of the group and currently a team leader. "This is a good country and we need to watch over it. We try to teach children how fragile liberty is — that 38 percent of the people can vote and speak for the rest of us is criminal."

Mills, a mother of four, has been involved in volunteer pursuits throughout her life.

"We try to get the young people to think about what freedom is; to recognize the word demi-god and to think, 'Could it happen again?' We want to stimulate these kids to think," she said, pounding her temples for emphasis.

It's a mission Mills shares with husband, Ray, who, as Uncle Sam, teaches the meaning behind the American flag and proper treatment of it.

The couple met in Chicago where Betty grew up. They are parents to two boys and two girls. Ray volunteered his spare time as a Boy Scout leader, seeing both sons eventually achieve Eagle Scout. Betty got involved in several school-related organizations looking out for the interests of all children. "My motto was 'If it's good for everyone else, it will be good for my kid, too,'" she said.

As the "picture lady," she would check out artwork from local li-

meet  
your  
neighbor



braries, research the artist and the work, then give presentations to students.

Guiding the conversation back to the Freedom Foundation, Mills points out that the concept is much the same except the Foundation takes it even further by having actors dress up and present history from a first-person point of view.

"Our mission is to teach American history to youngsters in a way that gives them a better understanding of their heritage and the core values of the Founding Fathers. It's a palatable form of learning. They'll never forget Uncle Sam (her husband) coming to their classroom," she said.

Mills, who moved to Sun City eight years ago, first saw a presentation four years ago at a meeting of the Sun City Genealogy Society. Vern Stout gave a talk on the Declaration of Independence from the perspective of Dr. James Wilson, a Scot and a signer of the document.

Spurred on by the stories she read about the signers of the Declaration and the loss of life, loved ones and property they suffered, Mills volunteered right away. "I told them 'I can stuff envelopes or whatever you need,'" she said.

Since starting with one program six years ago, the offerings have grown to include 18 presentations covering people and events from the American Revolution to World War II.

"Since I was in school, there's been 50 years of additional history, but the school day and the school year have not changed," Mills said. "What happens is the first 50 years tends to get slighted, but there's a real need to tell about the roots of this country."

MILLS, Betty

OVER





Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

**Betty Mills volunteers as a team leader for the Phoenix Area Chapter of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, a group that adds a first-person perspective to history lessons in the classroom.**

Only three months into the school year, bookings have tripled from last year, Mills said. So far, 120 programs have been presented in schools locally and around the state, as well as in clubs and jails. As a team leader, Mills drives the performer to the engagement and makes sure everything runs smoothly.

"To say you're returning something for all you've been blessed with is only part of it," Mills said, struggling to put into words why she feels so strongly about her work. "People

need to be uplifted, to be encouraged to be better than they are. We have four children, so what we do is multiplied by four. I'm just a little pebble in the pond, but hopefully the ripples will go out," she said. "And we get back much more than we give. We get back beyond imagination," she added.

For information on the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge, call Mills at 972-0942.

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

MILLS, DOROTHY

# Sun Valley Lodge recognizes senior leaders

STAFF REPORT

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

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

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

Freeman's recognition

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

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

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

hours per week."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

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

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

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

Blind Foundation.

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

PERSONALITIES

VF

# Pioneer surgeon retires

There were 1,500 people who needed a doctor; they didn't care whether the doctor was younger

By BRITT KENNERLY  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — An integral part of Sun Cities' medical history, Dr. William Minturn, is trading in his lab coat for retirement garb.

Minturn's life and 30 years of service in Sun City include many milestones.

After enlisting in the Navy at age 17 and seeing action in World War II, Minturn earned his bachelor's degree in science at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., then entered Yale University's School of Medicine.

"I was one of 62 students chosen from 4,700, to enter Yale's medical school that year," he said. "I graduated in 1952."

That same year, Minturn married. He and wife Shirley have two daughters, one son and three grandchildren.

After doing his internship in Cook County, Ill., and working at Detroit Receiving Hospital in Detroit, Mich., Minturn moved to Buffalo, N.Y. He practiced medicine in New York until he was named chief of thoracic surgery at Phoenix's Veteran's Hospital, moving to the Valley in 1959.

"We moved here because of the weather," he said. "Sun City was built the next year. I was too young to live here then, but I chose to go into private practice and general thoracic and vascular surgery."

Medical offices were nonexistent in the West Valley at that time, Minturn said, adding, "I rented a storefront in Glendale from a shopkeeper



Dr. William Minturn

office."

Glendale Northwest Hospital was the only hospital near Sun City in those days, Minturn said. He was the first board certified general surgeon in the Sun City/Glendale area.

Minturn and other doctors, including an internist, a dermatologist, a urologist and a podiatrist started the Sun City Medical Clinic in 1965.

"Boswell Hospital was originally supposed to be in that location," he said. "There were big cottonwood trees and jack rabbits running all over when we built the clinic."

House calls weren't unusual in those days, Minturn said.

"It was different back then," he said. "When I first came here, people would call up and make an appointment just to get acquainted — there was an element of social bonding with your physician."

'It was different back then. When I first came here, people would call up and make an appointment just to get acquainted'

Dr. William Minturn

younger than his clients, Minturn said he had no problem dealing with them on a professional basis.

"Since it was a new community, they had no one here to compare me to," he said. "There were 1,500 people who needed a doctor."

As one of the "pioneers" of the Sun Cities medical movement, Minturn's career was full of firsts for the area, including being its first thoracic and vascular surgeon, and the first to perform vascular grafts in heart surgery.

Minturn's patients were many and varied: cotton gin accident victims, people injured in boating accidents at Lake Pleasant, cowboys trampled by horses, actor Bob Hope's secretary and actress Bette Davis' sister.

"Bob Hope made a movie out in Carefree in 1961 called 'Cancel My Reservation,'" he said. "I had Mr. Hope's secretary as a patient, and they used me as the doctor on the set."

Hope obviously remembered Minturn's brief stint on the movie set, as was evidenced

for Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital.

"I went in a little cubbyhole to get another chair, and Bob Hope was in there," Minturn said. "He said, 'Hi, doc, how are you?'"

Minturn set records out of the office as well.

An avid runner and veteran of 60 completed marathons, he is listed in the Arizona Athletic Congress' Long Distance Records, for his time in the 1981 Phoenix Marathon. He completed the 26 miles in 3 hours and 16 minutes at age 55.

Minturn said being a doctor is very different for him in the '90s.

"It's much more impersonal now," he said. "One-on-one doctor/patient relationships are a thing of the past."

He also foresees major changes in medical care for patients in the future.

"Those changes are coming now," he said. "I think there will be more socialized medicine, more government involvement and control. I think socialized medicine is inevitable, and I see it happening in the next few years. Individualized fees for services are gone — medicine is a business."

He won't ignore the medical world in his retirement years, however.

"I would be a consultant if asked to be, but I won't go out of my way to seek active involvement in the medical field," he said.

"One of the first places I'm going is a reunion with Navy

# Sun City Extra

EXTRA B THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC NW WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 1986



Doyle Sanders/Republic

Dr. William Minturn stands before some mementos in his Sun City office. He has run

in 58 marathons since he began running in 1977 on a bet, and he plans to run in two

more this year. "I want to run 60 marathons, since I'm 60 years old," the surgeon says.

## Bet hooks surgeon on running habit

By ROBERT BARRETT  
Arizona Republic Staff

PARADISE VALLEY — In less than 10 years, Dr. William Minturn has run many 10-kilometer races, 58 marathons, six 50-mile races and two 100-mile ultramarathons.

He has two marathons to go.

"I want to run 60 marathons, since I'm 60 years old," Minturn explained.

Minturn, who lives in Paradise Valley, has been a surgeon in Sun City for 26 years.

"I've been practicing medicine there longer than any other physician," he said.

He opened his office in 1960, just after he moved to Arizona.

After graduating from medical school at Yale University and doing his internship and residency in New York, Minturn was looking for a warm place to live. He remembered his father talking about a visit to Phoenix during World War II.

"My dad had an interest in a mercury mine just off the Beeline Highway," Minturn said. "He always said he liked Phoenix, and it just stuck in my mind."

He began running in 1977 on a bet.

"A friend of mine bet me I couldn't run a 10K," Minturn said. "So I went out there and ran it."

Minturn discovered he enjoyed running. He began to run every morning, building his distance and, as with most runners, began to compete in 10Ks, which are 6.2 miles long.

The races got longer. The 10Ks led to marathons and the marathons led to an ultramarathon — the Western States 100-mile Race.

"I saw it as a challenge," Minturn said. He trained for it by running 120 to 130 miles a week for six months before the race.

"When I entered it in 1979, no one from Arizona had ever finished it," Minturn said. "Several people had tried, but they had not finished."

He was the first. He was 52 at the time. "I was one of the three oldest in the race," Minturn said.

The Western States 100-mile Race took place in Squaw Valley, Calif. Minturn ran for 30 hours, using a flashlight at night. He came across three people, all with broken legs.

"It's a horrible thing," he said. "It's like running over Squaw Peak for 100 miles, and at night."

The grueling race didn't end Minturn's running. If anything, it seemed to fuel his competitive spirit.

In 1981, he won the Tucson Marathon for his age group with a time of 3 hours, 14 minutes. One month later, he won the Phoenix Marathon for his age group with a time of 3 hours, 15 minutes. A marathon is 26 miles, 385 yards long.

Aside from the trophies, Minturn's back-to-back marathon victories were noted in *Sports Illustrated's* Face in the Crowd section. The magazine sent him a silver bowl as a trophy.

"For a period of two years there (1981-82), I was winning almost everything," said Minturn, who has more than 75 trophies, ribbons, medals and plaques.

The American Medical Association heard of Minturn and named him one of its 10 most fit athletes over 50 and included him in the *Over 50 Sports Hall of Fame*.

"Running has allowed me to go to places I wouldn't have gone to," Minturn said.

He has run Pikes Peak twice and the Boston and New York marathons three times each. He has run the Grand Canyon, a marathon in Hawaii and the Comrades Marathon in South Africa.

Minturn is disturbed at the lack of races in Arizona.

"The marathon situation in this state is deteriorating," he said. "There's only Whiskey Row (Prescott), Phoenix Marathon, Mule Mountain (Bisbee) and possibly the Fiesta Bowl marathons left. There used to be a lot more, but they've stopped."

Like the tennis craze several years ago, the popularity of running has peaked, he said.

Minturn runs eight to 10 miles five days a week and rides his bicycle two days a week to prepare for the two marathons he'll run this year.

"The New York Marathon will be one of them," Minturn said. "I haven't decided yet on the other one."

MINTURN, DR. William

FEBRUARY 14-20, 2001

## A Name to Know

The Rev. Irvin "Irv" Mitchell, 66, comes from a long line of volunteer firefighters, so it would seem only natural for him to become the chaplain of the Sun City Fire Department.

Rev. Mitchell first became involved with fire departments at age 21 when he signed up and trained to become a volunteer firefighter in Pennsylvania.



He was ordained an Episcopal minister in 1969 and took his post as chaplain of Sun City's Fire Department in 1986, shortly after moving here from Gainsville, Texas.

Rev. Mitchell also served as rector at All Saints of the Desert Episcopal Church in Sun City for 12 years before retiring.

Now the reverend concentrates solely on the fire department, both serving as chaplain and as chairman of the fire district board of directors.

According to Rev. Mitchell, being a chaplain is satisfying because he gets to help people.

Rev. Mitchell also says he enjoys being a part of the fire department.

"We have a great bunch of firefighters here," he noted.

Rev. Mitchell has been married to his wife, Loretta, for 47 years and the couple has two boys and one grandson.



Chaplain Irvin Mitchell is at home — whether it be on a fire truck or behind the pulpit.

## The best of both worlds

### Fireman-turned chaplain assists local department

By RICK GONZALEZ  
Sun Cities Independent

Imagine yourself involved in a serious car accident or a house fire or any kind of traumatizing situation.

Police and fire officials are scattered everywhere, trying to get the situation under control and you desperately need to talk to someone, if only for emotional support.

For the past five years, the person to talk to in many of these situations has been Sun City Fire Chaplain Irvin Mitchell.

A former firefighter-turned chaplain, serving as the community's official fire chaplain allows Mr. Mitchell to remain involved in two endeavors which have preoccupied him for most of his life.

Chaplain Mitchell's first experience in the field of firefighting came prior to his entering the seminary. In Kittanning, Penn., a suburb just north of Pittsburgh, the chaplain was a firefighter for 12 years. Of those 12 years, the chaplain served nine as fire chief.

The next stop for Chaplain Mitchell was Arlington, Texas, where he served as fire chaplain

See CHAPLAIN, Page 7

O V E R

## ■ CHAPLAIN

From Page 1

before going on to Gainesville, Texas, where he served double duty as chaplain and volunteer fireman.

Mr. Mitchell says his association with the fire department must be hereditary.

