

WHITTLER'S GRANDMA

Sun City woman carves niche in 700-member woodworking club

By CINDY TRACY
Independent Newspaper

Although she's been called "Grandma" Betsi Packwood, she says she's just "one of the boys" at the Bell Woodworking Club.

But Betsi Packwood, a lifetime member and past president of the club, says she likes the "Grandma" nickname because it shows senior citizens can learn to do things.

And, anyway, she is a grandma.

Ms. Packwood, twice named "Wood Turner of the Month" by the Arizona Wood Turners Association, was featured in a November, 1995, *Woodturning* magazine.

Ms. Packwood, who became interested in woodworking crafting small wooden toys for her two daughters, renewed her interest in wood in Sun City. A regular at Bell Woodworking, she became president of the then 900-member organization in 1987.

She learned to use the lathe to create wooden bowls, which she often inlaid with unusual materials, including silver or turquoise. Her first project was a box.

"I turned a little round box out of mesquite branch," she says.

Ms. Packwood earns a living selling her woodworking projects and working part-time as a health caretaker. The woodworking is mostly done on commission, she says, and her work

sells well.

"I can't keep up to do everything in my head to fill orders that I have, which is nice," she says.

But she's not complaining.

Other interests include Rollerblading, which she just discovered.

Ms. Packwood just got her rollerblades and says she hasn't fallen yet.

"I'm not wild on 'em, but I sure have fun," she says.

Bell Woodworking monitor Bud Rogers says all he knows is that Ms. Packwood does some very fine woodworking, adding that she is always helpful around the club, willing to lend a hand to anyone who needs it.

The club's 1996 officers are: Jerry Mahoney, president; Don Gill, vice president; Wes Cato, secretary; and George Sellers, treasurer.

Anyone from Sun City interested in woodworking is invited to join the club. Those who wish to sell items they make may note the club has display cabinets for 140 craft items.

Sales in 1995 topped 1,000 pieces and the club plans to enlarge the display cases.

Dues are \$5 annually, making available the use of thousands of dollars' worth of equipment. Plus there is expertise of the monitors in working with the equipment or completing projects.

The Bell Woodshop monthly-meeting is 8:30 a.m. the third Tuesday of every month. For information, call 974-6058.



"Grandma" Betsi Packwood poses with one of her well-turned wooden bowls that earned her recognition in an international woodturning magazine and, twice, the title of "Wood Turner of the Month" by the Arizona Wood Turners Association.

Packwood, Betsi

PACKWOOD, BETSY

Sun Citian takes honor as top timber turner

Woodworking skills earn respect from Bell club members

By J.J. McCORMACK
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Betsi Packwood used to be the new kid on the block in the Bell Woodworking Club.

To other club members, most of whom are senior citizens, she was a kid.

That's because Packwood moved to Sun City 17 years ago at age 37 with her husband.

Today, the divorced 54-year-old is among the most skilled members of the woodworking club.

Packwood makes her living selling wooden bowls, plates and other items that often fetch three-digit figures.

She also is the first recipient of the Arizona Woodturners Association Focus on Local Turners award.

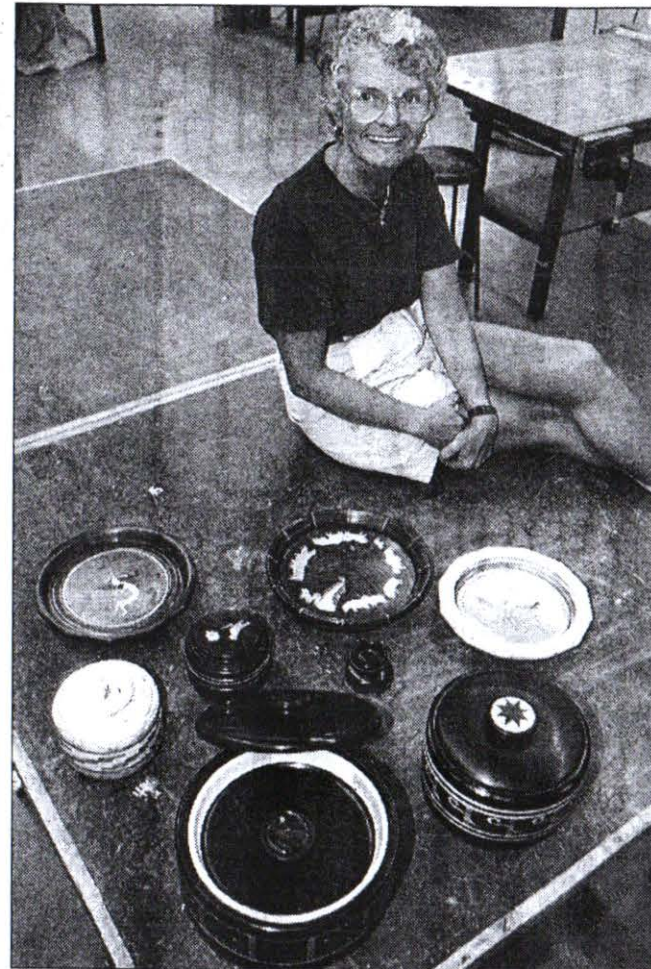
The award, bestowed earlier this summer, surprised Packwood. "I was totally flabbergasted," she said. "I've never entered a competition or anything like that."

Packwood was singled out by the association for the one-of-a-kind "masterpieces" she creates using a lathe to shape exotic wood imported from all corners of the globe.

Her pieces are distinguished by gold, silver, turquoise and other precious and semi-precious metals and stones set into the colorful wood. Many of the inlay designs have a Southwest flavor. One of her masterpieces, for example, features inlays of colored wood depicting an

'Each piece is a learning piece as far as I'm concerned. I've been given the title (artist), but I still feel there's a lot to learn. I think I'm going to have a bowl a certain size, but it doesn't turn out that way. That's the beauty of wood. You never know how it's going to behave.'

Betsi Packwood
Bell Woodworking Club



Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

in Colorado where the uniqueness of her work was confirmed.

"There were no pieces there like what I do," she said.

Packwood credits several members of the Bell Woodworking Club, including Ben Adlaf and Oscar Bock, with fostering her woodturning skills. She said the mostly male club members respected her desire to learn and excel when she joined the club. Some of them now look to her for help on the lathe or to critique their own work.

Although she owns a lathe and does much of her woodturning at home, Packwood makes it a point to spend time in the Bell wood shop.

"It's vitally important to be around other people. It's too easy to become a hermit," she said.

Packwood devotes about eight hours a day to her woodturning.

When she starts a piece, she never knows what the finished product will look like.

"I think I'm going to have a bowl a certain size, but it doesn't turn out that way," she said. "That's the beauty of wood. You never know how it's going to behave."

Packwood's pieces have been displayed in galleries in Scottsdale and Colorado. Most are sold to private buyers and through the gift shop at Bell center. A sales contract with a gift-shop chain may be on the horizon.

Volume sales will take some getting used to, because Packwood said she doesn't like parting with her masterpieces.

"When you put so much time and love into it, it's tough to allow a stranger to have it," she said.

American Indian woman atop a horse.

"I like Southwest designs. There's just a spiritual feeling in a lot of them," Packwood said.

"Each piece is a learning piece as

far as I'm concerned," she said. "I've been given the title (artist), but I still feel there's a lot to learn."

Packwood learns by doing and by attending seminars. She recently returned from a woodturning seminar

Retiree's life for the birds

Writing, adventures keep him busy

By Betty Latty
Special to Community

First off, Burley Packwood confirms that the title of his newest book is indeed "Bird Turd Peppers and Other Delights."

Second, it is not a sequel to his local best seller, "Quail in My Bed," now in its third printing.

Nor is it a collection of scatological musings — it is a travel book, about experiences Packwood and his late wife encountered while spending nearly five months in the Orient, alternately flying, backpacking, and even houseboating in Kashmir.

But its title? There actually is a "Bird etc." tree or bush — but it grows on St. Vincent, in the Windward Islands of the Caribbean, where the Packwoods spent an idyllic year after first retiring to Sun City from Montana.

"That was the name the natives gave us, so it was all we knew," he said. "It produced very tiny peppers, which we couldn't eat because they were reputedly hotter than the *habanera*, which are pretty well off the scale. But the chickens adored them and would leap as high as 2 feet in the air to reach them."

Fast-forward to a little restaurant in Thailand, where the proprietors spoke little English and obviously did not understand the "no chilies" request of the touring couple. "We were dying," Packwood groaned. "When my wife could speak, she gasped out 'bird turd peppers,' and that memory became the basis for the title."

The Packwoods went to the Orient after volcano Soufriere erupted on their island, sending them back to Sun City. "We were literally blown off the island — we lost everything — so we came back," he said.

"But if you ever wanted to dream of paradise, that was it, the most marvelous place."

Packwood, who has acquired an agent, is at work on his next book,

Profile

Name: Burley Packwood.

Age: 77.

Birthplace: Billings, Mont.

Residence: Sun City, since 1978, except for lengthy travel encampments around the world.

Family: Widower. One son and one daughter; one grandson.

Education: University of Michigan Dental School, Ann Arbor, 1945-49; Montana State University, Bozeman, bachelor of science degree, premed.

Military service: World War II infantryman. Commanded rifle company in first wave of Allied forces that hit North Africa; later wounded in Sicily and Anzio; taught tactics at Fort Benning, Ga.

Occupation: Writer; retired dentist.

Hobbies: Silversmithing at Bell Recreation Center; formerly, photography, once an international judge.

which will be a novel set in the Caribbean. It is as yet untitled.

Packwood started writing when he and his wife took their RV to Mexico. "She fished, I didn't," he said. "So I wrote how-to things for markets like *Mother Earth* and *Trailer Life*."

But the waiting-for-a-check life of a free-lancer was not for him. "I got a belly full of it when I found most markets paid slowly, or waited until publication," he said.

But writing, books and self-publishing appealed, and Packwood produced "Quail in My Bed," the story of an orphaned quail that "we took with us for three years."

The author also developed a discipline that most would-be writers only read about. He rises each day at 5 a.m. and writes. "I may not write much, but I write something,"

Packwood said.

Birds seem to intrigue Packwood, even in his silversmithing hobby. He prefers bird patterns for channel inlay work and is fond of using a black-lipped shell for quail and robins. "It just makes them come alive," he said.

The new book, including its cover, is

illustrated with Packwood's photographs. A softback, it is available at Waldenbooks at Promenade Mall, 99th Avenue and Bell Road, Sun City, and Annie's Book Stop at Fountain Square center, 350 E. Bell Road, Phoenix. The stores also stock "Quail in My Bed" in paperback.

PACKWOOD, BURLEY



Tom Tingle / Staff photographer
Author and world traveler Burley Packwood rises at 5 each morning to write. His most recent book is "Bird Turd Peppers and Other Delights."

PACKWOOD, BURLEY

Local best seller is feather in author's cap

By BRITT KENNERLY
Daily News-Sun staff

Take a wild guess. Which author has outsold every other in Sun City's Waldenbooks for two years running?

Erma Bombeck? Naaaah. John Grisham? Negative.

Stumped? It's 76-year-old Burley Packwood, a retired dentist from Sun City.

His self-published "Quail In My Bed," the lively story of Pedra, a baby quail Packwood befriended, has sold 7,500 copies to date — more than 600 copies in 1991 and 446 from January 1992 to January 1993 at Waldenbooks alone.

"It's the No. 1 best seller in this store year after year," said manager Jean Vandenberg. "He beats out everyone. There's no rhyme or reason, but it's a wonderful book."

In contrast, Grisham's "The Firm," which is being adapted for a movie starring Tom Cruise, sold 160 copies at the store through Christmas.

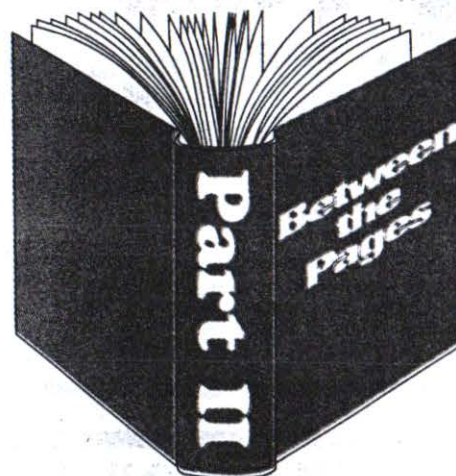
Packwood, now working on his third book, is philosophical about his success.

"I'm only interested in what I'm writing today," he said. "I've never really read 'Quail In My Bed.'"

Packwood, like many other authors, has learned by experience that completing a manuscript may be the easiest part of the publishing process.

Only one in 1,000 writers will sell a manuscript to the first publisher, based on a proposal or query, and the odds widen for that publisher being a major company such as Simon & Schuster Inc.

Many writers, tired of being rejected by larger companies, pay so-called "vanity presses" to publish



their work, with no guarantee the book will ever make it to a store shelf.

Some, like Packwood, self-publish, bearing all the cost of the book's production.

Packwood started his book six years ago, finishing it in two years. He then had to find a reputable printing company, scout for an agent, fire one along the way and learn the ropes of getting distributors to place his book in stores.

His advice to writers sounds simple but may be hard to swallow for those who think their manuscripts are sure moneymakers.

"Seek advice from those who have written and published before," he said. "Use the information in the library, in Writer's Digest, in writer's guides. Take courses. You can never know enough."

And don't consider subsidy publishing — paying a "vanity press" to publish your book — he said.

"Don't do it," he said. "In capital letters. You will lose your money."

Sun Citian Milton Zeuner, 81,



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Burley Packwood, author of "Quail in My Bed," outsells all authors at Sun City's Waldenbooks. The Sun Citian recently penned "Bird Turd Peppers and Other Delights."

however, chose to have Vantage Press, a subsidy publisher, publish his book "Universal Majesty" in 1992, despite a sobering experience with the now-defunct subsidy publisher, Exposition Press.

The retired engineer's initial investment of \$4,000 with Exposition in 1984 was for a run of 400 to 500 copies of "Universal Majesty." Zeuner received about 200 to 300 books before the company folded.

In addition to losing money,

Zeuner wasn't happy with the book's jacket, and there were several errors in the book, he said.

But even though the experience was far from satisfactory, it didn't sour him completely on subsidy publishing.

Before signing a contract with Vantage, paying \$5,800 for 400 books, he wrote letters to the Better Business Bureau and Chemical Bank asking for information on Vantage's

See Sun Citians, A6

Sun Citians showcase talents

—From A1

financial health and business status.

Regardless of Vantage's questionable track record — the company was sued in 1977 by 2,200 authors who ultimately were awarded a total of \$3.5 million — Zeuner is pleased with the way his book was edited and produced.

"Mostly they've been wonderful," he said. "All of my letters and questions have been answered and they gave me no guarantees — they told me up front that only 10 percent of their writers ever recover their subsidy."

Someone considering subsidy publication should forget it if it crowds them financially, Zeuner said.

"But I'm 82 years old and my wife is 81. We're financially stable, and I can't take it with me or send it on ahead," he said.

Robert Brown, a retired geography professor, has written eight books and published seven. Five were subsidized publications and two were published by commercial publishers, including an atlas that sold 10,000 copies.

For his latest book, "The Pervasive Spirit: Concepts for a Personal Religious Philosophy," the Sun Citian chose Carlton Press of New York. He paid the company \$11,190 to publish 1,000 copies of the book, which sells for \$11.95.

"Their prices were less than Vantage, and I'm happy with the book, except for a few typographical errors," the Sun Citian said. "Some people get the notion in their heads that they'll make a lot of money. I knew I wouldn't make money, but I was convinced the subject was worth writing about."

Two Sun Citians said they chose to pen their war memoirs as a way of passing along a bit of American history.

After being turned down by major publishers, Howard Matthias, a retired professor, partially subsidized, to the tune of \$2,000, the publication of his book "The Korean War: Reflections of a Young Combat Platoon Leader."

"You can't expect miracles with a subsidy publisher, and you have to be ready to write off your investment," said the educator, who has published 28 articles on traffic safety in

professional journals.

"I wrote this for my family, as a personal reflection," he said. "I've had good reactions from various friends I was with in Korea, and a lot of calls from associates I taught with."

Nancy Dammann, who had earlier self-published a book on frontier nursing, self-published 500 copies of "A WAC's Story" because she realized the book had a "very limited audience," she said.

A member of the Women's Army Corps in World War II, Dammann, a retired media adviser for the U.S. Agency for International Development, detailed the life of a clerk typist and her WAC friends during their days in the Southwest Pacific Area theater.

She wrote "A WAC's Story" partly because she could find no books about WACs in the Pacific, she said.

