

# Retired shuttle inspector mourns loss of Columbia



Les Nagy of Sun City holds a space-shuttle revolving light, a gift from his son in recognition of his service as a shuttle-system inspector for Lockheed Martin at the Kennedy Space Center.

JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

## SETS UP MEMORIAL: Sun City man honors lost astronauts

ERIN REEP  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Saturday was a difficult day for Les Nagy of Sun City as he watched television accounts of the doomed space shuttle Columbia disintegrate.

Nagy's been up close to the space craft. He worked as a shuttle-system inspector from 1987 to 1993 for Lockheed Martin at Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

"It boggles me," he said Monday, pausing to remove his glasses and brush tears from his eyes.

"It just kind of touches you."

As a tribute to the Columbia crew, Nagy has established a memorial at Sunland Mortuary in Sun City. The public is invited to sign a memorial book and view photos by Nagy's collection of space shuttles.

In his role, Nagy oversaw the inspection of shuttles for 25 launches, beginning with the Discovery launch, 17 months after the space shuttle Challenger explosion in 1986 ground the NASA exploration program to a halt.

"It took us seven weeks to prepare for a launch," he said, citing the intricacies of a system dedicated to quality assurance.

Nagy examined paperwork of the employees under him that inspected the shuttle,

See COLUMBIA, A5

NAGY,

LES

PERSONALITIES

OVER



and was personally responsible for the data.

Nagy, 75, was born and raised in Michigan. He entered the Army in 1950 and served in Korea, Japan and stateside.

After his discharge, he worked for Kaiser Frasier and General Motors. At GM, Nagy oversaw the building of missile transporters.

"We built the 12-cylinder tractor. It was a huge monster. This towed the trailer that the silo missiles were in," he said.

Nagy later worked for United Technologies Center in Sunnyvale, Calif.

"I was in the electrical-designing area," he said.

Eventually he landed a job with Pratt Whitney in Cleveland, where he was the senior quality-control representative and worked on quality control for fuel cells for the Apollo spacecraft electrical systems.

He described the cells as being "like battery plates for a car battery."

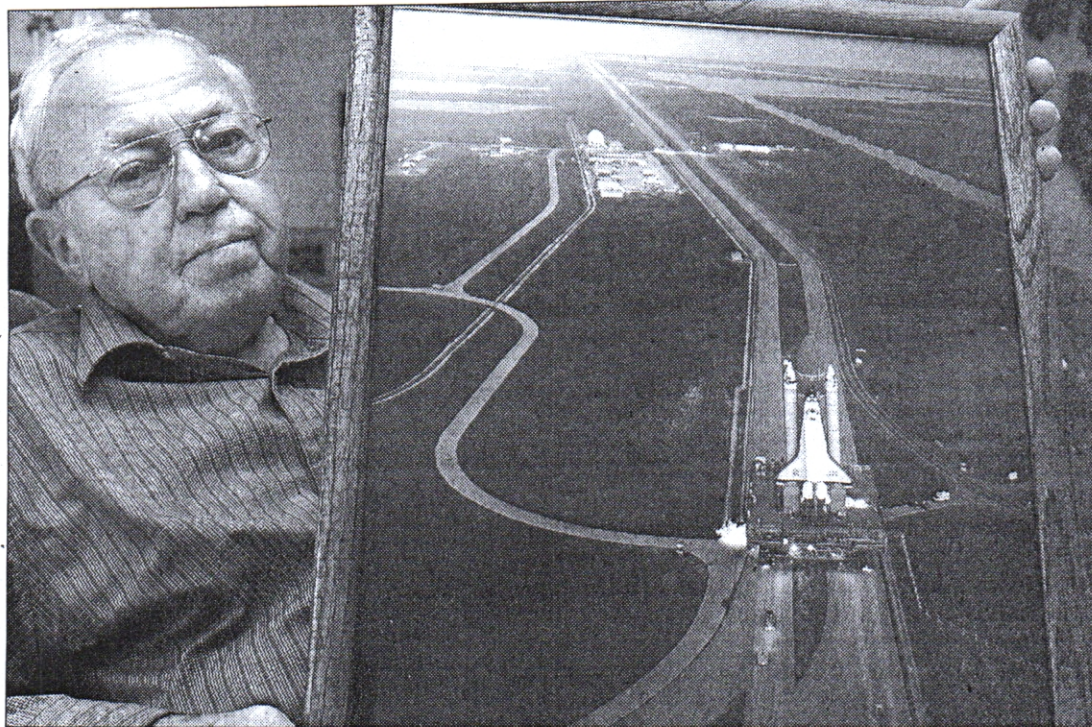
Nagy said he enjoyed the excitement of being part of the early days of the space program. From 1965-1971, Nagy said his men "never missed a shipment" due to quality control.

While working for GM in Michigan, Nagy took company night classes in engineering and manufacturing for five years.

"I took every night course I could take, part time," he said. Nagy also attended junior college in California and at Glendale Community College in Arizona. He also took eight to 10 classes annually at Kennedy Space Center to train him in working with connections, hydraulics, hookups, contamination and fuels, he said.

Nagy has no formal degree, which surprises most people when they find out he has worked on shuttle projects.

"It was pretty interesting," he said. "I don't have a degree, but I gambled and gambled. I enjoyed my working career very much. I was



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Les Nagy holds a photo of the shuttle Challenger. The retired shuttle system inspector has set up a memorial for the Columbia astronauts at Sunland Memorial Park in Sun City, where he works part time.

always willing to learn."

Nagy moved to Phoenix in 1971 and worked for Universal Propulsion.

"We manufactured the ejection systems on the F-16 fighter aircraft that (now) fly above us every day," he said.

From there, he was hired at Martin Marietta in California.

One of his most memorable experiences was working on the launch of space shuttle Discovery, 17 months after the Challenger accident.

Nagy said the inspection process was especially thorough. When the shuttle was transported to the launch pad and the countdown began, inspectors and workers waited with baited breath. The countdown finished, and suddenly the systems shut down. There was silence in the room where Nagy and his colleagues waited.

"You could hear a pin drop; there were 200 or 300 of us," he said.

"They checked all the areas and they couldn't find anything wrong," Nagy said. As it turned out, "it was a computer glitch."

Once the Discovery launched, "we breathed hard, because if those SRBs (solid-rocket boosters) don't drop within about 60 to 75 seconds, then you're in trouble," he said. The launch was successful.

Nagy said inspectors were careful and meticulous in their work. If you even dropped a small bolt while assembling the engine, it had to be recorded, and "you had to write up a corrective action slip," he said.

During a prelaunch inspection, Nagy said inspectors and supervisors worked around the clock the entire seven weeks in eight-, 10- and 12-hour shifts.

Once a shuttle had passed inspection, it was transported with a special tractor to the launch pad. The tractor moved at a maximum speed of 3 miles an hour, and took eight hours to transport to the pad.

Nagy said he had met several astronauts and been inside all of the space shuttles. "It was exciting for me," he said. Nagy spoke highly of astronauts — calling them "special people."

Nagy works part time at Sunland Memorial Park in Sun City. He was getting ready for work Saturday when he found out about the Columbia explosion.

"I was going to leave," he said. "I saw the TV and I thought, 'This is a dream. It couldn't have happened,'" he said.

Nagy wouldn't speculate on the cause of the tragedy, but guessed the tiles could have been to blame. "Like they say, there's no two tiles alike on that thing," he said.

"Every tile is different. Every one has its own serial number," he said.

Nagy said inspectors feel a great responsibility and dedication to the process of making sure the shuttles are safe before launch. "If there's any doubt, you stop it right then," he said.

When asked if space exploration should continue, despite its risk to astronauts, Nagy had no hesitation. "You bet," he said. "I think it would be a disgrace if they discontinued it."

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



DAILY NEWS-SUN

Tuesday, Apr. 11, 1989

By CHRISTINE SELIGA  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Ten years ago Roy Natvig and the Sun Cities Civitan Club took on the task of finding out how to serve the needs of the developmentally disabled in the Sun Cities.

The club started the Sun Cities Youngtown Special Activities Center (SCYSAC) with six Civitan volunteers and Natvig as the director.

Recently, the club honored Natvig with a plaque commemorating the 10th anniversary of the center.

James Brucia, who was president of the club three years ago, said, "Roy has been in charge of that thing from the very beginning. He's the sparkplug that keeps it going."

But apparently the center does the same for Natvig.

"It keeps me alive, alert," Natvig said. "I'm not getting lazy sitting in an easy chair. I get up in the morning, praise the Lord and go to SCYSAC."

The funding and eight of the volunteers are from the Civitan Club of the Sun Cities.

The developmentally disabled people who come to the center are called members. Now they have about 22 members and about 20 volunteers.

Madeleine Bollock, of Sun City, was one of the original volunteers in the SCYSAC program.

She said Natvig plays down his importance.

"It was he who did this, truly. It was his idea . . . it is he who truly maintains it," Bollock said.

She said Natvig works well with the volunteers and is a popular, self-effacing man.

"He has a very attractive personality," she said. "The young people, all these young members, are just crazy about him."

Bollock said he delegates authority well but does work himself. And he "gives and gives and gives," she said.

Natvig said getting volunteers for the center never worried him. The hardest part of figur-

ing out what kind of service to create was "getting a fix on the market," he said.

The center sent out questionnaires to local religious leaders to find out what service was needed and how many people there were to serve.

When they started, there were about six members.

"The initial job was the most difficult," Natvig said. "That was getting them out of the woodwork because normally they (parents or guardians) don't put these kids forward."

The program has grown by word of mouth, he said.

When SCYSAC first started, it emphasized craftwork but found that many of the members, whose ages ranged from the 20s to the 50s, had done years of craftwork.

"This was the first discovery we made. They were lukewarm about craftwork. . . that stuff was old hat to them so we concentrated on 'mainstreaming' them," Natvig said.

Now the primary purpose of SCYSAC is to do things to get members out in society or make them comfortable with other people. He said once they relax and are encouraged in a situation they are a fun-loving and happy group.

The group has taken field trips to Montezuma's Castle, gone rockhounding and will be going to downtown Phoenix later this month.

Some of the members' parents have become volunteers.

If SCYSAC weren't around, some of its members wouldn't have had those experiences, Natvig said.

When the group first started, members met for several months at St. Joachim & St. Anne Catholic Church. About six months later, they moved to Natvig's church, Lakeview United Methodist Church, and have been there ever since.

Natvig shrugs off a question about whether he will try to

See Sun Citian, AA6

'It's no chore at all'

Roy Natvig has been helping developmentally disabled for 10 years

NATVIG, Roy

OVER



AA6 Tuesday, April 11, 1989 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz

## Sun Citian honored for helping disabled

—From AA1

build a facility for SCYSAC with a "We're not ambitious." He also discounted expanding the days and times of the program. It currently operates 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Mondays and Fridays.

"That would be nice but I have to be pragmatic about it. I'm lucky to have two days a week in an area that is much in demand and I'm grateful to my church," he said.

Natvig moved to Sun City in 1972 from Boulder, Colo. He was a product and market planner.

Natvig said his wife recently

reminded him that after 10 years he had once planned to stop or slow down his work with SCYSAC. He said he won't.

"It's really fun to be with them. It's no chore at all. It's no burden," he said.

Dick Fairchild, who has been treasurer for SCYSAC for 10 years, said Natvig is a good leader who works well with the children.