"My dad, my grandad and some of my in-laws were involved with the fire department. Somehow, it must be in my genes."

Chaplain Mitchell, who is also Rector of All Saints Of The Desert Episcopal Church in Sun City, says he was in Sun City only two months when he became involved with the fire department.

Although the fire chaplain position is a voluntary, unpaid one, he says that's just fine with him. "It's my way of doing community service."

To help him keep abreast of emergency activities, the chaplain has a police and fire scanner in his office. When he is not in the office, he carries a beeper with him so that he can be notified of the more serious emergencies.

"The only time the beeper is off," he says, "is during church."

Types of emergencies the chaplain responds to include structure fires, accidents with multiple injuries and suicides, as well as fire calls to hospitals and nursing homes.

When there is a fatality, Chaplain Mitchell says he stays on the scene and tries to contact the victim's pastor and stays until the pastor arrives. If last rites are needed and the pastor is not present, Chaplain Mitchell will administer the rites.

The chaplain also works with the Red Cross in some situations, such

as when a person's home has burned. In such cases the chaplain helps obtain housing and relief for the victim.

In emergencies such as house fires, Chaplain Mitchell says he is able to help the fire chief by getting names, addresses and other information from the person or persons involved when the chief and firefighters are busy fighting the fire.

"I have the time to hunt" for such information, he says.

"People are usually willing to talk to me. They appreciate getting some kind of information. I try to convey to them what the fire department is doing to their home."

The chaplain says he tries to explain to the victims information such as what is going on, the amount of time things will take, who will watch the house when it is vacant, who to call for help, etc.

"The Sun City Posse is real good about watching homes," the chaplain says. The fire department has gotten "good cooperation from the Posse."

Chaplain Mitchell says his average work day is nothing out of the ordinary. "It's the unusual ones that make the day different."

"Every fire is different. You never have an ordinary fire."

However, when he is not responding to calls, the chaplain says he has plenty to keep him busy in the church office. He points out that he's actually busier in the office than he is responding to emergency calls.

The chaplain keeps abreast of what is going on with the fire

"My dad, my grandad and some of my in-laws were involved with the fire department. Somehow, it must be in my genes."

department by attending the monthly fire board meetings and by chatting with the firemen.

"The firemen are busy and constantly working to improve their skills," he says. "Their morale has increased. One fireman even told me, 'I don't have a job now, I have a career.'"

"We're lucky to have such a talent in the department, for being such a small department," Chaplain Mitchell says.

As for the chaplain's plans, he says he has no intentions of leaving Sun City or his position with the fire department. He does, however, have one request of the residents out here.

"I hope people remain fire conscious and try to prevent fires. It's easier to prevent fires than to put them out."

"But if there is a fire, I'll be there."

## Musician director's work spans a lifetime

By LAURIE HURD-MOORE  
Sun Cities Independent

His musical passion and experience are revealed the moment he opens the door to his study.

Walter F. Moeck (pronounced "Meck") of Sun City West, guides a visitor through his special room with the same ease and grace he uses as a musical director and conductor.

His work, and his awards in the field of music, as portrayed on the study walls, spans a lifetime.

Today, Mr. Moeck is involved in several local music groups, including the Sun City Concert Band, and the Fine Arts Orchestra in Scottsdale.

He has conducted the concert band for about 1 1/2 years.

His love for music doesn't stop with conducting.

On his piano are the busts of Bach, Brahms and Beethoven.

On his desk, behind stacks of sheet music, are signed pictures of Ronald and Nancy Reagan and the President and First Lady, George and Nancy Bush.

A postcard from Richard Nixon sits opposite the desk.

In addition to his music awards, he received the Medal of Merit from President Bush earlier in March 1990, for his work in the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

An American Flag in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol was dedicated to the resident recently.

In all, this year alone, he has received four national and international honors.

MAESTRO MOECK spends 30 hours studying just one orchestral score. "I've got to study every note in there and everybody's part." Mr. Moeck is the founder, former musical director and conductor for the San Fernando Valley Theatre of Performing Arts. He is presently conductor of the Sun City Concert Band.

began as a child prodigy on the trumpet.

As he talks, he makes the gliding arm movements that only a seasoned conductor would make.

"My parents had their own orchestra and their own dance band. I heard music from the time I was born.

"When I was four years old, they gave me a concertina. I could play it by ear.

"At the age of 7, I started studying piano. When I was 9, I started playing the trumpet. This became my main instrument."

By the age of 16, Mr. Moeck received several state and national honors.

He was asked to join the Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra as first trumpet by the age of 17.

The artist graduated from Eastman School of Music and received his master's degree in conducting from the University of Iowa.

Mr. Moeck became the protege of world renowned French conductor Pierre Monteux.

He was made "Life Fellow" by the International Institute of Arts and Letters in Zurich, Switzerland.

"A lot of people out there are waving a stick. But, a real conductor is ... first of all you have to real experience with all of the orchestral instruments. I mean, to have played in a symphony orchestra and to know the repertoire and the styles of the various periods.

Mozart, I would conduct it differently from Wagner. Each one is a different style."

Mr. Moeck says a conductor is really a "co-creator."

"He recreates what the composer intended it to be."

A conductor must also understand the difficulties and peculiarities of each instrument.

"It's not just getting up and beating the baton, its having an insight into all of it."

The conductor says he has also found that superb hearing ("When you hear a wrong note out of the whole orchestra, you have to be able to pick it out") and an energetic spirit are also prerequisites of the job.

"It makes the adrenaline flow. I can be very, very exhausted and get up there on the podium and I get all the energy in the world."

A short, light-weight baton says Mr. Moeck, adds to his exuberance.

Finally, he says, conducting requires knowledge in the psychology of human behavior.

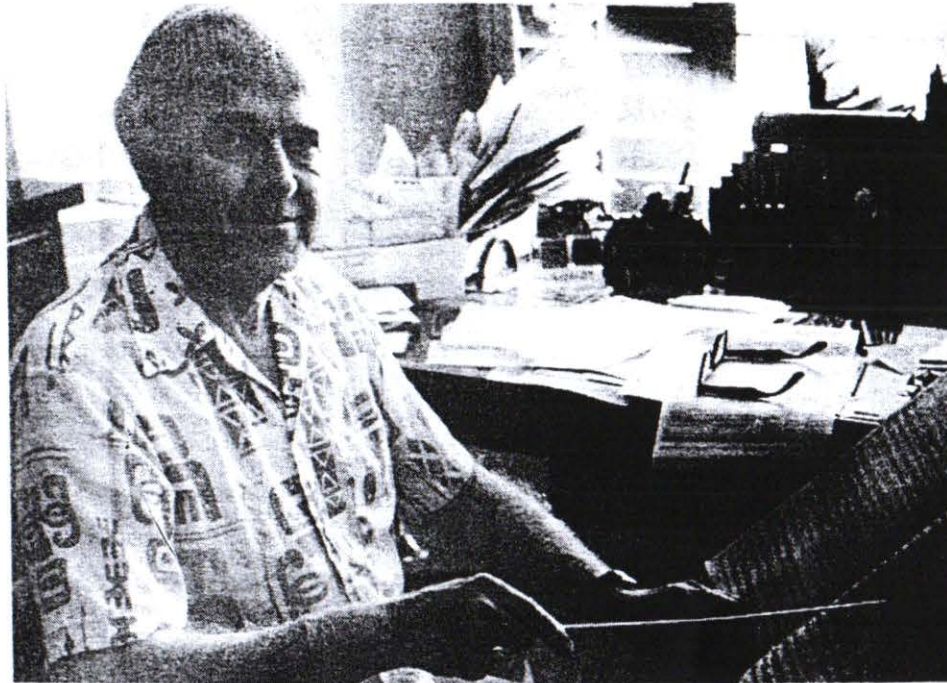
All this experience has been derived from decades spent in positions such as musical director and conductor for the University of Alabama Symphony Orchestra, the Alabama Pops Symphony Orchestra and the Birmingham Ballet.

Before moving to Sun City West, he conducted the Los Angeles Repertoire Symphony, the Westlake Sym-

Sun Citian

# Profile

## Portraits Of Our Residents



Valley Theatre of Performing Arts.

He was also a part of the San Carlo Opera Company and the American Philharmonic.

The resident's name can be found in "Who's Who in Entertainment," "Who's Who in Classical Music in America" and "Who's Who in International Music."

Today, Mr. Moeck would

of the Sun Cities," if such a publication existed.

In addition to his work, the resident practices the trumpet two hours every day. And, he continues to use a piano to compose music.

"I've always conducted symphonies but since I moved out here, I want to do something for the community."

take Sun City band over and try to improve it.

He says the 80 members of the group -- averaging 71 years of age -- are "coming along nicely."

"I'll never stop conducting.

"I'll probably die on the podium like most of them do.

"Conducting is just something that's a part of



# Retiree remains active through Good Shepherd

**MITCHELL VANTREASE**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When she retired as a school teacher, Ruth Mohr of Sun City had some extra time so she decided to volunteer at the Good Shepherd Retirement Center.

That was 20 years and many volunteer duties ago. From playing games with residents to stocking gift cards on shelves, the Illinois native has had many jobs at the center.

"I just want to keep busy, which helps me stay physically and mentally alert," she said. "I figured why

- 
- Fyi**
- **WHAT:** Good Shepherd Retirement Center volunteers.
  - **WHERE:** 10323 W. Olive Ave.
  - **INFO:** 875-0134.
- 

not because I know they wanted someone to help them," she said.

Mohr volunteers with the human resources department, filing and finishing paperwork.

Mary Beesley, a human resources assistant, said Mohr has been an asset to the department.

"She's really wonderful and makes our life interesting," Beesley said. "(Ruth) does all of the little things we wouldn't have time to do."

In addition to her work at Good Shepherd, Mohr helps with the printing of Braille books for blind people at Fountain of Life Lutheran Church. She's involved in the church's missionary league as well.

"I just love helping out in the community, and this keeps me active," she said. "I'm not a quilter or craft person, so I needed something to do."

Mohr said it's important for her to stay active and that includes her

exercise program.

When Mohr first joined Good Shepherd, she came to the retirement center once a week. Now, she's there three times a week.

The retiree has participated in the auxiliary, which helps raise money for the residents.

"I really love what I do here and couldn't imagine not doing it," she said. "I'm very proud to be part of something that helps others and keeps me occupied."

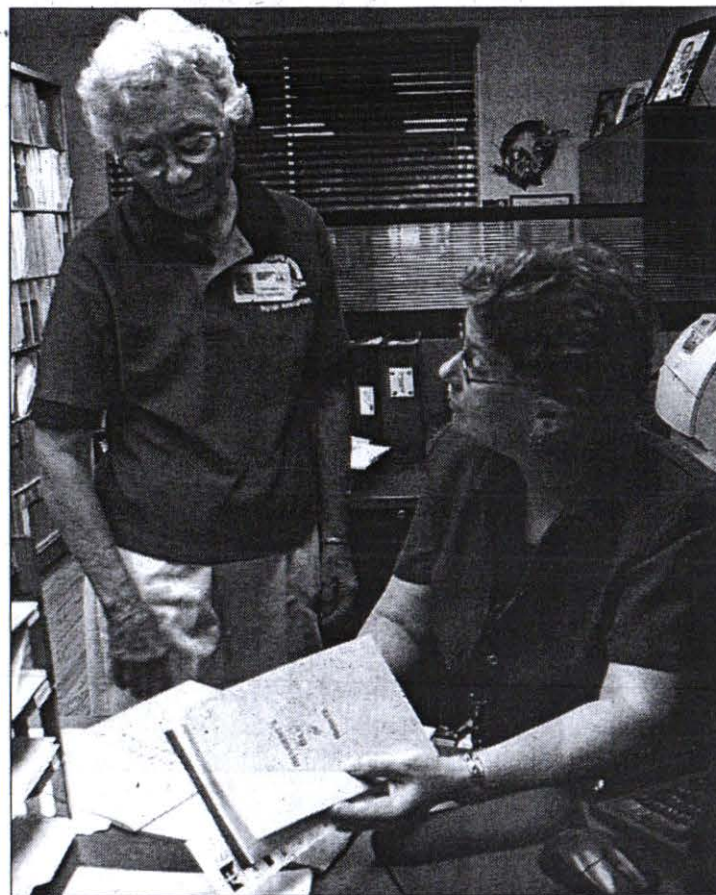
*To nominate someone for a community service profile, Mitchell Vantrease may be reached at 876-2526 or [mvantrease@aztrib.com](mailto:mvantrease@aztrib.com).*



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Retired teacher Ruth Mohr of Sun City volunteers at Good Shepherd Retirement Center, where she works in the human resources department.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ruth Mohr, left, talks with Mary Beesley in the human resources department at Good Shepherd Retirement Center Monday. Mohr has volunteered at the center for almost 20 years.