"I thought there should be a written record, purely for historians, in universities," she said. "But anybody considering self-publishing should know that three-fourths of the job is not what you write —

it's selling yourself to bookstores, getting on the lecture series. It's a lot of work and I just wasn't interested in doing that."

Retired attorney and former Wisconsin state senator Jack Potter, on the other hand, is enjoying making the rounds with "The Tangled Web."

The book, published by subsidy firm Waubesa Press of Wisconsin, is a look at the life and crime of Edward F. Kanieski, found guilty in 1952 of the murder of brother-in-law Clara "Cad" Bates. Potter, now a Sun City resident, prosecuted the murder case while district attorney of Wood County, Wis.

"The Tangled Web" has received considerable attention in Wisconsin, and boasts a chapter written by Dr. Frederick Fosdal of Madison, a psychiatrist who testified at serial killer Jeffrey Dahmer's trial.

Potter's history as a senator and as chairman of the board of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources lent credence to his book, which has earned kudos from fellow attorneys.

A bird in 1 hand leads Sun Citians to 2 more

By DOUG DOLLEMORE

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Burley Packwood had a girlfriend, but his wife didn't mind.

"She just imprinted herself on Burley," said Betsi Packwood. "He was the love of her life. Wherever he went, she followed. You know how love is. It happens to birds, too."

Burley's girlfriend was a Gambel's quail named Pedra.

"In the morning she'd get up and read the newspaper with me. She ate with us. She loved spinach and broccoli," Packwood said. "She slept on my chest. She was a marvel."

Burley recently wrote about Pedra's life in his first book, "Quail in My Bed." (Quantum Press of Arizona, \$6.95).

"I had to write her story," said Burley Packwood, a retired Billings, Mont., dentist who moved to Sun City in 1978. "This is the story of this unique bird, how she came into our lives and why she meant so much to us."

The story begins on a 110-degree day in July 1984 when Betsi discovered a quail chick dying on a Sun City street. She brought it home, but Burley didn't want anything to do with it.

"Be sensible," Burley recalled telling his wife. "We don't need a quail. We don't want a quail. We can't take a quail camping. In God's name, listen to reason."

But Betsi didn't listen. "I just hate to see a bird or any animal suffer," Betsi said.

"I figured he could die just as well in my home as out on the street."

The couple fed the bird, which Betsi named Pedro, a mixture of dog food, spinach and crumbled soda crackers. Betsi also gave Pedro a few drops of whiskey.

That afternoon the Packwoods went to a grocery store to buy Pedro more food.

"My grumbling continued as we entered the busy supermarket," Burley wrote. "A familiar sound greeted us at the door. Above the low, efficient whine of the huge air conditioner rose an insistent peep. Betsi and I exchanged glances. 'There's a baby quail in here,' she whispered. 'Another baby.'"

The couple found the second bird under an artichoke display in the vegetable department.

"What the hell are we going to do with two quail?" Burley asked her.

"We'll find a way," Betsi said. Betsi named the second bird Pedra.

"I felt alone. Abandoned by a stubborn wife and the possibility of two squawing infants sharing my camp bed detonated a series of stomach cramps in my gut," Burley wrote. "Peace and serenity — those golden years so incessantly dramatized by poets and films — oozed from me."

At Betsi's insistence, the couple took the birds on their trip to Canada and the Pacific Northwest. Pedro recovered and flew away near Spokane, Wash. But Pedra stayed.

"We absolutely swore that



Daily News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

NICE PET — Burley and Betsi Packwood, of Sun City say Pedra II, a Gambel's quail makes a nice household pet. The bird is the couple's third pet quail. Their second quail, Pedra, is the subject of Burley Packwood's first book, "Quail in My Bed."

we'd turn her loose once we got home," Burley said. "But she wouldn't leave us."

"These Gambel's quail are wonderful animals that are ab-

solutely devoted to you."

The Packwoods obtained a permit to keep Pedra from the state Game and Fish Department and became her legal

owners.

During the next three years, Pedra survived a series of adventures including toilet training.

Betsi devised 16 methods of housebreaking Pedra. All failed. Finally she pulled out an old red tablecloth and stuck it by Pedra's favorite perch, a couch.

"She spent a good time aboard the couch and we reasoned the more time she spent there the less she spent on the carpet, lamps and drapes," Burley wrote. "Our problems dramatically diminished. It was plain even to me that our color-blind bird favored the red tablecloth."

But later, Pedra faced more serious problems after she was bitten by a black widow spider.

"Pedra stepped forward and pecked. The widow attacked with furious speed, poisoning Pedra someplace in the neck," Burley wrote. "Startled, Pedra staggered backward and nearly fell. The weight of her head became too great and she slumped awkwardly and quietly to the sidewalk."

The bite paralyzed Pedra on her left side. Early the next morning, she fell out of her nest and broke several ribs, Burley said.

"It damn near killed her," he said.

Pedra survived that trauma, but died of a stroke two years ago.

"It was just like losing a child," Betsi said. "She was a real part of our lives."

Since then, Betsi has found and adopted another quail chick. And her name?

"Pedra, of course," Burley said. "Damn, we love that bird."

All in a day's work

Anesthesiologist recalls early days of profession, Boswell beginnings

Jan. 31-Feb. 6, 1990, THE SUN CITY INDEPENDENT

Sun Citizen

Profile

Portraits Of Our Residents

In 1968, a weekend commute from State University, Brooklyn, N.Y., to Sun City, Ariz., was more than a little unusual.

Dr. Irving M. Pallin, though, was used to reaching out, exploring frontiers, breaking new ground.

Hadn't he explored the frontiers of his science, as a fledgling anesthesiologist, at Sea View Hospital, New York?

"Tubercular patients went there to die," he says.

At the time, surgeons attempted to intervene in the course of this disease, but there was little that could be done.

When surgery was attempted, too often the patients' lungs would collapse.

Dr. Pallin had a scientist's inquiring mind and uncommon tenacity in seeking out solutions.

With devotion to his boyhood dream, he had graduated from Tufts College Medical School and interned in Connecticut.

Working at Sea View, he was a driven man, rising at 4 a.m., taking the ferry from to the tuberculosis hospital (a government enterprise). He worked until 8 p.m., and all of that for 67 cents — covering the cost of the ferry-boat ride.

He looked beyond the surgical procedures that were being done at the time, and considered what could be done to make them better.

He came up with a simple device: a bag to hold oxygen; a bag that he could squeeze, to pump air into the lungs of the patient undergoing surgery.

"I did not like what was going on with anesthesiology," he says, explaining that, in those days, nurses were performing the task. (He has nothing against nurses — he married one.)

But the nurses "gave cookbook anesthesia," he says. The routine was to put the patient under with 100 percent nitrous oxide, no oxygen, then turn on the ether. Ether was dangerous, explosive, patients and surgeons disliked it, and for good cause.

"I'd look down, and the patient was blue. That's no good."

He became more interested in anesthesiology than in surgery, while his training continued, with residency in New York Postgraduate Medical School and Hospital (now New York University School of Medicine).

That's where he met his wife, Gertrude Lear, who was doing graduate work.

With his residency completed, Dr. Pallin took a job in a private hospital as an anesthesiologist.

It's a specialty that's revered, today, but it was not always so. Surgeons, in earlier times, wanted a nurse administering the anesthetic. The surgeons made all the decisions.

Dr. Pallin persisted.

He received an appointment at Mt. Sinai Hospital, but turned it down, because they could not promise he'd be chief, he says. Before long, he got the nod, along with the promise: chief anesthesiologist, from Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn.

He left to become a clinical professor at Downstate Medical School, Brooklyn.

With some modesty, he admits to writing a few papers over the course of his career and, because of the work he was doing, became president of the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists (1949), president of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (1957) and president of the Medical Society of County of Kings (1960).

He continued as educator until he came to Sun City. "I did not resign until I was sure I would buy the house."

He didn't resign, he commuted. Weekends.

It all came about because, in 1968, he was in the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, and that august organization held an interim

OVER



DR. IRVING PALLIN worked long and hard to help his profession -- anesthesiology -- earn credibility and respect within the medical profession. "I didn't like what was going on with anesthesiology," he says, "I'd look down and the patient was blue. That was no good."

PALLIN, IRVING, MD.

meeting in Denver.

The Pallins took a side vacation to Arizona and visited the Sun City area.

There were the promotional bus tours of the community with the complimentary breakfast. But the Pallins played some golf on the North Course and viewed some slides of the project and its surroundings.

"One of the slides had views of a hospital," he says. "At that time

Boswell Hospital was not even a hole in the ground."

He went around to talk to Austin Turner, who was then serving as hospital administrator, and left his curriculum vitae. Back in New York, Dr. Pallin got a call from Mr. Turner, requesting the clinical professor's assistance, as a consultant, in developing the hospital.

"My work was to write the constitution and bylaws, the rules and regulations and set up various departments," says Dr. Pallin.

When the hospital was finished (finished, not occupied, Dr. Pallin emphasizes), he got another call from Mr. Turner, asking him to help open the hospital.

"That was to see that each department was filled properly, with fully trained doctors."

"At this point, the only place I could stay was the King's Inn, and I didn't know what to do with my stuff."

Del Webb personally made a Phase 2 house available for Dr. and Mrs. Pallin.

The consultant helped set up the hospital's cardiovascular, respiratory and surgical departments.

"As doctors moved here and took over, I was able to do anesthesiology again.

"I retreated to my specialty until Feb. 10, 1980, when I retired."

When Dr. Pallin first came to Sun City the only hospital in the area was in Youngtown. Soon, he says, many doctors began to locate in the area, drawn, not only by a new hospital, but "a very fine hospital ... the same with the doctors and the nurses. It is an excellent hospital, maintaining high standards."

"When Boswell first opened, the hospital had the two circular structures, which were empty — only one ward was open. 'Bats got into the building,' he recalled. 'Bats were flying all around.'"

That problem was quickly corrected.

It used to be the person who put you to sleep on the operating table was an unknown, a man behind the scenes. (They don't even require an office, for the work that they do.)

It's different, now. The anesthesiologist is part of the team.

"We have set up a different system. The patients are seen today, on the night before the

surgery. We develop a complete history. The patients get to know us ... they just don't remember us."

Other things have changed, as well. Ether is never used, he says. There are other substances, ~~for surgery~~ that work with no serious side effects. "Most important was the use of curare, which relaxed the muscle."

Now, there are developments that keep the muscles relaxed so the surgeon can work.

"There are great strides being taken in medicine," says Dr. Pallin. Strides with AIDS, with certain things like treatment for childhood leukemia, and development of new chemical agents."

He continues, "One of the greatest areas for medical research, cancer, is the University of Arizona. And another is right here. Sun City is famous for research being done in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease."

Now, a decade into his retirement, Dr. Pallin retains a fascination for medicine, but particularly, for anesthesiology.

"You have to know every nerve in the body," he says.

Nerves — perhaps he had more than his share of them — devising a bag to keep a tubercular patient alive on the operating table ... knowing there was something better than cook-book technology ... teaching medical students the intricacies of anesthesiology ... commuting from New York to help develop a hospital that was growing on the desert

... Some nerves.

Doctor duo: Like

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Wednesday, Jan. 24, 1990 Community A3

father, like son

Pair watches medical advances in Sun City

By JACQUE PAPPAS
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — A father and son who established their medical professions in Sun City say they have seen advances in technology mature along with the retirement community.

Dr. Irving M. Pallin was the first chief of anesthesiology of the Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital.

His son, Dr. Sam Pallin, is credited for bringing the first Hydrolgel lens implant to Arizona.

The two generations of Sun City doctors say they have seen a number of positive changes for older patients resulting from new technology and outpatient surgery facilities.

At a time when Sun City and Boswell hospital were in their infancy, the elder Pallin was recruited from New York to establish a program to attract surgeons and anesthesiologists.

He was chairman of a committee that dealt with admitting new doctors to the hospital.

"They were young, qualified doctors who found a new retirement community to work in attractive," Pallin said. "They saw a growing community that the state medical society viewed as an up and coming place."

Before the hospital was even completed in 1970, Pallin was

hired as a consultant.

"I would fly in from New York to Sun City on a Thursday and leave on Sunday," Pallin said. "I wasn't involved in construction, but I wrote out bylaws, rules and regulations and set up departments."

When the hospital opened on Nov. 16, 1970, Pallin said there were about four or five doctors in the Sun City area.

"Things were interesting here in the early years. I remember when we first opened they had bats all over the hospital. Well, they got rid of the bats, but I hear that a few show up in the hospital from time to time," Pallin said.

"There have been tremendous changes. Cardiac services have improved with separate departments for cardiology, intensive care units evolved, open heart surgery was once unheard of," Pallin said. "We have also seen tremendous advances in non-surgical techniques such as CAT scans and in the microbiology department."

Pallin retired from Boswell on his 70th birthday, Feb. 11, 1989.

He still lives in the house "Del Webb himself" gave him on Bayside Road.

Pallin's son, Sam, said he decided to open his practice in Sun City after he visited his father on several occasions.

"I wanted to do eye surgery and I figured that Sun City would be a good place to go since the elderly population was more likely to need it," Pallin said. "It's fascinating here because I've never been anywhere in the world where I've seen so many vigorous, healthy and active seniors. It's a good place for doctors because informed patients are a pleasure to work with. They keep us doctors on our toes."

Pallin has been in private practice since 1975, when he founded The Lear Eye Center, which was renamed The Lear Eye Clinic in 1985 when the facility was moved to its current location at 10615 W. Thunderbird Blvd. Pallin opened a second clinic in Scottsdale in 1986.

Although there were several eye surgeons in the Sun Cities area when Pallin opened his business in 1975, he said he is credited with bringing the first Hydrolgel lens implant to Arizona.

Now Pallin sees about 100 patients a day and handles all eye-related problems from a wart on the eyelid to a full cornea transplant.

He says the advances in technology since he started his practice 15 years ago are phenomenal.

"Before it wasn't uncommon

OVER

PALLIN, DR. IRVING - SAM

for a patient to stay in the hospital for three days for cataract surgery because in the early years they would stay in the hospital for 15 days," Pallin said. "Now they can come in an outpatient setting with local anesthetic and have everything done in one day. It's really very important to the elderly patient to go home after the surgery instead of staying in the hospital for several nights."

Pallin said he has also seen a significant change in the West Valley.

"I used to drive down Thunderbird to get to work and see two or three cars the whole trip," he said. "Now it's bumper-to-bumper traffic."

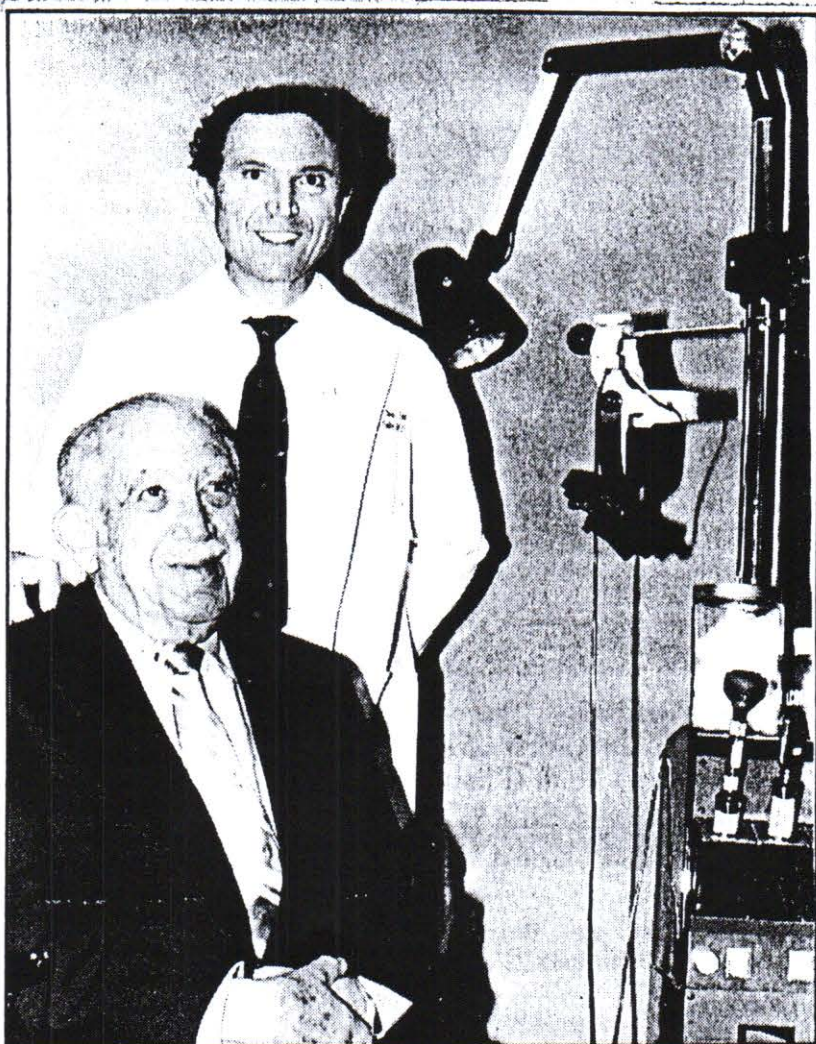
Pallin, who has three children, is on the staff of several hospitals in the Valley including Scottsdale Memorial and Boswell.