"He's really helped them in their development in the last 10 years," Fairchild said. He said Natvig just has fun with what he's doing.



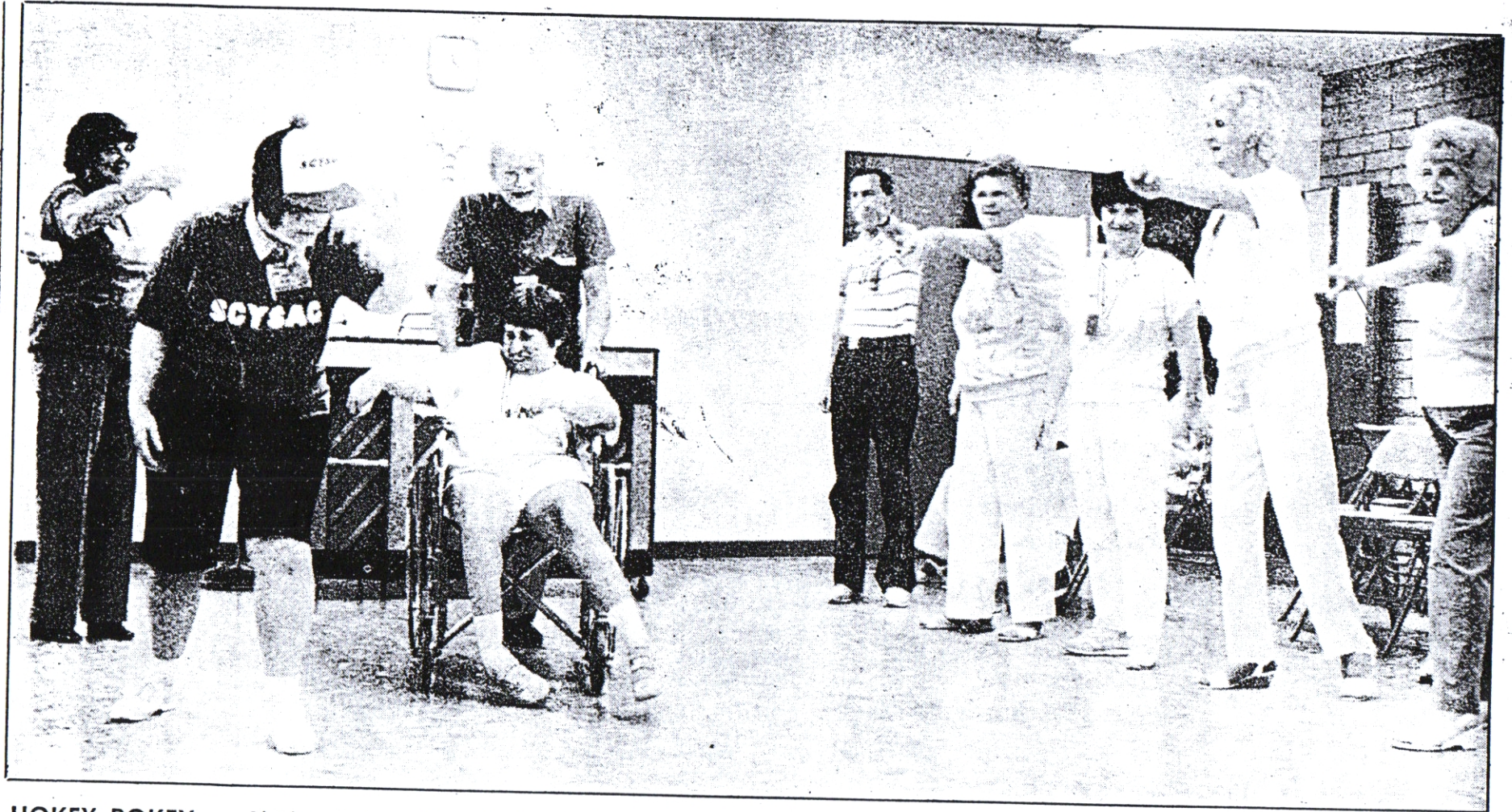


News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**GIVES OF HIMSELF** — Roy Natvig, founder of the Sun Cities Youngtown Special Activities Center (SCYSAC), enjoys a dance with Gwen Sargeant last week. The group meets at Lakeview United Methodist Church on Mondays and Fridays, from 9 a.m. to noon.

NATVIG-Roy





**HOKEY POKEY** — Shirley Lickus plays Hokey Pokey with Roy Natvig's help. He said he never tires of working with his the people who belong to the Sun Cities Youngtown Special Activities Center, which Natvig founded. Natvig lives in Sun City.

News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes



## DOERS PROFILE

Chester  
Neal

**Vita:** Career U.S. Army officer; 20 years of municipal government service in Storm Lake, Iowa, including seven years as city clerk.



**Hometown:** Born in Rockwell City, Iowa.

**Family:** Wife, Margaret.

**Self-portrait:** "I'm just an ordinary guy; dependable, loyal, caring and patriotic. I fly the flag every day."

**Greatest feat:** "Giving the service to my country." I went in (the Army) for one year, but when World War II broke out they said you can't go yet. I got out in 1945 and was out for three years working as a draftsman for a lumber company in Iowa. Because of job pressures and 18-hour days, I re-enlisted.

**Inspiration:** A gentleman I worked for at the lumber company who inspired me to learn drafting. "I looked up to him and saw him as one of the greatest people I ever worked for."

**Key to longevity:** "I guess just living right. Not smoking, not drinking and all those nasty things that get you into trouble."

## SC man is original Mr. Fixit

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Senior staff writer

**M**ove over Tim Allen. Chester Neal is the "Home Improvement" guy in these parts.

Long before the hit television show about the wacky do-it-yourselfer soared to the top of the Nielsen listings, Neal was repairing toilets and faucets, hanging drapery rods, installing ceiling fans and tackling just about any other odd job for clients of Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services.

Interfaith is a non-profit organization that provides a variety of social services to Sun Cities-area residents, including adult day care, counseling, shopping and in-home care.

Neal has been the Mr. Fixit for Interfaith for seven years to be exact, working on an on-call basis every weekday morning.

"When they have something, they call me," Neal said.

Before walking into Interfaith Services and asking for a volunteer job, Neal drove a van for the American Red Cross for seven years.

He approached the Red Cross and offered his services two years after moving to Sun City in 1976.

"I thought it was time to do something besides play golf," he said.

A former Red Cross chairman in Storm Lake, Iowa, Neal had to resign from his driver's post in Sun City when his wife's health failed and he could no longer spend all day on a van.

At Interfaith, Neal and two or three other volunteer handymen help clients who can neither do the repairs or afford them.

In the summer, Neal's the only handyman on duty.

About the only household job Neal won't do on request is install motion detector lights.

"I can wire them but I can't get them set," he said.

The most difficult job Neal is routinely asked to do? Install or repair outdoor sprinkling systems.

Neal has learned the hard way not to do outdoor jobs that require climbing. He fell out of a tree in May while gleaning lemons and, as he put it, "really banged myself up."

As a result, he said, "I stay off ladders outdoors."

How does Neal know how to do so many odd jobs?

"Mostly my own experience," said the former building inspector. "And, I picked up a lot of things from the professionals."

Neal loves his volunteer job and isn't about to give it up. He said it makes him feel good to know he's helping people in need. The job has other intrinsic benefits as well, he said, explaining that it provides him some respite from caring for his wife.

Neal knows he's saved a lot of people a lot of money in repair bills over the years, but has no idea how much.

"I don't bother about keeping track of it," he said.

Although many clients insist on paying him, Neal steadfastly refuses any pay. Instead, he tells clients, "If you want to donate to Interfaith Services, I'll leave you an envelope."



By JENNIFER JENKINS  
Staff writer

## DOERS PROFILE

**Evelyn  
Nehrenberg****Hometown:** Lockport, N.Y.**Family:** 3 children,  
4 grandchildren**Inspiration:** "Giving satisfaction to other people."**Key to Longevity:** "Good genes from my mother's side of the family."

# Retiree's keeping the faith at Interfaith

She's been there longer than any one else who currently works or volunteers at Interfaith Services. Evelyn Nehrenberg started lending a hand to Interfaith before they had much besides a board of directors and a phone.

Nehrenberg got involved with Interfaith in the spring of 1982, when a woman in her church group asked if she'd be interested in volunteering. Nehrenberg had only recently moved to Arizona when she began answering phones for the organization. She hoped that the work would help her heal from the loss of her husband, who passed away only a month after their move to Sun City.

Nehrenberg's involvement in Interfaith grew steadily. She started out just giving 15 hours a week, but there was so much to do that 15 hours turned to 20, 25, 30 and more. In 1985 she became a paid full-time employee, keeping track of funds and monitoring attendance for the day care center.

She retired from the position in 1987, but soon found that she missed it.

"I decided I enjoyed being at Interfaith, and I had too much time to just sit at home," she said.

Now Nehrenberg volunteers at Interfaith two mornings a week. She helps by organizing the shopping lists of home bound people for volunteer shoppers. The rest of her time is spent and entering data on a computer.

Nehrenberg also volunteers at her local church, where she gives bridge lessons three times a week, and sends out birthday and get-well cards to members of the congregation.

She has made many friends through her work. She says she's not a "hobby person" and would rather be busy working and talking with others.

"I enjoy getting out and meeting people. I just want to do volunteer work and meet people like that," she said.

One of the parts of volunteering that Nehrenberg finds most satisfying is involving others in social activities. She said she was glad to give her bridge students a good reason to get out of the house, play and see friends.

Nehrenberg also recognizes the health benefits of staying active in the community.

"They say it helps keep you young if you keep your mind active," she said.

To nominate a Doer, call Jennifer Jenkins at the Daily News-Sun, 876-2514.

Nehrenberg, Evelyn



## ■ A Name to Know

**Erna Nemeth** is an art fan.

Whether it's paintings, plays, symphonies or ballets, Ms. Nemeth enjoys seeing them all.

"I love the arts," Ms. Nemeth said. "I think they add so much to civilization."

While she delights in the many forms of human expression, she is no artist herself.



But Ms. Nemeth does contribute to the art scene in her own way.

Since moving to Sun City in 1986, Ms. Nemeth has been giving her time to the local art community. A volunteer with the West Valley Art Museum, Ms. Nemeth oversees the special-event hostesses and also does reception and membership drive work.

"I'm very happy to be a volunteer there," Ms. Nemeth said. "I spend most of my time there."

Unlike other retirees who volunteer with numerous organizations, Ms. Nemeth dedicates herself solely to the art museum.

"I guess I don't want to spread myself too thin as a volunteer because I'm so dedicated to this," she said. "The people at the museum are great. There are such dedicated volunteers there."

A member of nearly every museum in Maricopa County and a patron to its many performance halls, Ms. Nemeth also frequently makes national and international cultural trips.



# Volunteer saves sports for mornings

## DOERS PROFILE

### Roger Neumeister

**Vita:** U.S. Army 14 years; worked in engineering management for Honeywell, retiring in 1983.



**Hometown:** Edina, Minn.

**Marital:** Married to wife, Ann, 52 years; one son; two grandchildren.

**Self-Portrait:** "I like people, and I like to keep active."

**Inspiration:** "My father. I've done a lot of the same things he's done. He was volunteer-oriented and civic-minded."

**Greatest feat:** "Somebody else has to decide that. I just do things as they come along."

**Motto:** "Integrity. It ties into my schooling background (at West Point Academy). The motto there was "Duty, honor, country."