**DOERS PROFILE**



**Mary Lou Molony**

**Family:** *Two children, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.*

**Hometown:** *Wichita, Kan.*

**Philosophy:** *"Always do for others."*

**Key to longevity:** *"I eat sensibly and have a drink every now and then, but I don't imbibe often."*

**Greatest accomplishment:** *Having two wonderful children.*

# World traveler serves others at the Lodge

By TINA SCHADE  
Staff writer

**M**ary Lou Molony will never have to lift a leg in vain or wedge her way into a workout outfit. She will never have to suffer her way through a single sit-up or sacrifice a minute of sleep to take an early morning stroll.

That's because the well-conditioned and petite Molony burns enough calories as it is, weaving her way through the tables at two of Sun City's hottest eateries.

Nope, she's not a waitress earning a little extra cash for exotic travel, although she's been on 20 cruises and trekked to Alaska five times.

Rather, Molony is a volunteer at the Olive Branch Senior Center and Sun Valley Lodge lunchrooms.

Since 1984, the 84-year-old has logged in more than 2,000 hours at Sun Valley Lodge where, in addition to serving up a mean cup of java, she has escorted residents to the on-site beauty salon, taken them up for a tour of the rose garden and sorted through their mail.

"This is like a second home to me," she said.

Molony's mother was also a long-time volunteer at Sun Valley Lodge more than 30 years ago. Molony visited her mom regularly, fell in love with the lodge and has been a chip off the volunteer block ever since.

And while being a Golden Lady, the name given to female volunteers at Sun Valley Lodge, keeps Molony hopping, her services are needed elsewhere.

Since 1991, Molony has served lunch at the Olive Branch Senior Center on 107th and Peoria avenues in Sun City.

Two days a week, along with six or seven other generous volunteers, Molony serves up almost 120 meals in one lunch hour.

"When I get up in the morning I've got somewhere to go where somebody needs me. And besides, I get more out of this than I give," she said.

Molony is far too feisty and energetic to sit around.

"I didn't want to be like my friends and get glued to the TV and sit in rockers. ... I wanted to lead an independent life," she said.

Molony volunteered in her home state of Kansas, where she worked with handicapped children, the Girl Scouts, Project Beauty, a neighborhood beautification project, and the local symphony.

Away from volunteering, Molony is a member of First Presbyterian Church and enjoys traveling.

"I've had some wonderful experiences in my life. ... I've been very blessed," she said.

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

Molony, Mary

## DOERS PROFILE

### Jean Moore

**Vita:** Graduate nurse.  
Trained at St. Michael's  
Hospital, Toronto,  
Canada.

**Hometown:** Walkerton,  
Ontario, Canada

**Valley home:** Sun City

**Marital status:** Widowed

**Self portrait:** *I just like life and to do for other people.*

**Motto:** *If I find a need, I try to fill it.*

**Greatest Feat:** *Setting up the Hospice Volunteer Services of the Sun Cities Area.*

**Fantasy:** *If I were younger, I would want to work in a leper colony.*

**Inspiration:** *My father. People are still talking about his kindness.*

**Key to Longevity:** *Keeping active.*

**Last Words:** *I never have a last word. I just keep on going like that Energizer Bunny.*



"We're there for them," Moore said. "I've always promised people I'll be with them when they die, that they won't be alone."

Moore was the Hospice's volunteer coordinator for two years before leaving that post because she wanted "patient contact." She has attended to hundreds of patients in their homes.

Working with people in their own surroundings has been enjoyable, Moore said, but she's excited Sun Health is constructing a new building solely for the dying.

Moore, who has been widowed since she moved to Sun City, finds fulfillment in the volunteer service, that includes late night phone calls and assignments, because "I'm needed."

"People will rap on my door and say 'Will you be with me when I die?'" she said.

Moore keeps her head, and spirits, up despite her difficult surroundings.

"It doesn't depress me because I have faith," said Moore, an active member of the Faith Presbyterian Church of Sun City, where she serves on the ACT committee.

The ACT program houses theological students for about three weeks so they can see "what we've done in this town, the places we've built and manage, and how active and caring we are."

Along with educating them about Sun City, Moore also talks to the young men on the downside of growing old. She said she has "pages of stuff," ranging from bad health to the suicide rate to the fear of death.

"I'm a morbid creature," she said.

But nothing could be further from the truth.

Last year, when she returned to a former leper colony in Thailand that is a rehabilitation center for people suffering from bone problems, she met a man she had visited 20 years ago.

"(The first time I went there) I made it a point to greet each and every one of them in my best Thai," she said. "This one man said he remembered me because I wasn't afraid to touch them," she said.

And that's the effect Moore leaves on everyone: She's not afraid to reach out and offer a helping hand to those in need.

# SC volunteer reaches out to people in need

## Retiree holds global resume

By MIKE HEGARTY  
Daily News-Sun staff

**S**un Citian Jean Moore was born and raised in Canada and moved to San Francisco for most of her adult life before finally settling in Arizona in 1976.

But she refers to Thailand, where she spent almost three years as a medical volunteer, as "more home than my little town in Canada."

She never could grasp the Thai language, though, which is based on five tones.

"I tried to learn Thai," said Moore, who previously worked at Stanford University and the University of California hospitals as a bedside nurse. "I got a tone wrong once and called a doctor a 'dog.' So after that I quit trying."

During two trips to the Orient, first in the late 1960s and again in 1978, she set up an Intensive Care Unit and a cancer registry, taught English as a second language and produced brochures for the McCormick Hospital in Chiang Mai.

The next year, Moore, along with Gordon Anderson and Ed Pope, both deceased, established the Sun Cities Hospice in 1979.

The Hospice service provides assistance to terminally ill patients.

Moore said she cooks for them, does their shopping, makes funeral arrangements and goes on errands.

Moore, Jean

Lucille Morehouse of Sun City won a doubles tournament with Nancy Rholl earlier this year.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

# Globetrotter

7-11-97

## Sun City tennis player aces geography test

By DAVID R. BECK  
Staff writer

The lines on Lucille Morehouse's face seem to tell stories of a lifetime spent hopscotching the globe.

Morehouse, a Sun Citian, who has won 153 **Tennis**

trophies playing competitive tennis, moved to a new locale 19 times during her husband Charles' career in the Navy.

A partial list of places Morehouse has lived reads like the itinerary of a rock band: Cuba, the Philippines, Boston, San Diego, Oakland, Calif., Richmond, Va., Newport, R.I., New Jersey and her hometown of Coulee Dam, Wash.

Growing up in eastern Washington, Morehouse's parents taught

her to play tennis and she quickly excelled.

"By 14, I could beat all the gals in high school," Morehouse said. "Tennis was a sissy sport in those days, so all the macho students would play baseball. There was only one guy I couldn't beat, so they had me play on the boys' team."

Morehouse, 68, then played No. 2 singles for the women's tennis team at the University of Washington and earned the nickname, "Killer Backhand."

She even has BACKHAND on her personalized license plates, though she recently returned from a seven-year competitive tennis absence.

"They only had three women turn out for women's 55 and I just got tired of traveling," Morehouse said.

"So I just play for fun now."

Morehouse, who moved to Sun City in 1986, also took a 10-year tennis sabbatical starting in 1956 simply because there wasn't enough competition.

Morehouse did make a tennis comeback in March, teaming with Nancy Rholl to win a doubles title at the Sun City tennis tournament.

While living in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, Morehouse taught tennis for two years, though she is the first to admit her form isn't exactly perfect.

"I never had a lesson so my husband said it was like the blind leading the blind," Morehouse said. "I knew how to play but I don't do it right."

# East meets West in Sun City

## Couple's home reflects life in Japan

ERIN REEP  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When she first arrived in Japan, Helen Morrill felt a bit disoriented.

Everything in Japanese culture was foreign to her.

"When I first got there, everything was backwards," she recalled.

The cars drove on the left side of the streets. When asked her name, she was to give her last name, then her first. And when she was introduced to Japanese literature, she found "the back of the book is the front."

Morrill and her husband, Doug, served as educational missionaries to Japan from

1949 to 1970 through the foreign-missions board of the Congregational Church. They taught in Japanese colleges and universities and raised their three children there.

A visit to the Morrills' Sun City home reveals a deep love for Japanese and Asian culture. Artwork from Japan adorns the walls; vases and cabinets festoon the living room.

The Morrills' son, Tim, still lives in Japan, and the couple has returned to the country four times since moving back to the United States more than 30 years ago.

Helen Morrill grew up on a wheat farm in Kansas, and Doug was raised in India by missionary parents; his father was a Congregationalist minister.

Helen and Doug met in Hays, Kan., where Helen was

teaching business courses in the high school after finishing at Fort Hays State University. Doug was stationed at Walker Air Force Base, and the couple met on a blind date at an officer's club dance.

On the morning after the dance, Helen visited a Presbyterian church with a friend, and when she walked in, she saw Doug there.

"He came over that afternoon, and we listened to a classical music program," she said.

The couple were married in 1946, upon Doug's discharge from the U.S. Army Air Corps.

The Morrills said they never planned on becoming missionaries, but as it happened, that was the path life took them down.

Doug earned a master's degree in social sciences,

with a focus on political science, history and economics, from the University of Chicago. Helen had a bachelor's degree in business administration, and earned her master's in business administration from Centenary College in Louisiana after returning from Japan.

Doug was considering his options after his discharge from the military, and applied to the domestic and foreign missions board of the Congregational Church. To the couple's surprise, they were offered positions as educational missionaries in an area between Osaka and Kobe, Japan.

The Morrills first worked at Kobe College, an elite women's college founded by Congregational missionaries in 1875. Helen taught English;

See JAPAN, A5

### From A1

Doug was the school's treasurer. They later taught at Kwansai Gakuin University, where Helen taught English and business English and Doug taught English and international trade.

Last week, Helen shared some of her experiences with the Women's Fellowship of the Church of the Palms. She taught the women how to write characters used in Japanese language. There are 48 letters in the syllabary — five vowels, the rest combinations of consonants and vowels that make up syllables, Helen explained. There are 1,850 basic characters in the language, which are "enough to read a Japanese newspaper," Helen said.

When the Morrills returned to the United States, they found that some Japanese words remained part of their vocabularies and those of their three adult children.

"A chest of drawers in Japanese is 'tansu,'" Helen said. "Even today, we don't say 'chest of drawers,' we say

'tansu.'"

A custom that became part of their lives is the Japanese tradition of greeting friends and acquaintances by bowing, rather than through handshakes, hugs or waves.

Helen recounted how the Japanese eat at low tables, sitting on the floor. The Morrills were often invited into homes or to go out as guests. A popular dish was sushi, which Helen said she didn't really like.

"I did not like raw fish, but that's a real delicacy there," she said.

The Japanese sleep on mats on the floor that are rolled up and stored on shelves during the day. Space is very tight in apartments there, Helen said. The Morrills had a Western-style home with beds, but their son still living in Japan sleeps "Japanese-style" on the floor.

The Morrills hope to make another visit to Japan, Helen said.

"Our son is wanting us to come over and visit him," she said.

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



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

MORRILL  
HELEN  
Helen Morrill prepares to tell the Women's Fellowship of the Church of the Palms about her experience as a missionary in Japan from 1949 to 1970.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

NORTHWEST 1W

Monday, January 21, 1985



Roy Cosway/Republic

Paul Morrill stands at the Century Bank on Grand Avenue, which he and Rex Staley founded in 1970.

## Retired pair with time on hands brought neighborly bank to life

By VICTORIA M. STEVENS  
Northwest Valley Bureau

SUN CITY — Great things happen when retired men become bored.

That was the case when Sun City resident Paul Morrill and retired banker Rex Staley, both 70, meshed ideas in 1970.

Morrill said he and Staley were "bored out of their gourds," so they decided to open what became the Century Bank at Grand and 105th avenues — the first independent bank in Sun City.

At the time, Staley, a Paradise Valley resident, had just retired from the International Banking Consortium in Philadelphia.

However, Staley decided he hadn't had enough of banking. He and Morrill opened the City Bank in

1970 in a sales office south of the King's Inn with the distinct purpose of serving retired residents' needs.

"This is a cosmopolitan group — they come from all over the world and were something special in their day," Staley said. "I believed it would be very appropriate to give specialized service to a community such as this."

He said he ignored several financial advisers who told him Sun City had the "world's highest concentration of banking complexes in a bedroom community."

Morrill, who oversaw construction of the bank, said, "Sun City has a lot of money, so it has a lot of banks. On the average street corner, you see three banks and one filling station. Anywhere else, it's the other way around."

By 1971, the two were operating out of a trailer, temporary headquarters until the bank building opened Nov. 29, 1971.

At first, residents deposited warily.

Staley recalled someone saying, "Why would we put our money here? You could easily hitch up and leave town."

But trust took no time to build once residents noticed the neighborly atmosphere, and accounts came flooding in.

"We were so successful," Staley said. "But people in Sun City responded to that kind of personal banking."