The Pallin family seems to have a knack for the medical profession.

The elder Pallin's son-in-law is a nephrologist who practices in the Sun Cities area.

He now has a grandson who is interviewing at Harvard University Medical School.

Now in retirement, Irving Pallin said he enjoys keeping active with Temple Beth Shalom, enjoys photography and playing golf.



Daily News-Sun photo by Frances Guarino

FAMILY AFFAIR — Dr. Irving M. Pallin, the first chief of anesthesiology at Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, sits in an office of his son, Dr. Sam Pallin, who operates Lear Eye Clinic in Sun City.



Hoping To Make A Difference, He Chose 'The Road Less Traveled'

SUN LIFE

by Dick Kemp

October 1999

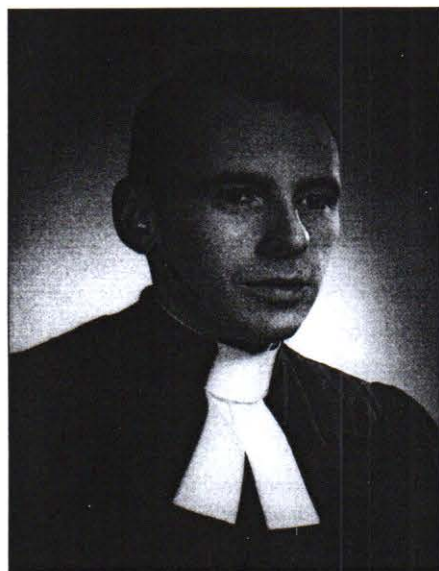
As a political science major at Wooster College, he could have become a politician. But, he didn't.

As a one-time caddy who's always loved the game of golf, today he could be a regular on Sun City courses. But, he isn't.

What Fran Park is doing – a year and a half after retiring as senior pastor at Faith Presbyterian – is validating why he entered the ministry:

He wanted to make a difference!

Fran is most visible these days as chair of Sun City's 40th Anniversary Committee. But that role is only one of many, as he lives his philosophy of life.



FIRST IN FAMILY – This photo of Fran Park, not many years after ordination, represents the first member of his family to enter the ministry.



THOSE RARE, QUIET moments of conversation are shared by Sue and Fran Park at home, amidst their busy schedule.

45 years in the pulpit

Through 45 years in the pulpit, Francis W. Park III was fond of using humor to make a point. He might even have paraphrased Duke and Curley, from *City Slickers I* and *II*, to summarize two firm personal beliefs:

There are (for a happy, healthy life) *just two things to remember:*

1 – Develop a spiritual connection, a belief that we exist for more than just ourselves.

2 – Pursue a variety of activities, some of which benefit others.

Fran, an avid reader, collects statistics which connect spiritual awareness and longer life.

As for the Sun Cities lifestyle, he is convinced that, generally, active, happy people have relatively short illnesses before death. And that those who mope and rock their life away have

longer, more frequent periods of bad health.

(A 1990 Faith Presbyterian membership study backs up this theory, with its corollary of a longer life.)

Never lost early interests

Chairing Sun City's birthday reveals Fran never lost his early interests.

Growing up in Cleveland, he was a high school representative to Boys State. In college – as a speech minor, football manager and president of the Young Republicans – his goal was to enter government.

By his junior year, however, with no family in the clergy, nor special urging by friends, Fran decided the church offered more opportunities to influence lives for the better.

Endorsing this decision was

OVER



GATHERING DUST – Fran Park shakes the dust off his clubs in preparation to one day resume the sport he loves.

Sue Jacobs of Davenport, Iowa, a fellow Presbyterian whom he met his sophomore year. They were married as seniors.

Throughout his ministry, Fran was never bashful about using his persuasive abilities, including when spiritual matters bordered the secular. Like in Elmira, New York.

When his congregation squeaked through a 51-49 percent vote for a new church, Fran recruited the opposition's most vocal spokesperson to the pro-building side.

First visit to Phoenix area

The Parks, raised amidst Midwest greenery, first visited the Phoenix area in 1963. "We agreed. There was no way we would ever move to that God-forsaken, brown desert," says Fran.

However, after Sue's mother and brother moved to Phoenix, and with repeated Arizona visits, that attitude began to change.

"Then, in 1983, after 14 years at Covenant, in the beautiful city of Columbus (Ohio), we agreed to preach in a neutral pulpit in Phoenix," says Fran.

"Shortly after, we accepted a call from Faith. God works in

mysterious ways."

Today, as Faith's Pastor Emeritus, Fran takes occasional preaching assignments around Arizona. And he's active on a variety of Arizona and national Presbytery boards and councils.

Preaching the senior gospel

But it is his staff roles at seminars in Pittsburgh and Austin that allow him to "preach the senior gospel" to future clergy. These tenants he sums up:

"People are living longer. Lifespans will continue to increase. Even now, three generations vie for employment.

"Generally, the senior generation must step aside and use its considerable talents in non-profit institutions of all kinds.

"This certainly includes the church. Senior membership could double if we could only get newcomers involved in some activity immediately."

Fran believes in this philosophy so firmly, it was his message at the most recent White House Council on Aging (he remains on the Arizona Governor's Council

on Aging and Alzheimer's Advisory Committee).

Always aided worthy causes

Throughout his ministry, Fran made himself available to worthy causes: urban renewal, health, mental health, aging, drug abuse and rehabilitation. Sometimes he headed a task force or project, and sometimes he advised.

Today, that civic pace is even brisker. In addition to the Sun City anniversary role, his calendar includes:

- Weekly meetings at Lakeview Rotary, where he is president.
- Northwest Regional Community Council, vice president (immediate past president).
- Sun City Library.
- Metropolitan Area Government (MAG).
- Sun City Homeowner's Assn.

All is not work

All is not work in the Park household, however. He and Sue find time to either visit or host their three children (one in Florida and two in Ohio) and six grandchildren at least twice a year.

When they travel, Fran packs books that help him relax – such as mysteries set in Scotland. And, just over the horizon, the golf courses still beckon.

Other times, the Fran Park leadership style will continue to produce results. What is that style?

"He's very flexible, very easy to work with," says Phyllis Roach, first vice president of the 40th Anniversary Committee.

"He leads in a low-key style, yet articulates his views when appropriate. And he uses humor, too, especially in stressful conditions."

He's a good interview, too, I thought to myself. And he's still making a difference!



DOERS PROFILE

Sue
Park

Hometown: Davenport, Iowa.

Family: Husband, Fran; children, Andy, Ann and Cathy; grandchildren, Kadie, Megan, Tommy and Matt.

Inspiration: Grandmother. "She was a very remarkable person. She was my role model in every way."

Goodwill extends to many causes around the world

By TINA SCHADE
Staff writer

Long before President Clinton issued the call for voluntarism, Sue Park was contributing her time, energy and self to a number of causes locally and internationally.

Park, who moved from Ohio to Sun City 13 years ago, has been involved with many organizations, including the Presbyterian Church. Its congregation recently gave Park an honorary life membership pin for her affiliation and dedication.

"My second home was the church. I was pleased and proud to get it," she said.

Park also has volunteered with Presbyterian Women in Faith, a service group within the church. As secretary and adviser for the group, she coordinates programs such as the Sunset School Christmas breakfast and did the shopping for nearly 75 children to fill the gift bags which were presented at the event.

"I love children and many of the children didn't have a Christmas at all," said Park, a former English teacher and Brownie leader.

In addition to her activities with the church, Park has served as the secretary for the Meals on Wheels program for 13 years. She said it offers people an alternative to living in care facilities.

Monday, July 14, 1997 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

"I really believe in the purpose and goals of that organization, otherwise people wouldn't be able to stay in their own homes," she said.

Park donates much more than time to her causes — she also donates a bit of herself. She is a regular plasma donor for United Blood Services and has given about 10 to 12 times a year for the past eight years.

"It's something I've always believed in and it's a way I can help that doesn't hurt me," Park said.

She has also been listed on the center's bone marrow donor list for the past five years.

In between her duties for various local clubs, Park also attends to the needs of others on a global basis.

She recently had the opportunity to visit Israel where she talked with Arab school children and teachers as part of a good-will expedition with the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix. Park has also traveled to Greece, Turkey and Italy and will be taking a cruise to Iceland this summer.

In her spare time, Park enjoys creating greeting cards on her computer.

"They're a lot of fun," Park stated.

Despite all of her activities and accomplishments, Park is most proud of her husband Fran's work as a minister at their church.

"He has been a remarkable pastor and is highly respected in his church. I don't know where he gets it, but I'm glad he has it," Park said smiling.

They have been married for 44 years and have three children and four grandchildren.

"We've been unbelievably fortunate. We've had a wonderful life," she said.

Do you know a Doer? Send nominations to the Daily News-Sun, P.O. Box 1779, Sun City, Ariz., 85372, or call 977-8351.

Park, Sue



News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

BLOOMING CAREER — Sun Citian Abele Parmentola, a flower arranger and landscaper, stands among his creations. He says he did the flowers arrangements for Liz Taylor's first wedding and President Johnson's inaugural ball.

Former florist boasts career that bloomed for rich, famous

News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Some children grow, others sprout, but Abele Parmentola bloomed.

"I was born in the floral industry," Parmentola says. "I've been doing floral arrangements from the time I was 7. I can design anything that has to do with flowers."

Parmentola says before he retired in 1970 he was one of the nation's finest floral arrangers.

Others agree.

"I think his arrangements are beautiful," says Harold Stein of Sun City, who was Parmentola's neighbor in Kendall, Fla., for 10 years. "I have seen quite a few floral arrangements and none of them compare to his."

Parmentola says he helped design floral arrangements for Elizabeth Taylor's wedding to Nicky Hilton in 1950 and for President Lyndon Johnson's inauguration in 1964.

"President Johnson wanted nothing but red flowers in the Red Room at the White House, so we used red roses and poppies," Parmentola says. "When we were done he tapped me on the back and said, 'Look, you do wonderful work, you have to do

my daughter's wedding.'"

But Parmentola says Johnson later changed his mind and hired another florist to do the job.

Parmentola began his career in Naples, Italy, working as a delivery boy for his grandfather.

Later, he studied at a botanical garden in Naples. At 17, he joined the Italian navy and served for five years in the Pacific visiting China and Japan.

In 1926, Parmentola says he did a flower arrangement for Japanese Emperor Hirohito and his wife.

"It was a dinner for 200 naval cadets and the royal couple," Parmentola says. "My commander gave me \$200 and told me to go out and show them what I could do. I guess the emperor liked what I did."

In 1927, Parmentola emigrated to Canada and later moved to New York City. He worked there for the next 40 years designing arrangements for the rich and famous.

"Nelson Rockefeller, Ted Kennedy, Danny Kaye, Ray Bolger, Shirley Temple, Jack Benny, Bette Davis, I did ar-

rangements for all of them, Parmentola says. "They were great people each and every one of them."

Many entertainers, including legendary miser Jack Benny, were extravagant when buying flowers, Parmentola says. Benny spent \$15,000 for flowers for his daughter's wedding.

"If you did something right, they would pay any price for it," Parmentola says.

But sometimes a celebrity would argue about the cost, he says. One time, for example, ice skater Sonja Henie didn't want to pay \$90 for an arrangement.

"She said, 'You want me to pay \$90 for just a bunch of flowers,'" Parmentola says. "My boss said, 'Look, I pay \$25 for a front row seat at one of your shows and what do you think I see? Just a bunch of ice.'"

Henie paid for the arrangement.

Despite his skill, Parmentola never owned his own flower shop. When he retired 18 years ago, Parmentola says he was making \$1,500 a week.

"I was making more money than my boss," Parmentola says.

PARMENTOLA, ABELLE

DOERS PROFILE

Evelyn
Parry

Vita: Homemaker, secretary, bank and postal clerk.



- Hometown:** Janesville, Wis.
- Family:** Married 43 years to the late Lester Parry.
- Motto:** "Always be a little kinder than necessary."
- Self-portrait:** Realistic, appreciative, dependable.
- Inspiration:** Parents, brother, husband.
- Greatest Feat:** Cooperation and care of co-workers.
- Key to Longevity:** Good genes; first things first.

Pioneer logs countless hours serving others

By J.J. McCORMACK
Staff writer

Evelyn Parry has been volunteering in the Sun Cities so long, some of her former work places no longer exist.

A "pioneer" who has spent 35 years in the original Sun City, Parry's volunteer career began as a charter member of the United Church of Sun City, the community's first place of worship. Church projects continue to command much of Parry's time.

In the mid-1960s, and at the urging of a church pastor, Parry joined the auxiliary at Northwest Hospital in Glendale. The hospital located in northwest Glendale preceded Walter O. Boswell Memorial. By 1969, Parry had chalked up 500 hours at the hospital, which later closed its doors.

Next came Sun Cities Information and Referral, where Parry has been answering telephone inquiries at least once a month for the last 18 years. She has served on the agency's board off and on, including two terms as treasurer.

From 1977 to 1979, Parry tutored reading at Alta Loma Elementary School in Peoria, a volunteer job she called a "pleasure."

And Parry couldn't say "no" when the Sun City Pioneers Club was formed in 1973 and eventually merged with the Sun Cities Historical Society. Her late husband, Les, Sun City's official "key man" in the early days, was president of the Pioneers Club and Mrs. Parry took on the job as treasurer or secretary or both.

"Reminiscing at every meeting was pleasant and most enjoyable," Parry wrote in an autobiography.

Parry is a former member of the historical society board and now serves as a hostess at the society headquarters, "This Old House," at 10801 Oakmont Drive. The house built in 1960 was the first model home in Sun City.

For the last six years, Parry has served with the auxiliary, also known as the "gold jacket club" at Sun Valley Lodge. She serves beverages during dinner at the lodge, Sun City's first residential care center.

"Whenever I see something that needs help and I can help, I like to do it," she said.

Once a year, Parry assists the Salvation Army Auxiliary with its annual back-to-school clothing event. If she had more time to give, Parry said the Salvation Army would be the recipient.

Parry recalls once telling a friend, "Besides eating and sleeping, my total time is volunteer work: 50 percent church and 50 percent community."

Before jumping into volunteer service practically full time, Parry worked part time at a Sun City bank, as a secretary and at the community's first post office.

A scrap of paper Parry has saved over the years offers a glimpse into her once, exhausting schedule. The paper is a chronological list of Parry's activities for a single day, leaving her only a couple hours to catch her breath in the late afternoon.

Parry recalls wondering when she first settled in the retirement community if she would be able to spare the time needed to take advantage of the recreational opportunities. She did. She played golf and swam, until volunteer commitments took over her schedule.

These days, Parry's leisure time is reserved primarily for visiting friends and family on the telephone or in person.

"When friends or relatives stop by, it's a pleasure," she said.

Do you know a Doer? Someone who makes a difference in your community? If so, send nominations to the Daily News-Sun, in care of J.J. McCormack, P.O. Box 1779, Sun City, 85372, or call 977-8351, Ext. 208.

And, don't forget to send in tidbits for Did You Know?, where grandparents' bragging rights are always honored.

PARRY, EVELYN



Life in Sun City for Les Parry has been world of keys, hard work, interesting people, both good and bad times. Official key inspection man here for past 15 years, Parry looks forward to retiring in town he helped to start.

'Key man' greeted all

As a "key" man for the Del E. Webb Development Co., it has been Sun Citian Les Parry's job to greet homeowners as they come to Sun City to take them on an inspection of their new home.

Thus, when Sun City celebrates its 15th anniversary this week, so will the man with the keys. However, a lengthy stay in a Valley hospital will keep the 15-year employee from participating in the festivities.

Between interruptions of friendly nurses performing their routine tasks and occasional glances at a television special on caribou of the northland, Parry managed to discuss a wee bit of Sun City's background and history. His wife, Evelyn, filled in the missing pieces.

