

# Turning the century

## SC pioneer celebrates 100 years

By CONNIE STEELE YOUNG  
Daily News-Sun staff

**"L**ife has been good," Sun City pioneer Laura Rabourn said Thursday as she looked forward to celebrating her 100th birthday on Sunday.

Widowed at 47, Rabourn has spent most of her life alone but not lonely. She said one of the best things she did 32 years ago, was to move into one of the first houses built in Sun City.

"I was out for fun and I wanted to enjoy life," she said. "Sun City is a good, safe place for a widow."

She hasn't been disappointed.

"Living a good life and having no regrets is wonderful when you're old," Rabourn said. "It's all been worth the effort."

Another good thing she did was to gather a few friends and form the Sun Cities Canasta Club. Years later, the club still meets in Oakmont Recreation Center.

"They're a very congenial group of people. We stressed fun not criticism," Rabourn said and proudly displayed a card she received from "the girls" in the canasta club.

Rabourn is a loyal Sun City booster. She wants the retirement community left the way it is. Rabourn holds strong opinions but said she's prepared to leave the political work to younger people.

"We're old-fashioned here. We don't want any change at this time of life," he said.

As she rounds the 100-year mark, Rabourn joins a growing number of seniors who have retained their



Connie Steele Young/Daily News-Sun

In town to help his mother celebrate, Robert Rabourn of Oakland, Calif., brings balloons and smiles to toast Laura Rabourn's 100th birthday.

health as they passed the centennial of their birth. Unless circumstances change drastically, the Sun City pioneer said she has no intention of going to a nursing home or care center.

"I can do my housework," she said. "I don't like or care for nursing homes."

While she may not be as busy as she once was, Rabourn still eats out each Wednesday with the Happy Nooners program of the Sun Cities

Community Council and stays abreast of events by reading the local papers. "I love my newspaper," she said. "I just re-subscribed for three months."

Rabourn said she moved here partly because she thought her social security would stretch farther. In time, however, she found it necessary to supplement her income.

Del Webb, once an associate of her husband, gave her a job in his firm's sewing room and she began an alteration business in her home.

Those were the days "people were coming by in droves," said her son, Robert, who's in town from Oakland, Calif., to celebrate with his Mom.

"Her address was well known," he said laughing.

In addition to working for Del Webb and managing a brisk alteration trade, Rabourn found time to volunteer her assistance to residents at Sun Valley Lodge, a local nursing home.

"I helped people with their alterations," she said. "If they had a button missing, I'd sew it on. If their hem needed hemming, I'd do it."

Sewing was Rabourn's hobby as well as her livelihood and she was noted for her handmade quilts.

Eye problems a couple of years ago forced her to give up both sewing and driving.

"It was heartbreaking when I couldn't thread a needle," she said.

'Living a good life and having no regrets is wonderful when you're old. It's all been worth the effort.'

— Laura Rabourn  
S.C. centenarian



RABOURN, LAURA



News-Sun photo by Melite J. Hoppes

**DENNIS RAMSEY** — Senior pastor at Lakeview United Methodist Church, 103rd Avenue and Thunderbird Boulevard in Sun City, he has served the congregation for nearly

four years. The church was formed with 159 charter members and since then has built a congregation of more than 1,625 area residents.

# Dedication

## Pastor praises Lakeview Methodist members

By **JACQUE PAPPAS**  
News-Sun staff

**SUN CITY** — The Rev. Dennis D. Ramsey knows that there's a lot more to a place of worship than the pews inside a church.

Ramsey, who has served nearly four years at Lakeview United Methodist Church, said the Lord has blessed him with a wonderful congregation.

"We have a strong, active, vital congregation and it's so because of the dedicated people in the church," Ramsey said. "If I tried to come up with the number of hours of work the congregation puts into the church, it would stagger the imagination."

Ramsey is the senior pastor at the church, on the northeast corner of 103rd Avenue and Thunderbird Boulevard.

Three other ministers also serve the church, which has a congregation of about 1,625 people — most of whom are area residents.

But the 60-year-old pastor still gets the chance to perform a few weddings in the church, built nearly 17 years ago by its charter members.

Ramsey has devoted his life to the Methodist ministry.

He graduated from McKendree College in Illinois and later attended the Theological Seminary of the United Methodist Church.

After graduating from the seminary in 1954, he served as a pastor for 10 years in churches

in Illinois.

He later moved to Phoenix and served as pastor of Christ United Methodist Church for 19 years. In July of 1985, he was appointed by the church's Southwest regional bishop to serve at Lakeview church in Sun City.

"Frankly, I just love everything about this area," Ramsey said. "I once questioned whether I would be happy serving in a retirement community, but not any more. The people are delightful, it's a great situation."

Ramsey said the Lakeview congregation is a musical one.

"I am so proud of our choir here in our church and our two bell choirs. Music plays a big part in our church here and it takes a lot of dedication and effort."

"They give everything they've got and it really shows. It just makes a real fine situation."

Ramsey said there are about 70 clubs and organizations affiliated with the church, from the floral committee to the hiking club.

The church, which is one of five Methodist congregations in Sun City, Sun City West and Youngtown, has two major worship services at 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sundays.

In addition to the church's \$500,000 budget, the congregation has established several gift-giving entities for the community, Ramsey said.

The church's memorials and

gifts committee recently purchased a new bell tower that plays an automated system of carillons every day at noon and 5 p.m.

The church also established

**'We have a strong, active, vital congregation and it's so because of the dedicated people in the church.'**

The Rev. Dennis D. Ramsey

the Lakeview United Methodist Foundation which funds many outreach programs that the congregation engages in outside the regular budget.

Ramsey said the foundation is an organization that raises money to help people locally and worldwide, from providing scholarships to feeding the homeless.

Since interest on donations is only used on the projects sponsored by the congregation, Ramsey said the foundation will perpetually benefit those in need.

The foundation's board of directors, who are members of the congregation, decide how the funds are spent.

Ramsey said the church is supporting a new parish along with First United Methodist Church in Sun City and Glen-

dale First United Methodist.

He said the Lakeview congregation donated \$25,000 to a new church in Peoria that was built about six months ago.