The bank, built on the site of an old stagecoach stop for the town of Marinette, was what Staley called his "personal marketing laboratory."

— Bank, Extra C

## Bank

Continued from Extra A

Sun City was built over the site of Marinette.

Residents served as guinea pigs to untried marketing techniques, which proved to be successful.

"We made the bank a community center, so to speak," Staley said.

The bank lobby was transformed into a minimuseum for satellite art exhibitions of the Phoenix Art Museum, and that was the beginning of what is now the Sun Cities Art Museum, scheduled to open this year.

Staley also refused to charge customers for safety-deposit boxes or travelers checks, Morrill said.

The bank had a men's and women's advisory board, headed by directors John Anderson, a retired Sun City resident, and Kathryn Gammage, wife of Grady Gammage, late president of Arizona State University. Gammage was the first woman bank director in the state, Morrill said.

He said the "greatest gimmick" was when the bank monitored construction of a future resident's home if he opened an account for \$5 or more.

"I would scoot around on my golf cart and take six color Polaroid shots of homes under construction at different times; a written report would be made, and the results were sent to wherever the people lived," Morrill said.

He said City Bank was the only bank he knew of where the president had his desk in the middle of the main floor.

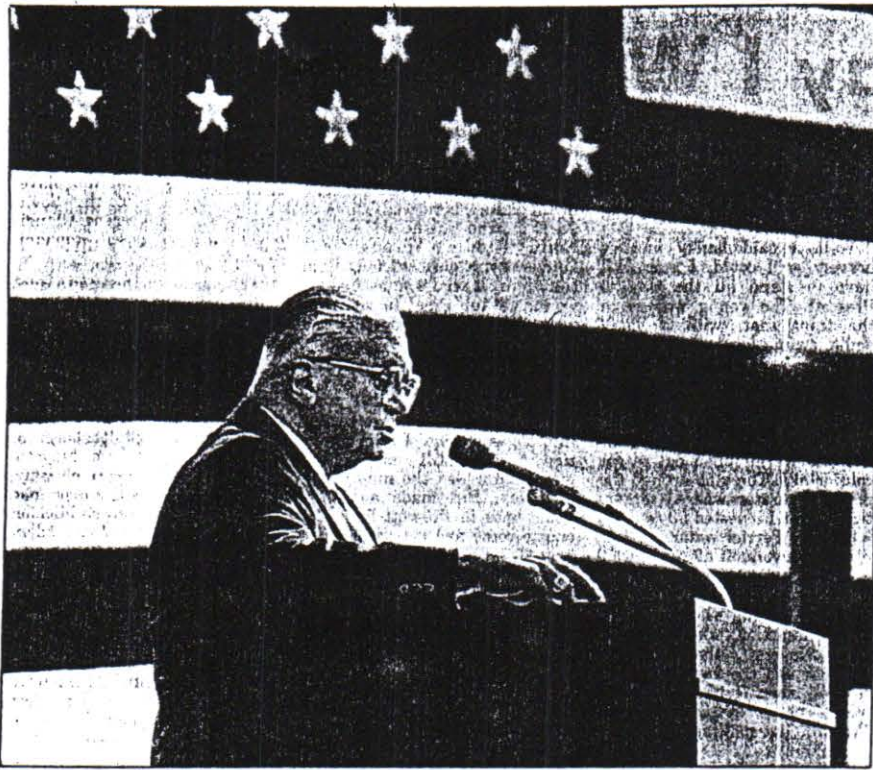
"He (Staley) had a solid stream of visitors," Morrill said. "That was the difference between our bank and others — it was a small bank, just a country bank."

The bank started on \$650,000 in capital. Staley owned more than half of the 1,620 stocks, which sold at \$40 each in the beginning.

In 1979, when business became cumbersome for the small bank, it was sold to one of the board directors, Clyde Smith, founder of Smitty's, for \$185 a share. Smith eventually merged City Bank with Surety Savings and Loan, which became Century Bank.

"Now Rex is back playin' golf in Paradise Valley, and I'm here giving speeches," said Morrill.

MORRILL, PAUL



PAUL MORRILL — Retired Army colonel, dedication of the Del Webb Memorial was featured speaker last September at the Garden at Bell Recreation Center. News-Sun photo by Stephen Chermak

## Morrill, patriotic speaker, dies following heart attack

News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Retired Army Col. Paul Morrill, 73, died Wednesday at Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, following a heart attack.

Morrill, widely known in Sun City for patriotic and historic talks he gave to local organizations, moved to the area in 1969 from Kansas. He was born in Bangor, Maine, and graduated from the University of Maryland, U.S. Armor School, British Army Senior Officers Staff College and U.S. Command and General Staff College.

His 36 years of military service began on his 18th birthday and ended while he was an officer in the regular Army. He was a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam, and served overseas in many countries from Egypt to England. He was awarded eight service medals and seven decorations, headed by the Legion of Merit.

In recent years, Morrill was widely known for his historical research into the American colonial period and for the hundreds of talks he gave throughout the nation. His most popular speeches were printed in a book, "So Gallantly Streaming,"

which won an award from Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. The award matched two others Morrill received from the foundation in 1967 and 1977.

Friends remember Morrill as a community leader and a man who always flew the symbol of his country's freedom on the flagpole outside his home.

Sun Citian Doug Morris, who will give the eulogy at the funeral, knew Morrill for many years.

"I have nothing but admiration for him. He was a great contributor to our community. I had never known him to refuse, at any inconvenience, to do some good for the community," Morris said. "He was one of the most patriotic men I have ever known. It seemed as though it was in his very fibre. It will be difficult to imagine a patriotic event without him there."

Morrill was a life member and past president of the Sun City Youngtown Kiwanis Club, life fellow of the Kiwanis International Foundation; served two terms as president of the Sun City Area Chapter of the Retired Officers Association and was founder and seven-year president of the Arizona Council of Chap-

ters of the same organization; served on national committees of TROA; was a member of the Fort Huachuca Retired Officers Council, was former director in Sun City of civil defense and served on the Sun Cities Area Press Council.

Morrill was founder, first senior warden and warden emeritus of All Saints of the Desert Episcopal Church, was active in the Episcopal Diocese of Arizona, and was a founding director of The City Bank, past president of the Sun Cities Art Museum and booster for the Sun City Saints.

He is survived by his wife, Jean; a son, Stephen Paul of Tampa, Fla.; a brother, Rev. Douglas M. of Augusta, Maine, and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial service will be 2 p.m. Wednesday at All Saints of the Desert Episcopal Church, 9502 Hutton Drive.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorials to All Saints of the Desert Church Endowment Fund, 9502 Hutton Drive, Sun City 85351; the Sun Cities Art Museum Fund, 17425 N. 115th Ave., Sun City 85373 or a charity of choice.

MORRILL, PAUL

OVER



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# Opinions

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## News-Sun editorials

### Farewell to a patriot

*“When our people read the papers, or watch the television, or see a play, or look at a sunset, I want their reaction to be in some way affected by their Americanism . . . To be an American ought to be something unique on the face of this globe.”*

These words appear in a small book, “. . . So Gallantly Streaming?” written in 1983 by Col. Paul M. Morrill, U.S. Army (retired). Col. Morrill died Wednesday evening; and Sun City has lost one of its most respected residents.

Col. Morrill made a study of our early history; he knew the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution and the history of our flag well. He wrote articles and books, and spoke to more than 35,000 people about their symbolism and their meaning to a free people. He demonstrated his patriotism by serving 29 years as an officer in the regular Army — in World War II, Korea and Vietnam — receiving eight service medals and seven decorations, including the Legion of Merit. And when he retired to Sun City, he continued serving in community organizations and in his church.

The highest praise we can give — and that we believe he would value most — is that here was a true patriot, one who lived his patriotism with quiet sincerity every day.

## DOERS PROFILE

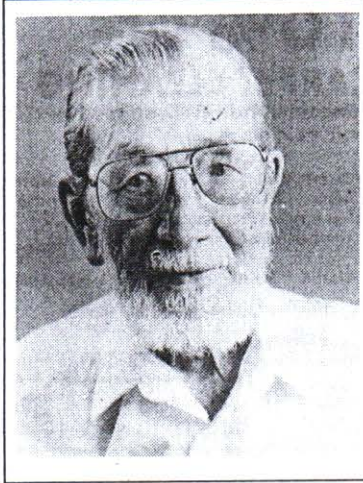
### Douglas Morris

**Vitae** Graduate of Dartmouth College.

**Hometown** West Brooklyn, Nova Scotia.

**Valley home** Sun City.

**Marital status** Married to Laura for 59 years.



**Self-portrait** Ambitious, assertive, community-minded, friendly.

**Motto** If you don't try it, you'll never do it.

**Greatest feat** That my wife has tolerated me for 59 years.

**Walter Mitty fantasy** I would like to make a substantial contribution to the improvement of our society.

**Inspiration** I'm the luckiest man in the world to have had good influences since my childhood, people the likes of Clarence Darrow and so many others.

**Good/bad habits** My love of family. Smoking.

**Favorite food/drink** Lobster. White wine.

**TV programs** The McNeil-Lehrer Report.

**Books at bedside** Re-reading Shakespeare.

**Vacation spot/luxury:** I've traveled so much and loves seeing all of Arizona. A real luxury would be to put enough money aside that my children and grandchildren would never again have a moment of financial concern.

**Key to longevity** My ancestors, a motley crew of English and Scotch.

**Last words** So much I was capable of doing, so little I did.

## Father of Sun City's liberty bell

**D**ouglas Morris, an 82-year-old Sun Citian with a rich history of public service, has had a love affair with words since his youth.

From his childhood in Boston, when he sneaked into the Old South Church to hear attorney Clarence Darrow speak, to his days at Dartmouth and his career in marketing and public relations, Morris has always respected language.

Morris, who moved to Sun City from Boston 19 years ago, spins a beautiful tale of the history of his brainchild, the replica of the Liberty Bell at Bell Recreation Center.

Unlike its Philadelphia-based inspiration, the Sun City bell rings, pealing every Fourth of July during Sun City's holiday celebration.

"Out of nowhere, the word went out that Sun City ought to have a Liberty Bell to ring during the bicentennial," he said. "When people found out that we needed donations of metal objects, we set a date for the gathering of material."

Four tons of metal were gathered on trucks parked at Sun City Stadium, during a weekend that Morris fondly recalls.

"With the exception of winter carnival at Dartmouth, I've never had a wilder weekend," he said. "People brought tableware, jewelry and bed springs. It was all loaded on trucks, melted in Phoenix and shipped to Holland, where the original was created. There, our bell was made."

The bell was rung for the first time on America's bicentennial, and it will continue ringing on the Fourth of every July "as long as I inhale and exhale," Morris said.

## Ring That Bell founder Doug Morris dies

By JEANNIE JOHNSON  
Staff writer

Sun City has lost one of its great supporters and patriots.

H. Douglas "Doug" Morris, 86, died in his home on Sept. 2, 1996. The native of Nova Scotia, Canada, will be remembered as Sun City's greatest cheerleaders and the

founder of the annual Ring That Bell ceremony.

"Doug was probably the finest public relations persons and representatives for Sun City and certainly for the United States," said Jerry Svendsen, publisher of the Sun Life Magazine. "Doug was a very patriotic person and had a wonderful human qual-

ity about him. I worked for Del Webb for 20 years and worked with him on several projects. He would always put in his 100 percent before he asked anyone else to put in their 100 percent."

Morris had a lifetime of experience promoting good things. His family moved to

► See Family, friends, A6

## Family, friends praise Doug Morris

■ From A1

the United States when he was an infant, and he went on to graduate from Dartmouth University. He worked in advertising and marketing in New York City.

"He was one of those '50s ad men they wrote stories about," said his son, Jack. "He was part of that gray-flannel era."



Morris

Jane Freeman, another long-time Sun City booster, said what made Morris so good at his job was his grasp of the English language.

"He had the most marvelous way with words of anyone I've ever known," she said. "To hear him speak was like poetry."

His son backs that up.

"This was a man who spent all his life in communications," he said. "I have files of things he produced. He loved the English language and had this amazing ability to write and speak. It made him a tough father to argue with. He was quite an orator. He could really stand up and deliver."

Morris and his wife, Laura, came to Sun City in 1972. They

came to join Laura's twin sister, Gertrude, and her husband. The move came as a bit of a shock to the children, Jack said.

"Their moving here struck me as a radical thing to do," he said. "They were hardcore Easterners. My aunt came down from Idaho, so basically it was two families coming from quite a ways to be together."

Coming to Sun City didn't mean retirement for Morris. He became the editor of the Sun City Citizen which is now the Sun Cities Independent, was an active member of the Lions Club and was involved in several projects with Del Webb including the Sundome.

"My dad liked to be busy," Jack said. "He was involved in a lot of projects out here, and he took his editor job very seriously. He also liked working with Del Webb. He loved the concept of Sun City and certainly America. He embraced our country. He was very, very American."