HE TALKED about his first office in the Grand Avenue Shopping Center when just a handful of salesmen and women composed the Webb staff. The office, he said, was shared by Greenway Drugs and the Post Office. All three were housed in the same building and were separated only by walls. "And look at the Webb offices now..." he said with a sigh.

Parry, who has seen Sun City grow much larger than anticipated, said the town had been planned around 1,680 homes. The land was purchased from the J. G. Boswell Co. on a lot basis with an understanding that the Webb Company was able to stop building whenever it began to feel a pinch. When the successful Sun City story spread, people came to see for themselves.

The Parrys were Wisconsin residents before their move to Sun City. When the cold, damp, snowy weather necessitated the move to a drier climate, he made his way out here, leaving his wife to sell the old home and take care of last-minute details.

Rather than remembering old stories or old times, Mrs. Parry

concentrated on telling her husband's story. Occasionally she shed a bit of light on herself.

"He's a well loved man," she said. "He's done so much for Sun City and would do almost anything for the people here to make their first weeks pleasant and comfortable ones. People would call on him at all hours of the day and night and he always lent an ear or a hand."

PARRY was the last individual to receive a 10-year service pin from Webb himself. "The date was Dec. 9, 1970, and the place was the TowneHouse." Today the pins are awarded through each department.

"What's so wonderful about Sun City?" Mrs. Parry queried. "It's where my husband and home are, and that's what's special. Even though the family is far away, you can always visit. And it's always special to see old friends here. Everybody knew everybody then and we had such great fun."

The only real difficulty in adapting to the Sun City of 1960 was the fact that none of the Parry nieces and nephews were nearby. Mrs. Parry solved the loneliness by taking on a Girl Scout troop and becoming its leader. She also became a volunteer for Northwest Hospital (now Glendale Samaritan Hospital) and was involved with the Federated Women's Club.

HER HUSBAND took pictures for the News-Sun, emceed a couple of shows here, played the black-faced Mr. Bones in the Sun City Amateur Players Minstrel Show, and drove the Shop-Lifter in the Phoenix Rodeo Parade.

When his official retirement begins in February, Parry and his wife will be able to enjoy the things that have surrounded them since their move to Sun City. "Now we'll have the time to really appreciate them (recreation facilities, activities, and warm Arizona sunshine)," she said.

Les Parry

14 The Arizona Republic

Phoenix, Sunday, April 21, 1974



Photo by Thelma Heatwole

Les Parry, right, turns over keys of new home to
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Wahlstrom

REPUBLIC

Key man greets new Sun Citians

BY THELMA HEATWOLE

SUN CITY — Les Parry's official title, key receipt inspector, in a way understates his role with the Del E. Webb Development Co.

Parry, 65, could be called an unofficial ambassador of Sun City.

He turns over the keys for new homes to newcomers here. In that capacity he has delivered new homes to between 14,000 and 15,000 families.

"It's a pleasure to be even a small part of your company," said Parry. "No other position could have given me so great a pleasure or sense of accomplishment."

"Frankly," he said, "the biggest pleasure is delivering homes to people from all over the world, helping them get acquainted with their new homes. They seem grateful and appreciative. This makes my job nice."

Each day, there is an-

icipation, he said, wondering what the new families will be like. Besides turning over the keys, he explains features of the new house from faucets to air conditioning.

"I tell a few jokes to fit the occasion," he said, "and often I'm invited back for a visit or a cup of coffee."

Parry said a big moment came three years ago when he was presented his 10-year service pin by Webb during banquet festivities.

"Mr. Webb put his arm around me," Parry said, "and said, 'Les, you don't know how much good you have done in Sun City. God bless you.'"

PARRY. LES

Key man aided Sun City pioneers

JAN 9 1978

By THELMA HEATWOLE

SUN CITY — As this retirement community celebrates its 18th anniversary this month, Les Parry is proud he came to work here before the first house was occupied.

As "key man" for the Del E. Webb Development Co., he opened the doors and presented the keys while new arrivals settled in for a new life here.

"I can easily say I opened the doors for residents of 14,000 homes," said Parry, who retired in 1975 after 15 years as inspection counselor with Webb.

A Sun City resident since July 1960, Parry likely has more stories to tell about the early community than most members of the Sun City Pioneer Club. He is former club president.

"I opened the door for the first residents on April 8, 1960. By the end of 1960, keys had been extended to owners of 1,050 homes," he said.

Parry encountered the gamut of personalities.

"One day I put a couple in their house and they just kept nudging each other. I thought they were on their honeymoon, they were so happy and close. I found out they had been

married 50 years," Parry said.

"One of the first families, the Williamson couple, moved to Alabama Avenue. They had been married 50 years the day they moved in and he carried her over the threshold. A Webb official later presented them with a gold-plated key," Parry remembered.

Once a couple came here and bought two apartments on their honeymoon. Parry wondered aloud why they bought two places. The home buyers explained that one apartment was for the visiting members of their two families.

"When I put a doctor in his home here, I said people would be glad to learn about this. The wife disagreed, and when I asked why, she said her husband was an obstetrician," Parry said.

Parry, Lydia Fulkerson and Dr. Harry P. Lee, all former presidents of the Pioneers Club, were talking at the Oakmont Recreation Center. As usual when members of the Pioneers Club get together, they talked about the old days here. The old days in Sun City aren't all that old.

The 18th anniversary celebration will include one event open to the general public. That is

the arts and crafts fair in the Sun Bowl Saturday and Sunday, with 200 clubs, organizations and individuals participating. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Mrs. Fulkerson, a registered nurse, and her husband, Harley, moved here from Cleveland in 1961. They came to look at Youngtown, but bought a Sun City house close to a lettuce field. The lettuce field long since gave way to houses.

"One of the first things we did was put up a big flagpole. My husband flew the flag every day. We were very impressed with the people here," she said.

"The community was small and more friendly than it is today. People were more willing to cooperate. There was a togetherness."

Today's Sun City has a population of 42,000 and still is growing. Parry, who knows the pros and cons of the community, agrees that people were friendlier in the early days.

"You knew everybody. Now you know very few. The community has lost some of its closeness. But I'm still in love with the community," he said.

Parry remembered a

Sun Citian, a former drummer in Rudy Vallee's band.

"He moved away because he thought people here were too old. He was gone a year, then came back and bought another house. He said he never wanted to leave the place," Parry said.

Lee, a urologist, and his wife, formerly of Spokane, Wash., were on a cross-country trip to Disneyland in September 1960 when a Phoenix friend suggested they see Sun City. When the doctor returned home, he asked his wife if she would like him to retire so they could move here.

They settled down in March 1961, when the population was about 1,800. One of the first persons Lee met was Irwin Cook, who for 18 years had lived two houses from Lee in Spokane. It was a surprise to both that the other had moved to Sun City.

"It was simpler here then, less traffic. But for many things you had to go to Glendale or Phoenix to get it. There were hardly any stores here. There were two doctors. People wanted me to get a license and start practice," Lee said.

AZ. Republic Jan. 9, 1978

PARRY. LES

OVER



Republic photo by Thelma Heatwole

Former presidents of the Sun City Pioneer Club get together to reminisce about the

"old" days. They are, from left, Les Parry, Lydia Fulkerson and Dr. Harry Lee.

Sun City author writes gripping portrait of Ulysses S. Grant

PATRICK O'GRADY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sept. 26, 2000

Kathie Parry is her husband Richard's bodyguard. Not in the traditional sense of clearing people out of the way and getting him to and from places, but in keeping things quiet in their Sun City home.

"She's always there to grab the phone real quick or answer the door," said Richard, a former plastic surgeon.

That comes in handy while he's banging away at the keyboard creating a new novel, the latest of which chronicles the successes and failures of U.S. president and Civil War hero Ulysses S. Grant. The book, titled "That Fateful Lightning" was released in June by Ballantine Books.

"Grant's always been portrayed as a two-dimensional person," Parry said. "But the more I read about him, the more I found out."

The book details perhaps Grant's greatest struggle, that going to the brink of bankruptcy and being diagnosed with cancer he heads out to write his autobiography and save his family from financial ruin.

Although a novel, the book contains actual dialogues between Grant, his soldiers and contemporaries, something Parry said was paramount when writing the book.

"What was really neat was some of his contemporar-

ies wrote things about him, some really good things," he said.

One of those contemporaries was Mark Twain, who published Grant's autobiography, putting himself out on a financial limb as Grant's health wavered in the final months of his life, including a time he became gravely ill with the manuscript only half finished, Parry said.

That is important when dealing with the Civil War, where experts lurk around every corner and will let you know when your facts are not correct, Parry said.

"There are people out there that are experts on every minute detail of the Civil War," he said.

The book, the author's sixth, is not Parry's first foray into U.S. history. His past three books were chronicles of Western legend Wyatt Earp and his days after leaving Tombstone and moving to Alaska. Parry, who spent 20 years in Alaska with his family as he worked in the medical field, said history always has been interesting for him.

"When I was growing up, my mother would read 'Last of the Mohicans' and 'Moby Dick' to my brother and I," he said.

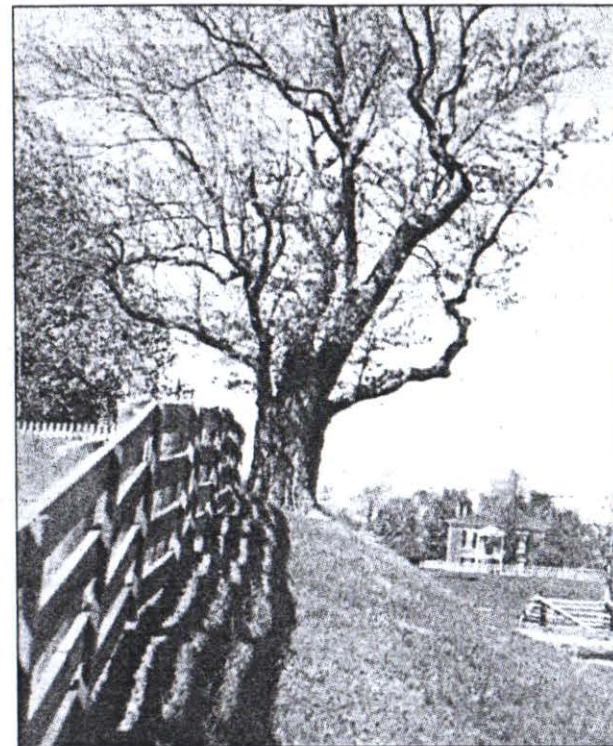
The writing bug bit when his two sons went off to college, and Parry said he began "rattling around the house getting in the way." It began as a way to get something to do for a man who always had different ideas, said Kathie.

"He's always been filled with ideas," she said. "He's always had more ideas than time, but now he's got the time to do them."

But the beginning was rough. Starting out with a couple of action-adventure paperbacks, and even into the first of the Wyatt Earp books, finding them was the hard part, Parry said.

"With the other books, it would get kind of discouraging when you'd go into a book store and they'd never heard of it and they didn't have it," he said.

That has gotten a little better as more of his work has come out. For "That Fateful Lightning," Parry said he has been hard pressed to not find it in a bookstore. Much of that has been a slow, growing following that began with the Earp books and is being expanded by American's fascination with the Civil War, those same



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Appomattox Court House in Virginia was the site where General Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant, bringing the Civil War to an end.

people who make sure the accuracy is perfect.

"It's just sort of adds another detail or perspective for (fans)," he said.

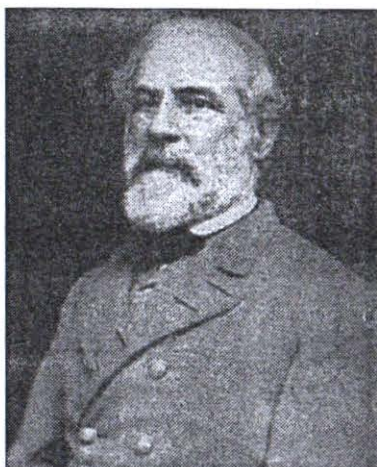
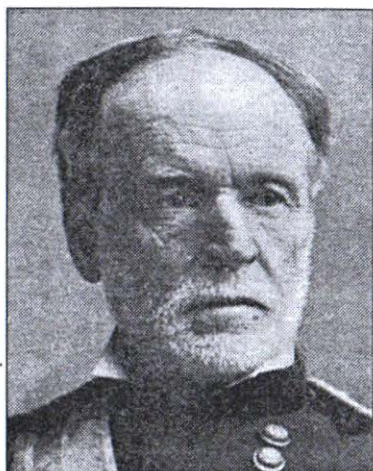
Richard said his seventh book, "Trial by Ice," already is in the can and should be out in stores by next spring. It is another step back into history for a nonfiction account of the failed U.S. polar expedition in 1874, which is moving quickly.

"This one (the publishers) were kind of rushing it along," he said. "Each time it gets a little more. I guess I'm building a little momentum."

It still takes work, from about 9 a.m. to noon each morning. Parry said the goal is 1,000 words, which does not always get met. That's where Kathie comes in again, eschewing her bodyguard duties for that of motivator.

"Which reminds me," she said. "Did you write your 1,000 words today?"

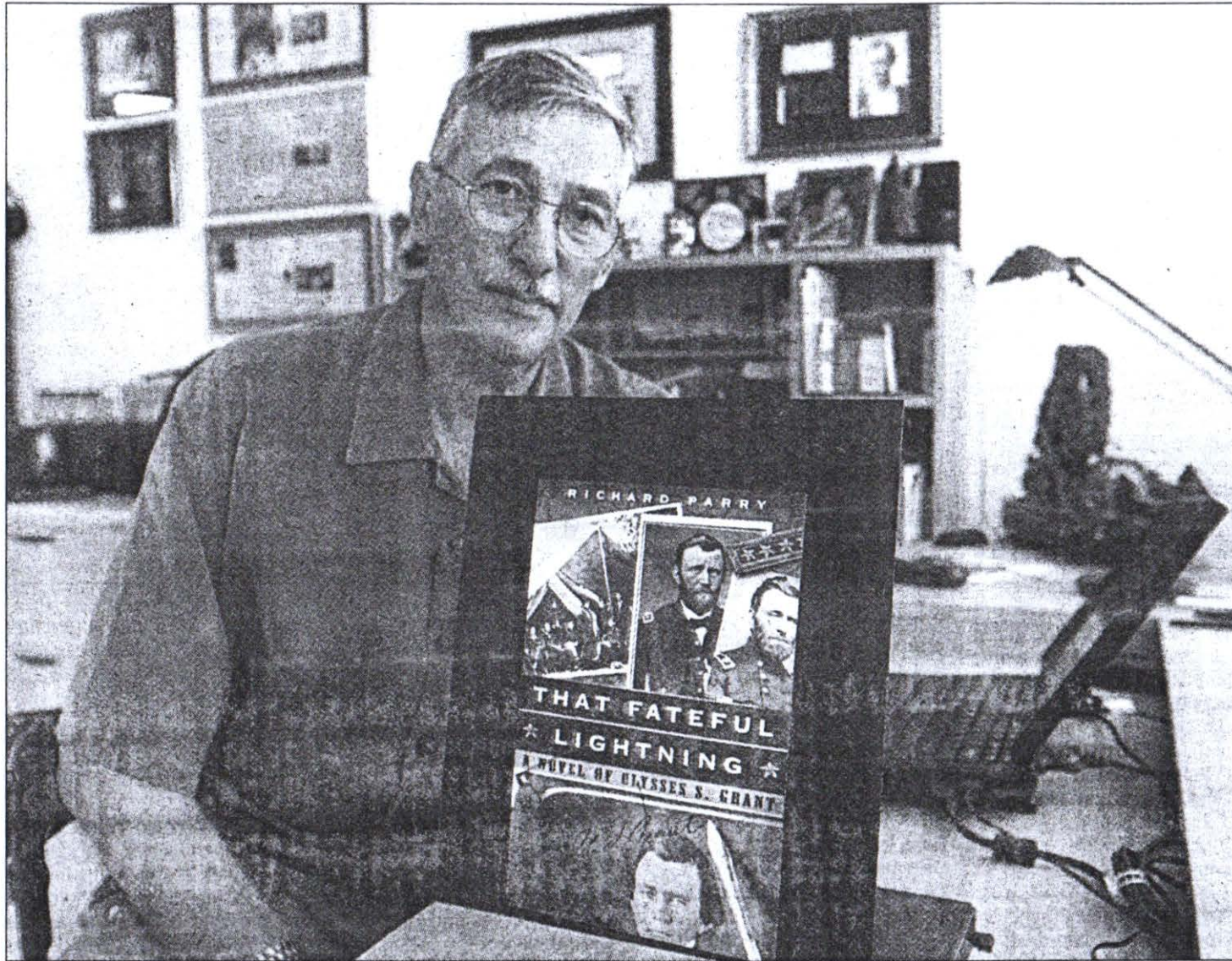
(OVER)



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

Author Richard Parry introduces readers to William Tecumseh Sherman, left, and Robert E. Lee, whose differences from Grant vividly illustrate the cultural and social divide at the core of the Civil War.