The Rev. Leonard J. Smoot, who is minister emeritus of the church, was the first pastor at Lakeview and saw the congregation grow during its first years of life.

"When I came to Sun City in 1970, there was nothing on that corner (where the church is) except a pile of bark that Del Webb was using to build nearby homes," Smoot said. "In the beginning we didn't have a church, but we had people who wanted to worship together. That was the foundation for what we have now."

A month after Smoot moved to Sun City, a first church service was held in Lakeview Center. By November, there were 159 charter members and two years later, in 1972, construction started on a church for the congregation.

The church was completed in 1973 and Smoot stayed on as pastor until 1980.

Since then, he has served at other Methodist churches in the area and finally retired in July of 1988.

"It's an honor to be minister emeritus of the church," Smoot said. "It was a very great experience. I really enjoy the church. The congregation has grown so much and I am happy to see it flourish."

RAMSEY, DENNIS

- SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT — MARCH 8-14, 2000

# Volunteer of the Month

• A Program Recognizing the Northwest Valley's Top Volunteers •



**Sadie Rady, Sun City**  
February 2000 Recipient

Sadie Rady of Sun City, a volunteer with Sun Cities Information and Referral, has been selected "Volunteer of the Month" for February. Sadie has served as a volunteer for Information and Referral for over 10 years and has contributed over 100 hours. According to those who work with her, Sadie is always willing to help others and does much more than her share — all with a cheerful and helpful attitude. She is sympathetic to those she assists on the telephone and is a "friend to everyone." And age is no barrier to her enthusiasm and ability to volunteer: Sadie is in her 90's! In addition to helping Information and Referral, Sadie has volunteered over the years with the Telephone Pioneers of America, the Lions Club paper and glass drives and the American Legion Auxiliary.



*Volunteer Placement Services invites all Northwest Valley non-profit organizations, health care centers and retirement centers to submit nominations for future "Volunteer of the Month" recipients. Nominations are to be submitted by the 15th of each month and should include the name of the nominee, address and phone number and a brief description of why the person was nominated. The winner will receive a certificate and a \$25 gift certificate to Sun City Grand's Bistro Restaurant. Sun City Bank will host a year end luncheon for all month's recipients where a "Volunteer of the Year" will be selected. Call 623-546-1774 for information.*

## ■ Sadie Rady

Sadie Rady, 93, was recently recognized as the February volunteer of the month by Information and Referral Services of Sun City.

An IRS volunteer for more than 10 years, Ms. Rady has put in more than her share of time.

"She is being nominated by reason having been an IRS volunteer for well over 10 years who has put in over 1,000 hours in a cheerful, willing, helpful manner," said IRS Volunteer Coordinator Mary Rodgers. "She is always ready to take another person's place if needed and do more than her share. She is sympathetic on the telephone and a friend to everyone."

Though a fall last April has been preventing her from volunteering, Ms. Rady hopes to get back into the fray.

"By next month I should be back on my feet," she said. "I want to get back to volunteering as soon as possible," she said.

Mrs. Rady, who has been a volunteer "all her life," says she enjoys her work.

"I like to do for others," she said.

Retired from her job with a phone company, Ms. Rady, formerly of Ohio, has also volunteered with the Telephone Pioneers, Lions' Club Paper and Glass campaigns, and the American Legion Auxiliary. Water aerobics and reading, as well as family and friends, fill her leisure time.

### Sponsors:



SADIE RANY

# Ceremony honors volunteer's

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Senior staff writer

**S**hirley Rasmussen of Sun City has become the first person to log 5,000 hours of volunteer service to Hospice Volunteer Services of the Sun Cities Area.

Rasmussen received a pin commemorating the milestone on May 28 from the Rev. Dr. Jerry Smith, president of the board of directors of the non-profit hospice volunteer training organization.

Rasmussen, who has been a hospice volunteer since 1979, also received an orchid corsage from Jackie Larsen, volunteer coordinator of Hospice Volunteer Services.

"Shirley has helped so many terminal patients over the years," said Peggy Griffith, executive director Hospice Volunteer Services. "Then she becomes friends with the surviving caregiver and helps them through their grief."

Shirley also helps new volunteers adjust emotionally to caring for terminally ill patients, Griffith said. "Shirley is a dream come true as a volunteer. She shows compassion and love to everyone she meets. We are proud she let us be a part of her life."

## 5,000th hour

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Monday, June 10, 1996

Rasmussen, Shirley

## DOERS PROFILE

**Emma  
Ratliff**

**Vita:** Retired civil servant and school secretary

**Hometown:** Carrolton, Ky.

**Self-portrait:** "I like to help other people and do what I can."

**Family:** Married to late husband, Jim, for 31 years

**Inspiration:** A close friend and neighbor in Ohio. She once told me, "You won't live to be 30 years old if you don't slow down."

**Greatest feat:** Secretarial position at an Illinois high school that was close to the real nurse's office. Ratliff filled in for the nurse, whose hours at the school were very limited.

## 19-year volunteer doesn't need a lot of praise

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Senior staff writer

The certificate of appreciation marking Emma Ratliff's 19th year as a volunteer aide in the pharmacy office in Luke Air Force Base is much like the 18 that preceded it.

It thanks Ratliff for her "interest and cooperative support" in behalf of the American Red Cross. It's signed by both a Red Cross and a hospital official and is decorated with the Red Cross logo.

And a letter accompanies it: "A 19-year commitment to any endeavor is cause for congratulations but, in my mind, even more so when it has been in voluntary service to your community. You are truly an example for all of us in how to live one's life well," wrote Ginny Burnett, station manager of the American Red Cross branch at Luke Air Force Base.

If a similar certificate is presented to Ratliff on her 20th anniversary, she'll be happy. She doesn't want or need flowers, a plaque or a gold watch. For her, acknowledging a job well done is enough to keep her going back to the Luke hospital pharmacy year after year.

"That's all I need," Ratliff said, pointing to copies of the Red Cross certificate and letter.

Ratliff has worked at least five hours every Monday at Luke Hospital, serving as a cashier at the pharmacy window. In 19 years, she has seen many an Air Force officer, enlisted man and woman pass through the pharmacy as part of their tour of duty.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Monday, March 4, 1996

"I can't hardly believe it myself," she said of her long tenure at the Luke pharmacy.