**Key to longevity:** "Keeping active both mentally and physically is very important."

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Daily News-Sun staff

**R**oger Neumeister could not avoid volunteer recruitment when he moved to Sun City in 1984.

The minister of his church in Edina, Minn., wrote to the minister of Neumeister's new church in Sun City essentially to say, "put him to work."

It wasn't long before Neumeister, a newly retired Honeywell manager, was a member of the budget committee for the Sun City Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

He later served on the church finance and stewardship committee, and within four years, was first vice president and then president of the church's board of directors.

Today, Neumeister serves as treasurer and has deeply involved himself with his church on the regional level by joining local and regional Christian Men's Fellowship organizations.

Neumeister downplays his commitment to the church, saying he doesn't have to attend too many meetings and is able to fulfill his treasurer's responsibilities mostly on his own time.

"I'm not tied down to any particular schedule," he said.

Good thing, because Neumeister likes to play golf and bowl — two sports he participates in four mornings a week.

Believe it or not, there was a time when Neumeister wasn't spending as much time on church work because he actively worked with the Volunteer Bureau of the Sun Cities and its board of directors.

Neumeister left the volunteer bureau in December after serving two years as president. He first joined the volunteer bureau in 1986 at the urging of good friend and West Point Academy classmate Frank Gerig.

Neumeister recalls that Gerig, a former volunteer bureau president, pestered him for two years to get involved in the volunteer placement service.

"'Have I got a job for you,' " he recalls Gerig saying.

When Neumeister finally gave in and joined the board, he found it much to his liking. He served as board treasurer in his first term and returned to the board after a required year-long hiatus in 1991. No one had to twist his arm the second time around.

"I think I wanted to do it," he said. "They (volunteer bureau staffers) do good work and they need help," he said.

During Neumeister's tenure as president of the bureau, the little-used Sun City office was closed to save money and a computerized skills bank was implemented.

"We'd like to expand the bank, but we have not been successful in getting funding for it," Neumeister said, explaining prospective new volunteers would have to be contacted by mail and information about them collected before they could be included in the skills bank.

Neumeister said he didn't mind relinquishing his seat on the volunteer bureau board.

"When you're in a job for so long, it's not that you're not interested, but you use up all your ideas. It's time for somebody else to bring in ideas," he said.

People in volunteer service shouldn't get tied down to one job, he said. "I want a variety. That's what I'm into."

To make up for the loss of the volunteer bureau job, Neumeister took on the treasurer's post at his church.

NEUMEISTER, Roger



Oct. 31 &amp; Nov. 1 1998

# Sun Citian becomes tribal historian

By TINA SCHADE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

For Gordon Obie of Sun City, recording and preserving the culture of the Maricopas started more than 12 years ago with a simple inquiry.

In search of a topic for his next painting, the former commercial artist was looking to capture on canvas a topic of some local historical significance.

At the advice of a friend, Obie decided to paint a picture of Butterfield Stage, one of several coach stages built as a part of the Butterfield Overland Mail Line, which delivered mail from St. Louis to San Francisco. The stage, it was rumored, was built around 1857 in a place called Maricopa Wells in Arizona.

Needing what he describes as a "legitimate background," Obie went in search of the stage, but Maricopa Wells didn't appear on any maps.

After checking with the archives of the Arizona Historical Society, Obie determined the stage was located somewhere on the Gila Indian Reservation, southwest of Phoenix.

In his research, Obie uncovered something else. Only a patchwork of information was available about the Maricopa Indians, who share the Gila reservation with the Pima tribe and who lend their name to what's now the fastest growing county in the United States.

Obie wondered how a group that had made such significant contributions to the growth of America

and who hosted Western pioneers such as Father Kino, Kit Carson and the Mormon Battalion made only a cameo appearance in history books.

The question spurred Obie into action and set him on a course that 12 years later, he is still treading. Through his paintings and a book titled "The Maricopas, from the Colorado to the Gila," Obie is almost single-handedly recording and preserving the culture and the history of the Maricopa tribe.

At the onset of his endeavor to condense what's known about the Maricopas into one book, Obie realized why so little had been recorded. The Maricopas have fiercely guarded their stories for decades, especially from whites.

"The Maricopas, like many Indians, honor any race they meet. They help them out, like the Spanish and the English. But the Europeans turned around and never respected the Maricopas' help," said Ralph Cameron, an 80-something, full-blooded Maricopa who was a consultant on Obie's book.

In this century, whites dammed the Gila River that fed the Maricopas' farmland, killing their crops and wildlife, further stifling the Maricopas' willingness to share their culture.

"Maricopas didn't want white people to make money off their history. They didn't want whites to have their stories and songs, so nobody ever tells their history," Cameron said.

At least up until now. Despite

► See Sun Citian's, A5

## ◀ From A1

such a history, Obie has somehow been able to penetrate the vow of silence and has prompted the Maricopas to talk about their culture. A man who was once approached with caution is now approached with trust and respect.

"He is slow-moving and gentle and he seems genuinely interested in the Maricopa," Cameron said.

Questions from whites about Maricopa heritage typically draws silence from a group of Maricopa elders, but mention of Obie's name draws chatter and the unison chiming of "Oh, Obie."

Obie's undertaking was further complicated by the fact that few full-blooded Maricopas are left to pass along their culture.

The tribe has dropped to from 2,500 to 600 members over the last 300 years. For about the last century, about 400 Maricopa have lived at Gila while another 200 have lived at Lehi, near Mesa, Cameron said.

Some Indians speculate that warring neighbors may have dwindled the tribe. Elizabeth Brandt, who has a doctorate in cultural anthropology and is a professor at Arizona State

University, said the systematic seizing of land and relocation efforts by the American government may have contributed to the decrease.

"They are uprooted from their land and their families and forced to live new lives. They might starve, and poor nutrition leads to a higher vulnerability to disease," she said.

Brandt speculates the Maricopas haven't drawn the attention of academia because the larger tribes they lived next to overshadowed them.

Maricopas haven't received attention from the mainstream, Obie speculates, because they're not selling anything.

"They don't make Kachina dolls or Navajo rugs, so tourists don't hear about them. They're not written about romantically, but they are so important to our history," Obie said.

Obie has pulled together a 53-page booklet, complete with maps, his own illustrations and information on the Maricopas' housing, rituals and religion.

In addition to the book, Obie has painted pictures of Maricopa life in the 17th century. He has donated replicas of Maricopa tools to the neigh-

boring Tolleson Library, 955 West Van Buren St., which houses an extensive collection of Native American artifacts. Before Obie's donation, the library, but a few miles from the hub of where many Maricopas live, had no artifacts from the tribe.

"There is a hunger in the tribe's young people. They have approached elders asking them to teach them the songs and stories of the past. They want to know the old ways," Cameron said.

Samantha Mercado, who is one-quarter Maricopa and a high school student at Estrella Mountain, a school of about 200 mainly Indian students, said that while there is a wealth of information in school textbooks about other tribes, little is available about the Maricopa.

"I know that we were good pottery makers and that we scalped," Mercado said with a laugh. "But that's pretty much all they had on us."

Except for a thesis written by an Indiana University student and a 29-page paper published in 1963 as part of a University of Arizona anthropological series, Obie's book is the only book devoted solely to the Maricopas.

OVER

OBIE, GORDON



# FACT-FINDING

# MISSION

Obie, Gordon

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## Sun Citian's efforts earn trust of Maricopa elders

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University, said the systematic seizing of land and relocation efforts by the American government may have contributed to the decrease.

"They are uprooted from their land and their families and forced to live new lives. They might starve, and poor nutrition leads to a higher vulnerability to disease," she said.

Brandt speculates the Maricopas haven't drawn the attention of academia because the larger tribes they lived next to overshadowed them.

Maricopas haven't received attention from the mainstream, Obie speculates, because they're not selling anything.

"They don't make Kachina dolls or Navajo rugs, so tourists don't hear about them. They're not written about romantically, but they are so important to our history," Obie said.

Obie has pulled together a 53-page booklet, complete with maps, his own illustrations and information on the Maricopas' housing, rituals and religion.

In addition to the book, Obie has painted pictures of Maricopa life in the 17th century. He has donated replicas of Maricopa tools to the neigh-

boring Tolleson Library, 9555 West Van Buren St., which houses an extensive collection of Native American artifacts. Before Obie's donation, the library, but a few miles from the hub of where many Maricopas live, had no artifacts from the tribe.

"There is a hunger in the tribe's young people. They have approached elders asking them to teach them the songs and stories of the past. They want to know the old ways," Cameron said.

Samantha Mercado, who is one-quarter Maricopa and a high school student at Estrella Mountain, a school of about 200 mainly Indian students, said that while there is a wealth of information in school textbooks about other tribes, little is available about the Maricopa.

"I know that we were good pottery makers and that we scalped," Mercado said with a laugh. "But that's pretty much all they had on us."

Except for a thesis written by an Indiana University student and a 29-page paper published in 1963 as part of a University of Arizona anthropological series, Obie's book is the only book devoted solely to the Maricopas.





Gregory Harris/Daily News-Sun

Gordon Obie looks at a painting of Father Kino in his garage in Sun City. Obie is almost single-handedly recording and preserving the culture and the history of the Maricopa tribe.



“He is **slow-moving** and **gentle** and he seems genuinely interested in the **Maricopa**,”

said Ralph Cameron, at right,

a full-blooded Maricopa and consultant on Sun Citian Gordon Obie's book



# It floats his remote boat

## DOWN THE DRAIN:

Radio controlled regatta delayed

**PATRICK O'GRADY**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dick O'Boyle's garage at his Sun City house is crowded, what with the two sailboats, a tugboat, two speed boats and a Mississippi River paddle wheel boat taking up space.

O'Boyle had been hoping to take his personal fleet to the Litchfield Park Regatta, but that seven-year tradition has ended because of some drainage work.

"We've had that regatta over there for almost eight years," he said.