His patriotic spirit lives on in the annual Ring That Bell ceremony every July 4 at the Bell Recreation Center. As the bicentennial approached, Morris wanted something different for the celebration, Freeman said.

"He wanted to do something meaningful, not just a parade and a few dances and it would

be over," she said. "So, everyone in Sun City gathered their scrap metal into a pile and sent it off. It was melted down and forged into a replica of the Liberty Bell."

Unlike the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, the replica in Sun City can be rung. Each Independence Day, hundreds of Sun City residents listen to patriotic songs and speeches and then line up to ring the bell.

Jack, who followed in his father's marketing and advertising footsteps, said he isn't surprised his father came up with such an idea.

"My dad was an idea man," he said. "He would come up with an idea and run with it. Sometimes it was half-baked, and other times it was like the Liberty Bell which really made a difference in this community."

Morris is survived by three sons, Charles of Spokane, Wash., Chester of Key West, Fla., and Jack of Atlanta, Ga.; a daughter, Sheila Asala of Phoenix; nine grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

No service is planned. Memorials may be sent to the Lions Club International, 1016 N. 32nd St., Suite 1, Phoenix, 85008.

Morris, Doug



## Retired...in style

# Salesman, man of careers, he has served Sun City well

By **GLENN E. SANBERG**  
Doug Morris is a salesman.

You name it, his advertising agencies have sold it: double-duty tooth brushes, aspirin with a hole in it, Lever Brothers soap, Campbell's soup, Revlon beauty products, newspaper advertising and the sterling campaign qualities of political candidates.

Doug's ambition was the government diplomatic service, but like so many turns in his several careers, entering government service got side-tracked by his insatiable desire to learn all he could about any subject that caught his fancy.

At Dartmouth College it was a theme on "The Bank for International Settlement," which he wrote to support a scholarship application, that changed his life.

"I wrote a letter to the one man who knew more about the subject than anyone else, Owen D. Young," Morris said.

The fact that Owen D. Young happened to be president of General Electric and chairman of the Bank for International Settlement, didn't seem to bother young Morris.

"I took it for granted he would talk to me," he explained.

Intrigued by the letter, Young invited Morris to New York for a 4 o'clock appointment. Morris hitchhiked to New York, and met the industrial giant in his luxurious suite of offices at the appointed time.

"He was a big man," Morris said, "completely at ease, with his coat off displaying a set of wide, red suspenders. With his feet on the desk, we began to talk."

The half-hour interview lasted through dinner and into the late evening. It was Young's fatherly advice that switched Doug's career into a 180-degree turn.

Apparently sizing up the enthusiasm of his young visitor, Young said, "Why don't you wise up...why don't you sell something?"

It was this interview that helped young Morris sail through the scholarship competition in New York and be chosen one of six students from 456 applicants to spend a year in Europe studying international relations.

When he arrived in Geneva, Switzerland, Morris said he felt like Marco Polo, the surroundings were so strange.

But it didn't take long for him

to get into the swing of things, and before long he was riding his bicycle across Geneva to interview the great Indian philosopher, Rabindranath Tagore.

Here again, the interview that was to last a short time stretched into the evening and all through the night.

Back at Dartmouth for his final year, Morris began making speeches on international relations before large groups for honorariums of as much as \$500. One was the National American Legion Convention in Boston.

What the brash young collegian had to say didn't sit well with some of the more patriotic Legionnaires, and Morris had to be escorted from the convention hall by a cordon of police.

When he returned to the campus, Dartmouth's president, Ernest Hopkins Martin, called him to his office, where an irate committee from the Legion was demanding his expulsion.

"What are you going to do about this?" they demanded of the president.

Morris said Martin thought a moment, then leaned forward and said, "Just as soon as I have time, I'm going to get Doug all the speaking engagements I can..."

Born on a farm in Nova Scotia in 1910, Doug moved with his parents to Boston when he was 3 years old, and that is where the resilient sinews of growing up were formed.

Life was not always easy, Morris recalls.

"My mother ran a boarding house, and we were often up at 5 o'clock in the morning helping," he said. He described his parents as unschooled, but highly educated.

It was Elvira Nichols, his fifth grade teacher, who gave him the real zest for learning.

"She was homely, wore a wig that tilted, used pancake make-up, had a big nose and she cracked our knuckles with a ruler," he said, "but I loved her because she taught me the joy of reading."

Morris said it was Elvira Nichols who set him on the exciting course of studying great men and the art of thinking and speaking. This led him into radio announcing and later a highly successful career in the advertising agency business in Boston, New York and New Jersey.

It also sent him searching for a community that offered the

greatest opportunities for service in retirement. Next to finding Laura, his wife of 53 years, he considers discovering Sun City as one of his greatest accomplishments.

Since moving to Sun City in 1972, Morris has chalked up an exhaustive list of community contributions: president of the Taxpayers Association as well as Republican Forum West, organizer of such milestone celebrations as the Del E. Webb Statue project at Bell Recreation Center, the Fourth of July ceremonies, the Rio Salado Community College Project, Peoria. School Advisory Committee and numerous Lions Club projects.

As editor of the Citizen for four years, his editorials planted seeds that still bear abundant fruit.

A man of many talents, Doug Morris has made an indelible imprint on this community. His speeches before scores of Sun City organizations always get top billing.

His enthusiasm is synoptic when asked about the future possibilities of this retirement paradise. Its future is limitless, he contends.

"Sun City is the most underdeveloped city in the nation," he says. "It's time we declared a dividend in the form of solutions to problems involving our generation. We have a greater responsibility than keeping physically fit and fighting incorporation..."

Doug Morris is still planting seeds.

# Sun City twins match memories

By BRITT KENNERLY  
Daily News-Sun staff

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



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

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

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

A shot of them decked out in matching hats,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Stephen Cherneck/Daily News-Sun

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

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

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

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

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

After graduation, the twins planned to open their  
See Bond brings, A5

## Bond brings twins, spouses to Sun City

—From A1

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Stephen Cherneck/Daily News-Sun

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**MORTON, Ruth Irene (Breymann)**

Ruth Irene (Breymann) Morton, 88, passed away Tuesday, February 28, 2006, in Henderson, Nevada.



She was born in Freeport, Illinois, to Charles and Ragnilda Breymann. Ruth graduated from Freeport High School in 1935. After marrying her beloved husband, John, in 1946, they moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where Ruth was the Chief Bookkeeper for the Walsh Brothers Office Equipment Company. She also taught Sunday school for 45 years. After retiring in 1981 they moved to Sun City, where Ruth was involved in the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and bowling leagues and enjoyed counted cross-stitching.

Ruth is survived by seven nieces and nephews; eleven grandnieces and grandnephews and seven great grandnieces and great grandnephews.

A visitation will be held from 4:00 to 7:00 P.M. Friday, March 31, 2006 at Sunland Mortuary, 15826 Del Webb Boulevard, Sun City, Arizona, 623-933-0161. A memorial service will be held at 2:00 P.M. Saturday, April 1, 2006 at Fountain of Life Lutheran Church, 15630 Del Webb Boulevard, Sun City, Arizona. Interment will be private.

Memorial donations may be made to Fountain of Life Lutheran Church or Alzheimer's Association.

**Visit this person's Guest Book at  
[www.dailynews-sun.com](http://www.dailynews-sun.com).**

DAILY NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, AND SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2006

# Del Webb book details Sun City's 42-year history

Every five years he worked for **Del Webb Corp.**, **John Morton** received a diamond in his service pin.

Those diamonds — seven in all — are now in a ring John's wife, **Ruth**, wears on her finger. "My husband worked for Webb for 35 years. He was an accountant," Ruth said.

The Mortons moved from Illinois to Arizona in 1946, after the war and before Sun City was built. "John had been at Luke (Air Force Base), and he liked it," Ruth said. "He said, 'Well, when we get married, would you consider coming to Phoenix if I can get a job there?'"

He got the job with Del Webb, he and Ruth got married, and John went on to work with the company — and the man — almost four decades.

"To me he's been John, but they called him Johnny," Ruth recalled. A sketch by Reg Manning featuring "Johnny Morton" appears in a 1950 edition of **The Webb Spinner**, the Del Webb Corp.'s company publication.

Ruth donated years worth of the Spinner in bound copies to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, where she volunteers.

The society was founded in 1989 by, among other people, resident **Jane Freeman**.

"Jane had the vision 20 years ago and started accumulating," said **Connie McMillin**, society president.

A few years later, the society moved into the first Del Webb model home, at 10801 Oakmont Ave. Versions of that home sold for \$8,500 when Sun City opened on Jan. 1, 1960. Today, the home is a wealth of historical treasures and fun trivia.

McMillin, Morton and other volunteers delight in telling visitors the various stories about Webb and his development, which didn't have a name until two months before it opened.

"The billboards just had a question mark. There was a big contest to name Sun City,"

McMillin said.

Officials with the company that was given the task of collecting and paring down the contest entries, and ultimately choosing the development's name, were stunned when Webb came in and saw some of the names, pointed to the Sun City entry and said, "Oh, I like Sun City," Morton said.

"They put up a big fight about that because they were being paid to name it," she said.

Details of the exchange can only be guessed now, but the fact is, Webb got his way, and opening day



**Katy O'Grady**

**Your Turn**



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Connie McMillin, left and Ruth Morton have loads of "Del Webb: The Man. The Company" books to line the shelves of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

MORTON,

JOHN & RUTH

PERSONALITIES

OVER



for Sun City was more successful than anyone could have predicted.

"There were so many that first day they ran out of sales slips," Morton said. McMillin said people took slips of regular paper with their deposit amount written on them as proof they'd purchased a Webb home.

Following Del Webb Corp.'s merger with Pulte Homes, the historical society was given about 150 copies of the revamped book by Margaret Finnerly titled "Del Webb: The

**Man. The Company."**

The book was first published in 1991, but about 250 copies of the newer version were created less than two years ago. Many were given to company executives and other key people, and the rest went to the historical society, which is selling them for \$25 as a fund-raiser, McMillin said.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's summer hours, through Labor Day, are 10 a.m. to noon Friday and Saturday. After Sept. 2, regular hours resume:

1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The society also is open by appointment. Admission is free and donations are welcome.

To schedule an appointment or for more information about purchasing "Del Webb: The Man. The Company," call 974-2568.

To submit news for "Your Turn," e-mail Katy O'Grady at [kogrady@aztrib.com](mailto:kogrady@aztrib.com); fax to 876-3698; mail to Daily News-Sun, Attn.: Your Turn, 10102 Santa Fe Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351; or call 876-2514.

**THE WEBB SPINNER**

October, 1950



**Johnny MORTON**

INTRODUCED TO ARIZONA BY THE ARMY AIR FORCES DURING WORLD WAR II, JOHNNY LIKED THE DESERT LAND SO WELL AFTER 3 YEARS OF DUTY THAT UPON DISCHARGE AS A WARRANT OFFICER HE HIED HIMSELF RIGHT BACK TO PHOENIX TO JOIN **THE DEL E. WEBB CONSTRUCTION CO.** MAY 22, 1946.



--- PAR REALLY HAD A CLOSE SHAVE TODAY ---

ONCE SETTLED ON HIS POST-WAR WEBB CO. JOB, JOHNNY DECIDED TO WED, MADE A "QUICKIE" WEEK-END, ROUND-TRIP FLIGHT TO FREEDPORT, ILL., AND BROUGHT BACK HIS WIFE, RUTH. TODAY THEY'RE PREPARING TO OCCUPY A BEAUTIFUL NEW HOME AT 3601 N. 15<sup>TH</sup> DRIVE. MORTON'S HOBBIES ARE BOWLING AND GOLF --- LAWN-MOWING NEXT --- AND HE'S PARTICULARLY PROUD OF A 77 ON THE ENCANTO LINKS ---



TODAY HE'S ONE OF THE CHEERFUL FOLK IN THE MAIN OFFICE ACCOUNTING DEPT. A NATIVE OF SALEM, ILL., HE ATTENDED HIGH SCHOOL IN CHAMPAIGN AND WAS GRADUATED IN 1937 FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, WHERE HE PADDLED WITH VARSITY SWIMMERS. WHEN THE AAF FINANCE DEPT. SENT HIM IN 1942 TO THE AJO ARMY AIR BASE, HE AND 2 COMPANIONS LANDED AT GILA BEND ON A SULTRY JULY 4, ENTRAINING FOR AJO ON WHAT SEEMED LIKE THE TOONERVILLE TROLLEY. BECAUSE IT WAS JAMMED WITH CELEBRATING INDIANS, JOHNNY AND HIS PALS RODE WITH THE ENGINEER, WHO RELATED THRILLING TALES TO THE EASTERNERS OF HOW INDIANS AT TIMES AMBUSHED THE TRAIN IN THE DESERT. JOHNNY DECIDED THEN HE REALLY WAS IN THE WILD WEST ---

## John L. and Ruth B. Morton Award

The John L. and Ruth B. Morton Award has recently been established to provide scholarship support to Commerce students majoring in accountancy and business administration. "A good many young people can use the help," noted Ruth Morton, who recently visited the Illinois campus and talked with *InSight* about the award, made as a tribute to her late husband.