Ratliff's association with the Red Cross actually began during World War II when she was a teen-age volunteer and aspiring nurse. She joined the Air Force with hopes of getting nurse's training but got steered into personnel. In the service, part of her job as a personal affairs consultant was securing Red Cross aid for Air Force personnel and their families in need.

Ratliff left the Air Force after 7½ years so she and her career Air Force husband wouldn't have to be separated. She maintained volunteer ties to the Red Cross as a civilian Air Force employee and later as a school secretary, helping with blood drives and Red Cross relief efforts.

When she and her husband, Jim, moved to Arizona in 1966, the couple got deeply involved in Republican politics. Jim, now deceased, served in the state Legislature for 18 years. Emma has been a fixture in the party as well, as a committeewoman, deputy registrar. She was recognized at a GOP dinner in December for her longtime commitment to the party. Gov. Fife Symington presented Ratliff with a marble plaque at the dinner.

"What pleased me is that the governor presented it to me," she said.

Ratliff devotes some of her free time to golf. She is a member of Lakes East Nine Holvers.

An exercise devotee, she has a daily stretching and "quiet time" routine that wakes her up every morning instead of coffee.

And, even though she has spent hundreds of hours handing out pharmaceuticals to people, Ratliff personally eschews medication.

"All I take is vitamin C," 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.

## DOERS PROFILE

**Emma  
Ratliff**

**Hometown:** Middletown, Ohio.

**Family:** Widowed.

**Hobby:** Golf.

**Inspiration:** *"(Being involved) keeps me going. I don't sleep a whole lot, either. I think it's something you have to do."*

**Key to longevity:** *A daily morning exercise routine.*

## Politics, service keep her busy

By RUTHANN HOGUE  
Staff writer

**E**mma Ratliff begins each day with a rousing session of calisthenic exercises before she rushes off to visit shut-in friends or play a round of golf.

"I like to go visit people," she said after demonstrating how she stretches her neck before each workout.

Until recently, Ratliff's routine included volunteering for the American Red Cross at the Luke Air Force Base Hospital Pharmacy. She cheerfully handed out prescriptions to customers on Mondays from February 1977 until March of this year.

Ratliff is proud of the shiny plaque that commemorates her 20 years of service at the base. It was presented to her by Lt. Col. Frank Cox, senior pharmacist at the LAFB Hospital Pharmacy when she retired earlier this year. She hasn't quite gotten around to hanging the plaque or framing several certificates she's received from other organizations in appreciation for her contributions, but she keeps them handy on the coffee table.

"I don't do it for bragging or to be appreciated," she said. "I do it because I like to do service."

The widow of longtime Arizona state representative and former house majority leader Jim Ratliff, R-District 15, remains active in local politics by registering new residents as voters and by lending financial support to national candidates from Arizona.

Last Tuesday, Ratliff supported her favorite candidates by schmoozing with former President George Bush and other stalwart members of the GOP at the "Republican Family Reunion" in Scottsdale.

"My goodness, there were so many people there," she said, lavishing praise on Arizona Republican Party Chairman Dody Londen. "She is one of the most wonderful people I have ever met."

Londen's signature is on a 1995 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Arizona Republican Party.

Ratliff is also fond of Governor Fife Symington, who is currently defending himself against numerous charges of financial fraud.

"He is a wonderful person," Ratliff said while displaying a letter of appreciation to her from the governor dated November 1994. "I wish they'd let him alone."

From the letters and certificates in her possession, it is apparent that Ratliff is also thought of fondly.

A letter of thanks for service well done came from Air Force Lt. Gen. Michael Nelson of the Retired Officers Association at Luke Air Force Base.

The Paralyzed Veterans of America awarded her the Star of Loyalty after 50 years.

And the Veterans of Foreign Wars recognized Ratliff with a certificate this year as a loyal supporter since 1992.

At the Republican Forum West, which meets on Saturdays in the Lakes Club, a round table in front is unofficially reserved for Ratliff and her friends.

"I'll tell you, when you get involved in politics, it kind of sticks with you," she said.

*Do you know a doer? Submissions may be sent to Doers, in care of the Daily News-Sun, P.O. Box 1779, Sun City, Ariz., 85372.*

Ratliff, Emma

## Hank Raymond, 80, community leader

SUN CITY — H.S. "Hank" Raymond, former president of the Central Arizona Project Association, died Wednesday in Sun Health Care Center. He was 80.

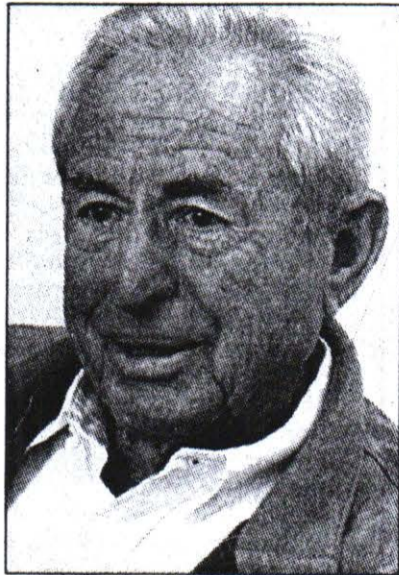
The Sun City West resident was born in Kingman and graduated from University of Arizona.

He was a Navy Seabee veteran of World War II and was a civil engineer.

Mr. Raymond was president of Maricopa Water District, vice president and Arizona manager of J.G. Boswell Co., a director of Del E. Webb Development Co. and director of Sun Health Corp.

He also was a council member in Goodyear. He was a member of The Church at Litchfield Park and was a Rotarian.

Mr. Raymond is survived by his wife, Ann R.; two daughters, Carole Read of Illinois and Kathy Keller of Califor-



Hank Raymond

nia; a brother, John of Tempe; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Services will be private.

Memorials may be sent to Sun Health Hospice, P.O. Box 1913, Sun City 85372.