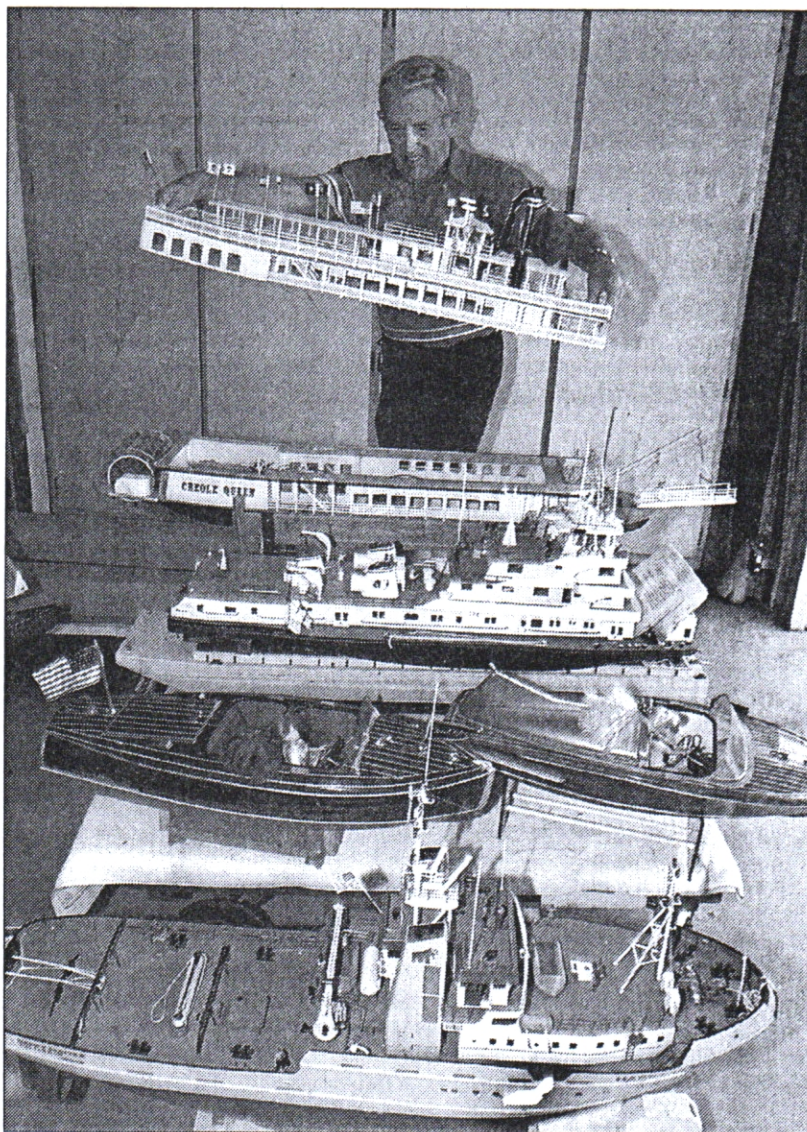
The West Valley Radio Controlled Mariners cancelled the regatta, usually a three-day event during the Labor Day weekend, because this year the city is conducting draining repairs around the lake and officials were not sure they would have a lake to hold the festivities, said club Commodore Rowland Stevens.

"If you go down to Litchfield, they've got these large pipes from a sewer and draining project in the road," he said. "We went to the city about three weeks ago and told them what we were planning and were asking about the drainage project. That's when they told us that was right around the time they would be at the lake, and that they might have to drain the lake."

Along with lower water levels, parking for some of the 200 or more spectators became an issue for club officials. With the flood draining work ongoing, streets around the lake are restricted and gave club officials another reason to postpone the regatta until next year, said Jack David, the club's founder.

"The traffic situation is such that all of the cars would be forced down one street, and we didn't feel comfortable doing that to the neighborhood," he said.

The regatta will return next year with several new vessels, including David's scale replica of the British racing yacht Endeavour, which challenged for the 1934 America's Cup. The boat has a hull that is more than 8 feet long and more than 4,000 square inches of sail area.



MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dick O'Boyle says sometimes he races every one of his radio-controlled boats, which he built from a kit. They barely fit into his van.

The racing, however, will go on with an event Sept. 9 in Sun City. Local club members will host other racers for two classes of sailing vessels beginning at 9 a.m. at Viewpoint Lake behind the Lakeview Recreation Center on Thunderbird Boulevard between 103rd and 107th avenues. The racing, which begins from the dock near the center's miniature golf course, had been scheduled for Litchfield Park, Stevens said.

"But we have the same problem next week that we do this week," he said.

The races feature one-meter sport boats, which run about 40 inches in length, and a smaller North Wind class, a new boat that is rapidly gaining acceptance

because of its low price tag and ease of putting the boat together and learning how to sail. The boats have been tricky for racers, however, because they do not match up well with other boats in their class. Their popularity has forced the club to develop a new class of racing, Stevens said.

The hobby began for O'Boyle after he retired. A model builder in his youth, he picked up the hobby again and has several boats. He said he enjoys the competition of the new North Winds, but has recognized a problem already with the boat for the captain who is sitting on the shore.

"One of the things about sailing this boat is that they all look alike, so you'll be out there and all of the sudden you're like, 'That's not my boat,'" he said.



## CLOSE UP

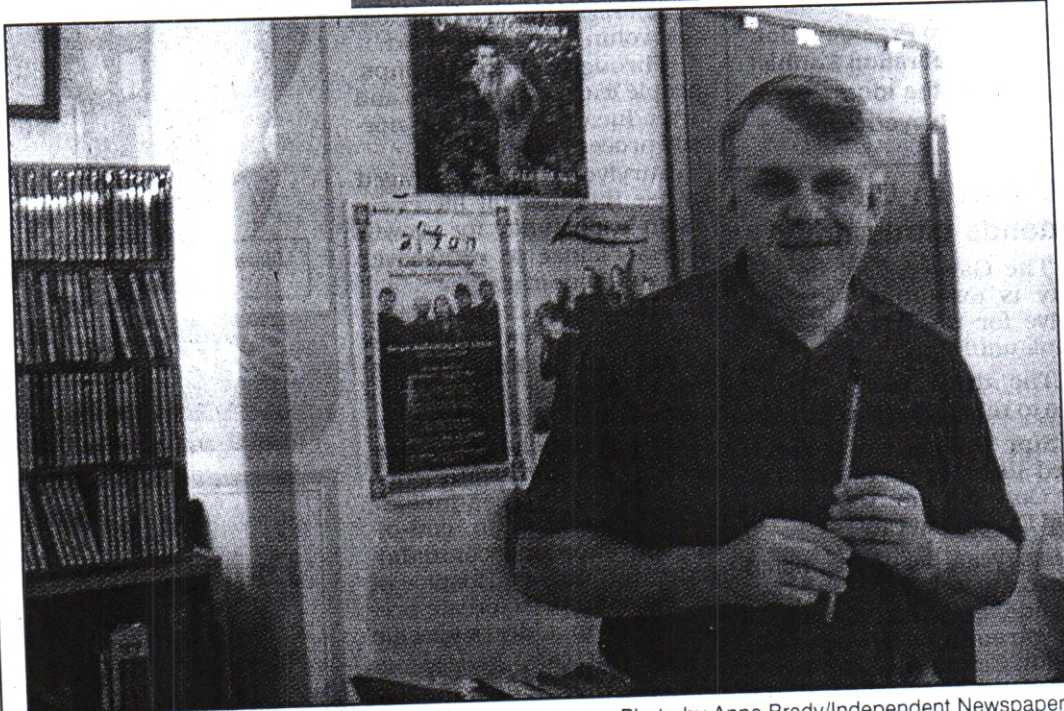


Photo by Anne Brady/Independent Newspapers

Although not a professional musician himself, Sun Citian George O'Brien does occasionally enjoy joining in a seisiun (pronounced session) with his penny whistle. Behind him on the wall in his home-based office are posters from a few of the many acts he has had the pleasure of promoting.

## MUSIC MAN

# All things Irish promoted

By **Anne Brady**  
Independent Newspapers

Irish music lovers' eyes are smiling all over Arizona, thanks to the efforts of George O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien has devoted a large amount of his time, along with his skills with databases and computers, over the past four years to developing a resource to generate interest in Irish entertainment and hook up performers with venues and audiences all around the Grand Canyon State.

From his home-based office in Sun City, Mr. O'Brien promotes Irish entertainment on his Web site, [www.azirishmusic.com](http://www.azirishmusic.com). He keeps track of who is performing where and when and sends out free newsletters to thousands of grateful subscribers.

"I sort of play matchmaker," he said of his work as a free-of-charge agent for local Irish bands. "Basically, they owe me favors."

And although he's not a professional musician himself, most of Mr. O'Brien's friends today are "part of the

Irish music scene" that he loves so much.

"They call me up all the time. It's impossible to totally escape the ego thing," he confided in an interview at his Sun City home.

"It's sort of like a Cheers thing," he said, referring to the television show about a bar where "everybody knows your name."

"I can pretty much go into any Irish bar (in the greater Phoenix area) and know people, and I'm not talking about the servers," said Mr. O'Brien. "It's nice to feel a part of a community."

Mr. O'Brien, 53, a freelance computer consultant, moved to Sun City from San Francisco in 1994 to care for his mother.

By 1997, he had not gotten involved in any activities and decided to check out the local Irish scene, in which he had been involved in San Francisco.

He volunteered to coordinate the vendor fair at the Phoenix St. Patrick's Day celebration.

"I grew it by three times the first year I did it in 1998," he boasted.

By 2000, he had taken over everything related to the event, including booking the entertainment.

He said it was booking acts for the Phoenix event that taught him there was a void that he could fill in the area of coordinating, organizing and promoting the performance of Irish music in Arizona.

"Most people can go through their entire life and not feel they made any difference at all," he observed. "People want to enhance their world."

"My particular self-interest was that the only way there was going to be (an abundance of) Irish music (locally) is if there was a fan base."

Mr. O'Brien loves traditional Irish music in part because audience participation is encouraged, and he said there's "something in the beat that appeals to me in a way I don't quite get."

"My goal was to create a market," he said. "I believe we're actually getting more touring acts coming here

See Music — Page 3

O'BRIEN, GEORGE

OVER



# Music

Continued From Page 1  
because of what I do."

What he does is maintain a huge database with not only calendars of events, cross-referenced by date, band and venue, but also photos (many of which he's taken) and information about entertainers, news articles and advice on such subjects as how to organize an Irish band. He also sells green penny whistles for \$6.

"If I really, really tried hard, I might be able to become a competent musician," Mr. O'Brien said. "It's not likely they (musicians) could do what I do, having the comput-

er skills, the organizational skills and the writing skills."

Mr. O'Brien is always particularly busy with his labor-of-love this time in March, although a bit less so this year, since he's no longer coordinating the Phoenix fair.

"I may get to actually see the parade this year," he said with a chuckle. "One of my fantasies is to some day give (the Arizona Irish Music Society) to someone else. But as much time as I spend, most people would probably (have to) spend twice as much."

For information on Irish musical events over the telephone, call Mr. O'Brien's information line at (602) 230-4114.



Photo by George O'Brien

**Seanachie (pronounced shawn-a-key) will perform at 6:30 p.m. March 16 at the Sun Bowl Amphitheater in Sun City. Mr. O'Brien photographs musical and dance acts in local performances and features some of those pictures on his Web site. Pictured are, from left, Dennis McMorrow on accordion, Steve Colby on guitar and Kenny Mulqueen on the fiddle.**



January 29, 2003

## ■ A Name to Know

A lifelong interest in public safety had led a Sun City resident to devote much of his retirement time volunteering with the Sun City Fire District and Sheriff's Posse of Sun City.

Since moving to Sun City in 1993 from Peoria, Ill., with his wife, Joann, **Tom O'Brien** has volunteered several dozen hours monthly patrolling neighborhoods with the Sun City Posse and performing inspections for the fire district.



"I've always been interested in the fire and police departments," Mr. O'Brien said. "We lived near a fire station in Peoria, and I became friendly with several of the firefighters."

Mr. O'Brien enjoys his volunteer activities. "There is no set routine to either job," he says. "They are so different all the time."

In addition to his duties with the fire department and Posse, Mr. O'Brien is active with the Sun City Model Railroad Club and a liver-transplant support group. Mr. O'Brien received a transplanted liver in 1990, but that has not deterred him from pursuing what he views as his "civic duty."