'That Fateful Lightning'



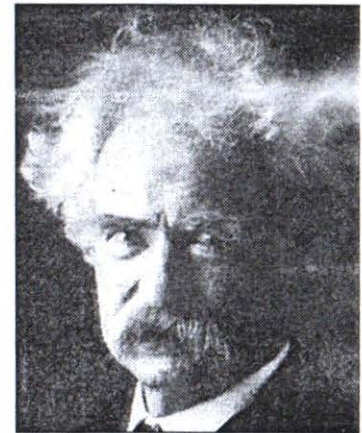
STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Richard Parry of Sun City has written a historical novel about Ulysses S. Grant, a simple but misunderstood American hero who felt truly at peace only amid the horror and chaos of war.



SUBMITTED PHOTOS

General Ulysses S. Grant, above, poses for a photo. Mark Twain, below, a contemporary of Grant, tried to rescue him from poverty as his health wavered. Sun City based author Richard Parry details their relationship in his book "That Fateful Lightning" published by Ballantine.



AUTHOR

From Page B1

wilderness, eventually joining forces with Edward Dickinson, a gentleman spy on assignment for President Teddy Roosevelt.

Their new mission is to provide arms to fiery Marta Kelly, a Panamanian patriot eager to free her Central American land from Colombia so the U.S. will encounter minimum resistance to its plan to build a canal across the isthmus.

Dr. Parry said three plots unfold within the "The Wolf's Cub" — Nate's search for his son; the interaction between a she-wolf that adopts them and obtaining the arms.

In addition to the adventure aspect of the book, the readings also provide an accurate picture of the Alaskan Gold Rush. Dr. Parry lived in Alaska from 1978 to just recently.

Although Dr. Parry said there isn't any evidence that Wyatt Earp had a son, the idea of creating the fictitious Nate was discovered through his research on the family.

He said while reading historical accounts of Wyatt Earp, he learned that his brother, Virgil, had a daughter whom he didn't discover until his 50s.

"You learn a lot about history," he said.

Although Dr. Parry didn't pursue Wyatt Earp studies in college, he does hold a minor in history.

After graduating from college, he decided he was determined to write a book.

His first writings, however, were mainly in medical journals,

which were "so darn boring."

It wasn't until his last child was in high school that he got the "adventure writing" bug.

"You know how teenage kids are — they don't want you around any how," he said.

Dr. Parry said after approximately 30 rejection letters from publishers, he finally grasped his dream.

"It doesn't matter how many rejection letters you get as long as get one acceptance," he said.

So far, his first two novels, "Ice Warrior" and "Venom Virus," published by Pocket Books, were translated into Japanese and Hungarian after being acclaimed in the U.S.

He also plans to release "Wolf Pack" in November 1998 and is working on a historical fiction novel of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. In addition, he's looking into expanding his books to movies.

Although Dr. Parry has retired from the medical field, he has no regrets.

"Writing allows you to have more control over your amount of time, and medicine doesn't," he said.

Kathie, his wife, is probably his best critic, occasionally editing her husband's writings — but only for grammatical errors.

"I like the action (in his books)," she said. "I'm always amazed at how his mind works and the ideas he can come up with."

Dr. Parry said finding ideas isn't tough for him.

"Keep your eyes and ears open and different ideas will open," he said.

■ Dr. Richard Parry



Retired physician relishes new role — writing adventure novels

BY JULIA DE SIMONE
Independent Newspapers

Dr. Richard Parry of Sun City has made up for lost time.

Literally.

The plastic surgeon turned fiction-writer didn't have enough life experiences to write a book in his 20s, so he developed a nest egg for the future; he recently released his fourth book, "The Wolf's Cub."

"I'm not Tom Clancy yet, but I'm working at it — one of these

Book Signing

Dr. Richard Parry of Sun City will be signing copies of his new book "The Wolf Cub" at Barnes and Nobles Booksellers, 10235 N. Metro Parkway East, 2-4 p.m. Jan. 24. Call 678-0088.

days," Dr. Parry said.

The Sun City author said "The Wolf's Cub," which is a continuation of his previous book, "The Winter Wolf," focuses on the ficti-

tious illegitimate son of Wyatt Earp, Nathan "Nate" Blaylock. Nate, whose Chinese lover died during childbirth, is determined to find his son, of whom he lost track, according to the previous book.

In "The Wolf's Cub," Nate and his sidekick Jim Riley, a hard-bitten partner, sign on as contract hunters for a trading post being built on Alaska's Tanana River.

The duo wander in the northern

See ■ AUTHOR, Page B4

Parry, Richard

DOERS PROFILE

Delia Elizabeth "Dee" Parsons

Vitae Attended Queens College and Rutgers University, graduated from King's Business College, North Carolina.

Hometown Ramseur, North Carolina.

Valley home Peoria.

Marital status Widowed.



Self-portrait Church-, music-, animal-, and people-lover.

Motto The Golden Rule.

Greatest feat Getting my driver's license when we came to Sun City in 1980 - but I never had enough nerve to use it until my husband died.

Walter Mitty fantasy Winning the Publisher's Clearing House sweepstakes or the lottery, and helping my favorite causes financially.

Inspiration My high school English teacher.

Good/bad habits I work hard at whatever little thing I'm doing. Worrywart.

Favorite food/drink Spoon bread. Gin and tonic.

TV programs "Are You Being Served?" and Charles Kuralt shows.

Books at bedside Dictionary and always, one of Dr. William Barclay's New Testament commentaries.

Vacation spot/luxury: Bermuda. Not having to get up when the alarm goes off.

Key to longevity Moderation.

Last words Keep the faith.

Before moving to Sun City, Dee and her husband were 15-year volunteers at Recording for the Blind's headquarters in Princeton, N.J. They continued their volunteerism at Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, where Dee still works.

"Dee" may be short for Delia, but Dee Parsons, it seems, doesn't short anyone when it comes to giving of herself.

Do-re-mi keeps 'Dee' on high note

Dee Parsons, who helps the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society get the word out on coming performances, has lost a touch of her Southern drawl years after leaving her birthplace, North Carolina.

Traces of her roots spill out, however, when she tells stories about her youth.

"Dee" is a contraction for Delia Elizabeth, said the Ramseur native.

"When I was a little girl, my friends always called me Delia because they knew I didn't particularly like my name," she said. "So I made my name so short it couldn't possibly be shortened any more."

Dee moved to Sun City in 1980 from Hamilton Square, N.J., with her husband, Jim, who worked for the U.S. Treasury Department.

"When we first talked about retiring, in terms of where we wanted to retire to, we ruled out Florida because of the humidity and the bugs," she said. "We put our house in New Jersey on the market with the understanding we'd leave six months later."

"Ten days later, the first people who saw it wanted it, and we did the one thing we said we'd never do — sold our house with no place to go. And then we bought the first house we saw in Sun City."

A chamber music lover, Dee joined the Sun Cities Fine Arts Society, now the Sun Cities Chamber Music Society, when she moved to the Valley.

Now a resident of Peoria, she serves as a media contact for the group, letting press members in on the who, what, when, where and why for their interviews with musicians performing for the Sun Cities group.

Dee also is an ordained elder of Faith Presbyterian Church and is a past president of the church's Women-In-Faith. She served for three years on the church governing board, was chairwoman of the church's first evangelism committee and is a past president of the Kachina Kiwanis Ladies' Auxiliary.

Retiree strikes chord with pupils

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Saturday, Feb. 5, 1994

Senior musician notes importance of music lessons

By BRITT KENNERLY
Daily News-Sun staff

His eyes are on the band director, his back is straight, his fingers are in place on his clarinet.

Miner Patton's just like any other member of Peoria's Apache Elementary School Band — except he's 83 years old, has a doctorate from Harvard University and is apt to come to school in a cardigan sweater instead of a denim jacket.

But the Peoria resident, who volunteers three or four days a week as a clarinet player in the school's beginning, intermediate and advanced bands, doesn't seek thanks.

He's there to play.

Come on, now. Doesn't he get a little bored running musical scales he learned when flappers were fashionable or making music with pupils young enough to be his great-grandchildren?

Not a chance.

"I'm a good elementary school-level player," he said. "That's one nice thing — bands can always use more second- and third-chair clarinet players."

He's just a little modest.

Patton earned his undergraduate degree from Brown University, where he played in the university band, and his master's degree from Boston University.

Then it was on to Harvard, where he earned a doctorate in education.

For years, he taught math and physical education at schools including Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., and his life revolved around children.

And depending on which of his younger cohorts you ask, the geriatric licorice-stick blower is either neat, cool or great: "He doesn't stick out," said flutist Julie Hoefflin, 11. "He doesn't act old at all."

He causes quite a stir when he walks into a concert, clarinet in hand and surrounded by children, said Larry Brodie, Apache band director.

"When beginning students first meet him, they say, 'Who is this guy?'" said Brodie. "But they get used to him quickly. He talks to them a lot and lets them know that playing the clarinet can be fun, and doesn't have to be what you do for a living to be something you can keep the rest of your life. He's great."

On top of those glowing endorsements and his work with the band, Patton, who retired in 1975, has taught many Apache pupils to play chess.

"When I retired, back in Portland, Ore., I thought I'd teach chess in nursing homes," he said. "I discovered, though, that people in nursing homes found chess difficult to pick up unless they had played it before — then they could pick it up right away."

So, Patton went to "the other end of the spectrum" — elementary school children. Fourth-graders, he said, pick up chess "about 95 percent of the time, and it builds their self-confidence."

Once he moved to Sierra Winds in Peoria, with the help of the Peoria Unified School District, he met more willing and able players.

When Apache Elementary School opened in 1990, just eight blocks away from his home, Patton came up with

the idea of having members of the retirement center's chess club square off with children from the school in regular matches.

Then, three years ago, he decided to

offer his help with the band. In addition to his thrice-weekly rehearsals, Patton branched out this school year to start a clarinet choir with beginning players, and teaches them such simple

tunes "Aura Lee" and "Hi Ho, Hi Ho."

The experience has been "wonderful," he said.

Patton downplays his role in the band but hopes it serves as a lesson in life for the pupils.

"If they see me playing clarinet and enjoying it, and they want to play a musical instrument, then they get the sense that this is something they can do forever," he said. "It's something they can do with other children; it gives them status."

One of Patton's biggest, youngest fans is Beau Raptis, an 11-year-old drummer who learned to play chess under Patton's tutelage and now, gets to hang out in the band room with him.

Beau, who's known Patton since the child was a first-grader, said that despite what many older people think, he and his friends like senior citizens.

"They can teach you a lot and be like your grandparents," he said.

And Patton?

"He's really nice," Beau said. "I really thought he was younger."

What of those naysayers who think schools should stick strictly to reading, writing and arithmetic?

"They ought to visit an elementary school that has a good music program and see what goes on there," Patton said. "I don't see children in the band getting into trouble — music gives them a sense of community that develops the longer they play."

And music's positive influence lasts and lasts, he said.

"When the kids go to high school, they'll immediately have something to tie into, a group to associate with," he said. "They'll play at football games and all sorts of things, and be headed in the right direction."



Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Miner Patton shares a laugh with Katrina Nelson, 13, during advanced band rehearsal at Apache Elementary School.



Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Volunteer band member Miner Patton, 83, stands out in a crowd among beginning musicians at Apache Elementary School in Peoria. Harvard graduate Pat-

ton, whose clarinet is seven times older than many of his fellow band members, is a resident of Sierra Winds Lifecare Community.

Women In Profile

Betty Yarrows Pearlman was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan. She was an honor student in high school and college, and worked at Wayne State University for six years while Jack finished his pre-med and medical school education. They then started their family in Topeka, Kansas, where Jack took

(Continued on page 2)



Betty and Jack Pearlman

his psychiatric residency training at the Menninger Clinic. They have four children: Bruce is a Ph.D., Harvard graduate, now a top research scientist with Upjohn Pharmaceutical in Kalamazoo, Michigan; Milton is an ear, nose and throat specialist, in Carbondale, Illinois, and the father of Lora and Mark (the two best grandchildren in the world, of course); Ralph is in a surgical residency in Southfield, Michigan; and Nancy is the Pizza Hut Controller for their Pacific Region. Betty always has been community and children oriented. She was the first recipient of the Huntington Woods Residents Association Distinguished Service Citizenship Award, for "helping to make Huntington Woods a better

place in which to live." She is a past-president of the Phi Lambda Kappa Medical Auxiliary. Initiated innovative membership procedure for the PTA. For several years, she judged city-wide Brotherhood speech contests for the Detroit Round Table of Christians and Jews. She was a member of several citizen study committees, and successfully spearheaded the transfer of fifty million dollars of property from one school district to another. It was "the largest transfer in the history of the State of Michigan and maybe in the country," and "It was the most complete presentation seen in over twenty years."

One of her fun projects was to organize a teen hide-out aptly called "Joint in the Woods" and a highly successful bus schedule for school children using unusual and new ideas.

Last year, Betty chaired the Senior Citizen Overlay Community Project, and currently is helping our Home Owners Association in a rezoning project.

Jack and Betty have lived in Sun City for five years, where Jack has been the Sun City psychiatrist for HMA, then INA, and now the Cigna Healthplan of Arizona. Betty is a member of the Sundial Bicycle Club and is on the Advisory Council of the Home Owners Association.

BETTY PEARLMAN

DOERS PROFILE

Feb. 24 '97

**Mildred
Pedersen****Hometown:** Grenora, N.D.**Family:** Widowed.**Inspiration:** "My grandmothers, following their husbands out West. They came to find land, but I think they were eager for adventure."**Veteran 'Player'
celebrates devotion
to theater group**By RUTHANN HOGUE
Staff writer**M**ildred Pedersen loves to act, and it shows.

Even so, the longtime member of Sun City Players will be in the director's chair instead of on stage next month when the club puts on "Rodgers and Hart: A Celebration."

The 18-member cast revue will feature about 30 of 61 songs in a collection by the famous songwriting duo. Pulling off such a performance won't be easy.

"We old people are going to snap to," she said somewhat facetiously.

Traditional musicals such as "Oklahoma" or "Carousel" don't require casts to "roll as fast" as a revue, Pedersen explained, noting the degree of difficulty in the show she selected to direct.

"This show has been hell to put on because it is running as a second choice," she said.

Her first choice, "Don't Call me Madam," was shot down when a sparse group showed up at the first rehearsal. She knew she couldn't pull it off without a large cast. Members of the Players had the option of doing the revue or canceling their annual spring production. They chose to let the spring show go on.

Plaques from former casts expressing appreciation adorn Pedersen's family room wall, attesting to her ability to get the job done. Getting the job done is a concept Pedersen has long been familiar with. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in education and speech pathology, respectively, from Minot (N.D.) State. She studied music and drama whenever her class schedule allowed.

Pedersen's roots in music go back to her mother, a university-trained pianist. She learned to play piano from her mother at age 4. Later, she picked up the clarinet and took voice lessons.

In her mid 30s Pedersen became afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis. She knew her piano playing days were numbered, as she could barely open a car door, let alone handle a keyboard. That's when she decided to focus more on theater.

Monday, Feb. 24, 1997

Meanwhile, Pedersen had begun teaching. At the age of 20 she was recruited to teach in a one-room school house in Divide County, N.D. She had barely earned her two-year standard when she was asked to teach a group of first, second, third, and sixth, seventh and eighth grade students.

"You flipped from place to place," Pedersen said.

It was too cold to walk 10 miles from home to work. So Pedersen took her first paycheck and bought a second-hand day bed and moved in to the back of the classroom. A cupboard and two-burner gas stove she borrowed from her parents, along with a small radio, helped make the classroom seem more like home.

Music and drama were always staples in her lesson plans, as she hoped to mold well-rounded students. As soon as the children left she remembers tuning in the radio, sweeping the floor, washing the chalkboard and putting the next day's lesson on the board before the light was too far gone.

The schoolteacher, then known as Miss Sletten, met and married Leonard Pedersen, a farmer, in 1945 when her career brought her to Bowbells, N.D. They eventually moved to Bemidji, Minn., where she spent 12 years teaching speech and theater at Bemidji State University.

"I was going to quit and raise a family, but I never did get to quit," she said.