# In recognition

## Lake named after water district employee

By Jeff Nelson  
Special to Community

**LAKE PLEASANT** — Under a blue-and-white-striped canopy set up among paloverdes and saguaros, friends and family of longtime Maricopa Water District employee Hank Raymond gathered to dedicate Hank Raymond Lake.

The lake, formed by the construction of Camp Dyer Dam in 1927, was named in honor of Raymond, now 77, in July 1990, but was never formally dedicated, said Joe Falbo, general manager of the Maricopa Water District.

The lake is 35 miles northwest of Phoenix, immediately south of Lake Pleasant. It is the first lake in the state to be dedicated in the name of a water district employee.

"We thought, because of all of Hank's services, he was well-deserving of this," Falbo said.

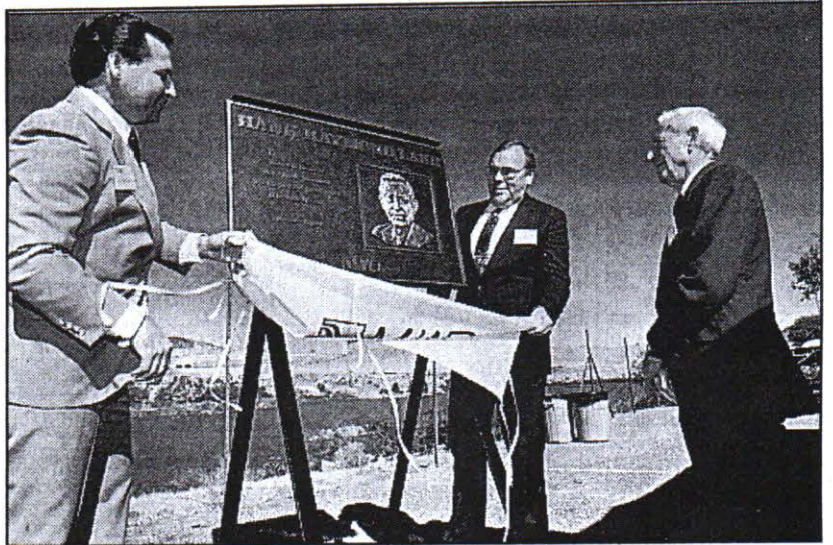
He said the district's board of directors named the lake in honor of Raymond's 56 years of service.

The ceremony, which took place Nov. 5, included the unveiling of a plaque that will be placed on a small monument near the lake.

Guests at the ceremony included Thomas Clark, general manager of the Central Arizona Water Conservation District; William Wheeler, executive director of the Central Arizona Project Association; and Ken Forgia, mayor of Peoria.

Raymond, who suffered a serious stroke in August 1990, was hired by the water district in 1935 as a field engineer and later served as manager.

He became a member of the district's board of directors in January 1970, serving as its vice president from 1978 to 1983 and as president from 1983 until his retirement in March.



Russell Gates / Staff photographer  
Hank Raymond served 56 years with the Maricopa Water District before retiring in March. The lake that bears his name is immediately south of Lake Pleasant.

**"I think it's a wonderful tribute to his efforts. One of the priorities in his life has been water issues."**

Ann Raymond

During his tenure with the district, Raymond was a strong supporter of water conservation and farmers, and constantly worked to resolve water shortage issues, Falbo said.

He said Raymond also was instrumental in making the Central Arizona Project a reality.

Thomas Ryan, president of the district, said he wished the lake would have been dedicated to Raymond a long time ago.

"There are so many things that couldn't have been done without him," he said Wednesday. "He really helped push things along."

Raymond's wife, Ann, said she was overwhelmed when she learned her husband would have a lake named after him.

"I think it's a wonderful tribute to his efforts," she said. "One of the priorities in his life has been water issues."

Hank Raymond Lake, formerly known as the lower lake at Lake Pleasant, will be fed by Lake Pleasant through the Waddell Dam, which is under construction.

Water from the lake will feed the Maricopa County Water District Canal, which delivers irrigation water to 60 square miles of land in the West Valley. The lake was open to the public until 1986, when dam construction began.

over

RAYMOND, HENRY ("HANK")





**Russell Gates / Staff photographer**  
**Hank Raymond stands near the lake that bears his name. It is immediately south of Lake Pleasant.**

WORD PORTRAIT

# Hank Raymond, Leader

By LIL RHODES

He wears many hats. They read, "President", "Vice-President", or "Member of the Board", but the one that keeps him busiest bears the title "Vice-President and Manager of Arizona Operations". He's a registered "civil engineer" who spends his time dealing with the complexities of large scale farming and business all day - everyday. He unwinds by an occasional game of golf, (he plays to a nine handicap) or by tilling the soil on his own "spread" on Reams Road north of Waddell Road.

He's that special Westsider - a native Arizona who met his wife-to-be while she was teaching on an Indian reservation at Chinlee at the Navajo Indian School. He is slim, trim, a man with a direct manner of speaking whether it is in a one-to-one ratio or before a group. He is Hank Raymond, vice-president and manager of the Arizona operations for the J. G. Boswell Company.

Raymond was born in Mohave County. His father was a banker, but from the time Hank was a young tad, he was a sidewalk superintendent. If there was construction anywhere in the vicinity, he was drawn to it. That inclination plus his aptitude for mathematics led him to choose civil engineering. He obtained his degree from the University of Arizona. Chances are that if he had it to do all over again, he'd still choose the same career, for he considers civil engineering to be good fundamental training for many fields. When his work took him to Chinle, it was his good fortune to meet an attractive young teacher from Durant, Okla. Her name was Koelle Keirse. She became Mrs. Raymond. They have two daughters, Carole and Kathy, both of whom are married.

With the exception of an interval of three years, Raymond was associated for 30 years with the Maricopa County Water District headquartered at Beardsley. His title was District Engineer and Manager.

That three-year interval was spent in the islands of the South Pacific where the climate - weatherwise - was great, but the timing was not. It was world War II, those islands were Tarawa and

Kwajalein - where a lot of the action was. He was not with the first wave of Americans to get there, but being a Sea Bee attached to the marines - there was action. He chose not to dwell on it.

Some people after working steadily for 30 years might consider slowing down their pace or retiring. Not so with Hank Raymond. He merely changed his hat and the place to hang it!