O'BRIEN, TOM

VF

PERSONALITIES



Daily News-Sun Monday, Jan. 29, 1990

# Webb hostesses recall early days

By P. ATWOOD WILLIAMS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Among the gems of Sun City pioneers are a couple of garnets.

They are Garnette O'Bryant and Garnet Burnham. They had much in common then and still do.

Both were original hostesses for the Del E. Webb Corp. in the 1960s and took turns showing early residents the model homes.

Both went to California as Webb hostesses for the Sun City that opened there.

One recently retired from taking visitors on tours of the Sun Cities, a "hobby" that she pursued for more than 25 years.

Both lived on the south side of Grand Avenue on golf course lots.

And both believe that Sun City has everything that anyone could ever want.

Garnette O'Bryant, 78, claims the distinction of putting the first deposit down on a Sun City home. She kept the \$250 deposit receipt on Lot 179 in Sun City. It is dated Oct. 17, 1959, before the model homes were finished.

"There were just cottonfields," she said.

O'Bryant recalls that three salesmen were involved in the transaction. They were Jack Hayden, Bud Johnson and Bob Ditzler.

The home that she and her husband lived in until 10 years ago was at 12269 Augusta Drive. It was a Kentworth model.

O'Bryant's mother lived in Glendale, and she and her husband, Joe, put their money down without seeing a model home.

Eventually her mother and brother moved to Sun City. And O'Bryant lost all three of them in 1982.

She now lives in the house that her mother owned on Canterbury Avenue.

Her husband was an avid golfer, and shot five holes-in-one.

And after they decided they wanted to live in Sun City, she worked to help supplement his pension; he had worked in the composing room of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch for 43 years and in Sun City's temporary post office.

Before moving here she had worked in a drug store cosmetic department and in the "first baby diaper laundry" in St. Louis.

"When we first acted as hostesses for Del Webb, we were volunteers," she said, adding that eventually they were paid a salary.

She remembers the tiny first sales office which later became a "halfway house" for those making the rounds of the model homes, the first ones of which were on Oakmont Avenue.

Several of the hostesses made the trip to Sun City, Calif., near Bakersfield, and to Riverside when Webb built a development there.

Today, Garnette has learned that "you can't wear your feelings on your sleeve."

She keeps busy and works as a bus girl at Kamran's Restaurant in the Youngtown Shopping Center, a block from her home.

She also is a volunteer who visits with residents at Cook Health Center.

"Their eyes light up when they see me."

She enjoys her fruit tree-filled backyard, which also harbors a covey of quail.

"It is a constant battle, however, to keep the pigeons from eating the quail food," she said giving a clap to startle the birds

O'BRYANT, GARNETTE

OVER





Daily News-Sun photo by P. Atwood Williams

**FIRST HOSTESS** — Garnette O'Bryant, one of the pioneer hostesses for model homes in Sun City, still enjoys living here. The 78-year-old still works in a local restaurant and volunteers in a care center and delivers meals to a shut-in.

away.

She also takes meals to a shut-in member of her church.

"When we first moved here we both used to swim two or three times a day. And there were always cookouts," she said.

She still thinks Sun City is a friendly community and feels as safe living here as she could anywhere. She would never dream of living anywhere else.

She plans to donate many of the souvenirs of the early days in Sun City to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Garnet Reuben, 85, only recently discontinued giving tours

for groups visiting the Sun Cities.

She said she would get phone calls from Del E. Webb Corp. or from travel agents wanting her to host foreign tour groups.

"I've taken many groups of Japanese people around Sun City, either in my car or in whatever vehicle they arrive in," Reuben said.

She and her husband bought their home on the 18th green of the golf course behind the King's Inn in February 1960, and moved here in July.

She says she took visitors on tours for 25 years. She began

her tour at the King's Inn, and Oakmont and Fairway recreation centers were the first stops on the tour.

She said visitors enjoyed seeing the crafts shops where they frequently bought gifts.

Her tour continued to the Sundial and Bell recreation centers, then to Sun City West.

Reuben was the golfer in her family. Today she enjoys her free time outside and picks oranges from her own trees.

"This town has everything that anyone could ever want," she said.



Monday, May 18, 1998

## DOERS PROFILE

**Jack  
O'Connor****Hometown:** Omaha, Neb.**Family:** Wife, Muriel, of 54 years, three children and four grandchildren**Philosophy:** "There is a satisfaction in being part of something that's growing and being there to shape it. It's the only paycheck you get.**Key to longevity:** "A lot of good luck, being active, keeping busy and a good wife to take care of me."**Volunteer spirit  
drew longtime  
resident to SC****By TINA SCHADE**  
Staff writer

A time-consuming career that required extensive midwestern hub hopping didn't stymie Jack O'Connor's commitment to serving his community.

While working as an executive for AT&T, O'Connor volunteered with groups such as Goodwill, the Boy Scouts and the United Way.

And while Boy Scouts are few and far between in the Sun Cities, O'Connor has continued his spirit of voluntarism in Sun City West. In fact, it was the plethora of volunteer opportunities that influenced his move to the area.

"We had really searched around ... We considered Florida, Texas and California and we picked Sun City West ... Having been active in business and non-business activities in my life, I knew I couldn't be one of those people who played golf six days a week," O'Connor said.

Almost immediately after moving to Sun City West nearly 18 years ago, O'Connor jumped into volunteer work.

He started by joining the board at the Ashwood Condominium Association, where he served as its president for two years.

O'Connor was also in on the ground floor of construction for the Kuentz Recreation Center and went on to serve on the planning committee for Palm Ridge.

"The recreation center is the main focal point of the city. It is the hub of the community and it's what makes an outstanding development," he said.

O'Connor, who likes lawn bowling and golfing, said these types of rec center activities also have been a central part of his life.

Another focus in O'Connor's life has been his faith. He has served on the council for nearly every church he has attended, including Lord of Life Lutheran Church, where he was vice president.

O'Connor also was on the building committee for the church and was involved in hiring the architect and reviewing the building plans.

But while O'Connor, along with others, has shaped Sun City West over the past two decades, he still wants to expand his work.

"We need to maintain this good level in this community, but we also need to look beyond our community ... so people don't see us as a walled in bunch of people who don't care what happens outside those walls, because we do care," he said.

One of the ways O'Connor is investing his talents these days is by serving on the board for the Lutheran Thrift Store in the Sun Bowl Plaza.

All the profits go to help people outside the Sun Cities. The Pan de Vida church in Surprise is one of the charity's beneficiaries, he said.

The thrift store is a cooperative effort of a number of Lutheran organizations.

While community responsibilities can become overwhelming, there is a way to allow for private time.

"I don't think any of us can do enough, but you become more selective because you adapt to the things you do best," he said.

"Just get active and be a part of the community. Quit complaining. Everybody has something to offer and it's their job to find out what that something is and help on an unselfish basis."

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

O'Connor, Jack



3/6/96  
The Daily News-Sun

## DOERS PROFILE

### Alma Olsen



- Vita:** Private secretary in the Illinois stockyards
- Hometown:** Chicago
- Family:** Husband, Albert; daughter, Elaine, both deceased
- Self-portrait:** I'm a person who likes to be friendly with everybody. I like to know if I can help anybody.
- Inspiration:** My family was my life and my pride and joy.
- Key to longevity:** Try to do the right thing. Be good to your neighbor and be ready to help out wherever you possibly can. At the same time, enjoy everything.

# Centenarian keeps cheering about Sun City

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Senior staff writer

**I**t has been a while since Alma Olsen danced with the Sun City Poms, but she hasn't stopped cheering about the place where she retired 34 years ago.

Olsen, who turns 100 on Wednesday, was a pioneering Sun City resident whose lifestyle mirrored what the community's developer intended.

She was the consummate "active" retiree — someone who was involved in her church, who was devoted to local causes and had some fun to boot.

"We loved Sun City," Olsen said, referring to her late husband, Albert.

Olsen was a charter member of Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church in Sun City. "When we came here, the church was just under construction and we walked on sawdust through it," Olsen recalled.

As an early resident, Olsen has witnessed a lot of growth and change in the retirement community.

"I remember Grand Avenue when it was a two-way highway," she said.

A retired secretary who had lived in Chicago all her life, Olsen made the most of her days in Sun City. Besides the pom line, she volunteered for Sunshine Service, a medical equipment lending bank. She volunteered at a Northwest Valley hospital and was active in the Lady Shriners group.

Except that she now lives in the Good Shepherd retirement community in Peoria, life hasn't changed much for Olsen.

She is president of the resident's council at Good Shepherd and participates in nearly all the activities the center offers, including ceramics, bowling, and a daily exercise class. Olsen was the 1990 bowling champ at Good Shepherd.

The resident's council post has Olsen mediating residents' complaints. "I solve them all to make them happy," she said.

Alma has some quiet time each day in her room to rest up for the next activity.

"When I come back to my room, I'm kind of tired. I like to land in my chair," she said.

When the retirement community celebrated its 20th anniversary earlier this year, Olsen cut the ceremonial ribbon. Olsen relishes the honor.

"I would say this is one very content lady in Good Shepherd care," she said.

"God has been good to me in many ways. I've done my best in many ways to cooperate with anyone so that all is well with everyone."

Saturdays are Olsen's "talking days" when she spends a chunk of time talking on the phone with family members from California to Kentucky.

"Our family has always loved one another and kept in close touch with one another," she said.

Family and friends from across the United States threw an early birthday party for Olsen on Saturday. She was so excited about the gathering, she skipped all her activities Friday morning to save her energy for the big day.

The secret to Olsen's long, active life?

"I just feel like I've lived a good life in every way. I never cared for any of these liquor parties. I never smoked. I just feel like I've been in God's hands. I feel he wanted it this way."

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

VF CXXXXXXXXXX  
PERSONALITIES

OLSEN, ALMA



DAILY NEWS-SUN

THURSDAY, FEB. 20, 2003

# A present for her hobo

**SEQUEL:** Sun City woman has husband's last book published

KATY O'GRADY  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Kilroy was here.

Actually, Richard Kilroy O'Malley was in Montana, among a heck of a lot of other places.

It was during the Great Depression, when work was scarce and times were tough. When he lost his job working in the copper mines in Butte, Mont., he hit the road, creating bittersweet memories, the stuff books are made of.

O'Malley recorded his memories using a little editorial license in his mostly autobiographical book "HOBOS: A Depression Odyssey." But the Sun City man died Nov. 9, 1999, before publishing it.

His wife, Jeanne O'Malley, recently had it published in his honor.

Monday "would have been his 92nd birthday," Jeanne O'Malley said. "This is the best birthday present he could have.

"When he died, I thought, that's the best thing I can do for him is get it published," she said.

"HOBOS" is actually a sequel to Richard O'Malley's "Mile High, Mile Deep," published by Mountain Press in 1971. The original story tells of Richard's life growing up in the 1920s in Butte. Jeanne O'Malley is still receiving royalties as that first book is still selling.

"It's been used as a text in Montana schools because of its depiction of Butte during that era," she said.