John Morton grew up in Champaign and graduated from Commerce in 1937 with a B.S. in accountancy. While at Illinois he played the sousaphone in the U of I Marching Band, as befitted his upbringing in a musical family. An avid swimmer throughout his life, he was also a member of the university swim team. His sisters, Eleanor Busch and the late Louise Ackerman, both attended Illinois as well.

After graduation, John Morton went to work at Burgess Battery Company in Freeport, Illinois, where he met Ruth Irene Breyman, his future spouse. Eventually, life was to lead them far from the Midwest, to the bright and limitless desert horizons of Arizona. When a lengthy strike paralyzed the Burgess operation, Morton sought work at the U.S. Ordnance Depot in

Indiana, then joined the Air Force as a staff auditor in 1942. He was first dispatched to Luke Field, outside Phoenix, followed by stations in New York and Miami. In 1946 he returned to civilian life and to Phoenix, joining the Del E. Webb Construction Co., as an accountant. The timing was phenomenal — already a highly regarded construction outfit, the company was soon to embark on the creation of the fabulously successful Sun City concept. On September 1 of that year, he and Ruth were married in Freeport, her hometown. On September 2, they were in Phoenix — "No time for a honeymoon!" smiled Ruth, who went to work not long after in the accounting department of Walsh Bros. Office Equipment.



Ruth and John Morton

In 1981, after thirty-five years in the company's accounting department, John Morton retired from Del Webb. Ruth also retired from Walsh that year, after a tenure just six months shorter than her husband's. The following January, the Mortons moved from Phoenix to Sun City. Very active in the Lutheran Church, they enjoyed a busy and contented lifestyle for many years. The couple celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on September 1, 1996. John died the following year, on October 7, 1997.

Long fascinated by the Del Webb phenomenon, Ruth is a member of the board of the Sun Cities Area

Historical Society, which is housed in the community's very first model home, built in 1959 and now a registered historical landmark.

They were also members of the Sun Cities Illini Club, and Ruth has served as club treasurer. She noted that the inspiration for the Morton Award came from an earlier contribution she made to the Walter Breyman Scholarship in History, established in LAS in memory of her late brother. An Illinois graduate, who held Ph.D. ('50) and M.A. ('47) degrees in history and a B.S. ('41) in education, Walter Breyman was a history professor at Drake University in Des Moines. He died in 1994.

"I began thinking, 'Why not a scholarship in John's name, too?'" Ruth observed. "John himself lost his father when he was only ten years old. His mother taught piano to support the family. He was the sort of student you would want to give a scholarship to — a deserving student of high academic achievement. John and I didn't have any children of our own. And certainly there are a lot of hard-working young people who can use some assistance."

The John L. and Ruth B. Morton Endowment will grow each year, through a required minimum distribution from an IRA in John's estate. "It's money I really don't

need in addition to the other assets we accumulated," noted Ruth. "And the taxes are eliminated each year since it's a charitable gift." Ruth feels that assisting deserving students who need financial help is so important that she also made the endowment a partial beneficiary of the IRA in her own estate. Through such generosity and foresight, the endowment will eventually increase to the six-figure level.

**JOHN LOUIS MORTON****January 18, 1915 – October 7, 1997**

Ellen Esther and Elvin Renwick Morton had a family of three children: Louise was born in 1904; John Louis came ten years later on January 18, 1915; and Eleanor Frances in 1919. The following year their father died at the age of 49 in Salem, Illinois.

The family then moved to Champaign, Illinois where all three children received their education, including degrees from the University of Illinois. The entire family was very involved in music; John played the ~~saxophone~~ <sup>sousaphone</sup> in the U of I Marching Band. In 1937 he graduated with a BS in Accountancy.

His first job was with Burgess Battery Company in Freeport, Illinois. In 1941 he was forced to look elsewhere when a strike by the factory workers stopped production for a lengthy period of time. He then went to work for a year in an ordinance depot in Indiana. On April 17, 1942 he was inducted into the U.S. Army. He spent four years as an auditing officer at Luke Field, Arizona, in New York City, and Miami, Florida. He received his discharge as a Warrant Officer, Junior Grade on May 3, 1946.

Since he didn't have a job to return to, he decided to try his luck in Arizona. He was fortunate to find employment with what was then called the Del E. Webb Construction Company and started to work on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

On September 1, 1946, he married Ruth Breymann, whom he had met at Burgess Battery Company in Freeport, Illinois. They returned to Phoenix and have lived in Arizona for 51 years. He retired from the Del Webb Corporation in 1981 after 35 years in their accounting department. It was in January 1982 that they moved to Sun City.

Ruth transferred her church affiliation from Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix to Fountain of Life in Sun City. Since John had never been confirmed in the Lutheran faith, Pastor Marquardt gave him instructions, and confirmed him in December 1983.

Up until ten years ago he had been an avid sports fan. Ruth and John had season tickets to ASU football and basketball for almost 30 years. He enjoyed golfing, swimming, and bowling – as well as travelling.

In early 1995 he began showing signs of early dementia, which continued until the time of his death. It was in February 1997 that his doctor suggested that he go to a care center after having an episode that required hospitalization. It was at Plaza del Rio's secure unit, Freedom Hall, that he had a fall on September 30<sup>th</sup>, which resulted in a broken hip. The surgery was successful, but John did not respond, and he died a week later at the Sun Health Hospice on October 7<sup>th</sup>.

His sister, Louise, died in Phoenix in 1957 at the age of 53. His mother lived with John and Ruth for 19 years where she taught piano. She died at the age of 93 in 1970. His sister Eleanor Busch is still living in Phoenix.



Mrs. John Morton  
9917 W. Sandstone Dr.  
Sun City, AZ 85351

September 16, 1999

Sun Cities Area Historical Society  
10801 Oakmont Ave.  
Sun City, AZ 85351

Attn: Phyllis Street

Dear Phyllis,

During the 35 years (1946-1981) that John worked for Del Webb he accumulated several IRA's that are now combined into one invested in an American Skandia Annuity at Wells Fargo. Since he passed away in October 1997, it is now in my name. However, I don't anticipate the need for it in addition to the Trust that we had also established, so I have chosen to change the beneficiary to just charitable organizations and foundations.

Since John was just as proud of Del Webb and the Sun City projects as I am, I have chosen to have five percent given to our Historical Society. But don't plan on getting it too soon for I continue to be blessed with good health!

I'm also enclosing a copy of his obituary and a photo of both of us taken in 1984 that you may like to have in the files.

Sincerely,

*Ruth B. Morton*



M-R

# Sun Citian was early 'supermom'



Daily News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

'I've lived a long time . . . through two wars . . . riding in carriages and cars and spending Sunday afternoons watching airplanes and wondering if they would fall.'

Mary Moshier

**CAREER PIONEER** — Mary Baluk Moshier, 84, shows one of the hundred or more patents she prepared and prosecuted for the Monsanto Research Inc. beginning during World War II. The one in the foreground was for a non-foaming detergent.

MOSHIER, MARY

OVER

By P. ATWOOD WILLIAMS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Mary Moshier didn't pay any attention to her boss's advice.

In 1936 the chemistry major with library credentials was hired in a company with a rule against women doing laboratory work.

But Moshier ended up doing work that most women at the time did not do.

In 1967 she retired after years of service as a patent attorney in Monsanto Chemical Co. in Dayton, Ohio.

"During my tenure you prepared and prosecuted some of the most difficult chemical cases ... for many months your docket of pending cases was the largest in the Dayton group, and I dare say the largest in the company-wide department as well," wrote a former boss, H.J. Krase, of LaJolla, Calif., when she retired.

He commented how she had done a full day's work, driven to night school and back for four years to become a lawyer after being a patent agent. And Moshier, 84, is justifiably pleased with her accomplishments.

In the office of her Sun City condominium, she keeps her scrapbooks and files with articles from the Monsanto Magazine in 1945 which show her as the only woman with 11 men in the Monsanto patent department nationwide.

"I was always treated very nicely by the men in the workplace." In fact she said she lead an almost charmed life. There was enough money for her to have a housekeeper and to send her two sons to a progressive university run nursery school so that she could continue to work.

And she was proud of her husband, the late Dr. Ross W. Moshier. Whenever his work as chemical research administrator took him away from Dayton, she was given a leave of absence. She displays his commendation for work on the Manhattan Project (the atomic bomb).

The Monsanto patents she filed for were for herbicides, fungicides, bacteriostats, detergents, coatings, plastics, lubricants, gasoline anti-knock agents, hydraulic fluid and many other things.

Mary Baluk grew up in Gary, Ind., and when she told her 9th grade teacher she wanted to be a secretary, the teacher insisted she should be somebody who had a secretary working for her.

Mary took two years of chemistry in high school and went to work for the public library which sent her to library school one summer. There she waited on tables at a fraternity house where one of the residents was a graduate chemistry school student whose dedication to his studies inspired her.

He later earned a top international chemistry prize and she continued her studies in chemistry at Texas Christian University in Ft. Worth "partly because it was in the coolest part of the building, the basement," she said.

She moved to Arkansas and earned her college degree in 1929 and returned to Gary to teach English. After a year at the University of Chicago Graduate Library School, she got the job at Monsanto.

While working there in the library, she co-authored a book with her boss in December, 1941. And she married Ross Moshier who eventually retired from the aerospace research la-

boratory. They moved to Tucson and then to Scottsdale where she continued to work as a consultant for Monsanto and also on projects for a patent attorney.

The couple moved to Sun City in 1971 and began to participate fully in the leisurely life style of golfing, ballroom and square dancing, lapidary and oil painting. They were founding members of All Saints of the Desert Episcopal Church.

She is a member of many lawyer and university groups and social organizations. After Ross died, Mary gave up her part-time patent work.

"I've lived a long time ... through two wars ... riding in carriages and cars and spending Sunday afternoons watching airplanes and wondering if they would fall."

"I worked during the Depression. My husband and I sent my three brothers to school and later our two sons. In those days families took care of each other and my mother lived here with us."

Like today's "supermothers" Mary Moshier said she felt guilty at first when she went back to work after the birth of her sons. But she remembers scrounging materials to help her son Steve with science experiments and how they made a radio transmitter together and she passed the novice test for ham radio operators. The whole family worked on projects on the dining room table.

She thinks that the modern generation has failed its children because so many are not even learning to read.

"We have to worry who is going to take over the world," she said.

## • MOWER

From page two

in the same way as a hearing-impaired student.

"In my case they appoint a proctor who comes out and brings the test and stays until I do it," Mr. Mower says.

While he wasn't looking for a degree when he signed up for English 101, he is one of more than 200 students who will complete certificates and degrees during the Fall 1987 and spring 1988 semesters at Rio Salado. It has taken four years of work for him to reach this milestone.

In addition to his school work, Mr. Mower serves on the board of directors of the Sun City Area Transportation, and was chairman of the board of trustees of the endowment fund; is a member and past president of Handicapped Club. He was a delegate to the 1976 White House Conference on the Disabled, and has served with a Maricopa County committee evaluating and bringing the county into compliance with guidelines for the disabled. His college courses were valuable for personal enrichment, says Mr. Mower. Asked if he will continue his studies, perhaps teach someday, he says, "I hope I've taught a few people a few things." As for his graduation speech, Mr. Mower says simply, "It will be brief."

Page 2-THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, May 11-17, 1988

# Handicap does not hinder resident's scholastic pursuits

By PEG KEITH

Sun Cities Independent

*He maintains a positive outlook on life, and exhibits an expansive regard for the world at large.*

Not unusual, even in the hectic world of the '80s.

*He has no formal education. In fact, he's a third-grade dropout.*

But he's the featured speaker for the Rio Salado Community College graduation this week.

*He had no intention of getting a degree.*

His biography can be seen in "Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges," and he was named to Phi Theta Kappa, national honorary for two-year colleges. His two IQ tests, the first taken at age 14, and the second at age 74, scored practically the same, and placed him in the top 5 percent of those examined.

*He has little time for "handicaps," and says, "you can't lose what you never had."*

What William Mower has is rheumatoid arthritis. He lives, studies, works and plays within the confines of a wheelchair. But his productive, recreational and voluntary activities are stones tossed into a pond, creating the ripple-effect of an ever-widening world.

"I have a little philosophy," says Mr. Mower. "It seems to me that, observing myself and other people, a burden does not become burdensome until it's resented."

He continues, "If you can accept it, it's not so bad, but when it becomes traumatic, you begin to reject, not only the situation, but the person involved."

He sometimes feels fortunate that he was disabled early in life.

"When a person ages, he loses so many things -- spouse, often, children, through distance. And, at least in one's own mind -- and in actuality -- as a person ages, he loses mobility, loses the respect of society, becomes a 'has-been,' suffers depression and loss of self-esteem.