His job as Vice-president and manager for the Boswell Company has him overseeing 20,000 acres of farm land within the state. Though all facets of his work are interesting, he considers "the most challenging part of the job of the farming operation is the effort to become more efficient in production and to meet the tough market in commodities."

People are sometimes inclined to associate the J. G. Boswell Company with cotton exclusively, but they raise other crops. They even have a grape vineyard, and the past season had a successful operation in growing grapes. During harvesting they were harrassed by the UFWC, but they had a good supply of workers who did an excellent job.

After the harvesting, "There was a marketing problem partially caused by the secondary boycott where pickets were used to picket the eastern markets, and the buyers were influenced by this action. Because it looked as though a violent confrontation was in the offing, the volume of grapes sold in this area was considerably less than in previous years, the price went down, and money was lost on the operation."

What about the farming picture? Raymond speaks plainly. "The farmer is paying twice as much for tractors as he did 20 years ago. Labor cost has increased, yet the prices that the farmer is getting for commodities are the same or less than they were 20 years ago. Agriculture is not getting its fair share of profits in our economy."

When people talk about subsidies paid to the farmer, there is the misconception that it is the farmer and only the farmer who profits. Actually, the subsidy is a benefit for the consumer, who is able to buy the farm product at a lower cost.



H. S. RAYMOND  
Westside Agricultural Leader

Farming know-how has improved greatly, and the quality of the products has improved, but the cost of production has gone up - and even though farmers are more efficient, there is that gap in the profits.

To what can these misconceptions or opinions be attributed? Partly, "The press has not been truthful in its reports of what really is happening. The farmers would prefer to have made their own decisions on how much they grow without federal intervention that they would divert so many acres and receive a subsidy."

Is there a solution? According to Raymond, "We think that ultimately the solution would be for less government management of production and pricing."

Where would this change have to take place? "It has to take place in the

Congress, because agriculture is operating under laws and regulations adopted by the Congress for the Department of Agriculture."

Asked about quotas, Raymond had this to say, "Ultimately a goal would be to have agriculture come back to free enterprise." Here he cautions, "Because of the complexity of the situation of the Federal Government managing production and controlling a lot of the operation, this cannot be done drastically. It would have to be a gradual change."

How does the U.S. stand in production of food and fiber, and why do Arizonans deserve a special pat on the back? Catch the rest of the "Hank Raymond - Word Portrait" in the next issue of the Westsider.

As You See It

Feb. 1970

RAYMOND, HANK

FEBRUARY 4, 1970

THE WESTSIDER

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VF - PERSONALITIES

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# Volunteer of the Month

• A Program Recognizing the Northwest Valley's Top Volunteers •



**Dorothy Reams**

October 2000 Volunteer of the Month

Dorothy Reams of Sun City, a volunteer with the Sundome Performing Arts Association, has been selected the recipient of the October "Volunteer of the

Month" award. Dorothy has volunteered at the Sundome since 1995 and has cheerfully worked anywhere and everywhere she has been needed. She especially enjoys working graduation ceremonies and programs designed for children and is happy to assist children from buse, through the lobby and to their seats. She now spends most of her time at the information desk – selling candy and passing out information about the Sundome and the community in general. According to Jae Paselk, the person who nominated Dorothy for the honor, "Dorothy's friendly smile and knowledge of our area are a real asset to the Sundome, as well as the community."

## A Name to Know

A person who personifies the word "volunteer," Dorothy Reams originally signed on with the Sundome's Volunteer Program while in good health and cheerfully worked anywhere and everywhere she was needed.

Although she was recently diagnosed with back problems, she let program officials know that she was not about to stop volunteering.



Unable to perform her former duties, Mrs. Reams accepted a position working at the information desk and fills in wherever needed.

According to Jae Paselk, Mrs. Reams' friendly smile and knowledge of the area are a great asset to the Sundome as well as the community itself.

"I do it to keep the Sundome in the Valley. We almost lost it," said Mrs. Reams. She also said she is very proud to be part of the program.

Mrs. Reams moved to Sun City 17 years ago and her background is in fashion retail. After working for a well-known retail chain in Wisconsin as a lady's sportswear buyer, she moved to Sun City and was a pioneer in setting up the Boston Store in Sun City.

Mrs. Reams' husband was a Pearl Harbor survivor and a career military man with the navy.

The couple had two sons, one who resides in San Jose, Calif., and one who lives in Brooklyn, N.Y.

She lists as one of her life's highlights living on Mitsubishi Shipyard in Nagasaki, Japan.

VF PERSONALITIES (Dorothy Reams)

# Friends, family remember IFS founder

By BRUCE ELLISON  
Staff writer

About 60 members of the Military Order of the World Wars on Saturday paid tribute to "a fallen comrade" the Rev. Jim Reaves, a former rector at All Saints of the Desert Episcopal Church in Sun City, and the man who in 1981 conceived of what is now Interfaith Services Inc.

Reaves, a native of Lumberton, N.C., and long-time West Virginian, died of cancer March 13, at home. He had served as rector at All Saints of the Desert from 1976 to 1985.

He was a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy. After service in World War II, he entered Virginia Theological Seminary, graduated, and later became a National Guard chaplain, serving overseas after the guard was federalized.

Retiring anew from the military, he served as an Episcopal priest in Arizona from 1974 to 1985.

Robert Pangburn, now president of Interfaith Services, recalled that 14

years ago he was hired at Interfaith by Reaves, who helped Pangburn overcome initial reluctance. "Jim could be pretty persuasive," Pangburn said.

Through all the efforts at getting Interfaith Services going, it was evident that "here was a man who cared about the people of this community" and about their future, he said.

Interfaith now serves about 7,500 clients a year.

Retired Army Gen. Bob Williams, a former Sun City West resident and state legislator, said, "I remember him being everywhere... at the most diverse kinds of community meetings. He just was interested in everything."

But Rev. David Burrows Jr., former pastor at Bellevue Heights American Baptist Church, recalled another side of Reaves — genial host, gentle friend and sometime practical joker with a purpose.

Reaves and his wife Louise, he

said, were at the first dinner to which the newly arrived Burrows family was invited.