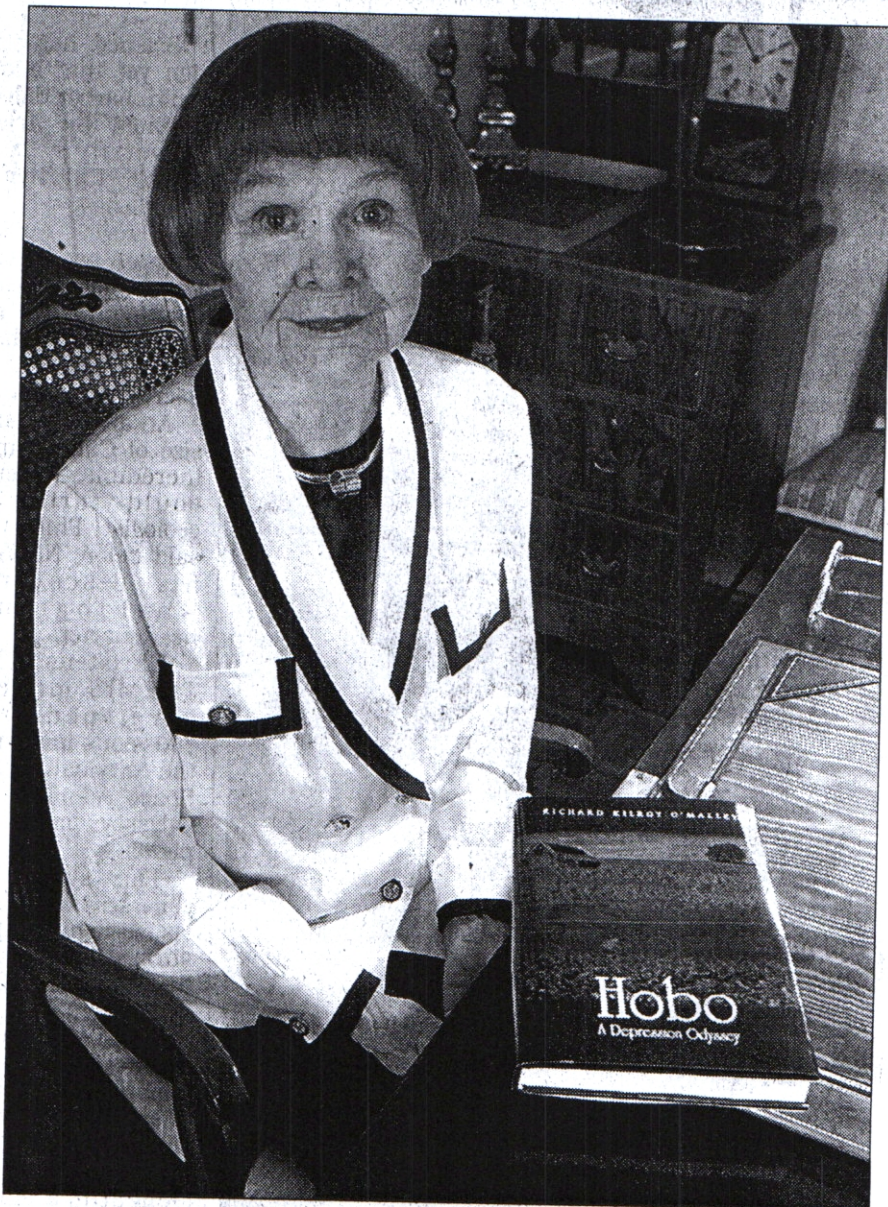
Jeanne O'Malley said she published the sequel through 1stBooks and expects it, too, will become popular in Montana and hopefully elsewhere. A former journalist, she helped her husband with editing on both books.

Jeanne O'Malley said "HOBOS" details Richard's travels looking for work along with 18 million other unemployed Americans in the 1930s.

"You know the stock market crashed in 1929. It took that long to get out to the West," she said.

In a press release about the new book, Jeanne O'Malley explains, "He hoboed 10,000 miles throughout the West, stealing rides in boxcars and passenger trains and hitchhiking on the roads."

He visited hobo jungles and Hoovervilles. "He dug potatoes for a quarter a day, washed cars for a penny each, boxed in a carnival for \$2 a fight," the press release states.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jeanne O'Malley was able to publish "HOBOS: A Depression Odyssey," a mostly autobiographical book written by her late husband, Richard.

Jeanne O'Malley said she thinks the new book and its predecessor are important reading for those who didn't live through the Great Depression, although she warned the book does not gloss over the tough times or the coarseness of life.

"It is a good book because it tells so much about what they were like then," she said. "This is really a man's book. You don't meet the cream of society in a box car. It's got some rough language in it."

The book captures details of the era, like a pack of Lucky's going for 10 cents, she said.

Richard O'Malley worked as a reporter for Montana newspapers in 1933 while enrolled at the University of Montana. On Christmas Day 1942, he left the Great Falls Tribune to join the Associated Press as a war correspondent in the Pacific. His reporting there won him a place at the Japanese surrender on the

battleship Missouri in 1945, and a commendation from James Forrestal, then secretary of the Navy.

He worked with AP for 32 years, heading bureaus in Denver; Frankfurt, Germany; Moscow and Paris, among other locations.

"We met in Army maneuvers in Germany," Jeanne O'Malley said. She was working as a public information officer for a quartermaster while he was with AP.

"I guess the best job I had was European editor for the Army-Navy Times," she said.

The couple lived for 15 years on the shores of Lough Corrib in western Ireland before moving to Sun City, where Jeanne O'Malley still resides.

"HOBOS: A Depression Odyssey" is available in hardback or paperback by calling 1-888-280-7715 or visiting [www.1stBooks.com](http://www.1stBooks.com).

Katy O'Grady can be reached at 876-2514 or [kograd@aztrib.com](mailto:kograd@aztrib.com).

O'MALLEY, RICHARD & JEANNE



**March 8, 2000**

# Sun City playwright achieves local success

By JULIE RIDDLE  
Independent Newspapers

Sun City community activist and resident Phyllis Orsi, who has given her time to a number of causes, has added the title of playwright to her resume.

A Sun City resident since 1993, Ms. Orsi's play, tentatively titled "Maternal Choices," is her first.

"The play is about women's choices — a ticking clock, the clock being the biological one," she said. "It is about a female attorney who has made some poor choices in lovers. She finds that she can't really trust herself to choose a father for her child, because everyone she's attracted to turns out to be not really great candidates. It's the modern dilemma of young women who want it all and they realize that they may not meet Mr. Right, but they still don't want to pass up the opportunity."

The play, which is currently in the process of being cast, will be a one-day performance that also includes a variety show, the first production of the newly-organized Surprise Community Theater. Currently, the organization does not yet have a place to call its own.

"We rent space from various organizations," said theater President Dorothy Lazzereni. "We do not know where the first production will be — we are negotiating for space."

found the theater, and designed its logo and brochure, said they were looking for material.

"There was a need for the Surprise Community Theater to have a play — they were searching for something," she said.

Both cost and quality figured into the decision to use Ms. Orsi's play, Ms. Lazzereni said.

"We were looking for a show that



Photo by JULIE RIDDLE/Independent Newspapers

Sun City resident and community activist Phyllis Orsi wrote her first play recently and will see it performed by the Surprise Community Theater.

wouldn't cost too much. She (Ms. Orsi) woke up in the middle of the night and decided to write a play. She worked on it for three days — it turned out to be pretty good."

As far as players go, Ms. Lazzereni said that, unlike most theaters, this one is wide open.

"It is open to all age groups and talent groups, from comedians to drama," she said. "We are primarily trying to put together a theater that will interest all types of people."

Active in a number of organizations, Ms. Orsi has served as vice-chair and chair of the Sun Cities/Northwest Valley branch of the American Cancer Society, performed volunteer work at Arrowhead Community Hospital, the American Red Cross, and as

founding president of RISE (Rio Institute for Senior Education), among others. It was her work there that led to her association with the theater.

"I did improv theater for RISE," she said. "I never wrote before, because I was too busy. I usually worked too hard."

As for her future as a playwright, Ms. Orsi says she isn't ruling out the possibility.

"I don't know," she said. "Maybe I'll become the Grandma Moses of the one-act play."

The Surprise Community Theater, which is currently searching for a business manager, is also open to bringing in new members. Those interested can call Ms. Lazzereni at 546-9788.



## Lion leads war on blindness

**S**un City resident Joe Osborne has been a member of the **International Association of Lions Clubs** since 1946, and "has held just about every office possible," he said.

He is a past Lions Club district governor in Arizona and a former council chairman; currently he is president of the **Sun City Host Lions Club**.

However, he said, the highlight of his career as a Lion was being named one of 703 district coordinators from around the world to lead the Lions' worldwide fund-raising effort, "Campaign Sight First."

The fund drive, which began July 1 and continues to July 1, 1994, is expected to raise \$130 million for the war against blindness.

"It's an opportunity of a lifetime," Osborne said. "It is a chance to be a part of something that will change the world — not just a part of the world, but the whole world."

As a district coordinator, Osborne will oversee 12 group coordinators in Arizona's southwest contingent; the region encompasses 47 Lions Clubs in Yuma, Lake Havasu City, Kingman and other towns near the California border, and one club in Needles, Calif.

The Lions have been involved in projects to combat sight and hearing impairments since 1927, and have donated millions of dollars to those causes, Osborne said.

"We have recently accepted the challenge to try and eliminate preventable blindness," he said.

The World Health Organization estimates that as many as 80 percent of the world's 40 million blind lost their sight to a preventable or reversible cause, such as cataracts, vitamin A deficiency or river blindness.

Campaign Sight First — which involves 41,000 Lions Clubs in 177 geographic areas worldwide — is designed to raise money for medical treatment and public health education wherever the needs are greatest.

The fund-raising campaign is an ideal example of what attracted Osborne to the Lions 47 years ago, when he attended his first meeting in Crawfordsville, Ind.

"I learned a little about what service to humanity means. I asked if I could be a Lion, and they accepted me."

Ironically, Osborne earned a living as an administrator for the Loyal Order of Moose. He is also a life member of that fraternal organization, as well as the Fraternal Order of Eagles and the Elks. And, he is a 32nd-degree Mason and a Shriner.

His wife, **Maxine**, is also a Lion, and currently serves as district tail twister (sergeant at arms).

Osborne said the Lions are his "full-time life hobby."

His dedication to the service club — and Campaign Sight First — is sincere.

"I'd like to someday see that all preventable blindness is eliminated," he said.

For more information about Campaign Sight First, call Joe at 972-5051.

*Osborne, Joe*



# DOERS PROFILE

## Joe Osborne

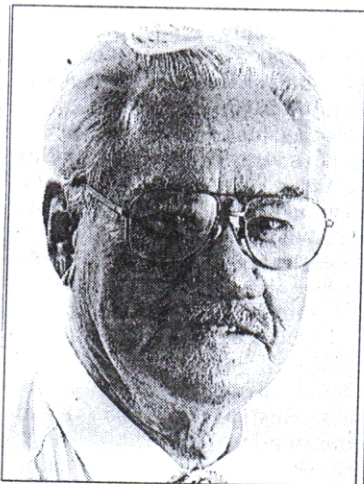
Vita Attended Butler

University in Indianapolis on a football scholarship; administrator for the Loyal Order of Moose, 37 years.

Hometown Crawfordsville, Ind.

Valley home Sun City, 14 years.

Marital status Married to Maxine, 2 years.



Self-portrait Ambitious, tolerant.

Motto The Golden Rule.

Greatest feat My year of service as a Lions Club district governor. That was the best commitment I've made to the community and the welfare of others.