"I have learned that I could not lose," he says. "You can't lose what you never had."

He concedes two points.

"Intellectually, I realize I lost along the way ... accomplishments, marriage, children ... but when life centers around intellectual things,



WILLIAM MOWER

I'm not losing as I get older. I'm gaining.

"So many people figure, after 50, you begin falling apart. It could be true, but it's not necessarily so."

The second thing he "lost," is the pain that is so much a part of arthritis. That, he says, is behind him.

Mr. Mower grew up in Chicago. During his school-age years, educational facilities for the handicapped were notable by their ab-

sence, he says.

There were seven children in his family, six boys. "Our sister gave us a hard time," he recalls. Among his blessings were a brilliant father and a great mother.

While he lacked formal education, he did a lot with crossword puzzles, had a shelf of good books, listened to the University of Chicago on radio, studied speeches and instructional things.

He moved to Sun City 12 years ago. And, in 1984, he found out about the opportunities for homebound studies with Rio Salado Community College.

"I had some misgiving," he says. "I did it because there was an inclination, within myself."

The first course he took was English 101. Since then he has studied psychology, sociology, five or six business courses, management relations, personal finance and investment.

Turning to look at people and nations, he delved into medieval, western, modern and post-Civil War American History.

With particular interest in communication, he has studied dynamic listening (with interpersonal communication, verbal, spatial and body language) and critical reading. "You don't believe everything you hear," he says.

Mr. Mower has taken courses in political science, astronomy and earth sciences.

One course, in parenting a handicapped child, gave him a new perspective on what he calls impairments.

His personal experiences enriched the classwork for fellow students throughout the Valley, from Chandler, Williams Air Force Base, Phoenix, Mesa and Tempe, to Sun City.

Rio Salado uses the teleconferencing system, and students have voice contact, even though they can't see each other. Graduation, for some, will be an opportunity to meet and get acquainted.

Course work is carried out in a variety of ways, through correspondence (under some situations) to audio cassettes and taped and televised lectures.

Examinations are adapted to the nature of the students' specific disabilities, he says. A visually impaired person would not take an exam

See MOWER, page three

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### • MOWER

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See MOWER, page three

MOWER, William



# SC painter's appreciation of art brushes off on those he teaches

By P. ATWOOD WILLIAMS  
Staff Writer

When school's out Karl Mueller gets out his brushes and begins painting landscapes.

He's wielded his brushes on three continents—North America, Europe and Australia—thanks to his past career as an oil executive.

"I used to be sorry that I wasn't painting full time, doing what I always wanted to do, but now I realize I was lucky," said this Sun City painter who is currently teaching art and art appreciation courses at ASU-Sun Cities.

"So many artists were totally dedicated and some starved to buy a tube of paint," he recalled. "I couldn't have raised four children as an artist."

Mueller was born in Chicago, but a year later his architect father and actress mother moved to Hollywood. His father was the art director for the Maurice Tournier studio, where he produced sets for films like *Treasure Island*. His mother appeared with Richard Dix in several films.

Mueller's own artistic talent showed up early in life. He took his first art lesson in kindergarten.

But when his parents divorced, he moved to Lafayette, Ind., with his mother, who supported the family by teaching acting to children. There Mueller studied science at Purdue University and graduated during the Depression.

His first formal art study came during summers in college when he studied in Brown County, Ind., with American impressionist landscape painter Curry Bohm.

Mueller then got a job with Standard Oil of Indiana where he rose through the ranks to become president of Amoco Australia. He also was the only subject to be illustrated with color in the Amoco newsletter. An article featured many of his paintings, including a large landscape of the Bagdad, Ariz.,

Copper mine painted in 1980 on a piece of copper.

Prior to his Australian position, he spent seven years in Europe, studying art in Switzerland and Germany, while struggling with the German language. He also had the opportunity to paint in France.

"I have always been impressed by Claude Monet," he admitted. And many of the landscapes in his home reflect Monet's style and are testimony to this admiration.

He also admired the four art instructors he had while living in Australia, like Desiderius Orban, then a 96-year-old teacher. One of Orban's books, *What Is Art All About*, is marked with paperclips and widely used as material for Mueller's classes at ASU.

He feels his finest teacher, though, was Mitzi Finey, who started two of Mueller's three sons on careers as artists when they were in high school. (The third son is an actor, and his daughter has her own clothing business.)

While in Australia Mueller studied at the Royal Art Society of Sydney, and after an unsuccessful submission of three pieces of work, he was accepted as a member after his second try.

"I retired eight years early in order to get on with my art," he said, adding that two years later in 1975 the Arabs staged their first oil embargo, which made him glad to be out of the oil business.

Back in the United States, he pursued his art, studying at the Santa Barbara Art Institute, where he volunteered as their business manager. "I learned how not to run an art school," he smiled.

In 1975 he returned to Europe for six weeks, to travel with a son who had just earned a Masters at the Sorbonne in France. Because they were driving a tiny Citroen car, he carried only 8-by-10-inch canvases and painted 21 of them as they camped around the country.

Many of those bright landscapes line the wall of his Sun City family room: scenes of the coastal village of HonFleur, the Chateau at Chenonceaux over the Cher River, Lake Annecy in the Swiss Alps, the Cathedral at Blois, outside the walls of Carcassonne and the lake in Geneva, Switzerland.

While on this European trip he met Chicago-born artist Joan Mitchell, whom he visited at her home and studio at Vetheuil, on the Seine river north of Paris.

Joan Mitchell—a former home of Mueller's favorite artist, Monet—has lived in France since 1959. She is one of the three greatest living American women artists, along with Helen Frankenthaler and Georgia O'Keeffe, explained Mueller.

Since moving to Sun City in 1979 (because of his wife's Martha's arthritis and high California taxes), he has been teaching painting at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center. For the last two years he has taught modern art appreciation classes at ASU-Sun Cities and one class a month at Revlon's Maine Chance Resort in Scottsdale.

"It takes me six months to research and take 800 slides for each new course I teach," he stated.

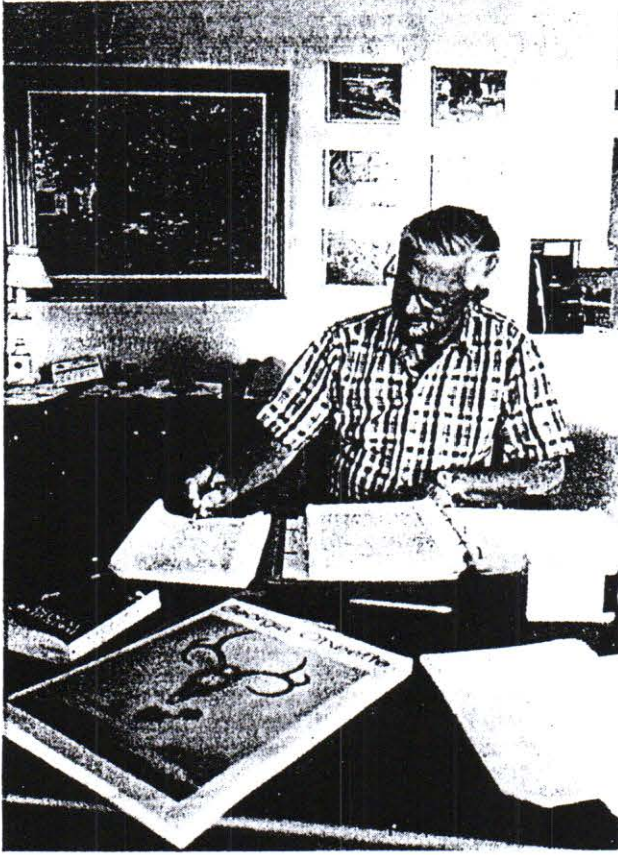
For artist O'Keeffe—the subject of his April 12 lecture at the Sun Cities Art Museum League luncheon—it took Mueller four months of research. He boiled down his two-hour presentation (one hour of biography and one hour of 59 slides) to an hour.

Mueller did all his own slide preparation, laying the material to be copied out in the sun to photograph his own slides. He then sat in his livingroom at a card table that held an open notebook, O'Keeffe text and timer. Mueller would write for a few moments in longhand, the timer would go off and he would then read his text aloud to gauge how long he could lecture.

O'Keeffe is one of the group

*News Seen Fri April 6, 1986 - VIEW*

MUELLER, KARL



Surrounded by his own art and that of Australian painter Frederic Bates, Karl Mueller completes his Georgia O'Keeffe lecture. (News-Sun photo by P. Atwood Williams)

of modern American painters, including John Marin, Arthur Dove and Marsden Hartley, who felt that Alfred Steiglitz was the center of their world.

Mueller sees one of Georgia O'Keeffe's 1937 large flower paintings monthly at the Maine Chance Resort. He said her work defies categorization: some is abstract, some semi-abstract and some surrealistic. He will share some of the details of her personal life with his April 12 audience.

As for his own art, Mueller felt it has always been a kind of pleasant retreat from the international oil business. Some of the most personally satisfying works are his French landscapes, said this past president of the Vanguard Artists, a group of professionals who show at area country

clubs and an eye clinic.

If his students in the ASU-Sun Cities classes are any indication, his modern art appreciation courses are a pleasant retreat, too.

"He has the ability to make you feel that he is speaking to you as an individual rather than as a class," said one student.

A gentleman who had first been dragged to classes by his wife recently said the art course had "opened a new avenue of interest for him."

Now that ASU classes are over, Mueller will soon be at work on a large landscape.

The best hour of the day to work in the field is just at sunup, he explained. "But I have never been fond of the desert and can do my landscapes from memory."

## DOERS PROFILE

Crockett  
Muncie

**Hometown:** Asher, Okla.

**Family:** Married to Dick, 3 daughters and 6 grandchildren.

**Philosophy:** "I really like to be happy."

**Inspiration:** "I'm a very religious person."

**Greatest Feat:** Friendship. Through this (community service) you have the opportunity to know so many people and the feeling that you're contributing to the groups you're in.

## 'Frontman' directs plays, greets visitors

By TINA SCHADE  
Staff writer

The stylish woman in her 70s walked into the room. "Hi!" she said with a hint of a southern accent and a smile.

Her black coat with its musical score design served as a prelude to an hour of conversation where Crockett Muncie tried shifting the tempo toward others and away from herself.

Crockett chuckled more than a few times remembering her teaching days in rural one-room schoolhouses in Oklahoma and more recently as producer of a number of Theatre West shows.

Teaching has been her love with a career spanning 25 years and covering four states — Oklahoma, Kansas, Illinois and Michigan.

She enjoyed the profession so much that even after she retired, Muncie taught calligraphy to students at El Mirage, Luke, Kingswood and Surprise schools.

"Teaching is one of the most wonderful professions we have in this country," Muncie said.

She's found that it's important not only to teach, but to recognize the education and accomplishments of students.

In doing so, the personable Oklahoma native helped to increase membership for the local chapter of the American Association of University Women. She joined the group in 1984 and has served in just about every conceivable capacity for the organization.

In addition to local membership, she has also worked for the association's publicity and interest groups and served on the Arizona State Membership board.

This charismatic mother of three and grandmother of six was destined to share herself with others.

She is the consummate frontman.

If you stop at the Sun City West Visitors Center, Muncie is probably one of the first people you'll see.

She finds great satisfaction singing the praises of her community.

"The people you meet are great. They get all dressed up. We have a lot of visitors and it's been very successful," Muncie said.

She said the center has information on many activities in Sun City West. Residents have a choice of reading about the community or viewing a video.

"We have a marvelous film that shows them the things (activities) we have to do," she said, "Our attitude is we're here to help you."

Apparently, People at the center appreciate her enthusiasm so much that she was voted the center's volunteer of the month for September.

Her volunteer hat doesn't come off much. She's scored a number of successes producing such shows as "Never Too Late," "Any Wednesday," "Barefoot in the Park," "Solid Gold Cadillac" and "Social Security" for Theatre West, and that's including backstage make-up.

Her artistry this year expands for serving on the costume committee for the chorus of the Variety Show set for Nov. 15 and 16 at the Sundome.

Instead of feeling bogged down by her responsibilities, Muncie is stimulated and encourages others to join in community activities.

"The thing I really like to see is for people to be enthusiastic about our community. I don't know where else we could go where we could be doing all this," she said.

Muncie also inscribes the book plates for Sun City West library books, a task she has been performing for the past six years.

Muncie, Crockett

# Experience counts on Sun City boards

**JEANNE WINOGRAD**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

A master's degree in social work isn't a requirement for board membership with the Recreation Centers of Sun City and the Sun City Home Owners Association. For Marge Murphy, who is on both boards, the degree and experience hasn't hurt one bit.

"I worked for the state of Illinois dealing with child abuse and neglect," Murphy said of her pre-Sun City career. "After obtaining a master's in 1980, I switched from state work after six years to school social work."