Pedersen moved to Sun City in 1979 after she retired. She joined the Sun City Players. Her first performance was in a play about two evil women married to two nice men. Pedersen played one of the wives.

"It was kind of a fun play," she recalled.

"Rodgers and Hart: A Celebration," will be shown at 7:30 p.m. March 14, 15, 17 and 18 on the stage in Mountain View Recreation Center on 107th and Mountain View avenues. A matinee will be shown at 2 p.m. March 16 in the recreation center. For ticket information, call 933-6264.

Pedersen, Mildred

81-year-old teaches tai chi chih tranquility

PERDUE, Oonagh

By Betty Latty
Special to Community

SUN CITIES — *Daughter on the Mountain; Daughter in the Valley. Passing Clouds; 'Round the Platter.*

These are some of the 20 graceful movements of tai chi chih, embraced by Oonagh Perdue, who teaches the Oriental exercises in the Sun Cities.

"Tai chi chih (pronounced tie jee + chuh) is so relaxing, so easy," said Perdue. "It helps you get rid of tensions, lifts you up, makes you feel good."

Though the motions appear languid, practice of tai chi chih gives vitalizing energy, the London-born Perdue said.

"It's almost like tapping into an energy force," she said. "You do these movements the nice, slow, dreamy way and stretch out into this life force — it's almost as if your fingers act as antennae."

Imagery is important while practicing the motions, the 81-year-old Perdue tells her students, who follow their leader in almost ballet-like unison. "We do our movements to soft, Oriental-style music, and everyone can think of beautiful things, lovely colors, gardens — you know, that's an exercise of the mind, as well."

There's whimsy in her class, too. 'Round the Platter requires nine circular motions of each arm. "Imagine you are running your fingers around the edge of a big old turkey platter," she said.

Energy left over

For proof of the tai chi chih philosophy, her students need look no further than their leader, who says she always has energy left at



Dana Leonard / Staff photographer
Oonagh Perdue leads a Sun City group in one of the 20 movements of the exercise form called tai chi chih. Perdue, at 81, is in demand as an instructor.

the end of a day. Perdue, a Phoenix resident, travels the Valley to teach. She took a break from Sun City classes to spend the first week of October in Breckenridge, Colo., where she had been summoned to teach tai chi chih to a group of insurance executives.

She has traveled to Texas and to Washington, D.C. She was referred to the jobs through the Scottsdale Conference Resort, where she teaches periodically. She also has taught at Scottsdale's Gainey Ranch, and said that along the way she has included Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor among her students.

So how did a British woman wind up in the West, teaching a discipline of the Far East?

A daughter and sister of doctors, she recounts how in 1934 she left London for Shanghai to marry her fiancé, also a doctor. Her fiancé was physician to the British ambassador.

When war clouds gathered over China, they fled the invading Japanese for Singapore. Perdue's husband was killed while awaiting assignment to Burma, and she, with their two daughters aged 3 and 5 months, got on the last ship out of Singapore in November of 1941 and found refuge in Australia.

"I didn't know anything about the exercises then, but I had seen people in the Chinese parks doing these very slow movements, and I thought it all beautiful," she said.

Four years after arriving in Australia, through her contacts with the British Army, Perdue and her daughters moved to San Francisco. "I was so lonely, and so desperate to go home to London," she said.

"One night at a dinner party, I met this handsome Texan who persuaded me to go to Canada instead of London, telling me that there really was no food in Great Britain because of the sieges of war. So I did."

She later married the Texan, bore another daughter, and divorced. "By then," she said, "I needed some warm sun, and some diversion, so I came to Arizona."

Tai chi chih entered the picture when Perdue attended a seminar on meditation in Santa Fe and participants were introduced to the exercises, developed from the more involved tai chi chu'an.

"It seemed to offer such serenity and peace. And I remembered the people in the Chinese parks. They might have practiced tai chi chu'an, which takes a lot longer because it requires learning 108 movements," she said.

Pursuit of beauty and serenity for herself and others is motivation enough for Perdue. "I love beauty," she mused. "I see it everywhere — even in babies' faces, because to me, they look like little flowers. Would you believe I once hated school? And now I teach. But I love it, because I feel I'm helping people."

At 10 a.m. Monday in Sun City, Perdue will begin another six-week series of Monday classes in tai chi chih.

Information about the sessions may be obtained in Sun City by calling 974-7849. Perdue may be reached at 266-4278.

Sept. 10, 1999

Daily News-Sun

Brave & noble cause

Military service spans 3 wars for AF pilot

By JOSH KRIST
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Herman Perkins served in World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam flying airplanes. He wore a parachute on his back for 30 years, but didn't jump out of a plane until last April, after he had already retired and moved to Sun City.

"On April 16th I did my first parachute jump. I wore a parachute for 30 years in the airplane, and wondered what it was like to jump out of a plane with one," he said.

He spent four hours on the ground training for the various emergencies that can happen when jumping out of an airplane, including how to cut the tangled lines of the main chute and deploy the reserve and how to find the drop zone if ground communication goes out.

"If I hadn't told so many people I was going to jump I might



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Herman Perkins, a veteran of three wars, stands beneath models of planes he flew. The Sun Citizen spends part of his retirement volunteering at Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital.

have backed out of it," he said.

While serving in the military, he saw American involvement change from a brave and noble thing in World War II to "spinning our wheels" in Vietnam.

"We felt that we were really doing something in World War II. I was flying B-29, dropping bombs on the Japanese. In Vietnam, we were dropping leaflets and doing loudspeaker work," said the retired

Air Force lieutenant colonel.

"I was doing what they call psychological warfare; it was a special operation. I was flying C-47s that were older than many of the people in 'em," he said.

He earned a Distinguished Flying Cross for a night mission that took him to a village situated on a dark, dangerous mountain.

"We had 4,000 people give up the next morning. That was a real



Submitted photo

Herman Perkins jumps out of a plane at the age of 89. The veteran of three wars wore a parachute for 30 years but never had to use one.

hair mission," he said. "The reason it was real hazardous is it was real dark, and I had to guess where the mountain was."

During the Korean War, he didn't see as much action, since he was on an air base in Greenland, but he did see action in World War II. As a matter of fact, he flew his B-29 from the same air base the Enola Gay used to start its mission to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

"It seemed like in Vietnam, people were there to save their backside, people were there long enough to do their time. In World War II, I thought we were doing something really important," he said.

For 3-war veteran, flying was his dream

By JANICE TARLETON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

It was August of 1945 and Lt. Herman Perkins, back from bombing raids over Japan, noticed something strange when he parked his B-29 in its usual spot at the air base on Tinian, one of the Mariana Islands: a nearby plane was heavily guarded.

"You couldn't even get close to it. We knew they were going to do something big," recalled Perkins, 79, a veteran of three wars. "The B-29 has two bomb bays and we speculated that maybe they had made it into one and were going to drop one big bomb."

The Sun City resident hadn't even heard the word "atomic" until a few days later when he learned, along with the rest of the world, that on Aug. 6 a plane in his squadron, the Enola Gay, had dropped such a bomb on Hiroshima.

But all flights ceased that day and on Aug. 9, another bomb was dropped, this time on Nagasaki.

On Aug. 14, Perkins and other members of his squadron were back in the air headed toward Japan. "We were ready to start bombing when they called us back to the island," he recalled. The Japanese had surrendered.

Perkins, who piloted his B-29 home in time for Christmas, flew 18 missions, each a round-trip of 3,000 miles, to drop bombs on Japan. Seven times he had to make emergency stops in Iwo Jima — he was either short on gas or carrying wounded. "We paid a heavy price. Five thousand of our soldiers were killed to take it, but I know it saved my life," said Perkins, who counts surviving World War II as an accomplishment.

Flying was a dream come true for Perkins, who was 7 when Charles Lindbergh made his historic flight across the Atlantic from New York to Paris. "I remember my folks talking about that fact," he said.

When an out-of-fuel plane crash-

meet
your
neighbor



landed in the family's Maine field, Perkins' interest was piqued even more.

He built model airplanes and solicited brochures from flying schools, though as a teen-ager growing up during the Depression, he knew he couldn't afford to attend.

Then came World War II.

Perkins enlisted in November 1942 as an Army air cadet and received his commission as a second lieutenant in 1944. He worked as a B-17 instructor for a time before he was sent to the Pacific Theater.

After the war ended, Perkins, married to Imogene, a girl he had grown up with in Maine, stayed in the military, becoming part of the U.S. Air Force when it separated from the Army in 1947. During peacetime his "ground" job was engineer, overseeing the maintenance of bases and housing.

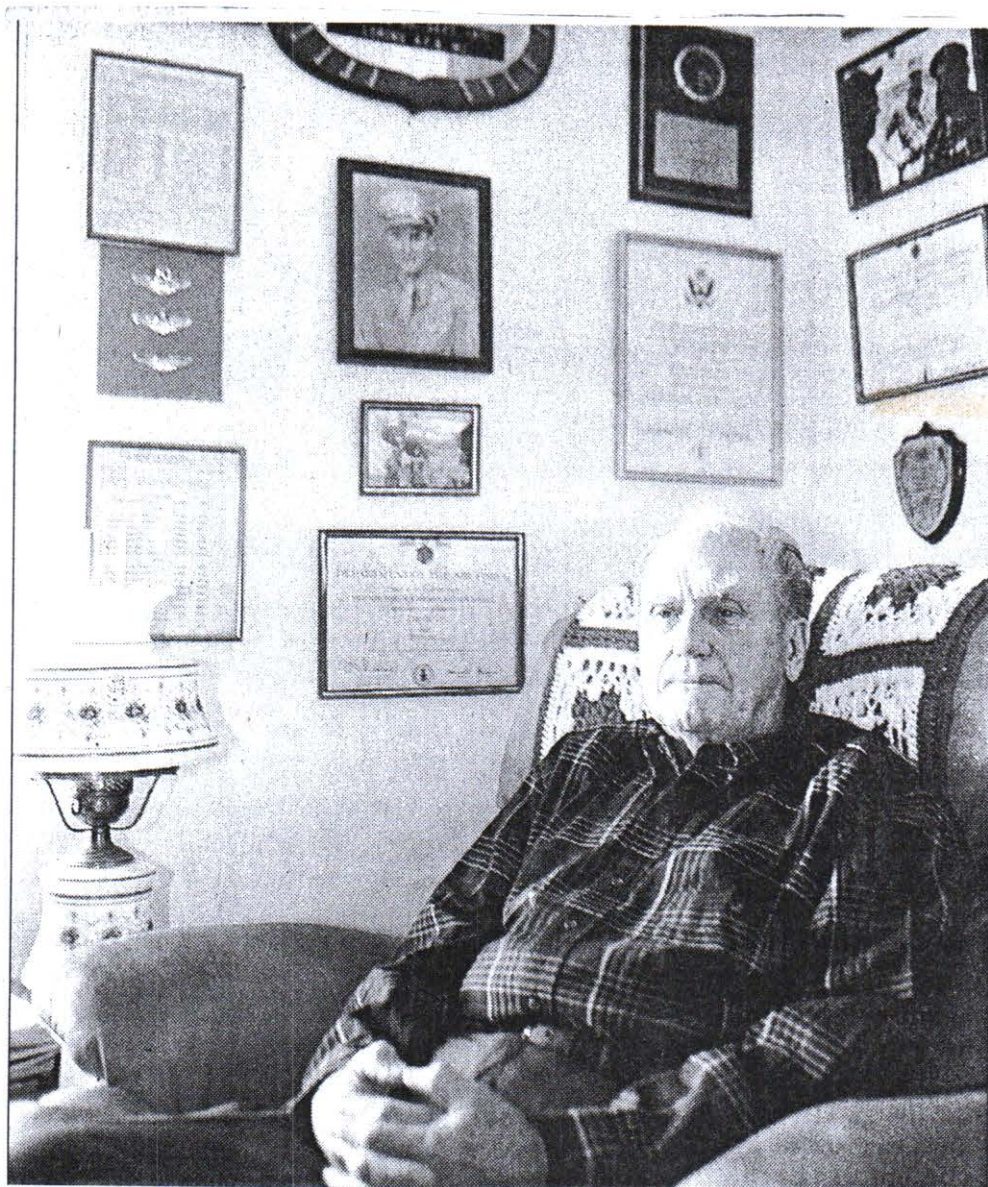
Perkins spent the Korean War in Greenland, where pilots were prepared to fend off any attempt Russia might make to move into Europe.

At age 49, he flew daily missions during his year in Vietnam — this time dumping four to five tons of leaflets a night from a C-47. The leaflets and a message broadcast over a loudspeaker urged the North Vietnamese to surrender or face death the next day. "I had to tip the airplane just right for the transmission to go down to the ground," Perkins said, using his hand to demonstrate the steep angle.

When a group of 4,000 in the Mekong Delta surrendered, Perkins received the Distinguished Flying

herman perkins

OVER



Lisa Goettsche/Daily News-Sun

Herman Perkins, a veteran of three wars, sits amid his collection of war memorabilia. The Sun City resident was a member of the squadron that included the Enola Gay.

Cross for saving lives.

In all he earned 11 air medals for war-time flights in a 30-year career.

A bit embarrassed at the attention, he dismisses his military career as nothing special. "A lot of other people did the same thing," he said.

Perkins retired from the military in 1972 as a lieutenant colonel, returned to Maine and took up teaching. He had earned his degree from the University of Nebraska while he was still in the Air Force.

He substituted at first, then in 1973 he took his daughter's position teaching high school English when

she returned to college to get her master's degree.

Perkins took a hiatus to care for his wife, who was dying of cancer. The couple celebrated their 50th anniversary a few months before her death in 1991.

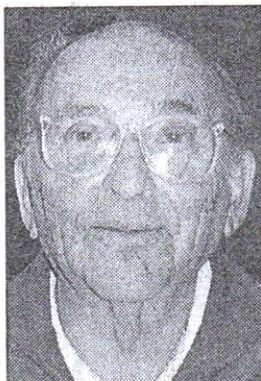
He returned to teaching, where he met his second wife, Kathleen. In 1993, Perkins retired for good and the couple moved to Sun City.

These days Perkins pilots a van for the Red Cross, delivering Meals on Wheels two days a week, and a courtesy cart one day a week at Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital.

DOERS PROFILE

Dr. Herschel
Perlman

Vita: Family practice physician and clinical associate professor for the University of Minnesota Medical School.



Hometown: Minneapolis

Marital: Married to wife, Charlotte, 51 years; three children; eight grandchildren.

Self-Portrait: "I'm trying to get along."

Greatest feat: "Serving as a battalion surgeon for the U.S. Army in the South Pacific during World War II; I was particularly pleased to be chosen chief of medical services for the Methodist hospital in Minneapolis."

Inspiration: "There were so many I can't name one particular person."

Key to longevity: "Keep yourself physically fit so you can do these things and keep ing mentally active."

Retired doctor records books for disabled students

By J.J. McCORMACK
Daily News-Sun staff

When Dr. Herschel Perlman was in family practice and a clinical associate professor at the University of Minnesota Medical School, volunteer work was out of the question if he wanted to spend time with his family and get some sleep.

All that changed 17 years ago when Perlman retired and moved to Sun City. Nothing save for his regular morning tennis games prevented him from devoting big chunks of time to volunteer work.

To date, the biggest chunk of Perlman's volunteer time has been devoted to the Sun City affiliate of Arizona Recording for the Blind. Fifteen years ago he began recording medical textbooks for distribution to blind and disabled students around the world. The books he and other volunteers record become part of the collection at the Recording for the Blind library at the organization's headquarters in Princeton, N.J.

"Many of those who receive the recordings go to prestigious schools and graduate with honors," Perlman said, adding, "It's very satisfying, the feedback you get from these students who are very grateful."

Perlman continues to record books at the local studio while serving on the executive board of the non-profit organization. The local affiliate, he said, is recognized as one of best in the nation because of the talent and expertise of its volunteer corps.

If a textbook is needed in engineering, chemistry or the law, the national organization knows it can call Sun City, Perlman said. "We do an excellent job," he said, noting, one volunteer recently recorded "The Iliad" in Latin.

Perlman's reputation as a "doer" for Recording for the Blind has led to other volunteer involvements.

"One you start getting involved with organizations, people find out about you," he explained.

Perlman just wrapped up a year as president of the Sun City-Youngtown Kiwanis Club. He is a member of the board of directors for both the Volunteer Bureau of Sun City and Sunshine Services.

And, he taught health and anatomy to third graders in the Dysart Unified School District for 3½ years.

Perlman recalled that he had to simplify information to make it as clear as possible for the youngsters. "They learned quite a bit of material," he said.

Before retiring, Perlman wondered how he would spend his time.