Walter Mitty fantasy To someday see that all preventable illness and blindness are eliminated.

Inspiration My mother. She taught me early that regardless of what happens, never give up.

Good/bad habits I have a friendly attitude. My bad habit is procrastination.

Favorite food/drink Ethnic foods. I like an occasional Scotch and water.

TV programs "Jeopardy," "Wheel of Fortune" and news programs.

Books at bedside I'm a history bug. I like books about history and I like mysteries.

Vacation spot/luxury Hawaii. I think Sun City is about as good of a definition of luxury that there is.

Key to longevity Enjoy life. Take what is dealt to you and make the most of it. Keep your sense of humor.

Last words When it rains, look for the rainbow.



Friday, June 18, 1999 • The Arizona Republic

# He's still track and field star

## 57-year-old in medal hunt

By Jim McCurdy

Special for The Republic

Bob Osterhoudt knows the way to the top of a medal stand.

However, you'll never hear him promise that he'll walk down those steps with yet another award swinging around his neck.

In his five years competing in the Grand Canyon State Games, the Sun City resident and former decathlete has won 15 gold medals, including nine in the Phoenix competition.

Earlier this month, he won three golds in the Tucson competition. He'll get another shot to stand atop the victory stand when he competes in four Masters Division track and field events at this weekend's games — the discus, shot put, hammer throw and the 110-meter high hurdles.

He won't guarantee it, though.

"I'm mainly trying to set personal records," Osterhoudt said. "If that brings a high place, that would be nice. What I'd like to do is throw far and run fast."

How's that for being diplomatic?

At 57, Osterhoudt is a track and field veteran. He was a national bronze medalist at the 1961 AAU All-Around Championships as a decathlete in Baltimore. However, five years ago, he had to face the fact that he never again might be able to compete in the decathlon.

Osterhoudt had surgery on both Achilles tendons in 1994, preventing him from jumping. He has had to limit his events to shorter competitions. Running for any length of time is out of the question.

"Much beyond a minute is not readily possible," Osterhoudt said. "My legs utterly seize. It takes roughly two minutes of contractions for them to come to that stage."

He has had to make technical adjustments to compete. He now uses a standing start in the hurdles.

"I'm not able to run over 200-meter intervals or repeat runs," Osterhoudt said. "They're awfully tight."

He holds aspirations of competing again in a decathlon. Every year, he's optimistic that he will one day enter another 10-sport event. Medical reports suggest he won't, but sheer will and determination might prove the doctors wrong.

"I could see him doing another one just to do it," said Osterhoudt's friend and occasional training partner, Duane Thompson. "He was down when he knew he had to get the surgery. But he came back right away."

What Osterhoudt lacks in ability because of the surgery, he overcomes with desire. He and Thompson, who also will participate in the games, will compete in a national meet in August in Orlando.

Much of the reason Osterhoudt still competes is because of those he competes against. He has formed bonds with the "enemies."

"The sense of camaraderie is exceptional," Osterhoudt said. "It is much better than it is in our society. Oddly enough, we all pull for one another. There's very little rancor in any of it. It seems quite remarkable that we're doing sports at our age. The sense of fulfillment that



Suzanne Starr/The Arizona Republic

Bob Osterhoudt practices the discus as he prepares for the Grand Canyon State Games. He also competes in the 110-meter high hurdles, hammer throw and shot put.

we get from doing sports at our age is memorable. We have a favorable impression of the Masters.

"They're exceedingly competitive. It is not a casual recreation to most of us. It is the way we express ourselves to the rest of the world. They're very serious experiences. They're not so mean-spirited. We seem to care about each other more as people than we did as younger people. We seem to have grown up, I guess you could say."

In doing so, Osterhoudt has worn many a victory medal. He is not inclined to guarantee another one.

"I'm always well-prepared to be beaten," he said.

Thompson claims it is just Osterhoudt's nature to deflect the attention elsewhere. He expects to see him on the medal stand again.

A Penn State graduate, Osterhoudt is well-spoken and well-educated. He has taught humanistic subjects concerning sports at several American colleges and universities. Last year, he taught a course in Budapest, Hungary.

"He's probably one of the most polite people I've ever met," Thompson said. "I probably admire the way he treats people more than his athletic ability."



# DOERS PROFILE

## Florence Wahl Otter

Vitae Bachelor of science degree in English and education, Greenville College; Master's degree in guidance and counseling, University of Rochester.

Hometown Rochester, N.Y.

Valley home Sun City, 18 years.

Marital status Married to Vincent, 50 years.

Self-portrait Samuel Butler said it rather well, "Every man's work is a portrait of himself."

Motto I can't improve on the Golden Rule.

Greatest feat I'm still working on it. Stay tuned.

Walter Mitty fantasy I find reality is fantasy for me.

Inspiration Inspiration may be found anywhere at almost any time.

Good/bad habits As Alexander Pushkin said, "Habit is heaven's own redress. It takes the place of happiness."

Favorite food/drink It depends on the time of day and time of year.

TV programs Programs about natural science and music.

Books at bedside One devotional booklet.

Vacation spot/luxury: Arizona has always been our favorite place. To me, luxury is having an afternoon with a friend or my husband.

Key to longevity You'll have to ask someone older than I.

Last words If you would change someone's mind, start with a compliment.



## SC poet takes prize for entry

When she was three years old, so she's told, Florence Wahl Otter had a peculiar way of telling people how old she was.

"Eee-Oh, three years old," was her pat answer to the question.

"It always had to rhyme... People would ask me purposely, just-to hear it rhyme," Otter said.

It was only fitting for the young lady, who would grow into one of Sun City's premier poets.

Otter began writing poetry seriously when she retired in 1974. In the 18 years since, she has become an award-winning national poet and educator. Recently, Otter captured second place in the annual poetry contest sponsored by the National Federation of State Poetry Societies.

Her tongue-in-cheek work entitled, "While Caught in a Revolving Door," was one of 316 entries in the Villanelle category.

Overall, the contest drew nearly 11,000 entries from around the nation. It was Otter's third poetry accolade this year alone.

OTTER- FLORENCE WAHL



# Poet says writing makes one well-versed

By Susan Dye  
Staff Writer



Sun City's award winning poet, Florence Otter.

Her first original work occurred at age three when she stated her age in a childish rhyme.

As she grew older, she was class poet in her senior year and wrote a poem predicting the future of all her classmates.

Today, Florence Otter is poet laureate for the Arizona Association of University Women, has published two volumes of poetry and is contemplating a third.

"My poetry is based on ideas and feelings," Mrs. Otter said. Adding that she likes to throw a bit of philosophy into her work.

A native of Rochester, N.Y., Mrs. Otter served as president for the Arizona State Poetry Society in 1979, and has read several times on the local PBS radio station's "Poetry for the People."

Her second book, Slipstream of a Star, began as a result of her association with AAUW, in 1976. As poet laureate, she thought the Bicentennial would be an ideal time to research famous women in history and commemorate them in a poem.

As time went on, Mrs. Otter would begin each AAUW meeting with a thought for the month. Eventually club members were asking her to put the poems into a book for them. This resulted in the 1979 publication of "Slipstream."

"I enjoy giving readings for programs. I enjoy establishing a mood for people who love poetry," Mrs. Otter said. The position of poet laureate, "a high-falutin term for what I do and love so much," has given her the opportunity to establish a mood for the many speakers visiting the AAUW.

"I write spontaneously," she said. "When I did 'Mountains,' I just sat down and wrote it refining it later with a word here or there."

The spontaneous approach seems to work well for Mrs. Otter. She recently won six awards in a national poetry contest sponsored by the Arizona State Poetry Society.

A poetry writer rather than reader, Mrs. Otter said she feels it is too easy for writers to get caught up in reading a great deal of poetry and forget to write.

To prompt her pen and imagination, Mrs. Otter meets with a group of other writers once a month. In this informal setting, they exchange contest news, read their latest works and give each other encouragement.

Currently, Mrs. Otter, said she has enough material to produce a slim volume of humorous verse, but has not decided whether to publish it or not. She has recently discovered bowling, so when she does not have pen in hand, she might be spotted with a bowling ball instead.



DAILY NEWS-SUN THURS. MAY 2, 1991 EMPHASIS



News-Sun photos by Connie Steele

**TEACHING POETRY** — Poet Florence Wahl Otter of Sun City conducts workshops and critiques for serious and aspiring poets.

## SC poet sees the poetry in others

By **CONNIE STEELE**  
Daily News-Sun staff

**SUN CITY** — In poetry, it is said the soul finds expression.

"There's a little bit of the poet in everybody," Florence Wahl Otter, of Sun City, said Tuesday.

For serious and aspiring poets, Wahl will conduct a workshop Saturday as part of the 1991 annual meeting of the Arizona State Poetry Society.

The day-long "Spring Festival" will focus on "Songs of the Earth" in the Lakeside Banquet Center, 10484 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

During her segment of Saturday's annual meeting, Otter will critique a poem and have a surprise activity after the afternoon break.

As with local meetings of the Sun Cities Arizona Poetry Society, the state society's Saturday meeting is open to anyone who has an interest in poems, Elaine Sauerbrey, president of the Sun Cities society, said Tuesday.

Participating with poetry societies, Sauerbrey said "You develop your love of poetry and hone your skills as a poet."

Poetry, like water, seeks its own and finds an audience, Otter said.

"There is room for everybody," Otter said. "We have people in the group who never write a poem. They just come to enjoy."

Otter's poetry in 1990 won three state and four national awards.

For 10 years, she has taught how to write poetry as a non-credit course with Arizona State University - Sun Cities.

Her only prerequisite for the class is that the student "love playing with words" and be willing to work. "Words are your tools," she said.

Otter said she doesn't teach appreciation of poetry, but how to write poetry — what to avoid, techniques that can be used and how to develop an ear for sound. In her classes, students have assignments that are read and

Members of the poetry society, "learn there are so many kinds of poems," Otter said.

Poetic structure may be free verse and unmetered or traditional iambic pentameter. "It could rhyme and not be serious poetry," Otter said. Or it can be humorous, not rhyme and be acknowledged as serious poetry.

Some poems touch our most inner selves as from the contemporary John Ashbery to the protests of Stefan Zweig after World War I.

"I enjoy clever, innovative poetry," Otter said. "It doesn't matter the kind, it's the quality that counts."

In writing poetry, revision is the key, she said. "Revision, revision, revision."

critiqued by their peers.

"You can write about anything," Otter said. "Poems don't have to be esoteric."

Otter has written serious poems and playful poems about golf and bowling.

Poems may trigger laughter, as from an Ogden Nash, or a sense of macabre, as from an Edgar Allen Poe.

In the poets society, "We have people who say, 'I'm just a rhymester.' But they get up and read, and everyone claps and understands," said the retired businesswoman and counselor turned poet.

OVER

OTTIER, F.W.



## Spring poets' festival opens

The Sun Cities Arizona Poetry Society will host the nine affiliates of the Arizona State Poetry Society 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Lakeside Banquet Center, 10484 W. Thunderbird Blvd.

"Songs of the Earth" is the 1991 conference theme of the Annual Spring Poetry Festival.

The day's schedule:

- 9 a.m.: booksales and signing.

- 9:30 a.m.: Readings from state high school and community college poetry competitions.

- 10:30 a.m.: Native American Ransom Lomatewama, Flagstaff artist and poet, will read his "Songs of the Earth."