Burrows said he saw from that moment how much Reaves cared about his community and its people.

"You know, our two churches are right across from each other, All Saints and Bellevue, and All Saints was there first," Burrows said.

"The day we had our groundbreaking, well, from across the street came this sound of singing. It was 'Onward, Christian Soldiers.' And then, walking across the way to us was this chorus, singing, and Jim Reaves out in front.

"Somehow he had made off with my construction hard-hat that we were going to use, and when he handed it back to me, it was full of money — the money he had collected from his Episcopal congregation for our Baptist building fund.

"That is the kind of man Jim Reaves was," Burrows said.

But, added the minister, Reaves

showed his serious concern as he led the ministerial association into forming Interfaith Services, to help the helpless, those who were too old and frail to live alone, but who had no one else.

"We would visit in 1981 down in Phase I (the oldest part of Sun City) and talk to the people who had moved in 20 years ago, and whose pensions were running out. They faced choices like food or air conditioning; they faced loneliness. We saw a lot of folks, too, who were battling the bottle.

"Jim wanted to do something about that. He followed that Biblical injunction, 'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.' (Matthew 25:40)

Several members of Reaves family were present at the memorial service at Ritter's Chalet in Youngtown, including his widow, Louise, sons Paul and Matt and a granddaughter, Samantha.

## DOERS PROFILE

### Mort Reed

**Vita:** Retired author, editor and publisher.



- Hometown:** Lived in 13 states; moved to Sun City from Atlanta.
- Family:** Wife, Lois; three children; six grandchildren.
- Motto:** "The thing to put aside for old age is all thought of retirement."
- Self-portrait:** Tends to be a curmudgeon at times; likes to inject a sense of humor in civic affairs; doesn't like unaccomplished tasks.
- Inspiration:** "I don't tend to have heroes. Georgia state Sen. Jim Tysinger has been a considerable influence the last 25 years in my life outside of my occupation."
- Greatest Feat:** "I don't tend to look back on what I've accomplished. There's so much more to do, you can't turn around and see what you've done."
- Key to Longevity:** "Look for the humor in a situation. If you don't find it, inject some."

# HOA leader leaves mark on Sun City

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Staff writer

Close followers of the Home Owners Association of Sun City know that the board of directors attracts the community's best and brightest retirees.

They probably also know that among that select group are a few standouts — men and women who are dogged in their efforts to ensure Sun City has a voice in state and local government issues and in protecting Sun City's image and property values.

Standing tall on the 1995 board of directors is Mort Reed, a retired author, editor and publisher who isn't afraid to tackle the toughest jobs the HOA board throws his way.

Following his election to a second, three-year term on the board, Reed accepted two of the HOA's most challenging and time-consuming committee chairmanships this year.

As chairman of the land-use committee, he developed and oversaw a program aimed at enforcing community deed restrictions that prohibit unkempt yards, peeling roofs and chipping paint.

He chairs the HOA's long-range planning committee, which in the fall will present a series of public forums about the so-called "Study for the Future Sun City." The study, commissioned by the Del Webb Corp., attempts to predict the economic, demographic and social future of the retirement community.

Reed also serves on the HOA's communications and directory committees. He puts his writing skills to work revising and creating HOA informational pamphlets and authoring HOA communications.

"Most of (the literature) on the table at the HOA I've had my finger in one way or another," he said.

Reed recently was named to a legislative study committee that is exploring how to extend some governmental authority and autonomy to unincorporated retirement communities like the Sun Cities. He said he hopes the committee will answer the question, "What can the Legislature do to help retirement communities solve some of their problems?"

When he moved to Sun City in 1987 from Atlanta, Reed took a year to unwind, play golf and learn about his new home. At the end of the year, he went to the HOA office and volunteered to run for the board.

"I guess not too many people volunteer to do that kind of thing," he said, recalling the reaction of HOA personnel at the time.

"I've enjoyed my time on the HOA board," Reed said. "There's a hell of a lot to do still."

Reed's interest in the promotional efforts of the Sun City Ambassadors landed him an appointment as the HOA's representative on that group's board. He was Ambassadors' president for a year and secretary for two years.

Reed attributes his volunteer leanings to his involvement in political and civic affairs in an unincorporated community in Dekalb County, Ga., and his subsequent friendship with the Republican state senator representing the county, Jim Tysinger.

REED, MORT

# Couple take their travel seriously

**JOURNEY OF A LIFETIME:** 52-year odyssey culminated in June

**BRUCE ELLISON**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ask Sun Citian Mort Reed, and he'll tell you that there are 64 parishes in Louisiana and 3,009 counties in the rest of the United States — excluding Alaska, which doesn't have counties.

Reed, 80, is an architect, former editor, writer and former president of the Sun City Home Owners Association.

And he's now visited each and every one of those counties and parishes.

It's a voyage of discovery that started in 1948, and was completed only in mid-June, with a stop in Dundy County, Neb.

From there, Reed mailed a postcard to the class correspondent at his prep school.