"I was rather apprehensive about how I would get along in my retirement. But soon I realized that you have to keep busy to maintain your mental health," he said.

Perlman touts the psychological as well as the spiritual benefits of volunteering when he meets a potential recruit.

"Unfortunately, there are so many people out here in Sun City that don't volunteer and they really should," he said. "I think they would be a lot happier if they would volunteer."

A former Sun City doubles champion who still plays tennis three mornings a week, Perlman also is a stickler for physical fitness. When he's not on the court or at one of his volunteer jobs, he enjoys playing bridge.

May/June 2000



Grace Peterson

OPERATING ROOM TO TENT

Even for a seasoned surgical nurse, the contrast between Chicago's Cook County Hospital and the field tent in Normandy was huge.

For Grace Peterson of Sun City, those memories of June 1944 are vivid products of a war she says seemed inevitable when she graduated from a Cleveland high school in 1938.

Before the war ended, Grace's unit would move operations from rural France to Paris, then Germany.

The 8th Field Hospital's assignment was to hold

treated and stabilized casualties of all kinds for air evacuation to hospitals in England.

Would gaze in awe

When they had time, Grace and fellow nurses would gaze in awe as waves of bombers and fighters, numbering to 1,000 planes, would thunder overhead on their way to bomb German industrial plants.

It was Aug. 2, 1943, that Grace Peterson was sworn into the U.S. Army. By Sept. 9, the 8th FH, scheduled to operate in the South Pacific, instead found itself bound for England.

Then, more training. And more waiting for the invasion of Europe.

Finally, the unit landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day plus 21, occupied tents left by U.S. troops and waited for its equipment to catch up. Meanwhile, Grace remembers German heavy artillery shells whistling overhead.

As Allied troops moved north, the 8th FH converted a Paris school to an 800-bed hospital. "In less than seven months we handled 75,000 patients," says Grace.

Followed Patton into Germany

"Then we followed Patton, receiving 1,000 starving P.O.W.s in Bielfeld, Germany. Those were grim days. On VE Day, everyone was given a drink of schnapps!"

The 8th FH was expecting shipment to the Pacific when VJ Day arrived.

Grace was later released as a 1st lieutenant, and joined the Army Reserve in 1947. By 1952 she was the proud holder, via the G. I. Bill, of a master's degree in Nursing Administration.

After 30 years of teaching at DePaul University, and retirement from the Reserve as a full colonel, Grace moved to Sun City in 1986 with longtime roommate Esther Voorsanger.

Today, her activities include The Retired Officers Assn., Sigma Theta Tau (nursing honor society) and Sun City West Nurses Club. For recreation, she swims.

"I'm proud I contributed to the war effort. I'll always treasure my memories and my Ruptured Duck Award," says Grace firmly.

"I'd do it all again, in a minute!"



PROUD PROFESSION

Sun City woman gave 46 years to nursing career

By JULI NESSETT
Independent Newspapers

Sun City resident Grace Peterson has spent her life mending the injured, soothing the ailing and caring for the sick.

During a 46-year career as a nurse, Ms. Peterson served in the army during World War II, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees, taught nursing administration to master's students at DePaul University and published numerous articles and the book "Working With Others for Patient Care."

Ms. Peterson said she became a nurse simply because she always wanted to be one.

"I didn't know any nurses. I had never been in a hospital, but I wanted to be a nurse," she explained.

After graduating in 1941 from St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in Cleveland, Ohio, Ms. Peterson worked in a hospital emergency room for a few years before joining the Army Nurse Corps in 1943.

Following graduation from basic training in August 1943, Ms. Peterson was shipped to Europe, not to return for two years.

She spent time in England, France, Belgium, Holland and in March 1945 she entered Germany to care for 1,000 ex-POWs.

"We put them in tents but couldn't really do much for them. They had been prisoners for years and were literally skin and bones. We couldn't give them hypodermic without hitting a bone," Ms. Peterson recalled in a section of "No Time For Fear,"



From left, Grace Peterson as she appears today and as she appeared as an army nurse in World War II.

a book by Diane Burke Fessler about American military nurses in World War II.

Ms. Peterson returned to the

states after the war and in 1947 she joined the army reserve.

See ■ NURSE Page 3

She also took advantage of the newly created G.I. Bill, and began work on her bachelor's degree in 1949.

In 1955 Ms. Peterson became a professor at DePaul University, Chicago, Ill., where she taught for almost 30 years.

She retired from the army reserve in 1980 and from teaching in 1986. She moved to the Valley of the Sun that same year.

During her years in the army and reserve, Ms. Peterson received many awards and citations. She received three battle stars in World War II and the U.S. Army Reserve Medal and two Army Commendation Medals during her time in the reserve.

She has been a member of the Sun City West Nursing Club for 14 years and has been 1st vice president of programs since 1992.

Currently the club has 200 members and meets monthly October through May at Briarwood Country Club in Sun City West.

The group accepts nurses from around the area, and is not limited

to residents of Sun City West.

According to Ms. Peterson, it was formed in 1982 in order to let retired nurses socialize, keep up with new advancements in medicine and nursing and to be helpful to the community.

One of the group's biggest contributions to the community is the scholarships they have given to Mesa Boswell School of Nursing, located on the Boswell Campus in Sun City.

Anyone interested in joining the club, may call Marlene Brown at 214-7091.

To anyone considering nursing as a career, Ms. Peterson says simply to do it.

"It's wide open. You can do almost anything you want to. You can specialize in any area a doctor does," she said. "There are nurses with their own TV programs, nurses who have become journalists and have their own columns and nurses that are consultants. It really is wide open."

GRACE PETERSON

DOERS PROFILE

Ingrid Petersen

- Vita:** Homemaker, volunteer
- Hometown:** Detroit
- Self-portrait:** "I have many interests. I'm optimistic and have a lot of humor. I try to keep my sense of humor and forget that there are bad things in the world."
- Inspiration:** Alyce Dziedzic, a friend in Sun City who has 10 children and is a devout Catholic. she enjoys life and is very active. "She's a person I really admire."
- Greatest feat:** "More or less whatever we (Willy and I) tried or started, we more or less finished. There aren't really any more bigger dreams."

Traveler's aide knows her way around Sun City

By J.J. McCORMACK
Senior staff writer

The Sun City Visitors Center has found in Ingrid Petersen a volunteer who does more than answer the phone and greet visitors.

Actually, Petersen found the visitor's center after moving to Sun City 10 years ago from Detroit.

A former volunteer traveler's aide at the Detroit airport, she had been looking for a similar job that put her in personal contact with people.

"I just love to work with people," she said.

Petersen, a German-born American citizen, speaks fluent German — a skill that helps her put German visitors to Sun City instantly at ease.

Petersen's German language skills also were put to good use recently translating a promotional brochure about Sun City into German. The foreign-language brochure is mailed to Germans who inquire about Sun City.

Although many Europeans speak English, reading in a foreign language is a different story, Petersen said.

Petersen works as a floor person at the visitor's center in the afternoons. The job has her answering phones, greeting people and helping direct them to places and events all over the Valley.

"I try to stay abreast of what's going on in Sun City," she said.

Petersen soon will be taking on a new job at the center. She recently signed up to be a tour guide.

One of the questions visitors most frequently ask of Petersen: "Do you like Sun City." Her response: "Well, would I still be here if I didn't like it?"

A recent out-of-state caller to the visitors center asked Petersen to divulge Sun City's size in square feet. She had no clue and neither did anyone else at the center.

But ask Petersen just about anything else about Sun City and she'll either know the answer or she'll find it.

Besides serving as a volunteer question-and-answer person at the center, Petersen devotes an hour of her time daily to a homebound elderly neighbor.

Petersen said she admires her neighbor's positive outlook and perseverance in the face of a debilitating illness.

"We have fun together. We laugh together and share confidences," she said.

"Whoever needs my help they get it," Petersen said, because "people don't get younger here. One day you might be in the same situation and you would be grateful if somebody does it for you."

Petersen also devotes time to exercise and relaxation through yoga, specifically Hatha Yoga, and assists the instructor of her yoga class.

A longtime member of the Sun City Hiking Club, Petersen manages to squeeze in time for hiking, walking and swimming.

And that's not all. She taught herself how to use a computer and she particularly enjoys creating graphics.

"You can't just sit on the couch," she said.

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

Petersen, Ingrid

DOERS PROFILE

**Helene Pfeifer**

- Family:** Husband, Ed, of 51 years,
One daughter,
Four grandchildren,
Four great-grandchildren
- Philosophy:** "Being a volunteer is paying
your rent for a living."
- Key to longevity:** "I'm a fighter and I take my
vitamins."
- Greatest accomplishment:** Raising my daughter
and my family. They're my
life.

Lodge service wins top honor for volunteer

By TINA SCHADE
Staff writer

For the last 20 years, Helene Pfeifer has worked the volunteer circuit like few Sun Citians have.

She has burst into song with the Woman's Chorus, chatted with visitors to the Interfaith Services Adult Day Care Centers and offered encouraging words to recovering patients at Vencor hospital, once located in Youngtown.

These days Pfeifer sings the praises of Sun Valley Lodge, where she began volunteering in the gift shop, known as the Browse Room, seven years ago.

Pfeifer's no novice when it comes to knowing the ins and outs of display cases and trinkets that catch buyers' eyes. For more than two decades, she worked in a gift shop in the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Today, the 82-year-old spends three days a week in Sun Valley Lodge Thrift Shop, besides giving tours of the eight-acre community to prospective residents, business groups and tourists.

"I like people and I'm not a loner," she said.

As president of the Sun Valley Lodge Auxiliary, Pfeifer has put in long hours helping to raise funds to expand the store another 750 square feet.

Pfeifer, a native of Kansas, said investing nearly 100 hours a month at the Sun Valley Lodge thrift shop has paid off.

Proceeds from the shop support many areas within the lodge, with funds from this year's sales already earmarked for the renovation of the lodge's atrium.

Although the folks at Sun Valley Lodge are always quick to commend Pfeifer for her service, her achievements have not gone unnoticed by other organizations.

Earlier this year she was nominated for the state Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award.

And she won.

Pfeifer has been a member of the VFW Auxiliary for more than 47 years and now belongs to Auxiliary 2135 in Peoria.

In June, she picked up her prize at the VFW state convention in Chandler.

"I hobnobbed with congressmen, policemen and representatives from the governor's office. I was so excited," she said.

Pfeifer now qualifies for the national award.

In addition to her usual duties at the lodge, she is also preparing a booth for the Volunteer Market, slated for Nov. 1 as part of the Grand Old West Fest activities sponsored by the Daily News-Sun and the Northwest Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The lodge is spearheading the Volunteer Market to encourage voluntarism among the younger members of the community and particularly is looking to attract the to service at the lodge, Sun City's retirement center.

Pfeifer also keeps busy lending a hand to her condominium neighbors and friends by running errands for them.

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

Pfeifer, Helene

'Mr. and Mrs. Sun City': Couple are pioneers

By THELMA HEATWOLE
Special for The Republic

SUN CITY — The planned 25th anniversary celebration of Sun City in January will have more than a special meaning for at least one couple here.

That's because Mel and Etta Phelps, who have garnered the title of "Mr and Mrs. Sun City," were among the first 50 couples to relocate to the northwest Valley retirement community when it opened in 1960.

Mel and Etta were active in the budding community, and in December 1964, they were given the title of "Mr. and Mrs. Sun City" by a group of "first residents" of the retirement community.

"In the early days, we all belonged to everything because it took all of us to make a club," Etta said.

Today, Mel, 94, and Etta, 81, still are Sun City boosters, although, understandably, they are less active.

Etta talked about those earlier times. She said 20 couples moved into Sun City at about the same time, and on May 31, 1960, when they moved in, the population stood at about 40. Today, there are approximately 46,000 residents.

"I put the pin on our lot on a sales chart in October 1959," Etta said. "I had read an article in *The Arizona Republic*, when we were renting in Phoenix, about Sun City starting across the street from Youngtown."

The model homes were not even complete then, she said.

Etta had previous knowledge of Del E. Webb, the founder of Sun City. She worked on a war project during World War II in Oregon when he was the prime contractor. Later, she was attracted to Sun City because Webb was the developer.

"I felt confident that he could do what he said he was going to do," she said. "I had faith in his work."

After the couple moved here, Etta said, she became the first secretary and receptionist of the first bank in Sun City, which then was called First National Bank. She retired in 1967.

Mel, who had retired as owner-manager of a Seattle restaurant, became interested in forming a bowling team here. So, one day in 1961, he posted a sign at the Safeway store, listing his phone number and asking that people interested in bowling contact him.

Forty players signed up, and Mel also obtained eight sponsors for a bowling league. Mel won the first alley bowling trophy during the 1961-62 league competition. He also won several lawn-bowling trophies.

The couple appeared on the Jack Douglas *See America* television show in 1964 when television crews came to Sun City.

The film was shown throughout the United States and in Europe, Australia and New Zealand. In fact, they received a letter from New

Zealand addressed simply to "The Phelps, Sun City."

In 1965, when residents celebrated the fifth anniversary of Sun City, the Phelps headed the parade. The oxen-drawn, covered wagon was bannered "Mel and Etta Phelps, Sun City Pioneers."

When the community observed its 15th anniversary in 1975, Etta still was a booster.

"You have everything here you want in a controlled area," she said then. "If you

can't be happy here, I don't know where you would be."

Today, the couple travel in their 1962 Pontiac, which they purchased for a trip to Seattle.

Mel drives about Sun City to the market, doctor, dentist and restaurants.

For three years, Etta, because of a disability, has used a walker and wheelchair to get about. She belongs to the Sun City Handicapables.

"We have outlived a lot of our friends. Many have died,

some are in rest homes, some disabled," she said. "We don't expect it to be like it used to be."

The Phelps sold their original home on West Augusta and moved into their current condominium.

"There is no place like Sun City," she said. "Where else could I live and have all the amenities, especially for senior citizens, that I have?"

Mel, agreeing with her appraisal, said, "Definitely so."

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OVER



Morris Berma

'Mr. and Mrs. Sun City'

Mel Phelps, 94, and his wife, Etta, 81, were among the first to settle in Sun City when it opened in 1960. They will help celebrate Sun City's 25th anniversary. Story, Extra E.

Role models of success

7 daughters honor Sun City parents with scholarship

By JEANNIE JOHNSON
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Wendell Pierce learned the secret of a successful career his first day of teaching in Mediapolis, Iowa.

"I discovered the necessity of showing poise without really having it," he said, a chuckle escaping his lips. "But I think that's one of the reasons I had success in life was because I could pull it off."

This former superintendent of public schools in Cincinnati and his wife Freda passed that chutzpah on to their seven daughters, who in turn have gone on to be leaders in their professions and their communities.

Now their daughters and grandchildren are thanking them for being such strong role models. They have established a scholarship at Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati in honor of the Sun City couple.

"This scholarship really brings out a lot of memories of the contributions my grandparents made," said Chip Gray, the oldest grandson. "They always worked together as a team, and I think this scholarship brings out both sides of their lives. It honors their public life and everything they did to make the community a better place to live, and the private side and how they worked to raise seven daughters to be successful in the world."

The idea of a scholarship came about after long discussions among the daughters, said Pamela Hepple, Ph.D., the second oldest in the family and the associate dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing.

"My brother-in-law actually threw out the idea first and everything just clicked — especially since five of us had gone to Walnut Hills when dad was the superintendent," she said.

Hepple said the annual scholarship is given to a young woman from Walnut Hills High School — a college preparatory school — who shows strong leadership abilities as well as academic prowess.

"We wanted to recognize young



Jeannie Johnson/Daily News-Sun

Wendell and Freda Pierce

women who exhibited strong leadership skills," she said. "My parents have always encouraged women to be leaders and effective in the community and this young woman is an excellent example of that. My parents were wonderful role models that way."

"I grew up in the '50s before the 'Feminine Mystique' was published, and there was never any question at all but that I had the ability to do what ever I wanted and would develop those abilities to the utmost."

Hepple wasn't the only daughter who strove to make the most of her abilities. The oldest daughter Karen is a surgical nurse, Patrice is the director of special education for the Denver Public School District, Kristin is a partner in the largest law firm in France, Wendy is a teacher in the Denver Public School District, Valerie worked as a personnel director and Terrill is an attorney in Chicago.

Much of their encouragement came around the family dinner table, both Hepple and Freda said. All nine plates would sit in front of Wendell, and he would dish up dinner and discuss the day's events with their children, beginning with the youngest.