- Noon: luncheon

- 1 p.m.: Poetry workshop by Florence Wahl Otter, Arizona State University - Sun Cities instructor and winner of state and national awards.



**Ouldhouse, Gerret** 12/16/04

Gerret Ouldhouse passed away Thursday, November 18, 2004 at his home in Sun City, Arizona.

He was born to Gerret and Della Ouldhouse in a sod-covered cabin April 24, 1919 on the upper reaches of Snake River near present day Rigby, Idaho. He was the oldest of four children and raised them in Anaconda. He began exploring, hunting and fishing at an early age. He ran away from school as a young boy with his best friend, Charlie. Unfortunately Charlie would not return from this adventure due to a shotgun misfiring. This early loss and his passion for the outdoors would later shape his life and many other lives that he came in contact with. Always the trailblazer, he left school late age 16 and went to work for the B.A.P. railroad with his father. As with most, the days of the Great Depression were hard on all so Boe and his father would sluice for placer gold to help earn a living. His dream at this time was to strike it rich in Alaska and would have happened if not for meeting Irene Davenport, his first of three wives. They were married in 1940 and had daughter named Jean in 1941.

He finally made it to Alaska due to the draft during World War II. He returned to raise his family and had been married for 17 years when Irene was fatally injured in a car accident in 1957. Picking up the pieces of his life, he continued working and taking care of his daughter Jean who had also been injured in the car accident.

After losing his wife, his passion for the outdoors grew even deeper. While goat hunting in the Pintlar Wilderness, he became lost in a blizzard. Three days later he would emerge from the forest weathered, wise and with a new purpose. This experience would be the impetus for a pioneering boys and girls camp. In the early 1960's, he started Rainbow Wilderness Survival School and became an outfitter/guide for hunters and fishermen. Boe had a way of instilling confidence in boys and girls and changed the lives of many people in the process. He stressed improvisation and taught them the fundamentals of wilderness survival; lessons that would spill into their everyday lives. After losing the camp to fire in 1970, he immediately went back to work rebuilding and had the camp up and running for next year's kids.

At age 50, he retired from the B.A.P. as a Railroad Engineer due to a hearing disability and devoted his full time to the survival school.

In 1970, he met and married the second love of his life, Elizabeth Naranche. They began wintering down in Arizona and coming back to Georgetown



Lake in the summer. In later part of the 1970's after teaching hundreds of kids, he sold the camp and permanently retired pursuing newly founded passions such as gardening, painting and ikebana.

He was a devout Catholic and offered spiritual council for those in prisons and rest homes. He became well known in Sun City for his gardens and was named the 'tomato king'. After a long battle with cancer, Elizabeth Ouldhouse passed away and once again he was on his own. After taking care of her for many years he pursued new adventures such as fishing in Alaska and the Sea of Cortez. He then married his third wife, Marjorie Jacobs in 1990. He never wavered in his passion for life and made more friends who he would meet every morning at McDonald's for coffee. He began collecting driftwood and making beautiful lamps. His wife Majorie became ill in the mid 90's and he committed to taking care of her for many years.

After she passed away in June of 2004, Boe returned to his favorite place in the world, Georgetown Lake. Like he had lived all these years before, he pursued the fish, the fold and became fascinated with the geologic history of his most beloved place. He also started writing his autobiography entitled "Three Wives and Nine Lives" which chronicled all of the close calls, loves and friendships he made along the way of this well lived life. He was adventurer, a gentleman and my hero.

The following are some of the offices he held in different organizations: Montana Fisheries 1935 to 1936; director and instructor for the Pintlar Archery Club 1939 to 1963; president of the Isaac Walton Club 1958; president Anaconda Sportsman Association. 1962; executive officer Deer Lodge Rescue Association; and civil air patrol 1960; and Montana Hunters Safety Instructor 1964.

Preceding him in death were his parents Gerret and Della Ouldhouse; wives: Irene, Elizabeth and Majorie Ouldhouse; sister Della Hauser; niece, Marie Formanfelter; and sister-in-law, Ruby Ouldhouse. He is survived by his daughter, Jean Frye and son-in-law Steve Frye; grandchildren: Rob Frye (Steve Cramer), Scott Woodruff (Adena Carter), brother, Chuck Ouldhouse (Lucile), Ray Ouldhouse; brother-in-law, Ted Hauser; nephews and nieces: John, Gary, Jim and Michael Ouldhouse; Lucile Laird, Margaret Drager, Marion Koll, Ann Geiger, Gerret, Dave and Dan Ouldhouse, Deloris Panich, Bernard Dumontier and a very special friend, Elaine Hardy.

Memorials may be made to Liberty Place Inc., for survivors of traumatic brain injuries, P.O. Box 446, Whitehall, Montana 59759 or a charity of your choice.

Cremation and memorial mass have already taken place.

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



## Passion for rhymes is harmless addiction

By DOUG DOLLEMORE  
News-Sun staff

**P**ity Janey Owen. She's an addict. She isn't addicted to cocaine. And it isn't heroin. No, she's hooked on rhymes. "I'm addicted to rhymes and puns. I can't help it," Owen says. "It's not a talent, it's an addiction."

Owen, who lives at 11827 Sun Valley Drive, is the author of "Household Rhymes for Hapless Times," a humorous column that appears Mondays in the Daily News-Sun.

For eight years, her rhymes have helped readers cope with problems about arthritis, pets, cooking and garden pests.

Her column always begins with a problem and then offers a suggested solution.

For example, a typical Owen column begins:

"Mrs. Hollingsworth Hall from Hoboken  
Had a puppy that wasn't housebroken  
Tho' she had him in training  
If there was something staining  
Ms. Hall could be very outspoken."

Owen's solution reads:  
"When Man's best friend happens to blunder  
There's no need to rave, rant or thunder.  
If applied just in time.  
To the scene of the crime.  
Club soda, they say, is a wonder."

Owen gathers her ideas from family, friends, strangers and the media.

"I'm perfectly willing to steal other people's ideas," Owen says. "If I find something in a magazine, I'll use it. You can't copyright an idea. Anyway, I'm not copying their work. I'm just taking their ideas and turning them into rhymes."

Rhymes have been a lifelong passion for Owen. Born in Texas, her family lived in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma when she was young. The frequent moves meant many hours traveling in cars.

"My mother believed in rhyming games. She thought it helped pass the time and would help us develop mentally. So we played them all the time when we were traveling. It was fun," Owen says.

Owen, who majored in drama at the University of Oklahoma, hosted her own radio show in St. Louis after she graduated.

She sang and talked about cooking, baking and homemaking. Although the show was popular, Owen's sister-in-law wasn't impressed.

"She used to laugh and tell me that she did her vacuuming during my show because she knew that I couldn't boil water without burning it up," Owen says.

Owen quit the show in 1941 when she married her husband, Harvey, a St. Louis dentist.

After her marriage, she produced and acted in one-woman shows for church, club and fund-raising organizations throughout the city.



Janey Owen.

(News-Sun photo by Stephen Chernel)

She also wrote lyrics and acted her country club's annual revue for more than 25 years. Often, her lyrics were parodies sung to Broadway melodies.

"We're playin' matches in the mornin'/Health-wise we won't be worth a dime/In desperation, check respiration/But get us to the tee on time," Owen sings, remembering a song she wrote years ago to the tune of "I'm Getting Married in the Morning" from the musical "My Fair Lady."

"People tend to put in words that don't go with the beat. That

### HOUSEHOLD RHYMES

for hapless times



By JANEY OWEN

**THE PROBLEM: STUFFIN' NONSENSE**

Over the river and through the woods  
To Grandmother's house they came.  
They stayed for the turkey, they stayed for the pie,  
Then left for the football game.

After the dishes were washed and dried  
Grandmother thought, "What a bore.  
I made extra dressing, but they are on diets  
So I'll never do that any more."

**THE SOLUTION:**

But a leftover stuffing is terribly chic  
In a casserole or maybe hash,  
And her Pinochle Club was coming next week,  
So Grandmother had her a bash.

She purchased some mushrooms, so firm and so white,  
For what she intended to serve,  
In the caps she put stuffing, then broiled 'em just right  
For a toothsome and tasty hors d'oeuvre.

really bugs me," she says. "I won't do that. I always try to find words that fit the rhythm."

Owen began writing Household Rhymes shortly before she and her husband moved to Sun City in 1978. A St. Louis television producer asked Owen to write some brief commercials offering viewers household tips.

The spots were never produced, but after she moved Owen submitted her work to the News-Sun. Since then, her rhymes have become a regular feature.

Ironically, Owen doesn't consider herself a great housekeeper. "I think I'm average," she says. "I'm not a picky person. I can let things pile up around the house and not get too upset about it. Besides, I might find inspiration for a new rhyme in one of those piles."





Garnette O'Bryant, early-day Devco hostess, recalls highlights of her years of showing visitors to model homes.

## early-day sales in Devco fields

for each person she greeted during the 23 years she was with Devco—originally as a volunteer.

Devco spokesman Ken Plonski said there is no way to tell how many people individual hostesses may have greeted visitors, but estimates point to about 3.5 million "passing through the doors" during Mrs. O'Bryant's 23 years with the firm.

**ESTIMATES** are based on counters used by the hostesses.

Mrs. O'Bryant, who worked at all of Devco's sales pavilions, exception the most recent one opened in Sun City West, said she and her late husband, Joseph, put money down on a Sun City home in 1959, before there were any models to see.

Sun City was "nothing but cotton fields" then, she recalled.

The couple, who moved here from St. Louis, had learned about Del Webb's starting Sun City while visiting they were Mrs. O'Bryant's mother in Glendale.

Two-bedroom homes then were selling for \$8,500, the ex-hostess said, and there was an extra charge of \$1,000 if any-

one wanted a golf course lot. The largest three-bedroom home, she added, was going for about \$11,000.

**DEVCO**, which has graduated to a glamorous type of sales pavilion, in 1961 had only a small wooden building set up in the middle of its first group of model homes off Grand Avenue, according to Mrs. O'Bryant.

Hostesses, she said, served prospective homebuyers coffee and soft drinks from a window in the building, called the "Half-Way House."

Sun City was still a small community with a population of approximately 2,500 people.

"It was a lot of fun in those days, when it was a smaller town and you knew everybody," Mrs. O'Bryant mused.

**HOME** construction, she said, then was moving southward from Grand Avenue, first toward Peoria Avenue and then toward Olive Avenue.

Most of the people arriving to look at Sun City model homes during the early days, Mrs. O'Bryant said, were older than today's visitors or buyers.

"And most were on a much lower income than now."

## Ex-hostess recounts memories of early days

By HELEN ALLEN  
Staff Writer

People arrived "in droves" in the beginning to see the new Del Webb home models.

And they came from all over the country, recalls Garnette O'Bryant.

"When I started with Del Webb in January 1961, there were thousands of people coming through the models," she remarked. Some, she added, came specifically to see Sun City and others happened to be driving through.

Del E. Webb Development Co. (Devco), she commented, already was advertising all over the country.

**MRS. O'BRYANT**, who was among the first six Sun City women to serve as hostesses for Devco, said it wasn't unusual for 5,000-6,000 people to show up each time new models were unveiled.

The 72-year-old former hostess, retired the end of last year under a company age policy, jokingly commented that she wouldn't mind having a penny