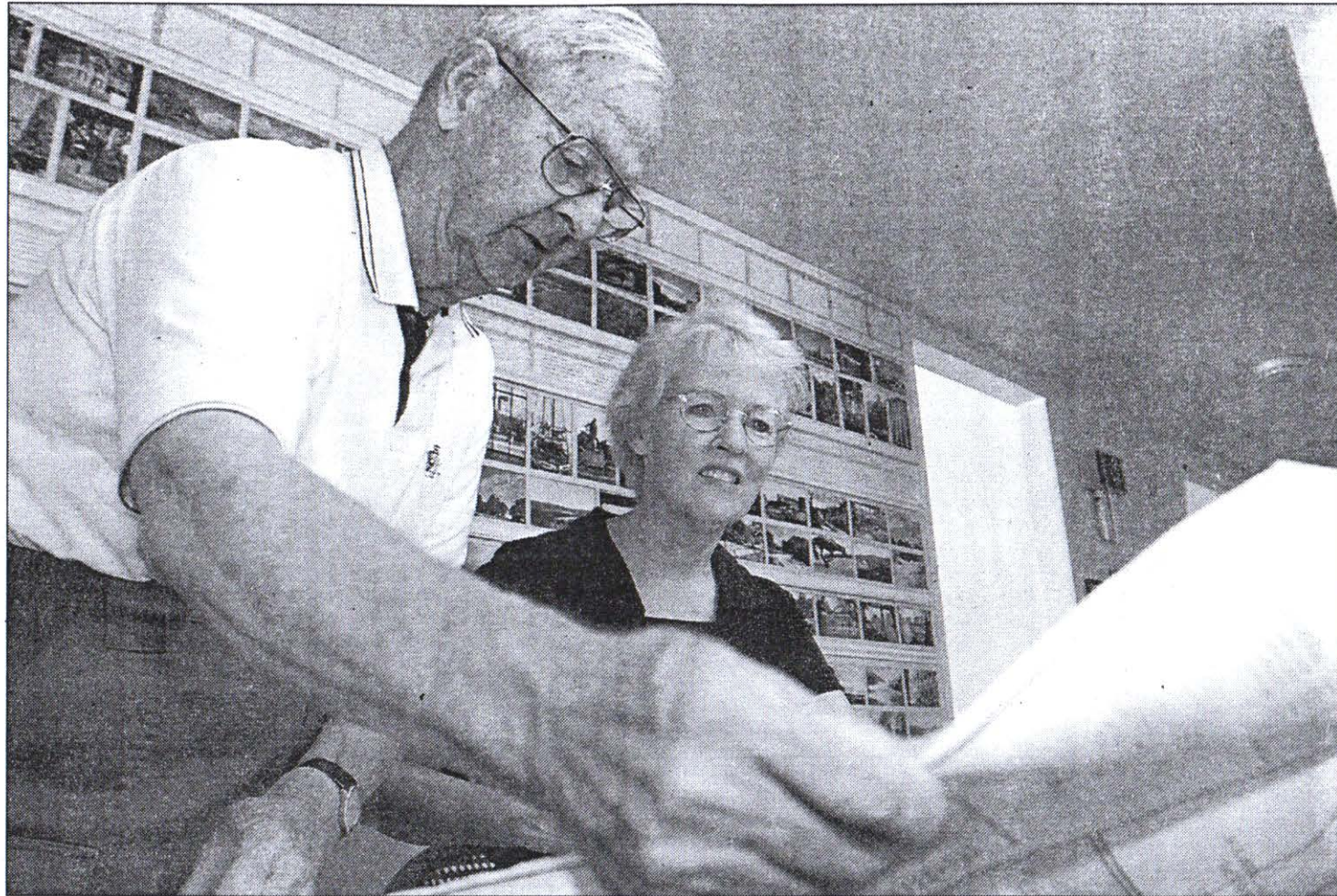
"OK, Gordon, it's over. Right here," was the simple message.

But it isn't, really, since Reed and wife Lois are planning a trip next month to British Columbia, where they will try to hit each of the "ridings" they haven't yet visited there.

It took Reed several stops in B.C. to learn that provinces in western Canada don't have counties, perhaps because they are largely devoid of people, and that elections in B.C. are carried out in jurisdictions called ridings, or regional districts — as the Federation of Canadian Municipalities in Ottawa describes them.

But then, those are the kinds of things you learn in a quest to visit all of a nation's jurisdictions.

You also learn, after extended inquiry, that the closest you can come to counties in Alaska is something called organized boroughs — of which there are 16.



MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Mort and Lois Reed review some of the routes they took to visit every single county in the United States. Photographic memories of their travels adorn the kitchen wall behind them.

"I've been in nine already," Reed said. "The problem with the rest is that you can't drive there — no roads.

"But Alaska Airlines has an affiliate, one of those hop-skip-and-jump lines, that does go to them all, and in the next year or so — health willing — I think I'll make them."

It probably will take about two weeks,

he expects.

The quest to visit all the nation's counties began in 1948 in Chicago, when Reed found a map in the Rand McNally store that showed all of them. He'd already been in the 48 contiguous states and was wondering what to do next when it hit him — visit all the counties, of course

That 52-year-old map still hangs on the wall of his Sun City home, its counties colored in to show he's been there.

Wife Lois hasn't made them all, since the couple married in 1994. But she's been a steadfast traveling companion since, and has documented many of the journeys with color photos now hanging in abundance in a large wall display in

the kitchen.

Enlargements of some of the shots also decorate other parts of the Reed home on Pleasant Valley Road.

The voyages of county discovery take planning, but Mort says that as a retiree, he has time for that, and for the back-road travel he and Lois prefer, away from fast-track interstate highways.

They exchange places every hour or so in their 1998 Dodge mini-van.

Planning is detailed and meticulous, detailing travel times and mileage anticipated each day, the lunch and gas stops, and overnight reservations. A budget also is included.

"You don't want to run out" of cash, Reed said. "At the end of 1995, I had 202 counties to go. I knocked off about 40 a year, and as this year began, there were 36 left.

"We finished them up in Nebraska."

Dundy County, to be exact — in the southwest corner, bordering Colorado and Kansas. It had about 2,600 residents in the 1990 census.

U.S. 34, the only red line on the map of the county, connects four towns, west to east: Haigler, Parks, Benkelman and Max. At least, that's all you see on the State Farm Atlas.

But the Reeds' arrival was a local event of note. Rosemary Whiteley, the town clerk in county seat Benkelman, remembers chatting with what she assumes was the Sun City couple.

"I don't remember the name," she said by phone Wednesday. "But we had a nice conversation. They told me what they were doing and that they were completing it here.

"I asked them how long they'd been at it, and they said a long time. I got the impression it had been broken off for a while, but now they were ready to get it done.

"They seemed like awful nice folks."

Those awful nice folks now are almost ready for their British Columbia jaunt. After that, who knows?

**June 13, 2001**

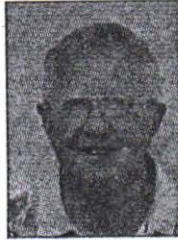
## A Name to Know

After spending 20 years as minister of First Baptist Church of La Junta, Colo., and eight years as chaplain of the Colorado Boys Ranch, **Lee Reichstein**, 72, moved to the City of Volunteers.