Ironically, it was around a dinner table that Wendell first developed his love of education. Growing up in a small Iowa farm town, there were no restaurants where the young teachers could go for their afternoon and evening meals. His mother, a young widow, invited the

teachers to share in her family's fare.

Wendell graduated from high school in 1929 and went on to the Iowa State Teacher's College where he studied math education. It was during his student teaching that he met Freda.

"We were both math majors and had known of each other through classes in our freshman, sophomore and junior years," Freda said. "I knew who Wendell Pierce was — he was quite an athlete you know — but we were never thrown together until our senior year. We were doing our student teaching, and we both had the same critic. We would have to meet with her several times a week and things just grew from there."

They both graduated in 1933 and went on to teach. Once they were married, Freda was forced to give up her full-time job as a teacher, but continued to substitute teach. The couple went to New York so Wendell could pursue his master's degree in education and counseling. From there it was on to Cincinnati.

"I went to Cincinnati as a counselor," Wendell said. "It's what I took at Columbia, and I saw a real need for the children to have some guidance through life."

Wendell quickly worked his way up the education ladder and in 1959 was named superintendent of schools in Cincinnati. In 1967, an idea from a book flourished into a nationwide education program of which Wendell was named the first executive director.

He led the Education Commission of the States for 10 years. The commission helped the states in the development of national education policies.

The couple retired from education in 1977 and moved to Sun City. But with the help of this scholarship, they will continue to contribute to the educational process through young women like Natosha Simpson.

"It was such a thrill meeting this young lady," Hepple said. "I couldn't imagined a woman who personified what we wanted this scholarship to represent more than this young woman. She was warm, kind, articulate and a strong leader."

Pierce, Wendell - Freda

SENIOR SCENE

Sun City retiree is still + serving her country

By Art Sloane
Special for The Republic

Mary Ellen Piotrowski has been serving her country for many years.

She is commissioner of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, chairs the Unified Arizona Veterans group, and co-chairs the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame executive committee. She also sits on the state's Iraqi War Memorial Commission and has a three-year term on the Department of Veterans Services advisory committee.

Piotrowski, of Sun City, was born in East Pepperell, Mass., and joined the Navy in 1950. She married her first husband, Vernon, in 1951 while they both served in the Navy and had seven children. She worked until her retirement at the University of Wisconsin as a program assistant in the department of physics and astronomy. Vernon died in 1987, and in 1990 Ellen married Frank Smith, a Pearl Harbor survivor, who died in 1997. She has 19 grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Piotrowski also has served in almost every office in the Arizona American Legion up to department commander. In her present office as chairwoman of the Unified Arizona Veterans, she meets once a month with more than 20 veterans-group representatives to coordinate activities for veterans.

PIOTROWSKI, ELLEN

Artist draws on creativity

By KIMBERLY HICKS
Daily News-Sun staff

Life has produced a palette of experiences for Rutheda L. Pretzell.

"I have always led four lives at once — in music, art, writing and as an executive," said Pretzell, a Sun City resident for 21 years. "All of my talents, I have enjoyed them all."

At 90, her memories are vast and colorful, but always fond. She credits a happy childhood for her accomplishments, which include excelling in art, music and writing, and fostering the development of others' talents.

Pretzell helped organize the Fairway Art Club 20 years ago and, in 1980, became one of the first trustees of the Sun Cities Art Museum.

"She has been instrumental in seeing the museum develop programs to promote local artists and in developing the educational aspects of the museum," said director Karen Redding. "She has always been interested in the museum and has really supported us and all of our programs."

Pretzell said her support for the arts is rooted in her childhood, when her parents and three brothers encouraged her to pursue her interests.

"My family was always together, and we were always happy. I didn't know people got angry at each other until I was 9; I heard the parents of a friend shouting at each other. I was aghast," she said.

Pretzell recalls "always doing something," be it drawing or painting.

By the age of 16, she was studying at the Chicago Art Institute, where she created "Figure in Rhythm."

The original drawing is being re-



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Rutheda Pretzell poses with "Baryshnikov and Rossellini," one of her many pencil drawings.

framed, and will soon be on display in the Sun Cities Art Museum, along with two of her desert-landscape oil paintings.

However, even before she began dabbling in art, Pretzell had discovered music. She began playing the piano when she was 5 and, by the age of 13, was an organist for her church. As a teen she also directed the church's junior and senior choirs, and organized a theater group in her community.

Her writing career also began when she was a teen, when Pretzell went to work for three weekly newspapers in Chicago.

"I did everything — news, features — everything. And I was paid by the

word."

She went on to study poetry, favoring Shakespearean sonnets. In 1988 her ode to autumn, "How Late the Fall Has Lingered," captured the title of "Golden Poet" in a worldwide competition that drew more than 12,000 entries.

Pretzell's varied writing career also included stints as a radio script writer for Orson Welles and a column writer for the Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, where her topic twice a week was men's clothing.

A move to New York introduced her to the March of Dimes, where she worked for 25 years as the administrative assistant to the national direc-

tor of fund-raising. For three years, she also assisted in fund-raising for the Lutheran Church of America.

In 1972, she retired to Sun City. Today, she continues to be an advocate of the arts, and encourages others to express themselves creatively.

"It's not that I'm dedicated, this has just been a way of life for me," she said. "I just hope others will take advantage of all the classes Sun City has to offer."

"Now they can do things they've always wanted to do. Everyone would be happier if they could express themselves in art, music or writing," she said. "People are happy if they can express themselves."

Sun Citian

Profile

Portraits Of Our Residents

Name: Harrison P. (Bing) Price.

Former occupation: Executive, General Motors Corp.

Age: 68.

Marital status/children: Married, three children.

Political position: Republican.

Memberships/Sun Cities activities: American Legion, Post No. 62; Masonic Lodge; El Zaribah Shrine Temple; Royal Order of Jesters; Sun City Concert Band; Jack Merlin Big Band; Jazzbeaus Dance Band.

Interests/hobbies: Music.

How long have you lived in Sun City? Ten years.

What attracted you to Sun City? Friendliness, cleanliness, friends living here.

Church/religious affiliation: Protestant.

Where did you live before? Michigan.

What would you like to see changed in Sun City? Don't change anything.

Favorite music: Jazz and swing of 30s, 40s, 50s



BING PRICE, saxophonist/clarinetist with the Jazzbeaus, studied clarinet under Dominec de Capprio in Chicago. He was on the road with the Frank Kemp Enterprises show band from Chicago in 1939-40 and with Bob Barnes' big band at Lake James, Ind., prior to World War II. He currently is concertmeister with the Sun City Concert Band and plays lead alto with the Jack Merlin big band.



THE JAZZBEAUS. Bing Price is third from the left.

and 60s.

If you were stranded on a desert island and could only have three items with you, what would they be? (1) My wife; (2) Plenty of beer; (3) A piano.

What career would you choose if you were "starting over?" No change.

Finish this sentence: If my high school classmates could see me now, they would say ... "Why did you quit the music business?"

Personal accomplishments: Military fighter pilot, World War II, 1942-47; bachelor of science degree in Aero Engineering, Tri-State University; Sloan Fellow, MIT, 1954-55; Director of Manufacturing, General Motors Corp., (Retired). Retired after 33 years with GM, as director of manufacturing, GM Overseas.

Volunteer's work spans the globe

By J.J. McCORMACK
Senior staff writer

When Marion Pritchard is away from home for extended periods, it's not always a sure bet that she's vacationing.

Pritchard, a retired school administrator from Des Moines, Iowa, is a two-time veteran of Global Volunteers, a Minnesota based non-profit organization that assigns volunteers around the world to foster global peace and cultural understanding.

Pritchard's first assignment in 1995 was in rural Poland where she taught English to farm children.

More recently, Pritchard traveled to Turkey where, working with volunteers from that country, she taught conversational English and Turkish history to underprivileged children.

Among her experiences were a field trip to the Hippodrome and a sing-a-long at a farewell luncheon to "Let There Be Peace On Earth."

Global Volunteers pay all their own expenses and live with host families.

For someone like Pritchard who loves to travel (she has visited more than 40 countries) and has long believed in and practiced volunteering, the Global Volunteers program is a perfect match.

"You do gain an appreciation of different cultures. I feel we leave a little bit with them. If the children, as they grow, think of the Global Volunteers and their experience with them as they grown into adulthood, there can't help be a feeling between the countries," Pritchard said. "You have to start with the children."

Global volunteers is not for people who want to relax.

"You have to be able to carry the load," Pritchard said. "You go to work and you're expected to work, but you see, the work is so satisfying."

"I've always liked to be busy, but I like work to have some kind of purpose. This has a purpose," she said.

Pritchard was surprised at how she was able to easily fall back into teaching after being away from the classroom for so long.

Since retiring to Sun City, Pritchard has been active in the American Association of Retired Persons at the federal, state and local levels.

Marion Pritchard



Hometown: Des Moines, Iowa

Family: Husband, Joseph now deceased; four children; and seven grandchildren.

Self-portrait: Many interests, impulsive, "I believe we have to give. It's our responsibility that we give what we can to others."

Inspiration: Husband, Joseph. "He was always giving to others. He always had time to listen. No matter what I wanted to do, he was encouraging."

Key to longevity: Keep busy, active and interested and be happy.

She is a former chairwoman of AARP's State Legislative Committee and is a former member of the senior citizens advocacy organization's national legislative committee. She is a former state spokeswoman for AARP and served on the Capitol Task Force for Arizona. Task force members peruse stacks of legislative proposals to find and keep tabs on measures affecting seniors.

"In doing this, you keep yourself involved. You know what's going on in the Legislature and you get to know the Legislature," she said.

Pritchard is also a member of the board of directors for the Women's Guild at St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church.

She doesn't spend all her time volunteering, however. "I like to have fun, too," she said. Golf, bowling and bridge are among her favorite pastimes.

"I don't like to sit. I'm not a good sitter," she said.

For information about Global Volunteers, write 375 E. Little Canada Road, St. Paul, Minn., 55117-1628.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

JAN 3, 1991

Former rec center director

dies at 75

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SUN CITY — Sun City organizations and groups untouched in some way by Elsie V. Pryor are few and far between.

A New York City native, Pryor, 75, died Wednesday in her Sun City home after 16 years as a resident and leader Pryor



in the community.

Vincent De Francis, who served on the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors with Pryor in 1985, 1986 and 1987, said she "...was a

remarkable individual. She contributed an empathetic view on the needs of people in the community."

De Francis said Pryor worked about three years ago on something informally known as the "Grandmothers' Project."

"A number of us (on the board) recognized the need for giving visiting grandchildren at the holidays something to do," De Francis said. "Elsie and some of the other directors set up a number of activities for kids — story hours, special hours for using the pools and so forth."

Pryor's list of community activities and credentials would

almost fill the New York City Social Register Association Blue Book that employed her for 10 years.

Besides the Recreation Centers board of directors, Pryor was co-chairman of the Sun City 25th Anniversary Parade, was on the advisory committee for Sun City's 30th Anniversary parade, and was a board membership chairwoman of the Sun City Players theatrical club for 14 years.

Pryor also was a member of the Sun City Prides, the Sun City Home Owners Association, the Sun City Taxpayers Association, The Lakes Club, Meals-On-Wheels, Empire State Club,

Union Club, Harmony Organ Club, Sun Cities TV Production Club, American Association of Retired Persons and the Sun Cities Historical Society.

Pryor was a charter member of the Sun Cities Art Museum and Ladies Auxiliary BPOE Lodge No. 2559 and the Sun City Democratic Club.

Gov. Rose Mofford honored Pryor for her contributions to the Arizona State Democratic Party in 1989.

Pryor also was Democratic state committeewoman for the 49th Assembly District in Brooklyn, N.Y., and was campaign chairman in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, for former New York

Gov. Hugh Carey.

She served four years as a nurse's aide in the Arizona School Volunteer Program at Surprise Elementary School.

Pryor is survived by her husband, James W. Sr.; a son, James W. Jr., of New York, a daughter, Karen Brangan; a sister, Dorothy Pilkington; and five grandchildren.

Private arrangements were made by Sunland Mortuary. Service will be in Staten Island, N.Y.

Memorials may be sent to the Sun City-Youngtown Foundation in care of the Sun City Rotary Club, P.O. Box 1683, Sun City 85372.

PRYOR, ELSIE

DOERS PROFILE

Ruth
Puhl

Hometown: Butternut, Wisc.

Family: One daughter.

Philosophy: "I'm always concerned about other people."

Inspiration: Other people.

Motto: "I am a part of all that I have met." - Shakespeare

Volunteer finds rewards helping others

By TINA SCHADE
Staff writer

Ruth Puhl of Sun City has always been willing to provide that extra something that makes life easier or more interesting for other people.

She has guided the hands of the visually impaired as they touched the grainy surfaces of sand castles. As an organist, she has livened up Sunday services for churchgoers for more than 50 years. She has visited people in the hospital and taken others to memorial services. Puhl has done everything, it seems, except for sitting still.

"I'm the kind of person who can't sit and watch TV," she said.

The Wisconsin native has spent about 20 hours a week for the last 15 years volunteering for an organization known as VIP, or Visually Impaired People, that meets weekly at the Olive Branch Senior Center.

Although her commitment may be time consuming, she does not complain. Puhl said she gains just as much from VIP as she gives.

"I go home rewarded. These people are precious to me," she said. "When I go home, I thank the Lord for my sight and for what hearing I have."

She has worn many hats with the organization. When she first began volunteering, before Sun Cities Area Transportation or the American Red Cross, Puhl was transporting VIPs to emergency treatment and to help them find the best nursing home.

Currently she coordinates activities, including exercise sessions.

"I arrange for luncheons outside the center, and trips to the Phoenix library and plays," she said.

The club is booked until January with entertainment and activities. She said the program wouldn't be as successful without the help of kind Sun Citians.

"The people in this area have been so generous — and so many people are talented," she said.

In addition to her devotion to VIP, Puhl plays the piano at the Sun Health Care Center during dinner hour.

Puhl said her desire to help others is rooted in her upbringing. Her father was a minister and her mother was a nurse. Both taught her how fulfilling assisting others could be.

"My biggest reward is helping somebody," Puhl said.

This is a practice she has maintained her entire life.

Before she moved to Sun City, Puhl and her husband hosted exchange students in their home.

Many of the students were attending school and learning English. Most were from Southeast Asia and some still keep in touch with Puhl.

"It was an education," she said.

When she's not helping others, Puhl enjoys photography and bird watching.

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

Puhl, Ruth

Sun Citian prints 3rd edition of war memories

Author stresses importance of Memorial Day

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Retired U.S. National Guard Capt. Murray S. Pulver wants people to understand the importance of Memorial Day.

"This really is more than a celebration or a day of sales," he said.

It's a reason the Sun Citian printed a third edition of his book "The Longest Year." From Omaha Beach to the Battle of the Bulge, it follows Pulver from his arrival in Europe just after D-Day, through France, Belgium and Holland, and into Germany as World War II ended.

The book has personal

stories illustrating Murray's involvement on the front lines as a young infantryman caught in the rages of battle during the Allies' reclamation of occupied Europe.

"I wanted my grandchildren to know what war is all about and things that their grandfather did during those times," he said.

With Memorial Day and the 60th anniversary of D-Day this week, Murray said he hopes his stories touch lives and help others have an appreciation for soldiers.

"It was hard at times to write what I felt," he said, "but I wanted people to know what the veterans suffered during that period."

The 85-year-old wrote his memoirs in 1982 in New York

From A1

but didn't finish his manuscript until 1986 in Sun City. Then, he passed out 17 copies, and the recipients insisted he publish his work.

"I really wanted for others to have an appreciation for what soldiers like me did to protect this country," he said.

Murray said his heritage stems from a line of soldiers, recalling his grandfather, who served for the Union during the Civil War.

After working for almost three years at a state hospital in 1939, Murray joined the N.Y. State National Guard the day before it mobilized and headed to Alabama for training. Two years later, on Dec. 8, 1941, the 27th Division was

rushed to the West Coast to defend against a possible Japanese invasion.

Murray said the Battle of the Bulge seemed the hardest to recount in the book. All he could think about was the number of men his company lost during Nazi Germany's last great offensive.

"I lost so many men who were in my company," he said.

After reading "The Longest Year," Murray said he hopes others will appreciate veterans and remember the importance of Memorial Day.

"We should be proud that people risked their lives for our freedom," he said.

Mitchell Vantrease can be reached at 876-2526 or mvantrease@aztrib.com.



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Murray Pulver of Sun City holds his book, "The Longest Year," and stands in front of the medals he was awarded during World War II. For a copy of "The Longest Year," call Pulver at 933-4372. Price is \$8.50.

See **AUTHOR, A5**