Murphy handled her share of problems and complaints in that time, which may be one reason so much rolls off her shoulders in working on community issues.

"I enjoyed being on the RCSC board. I'm going off the RCSC board in December, having served three years. I've just been elected to the HOA board and will be treasurer," Murphy said, confident that Ione Boynton, HOA's executive secretary, will help make life easier.

Murphy's husband, Francis, said Marge's recreation centers job "seemed like an 80-hour work week," and



Marge Murphy

that he helps in the background by handling telephone calls and other tasks at home.

Murphy's prior work with the Arizona AHCCCS health benefit program for the working poor and with psychiatrically disturbed children may be another hidden asset she brings to the table by having contacts within the state system and knowing what resources are available to back up county services to Sun City, which is unincorporated.

Murphy worked for the state during the Gulf War, assisting families at Luke Air Force Base deal with the

traumas of separation.

"I was an independent contractor until my employer said our office would be closing. That was in 1993. I said, 'What's going to happen with these people?' I was so disturbed about it, so I took up sculpting with clay," Murphy said.

Sculpted reliefs decorate the walls and shelves in the Murphy living room. Murphy learned how to sculpt at the Marinette Recreation Center at 99th Avenue and Union Hills Drive. Francis Murphy is a painter and artist, and has assisted his wife by painting some of her sculptures, which include miniature carolers and a dramatic portrait of Marge's mother, left unpainted in its natural clay.

Marge Murphy's name also may be familiar as a producer and actor in the Sun City Players. Murphy is producing "Blythe Spirit," which will be opening in just under three months.

Since moving to Sun City 10 years ago, the Murphys have been helping children

through St. Vincent de Paul, where she assists with English lessons, Catholic Social Service, and their church, St. Elizabeth Seton. Marge Murphy is fluent in Spanish and French.

"My parents encouraged multi-cultural thinking and so did we of our children," she said. "A long time ago, we were interested in foreign students, we invited them to our home and they became close friends. We accepted them as our family."

The Murphys were foster parents for one and a half years to a young Cuban girl, and their five children married people from other countries: France, Turkey, India, Japan, and Mexico. Murphy said it is gratifying to teach English to Spanish-speaking families.

"I can't tell you how busy we are. Volunteering makes life very interesting. It's so fulfilling, but more than that," Marge Murphy said.

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## Working for you

MURPHY, MARGE

VF

Personalities

THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2003

DAILY NEWS-SUN

# Retired? Not by a long shot!

## MOVING ON:

Musgrave takes musical talents to church

CLAUDIA SHERRILL  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Marking his retirement, Charles Musgrave conducted his last concert with the Sun City Concert Band Sunday in the Sun Bowl. But he's not retiring from music. Now he will move full time into a position he's held since February, music director of Willowbrook United Methodist Church in Sun City.

Musgrave has been busy wearing two hats since February, and he said, "I realized that I couldn't do both jobs. I had commitments with the Concert Band, and the church understood that."

On his first Tuesday morning in six years without a band rehearsal, Musgrave reflected on his tenure with the Concert Band, his accomplishments and his future goals.

"Life would be incomplete without music, literature and art," Musgrave said.

He said the concepts that he learned and applied with the concert band could also be applied in a church atmosphere. The obvious difference is the setting.



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Charles Musgrave conducts the Sun City Concert Band in a performance in the Sun Bowl April 6 that marked his retirement from the group.

OVER

"The biggest difference is the responsibility (the music director has) to enhance the worship process through music," he said.

"People who move to the Sun Cities leave their best friends behind," Musgrave said. He said people are looking for new best friends when they get involved in sports or music or any of the other activities the Sun Cities' lifestyle offers.

And, he concluded, the two organizations have more in common than you might think.

With both, "you start out with learning to love one another, then all other things become possible," he said.

His duties with Willowbrook involve the total music program for the church, which fields a bell choir, choir and the popular Fine Arts Series hosted by the church. He will be responsible for the weekly music, hymnody and the selection of appropriate music for each of the seasons of the church.

And this is a job with which he has some familiarity. Musgrave has also been a church choir director in Indiana and Illinois.

"My responsibility is to lead a congregation — the choir — to serve the larger congregation — the church — through the selection of appropriate music," Musgrave said.

Willowbrook has a traditional worship service, he added, devoted to prayer, meditation and the heritage of music in church.

"Rock of Ages' has been around for a long time," he said, noting that Willowbrook is not involved in contemporary worship music. "Traditional music serves us very well."

Musgrave started the Fine Arts Series five years ago as a way to bring new members into the church in a social situation.

"A minister introduces each program," he said. "Then we have a welcoming committee of church members who greet everyone who attends."

Musgrave said the Concert Band is searching for a replacement. He said he didn't want them to look for someone "to fill my shoes."

"They should find someone who feels that music making is a wonderful and energetic experience," he said.

When asked what he felt were the highlights of his tenure with the Concert Band, Musgrave started by talking about what his original goals for the band were. Under his stewardship, the band grew from 75 to 132 members.

"I really wanted the band to play at the Sundome when I began (conducting)," he said. "And we've played there three times in the past six

years."

Musgrave was also proud of the growth in support the band has experienced from within the Sun Cities area.

"We've played concerts in the Sun Bowl in the past two or three years. Three or four thousand people have attended those concerts to hear our music," he said.

Perhaps the most emotional experience he's had is in seeing what making music has meant in keeping people young.

"Playing in the Concert Band takes intellectual effort," Musgrave said. "It's exercise for the brain."

"Playing music is the fountain of youth," he said.

It looks as though the fountain is still running strong with the elixir that feeds Charles Musgrave's dedication to music. The Concert Band's loss is certainly Willowbrook's gain.

*Claudia Sherrill can be reached at 876-2511 or csherrill@aztrib.com.*



Audience members at the Sun Bowl performance of the Sun City Concert Band enjoy the cool evening and the wonderful music.

**MYHR, MARGARET:  
RENAISSANCE WOMAN**

11/16/04

Margaret Goddard Myhr was born and raised in Iowa, but she called Arizona home for more than half her life. A woman for all seasons, Margaret saw everything as an opportunity for learning. Born on July 18, 1918, she was a teacher, librarian, historian, environmentalist, carpenter, mother, and romantic. She spent the last 16 years of her life with her high school sweetheart, E.B. "Bud" Myhr, reconnecting after the loss of both their spouses. Margaret and Bud lived in Sun City most of their married life, spending the last several years at Wooddale Village.

She grew up on several farms in Iowa and attended Iowa State College for two years before marrying and having six children. In August of 1951, Margaret and her young children, Lois, Kay, Wayne, Phyllis, Doris, and Craig Friesner, moved to Cottonwood, Arizona, to be near her parents, Lois and Herschel Thompson. Margaret struggled to support her children, baking pies for the local restaurant to make ends meet. Determined to complete her education, she enrolled at Arizona State College in Flagstaff and commuted there to finish her bachelor's degree and teaching certificate.

In September 1957, Margaret married Jesse Goddard, and in January 1960, a daughter, Jane, was born to them. They lived first in Huachuca City but returned to Camp Verde where Jesse was born. They were well known in the Camp Verde area as Arizona historians and archivists. They undertook a successful campaign to ensure that General Crook's Trail was not renamed Zane Grey Highway. General George Crook, a Civil War general, used this trail in the resettlement of Apaches in the 1870s. Margaret's collection of historical scrapbooks and artifacts is housed in the Margaret Goddard Myhr Collection at the library of the Northern Arizona University.

Marshall Trimble, the Arizona State Historian, expressed his admiration for Margaret's contribution to Arizona history. "I'm deeply saddened to learn of the death of Margaret Goddard Myhr. I've known her for more than thirty years dating back to Verde Valley historical projects we worked on when she was living in Camp Verde. Her 2001 book, "Jesse Goddard: One of Arizona's Last Old-Time Cowboys" was a wonderful tribute to her late husband. Her passing is the loss of another of those who worked so hard to preserve the pioneer history of our great state."

For several years, Margaret corresponded with best-selling author J.A. Jance, whose mystery series is set in southern Arizona. She frequently sent clipping or news of Bisbee

where the fictional Joanna Brady was sheriff. Ms. Jance reports that the letters will be housed in the University of Arizona's Women of Mystery Collection. Upon learning of Margaret's death, Ms. Jance said, "I always appreciated hearing from her, even when she was writing to let me have it because I didn't have my facts straight. Readers like her are the ones who keep writers honest."



Professionally, Margaret taught in Tucson, Huachuca City, and Fort Huachuca, usually kindergarten or first grade. While teaching school and taking care of her family in Fort Huachuca, she commuted to Tucson to complete a master's degree and a library certification at the University of Arizona.

Upon Jesse's death in October 1983, Margaret went to stay with her oldest daughter in Washington, D.C. While there, she applied her interest in history to researching her own family in the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and the genealogical library of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her genealogy research led to her writing two volumes on the Allen family (her mother's people).

After being widowed, Margaret learned of the death of her old high school sweetheart's son in Vietnam and renewed her acquaintance with and love for Bud Myhr. In March 1988, they married and lived together happily for sixteen years. During that time, Margaret completed her biography, "A Girl from the Country," as well as "Jesse Goddard, One of Arizona's Last Old-time Cowboys." Marshall Trimble wrote the Preface for "A Girl from the Country." The Myhrs lived in Sun City until Margaret's death on Monday, November 8, 2004.

Margaret is survived by her husband, seven children, nine grandchildren, and twin great-grandchildren on the way. Ever the teacher, Margaret instilled in her children she struggled to raise the value of education, leading to a total of 16 college degrees among them. In her later life, she said to her daughters, "What did I do to teach you to be such strong, self-sufficient women? I never preached to you." They responded, "No, you just showed us how it's done."

There will be no services at Margaret's request. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that donations be made to the Arizona Historical Society, 1300 N. College Avenue, Tempe, Arizona 85281.

Visit this person's Guest Book at [www.dailynews-sun.com](http://www.dailynews-sun.com).

# Centuries of spectacles donated to museums

By BETTY JOHNSTON

Mrs. Leslie Myers, 10233 106th Ave., recently presented to the Smithsonian Institution and the DAR Museum collections of ancient spectacles, fully documented, collected as a hobby by her late husband.

She modeled a pair of ancient Chinese spectacles dating from approximately 600 B.C. and said, "There are many interesting stories and legends on record about spectacles."

According to an ancient Chinese legend, the first eyeglasses were made by Cho Tso, who lived on a sacred mountain in middle China thousands of years ago.

CHO TSO made his lenses from crystals the gods left him, ground them with sand from sacred rivers, and framed them with shell from the backs of sacred tortoises that swam in the

mountain streams. Wearers of these glasses were said to be able to see and do marvelous things.

According to legend, in 550 B.C., Confucius, the great Chinese philosopher and statesman, learned that he could see nearby objects quite clearly through a convex crystal or transparent curved vessel. His artisans made crude glasses for him with lenses of rock crystal. If this story is true, the art of making spectacles is 2500 years old.

FOR MANY centuries the Chinese looked upon spectacles as a badge of intelligence. Their rock crystal lenses were large, round, and encased in tortoise shell rims. They would be the height of fashion if worn today.

Other old records tell us that Nero, Emperor of Rome from 54 to 68 A.D., was nearsighted and learned by accident that his

vision could be improved by looking through a concave vase or wine goblet. History does not record he fiddled and watched Rome burn through a wine glass, but it might have given him a better view of the conflagration.

MRS. MYERS said, "The collection included not only ancient Chinese and Roman spectacles, but there were old Italian, German, and Spanish pairs, too."

In 1602 in Germany, Kepler revealed the fundamental laws of optics. Glasses were then made with ground lenses but they were not fitted to the individual as they are today. Purchasers of glasses tried on various pairs and chose those that seemed to best suit their needs.

Benjamin Franklin invented the first bifocal spectacles in 1784 when he became tired of putting on one pair of glasses for close vision and another to see at a distance.

INCLUDED IN the collection for the DAR Museum were Andrew Jackson's gold rimmed spectacles, the glasses President Eisenhower wore in Europe during World War II, and Mrs. Eisenhower's, too. There also were glasses from President and Mrs. Truman and many other famous people.

Mrs. Myers said, "At first I didn't think I could finish authenticating and cataloging the glasses, but one day I thought of something that should be written down. Once I was started, I spent about three hours a day until I finished."

Mrs. Myers has some spectacles in a safety deposit vault in Minnesota and plans to donate them to the Arizona Historical Society at a later date. They are spectacles worn by the settlers who came across the mountains in their covered wagons.



MRS. LESLIE MYERS wears eye glasses dating back to 600 B.C. which originally were used by 18 generations of a Mandarin family. They wore spectacles not to see better (lenses are plain glass) but

because they thought spectacles made them think harder, and therefore, made them wiser. Display case she is holding has spectacles dating back to 15th Century. (News-Sun Staff Photo)

*Myers, Leslie*