Since that time Mr. Reichstein has situated himself as a full-fledged volunteer in the area.

His efforts keep him quite busy, as he volunteers for several local organizations.

Every Wednesday, Mr. Reichstein and his friend,



Tom Simpson, who was featured in last week's Name to Know, deliver 30 Red Cross Meals on Wheels from the Peoria Community Center.

On Thursdays he drives the courtesy cart at Sun Health's Boswell Memorial Hospital.

Fridays, Mr. Reichstein is back in the driver's seat with Mr. Simpson delivering groceries to homebound Interfaith Services clients.

He also gives a lot of time to his church, Bellevue Heights, where he is currently serving as church administrator.

Mr. Reichstein said he volunteers simply because he likes people and has a desire to minister to people in whatever areas possible.

His favorite aspect of volunteering is the ability to touch new people who become friends.

"It's a real joy to go into homes where you can provide meals or groceries for the week," said Mr. Reichstein.

He added, "Tom and Lee major in giving hugs to the shut-ins."

When Mr. Reichstein is not out driving in some volunteer capacity, he enjoys traveling, woodworking, swimming and spending time with friends.

NOV. 14-20, 2001 SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT



Photo by Juli Nessett/Independent Newspapers  
Fred Reid and his wife, Gladys, celebrate Mr. Reid's receipt of an Ageless Hero Award presented by Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

## Sun City man honored for volunteer efforts

Sun City resident Fred Reid has been awarded an Ageless Hero Award in the category of Community Involvement for his many years of volunteering in the west Valley.

The awards are presented annually by Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

"This is quite an honor for Mr. Reid and his wife, Gladys, who both volunteer for Interfaith on a regular basis," said Michelle Dionisio, IFS executive director. "His fellow honorees were a gentleman who was the chef for the king of Spain as well as three Presidents, a gentleman who conquered a cancer death sentence and remained active and outlived his doctors given "life expectancy" and a woman who wrote one of the first exercise books, just to mention a few recipients of this high caliber award."

Mr. Reid was nominated for the honor by IFS.

He has volunteered for a variety of organizations serving older adults, including the Red Cross (over 19 years) Interfaith Services (12 years), Sun City Posse and Lions Club (22 years). Reenrolled to Interfaith by his wife, a longtime IFS volunteer, Mr. Reid lives by the personal motto to "give all the help you can to as many as you can."

Through his tireless efforts, Mr. Reid connects the homebound elderly to the community. On his daily trips he may bring fresh groceries into homes, drive a visually impaired individual to a doctor's office and assist them to the front desk, or pick up a prescription for someone unable to get to the pharmacy.

He gives the personal touch, even helping someone shop for groceries who needed a hand

getting around the store and picking out the items needed for a strict diet, according to the IFS nomination form. He believes the work he does keeps him out of the rocking chair and he enjoys providing these services to help his neighbors stay independent and in their own homes for as long as possible.

The average age of the clients Mr. Reid helps is 77. When Mr. Reid, who is 84, was asked, "how does your volunteer work demonstrate outstanding caring and commitment to older adults?" he just smiled, and said, "I don't get around older adults that often."

REID, FRED



NOV. 7-13, 2001

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## Name to Know

Two months after moving to Sun City in 1979, **Fred Reid** thought he would go crazy because he couldn't keep busy.

After seeing a Red Cross advertisement seeking drivers, Mr. Reid began an activity that



would occupy his retirement while at the same time provide help to others – he began to volunteer.

“I don't golf, I do this,” Mr. Reid said of his voluntarism. “It keeps me occupied.”

Nearly 23 years after moving to the community, Mr. Reid has given his time to the Red Cross, Interfaith Services, the Lions Club and the Sun City Posse.

His tireless volunteer efforts have earned Mr. Reid a nomination as an Ageless Heroes finalist in the category of Community Involvement.

Launched by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona, The Ageless Heroes Awards celebrates the state's inspirational senior citizens ages 65 or over.

Mr. Reid was nominated for the award by IFS.

While he is being recognized for the services he has provided to the community, Mr. Reid feels indebted to the agencies for which he and his wife, Gladys, have volunteered.

“We owe Interfaith and the other services we volunteer to a debt of gratitude for keeping us busy,” Mr. Reid said.

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# Sun Citian up for Ageless Hero award

**LUNCHEON:** Fred Reid recognized by Blue Cross for his volunteer work with Interfaith

**MICHAEL MARESH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Fred Reid volunteers his time because he wants to help, not for any special recognition.

But Reid will be getting that recognition regardless on Tuesday.

The 84-year old Sun City man, through his voluntarism for Interfaith Services, is one of three finalists for the Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Arizona Community Involvement 2001 Ageless Heroes Award Program.

Reid will be among a group of 15 finalists in five different categories, who will be honored at the Ageless Heroes Award Luncheon at the Ritz Carlton in Phoenix Tuesday. The winner in each category will be announced at the luncheon.

Reid, who has been with Interfaith for 12 years and volunteers about 36 hours a month, was surprised Interfaith nominated him.

"I am glad somebody appreciates what I am doing," he said. "It keeps me occupied. If I wasn't doing this, I would probably go nuts."

Reid said he is like most other volunteers, who just puts in his time.

"I feel honored they think I am worth the honor," he said. "I like to give back and keep busy, too."

Reid said if he ever needs some aid he will know who to contact.

"When I get (sick), they better take care of me," he said with a smile.

Most of the residents Reid serves are in their 70s and 80s, and almost all need some type of service, he said.

"They appreciate it," Reid said. "Most want to pay me, and I tell them 'I can't do

that.'"

FRED REID

Reid's wife, Gladys, became an Interfaith volunteer before her husband, and after he was asked by an organization to put in more time, Reid joined his wife as an Interfaith volunteer.

Before joining Interfaith, Reid volunteered for a variety of organizations that served older adults, including the Red Cross for 19 years and the Sun City Posse and Lions Club for 22 years.

Reid shops for groceries for two residents on Wednesday and Thursday and also provides services every other Monday as well as every Friday to other residents.

"Gladys and I both feel we should help," he said. "It's not hard. It gives us something to do. It's appreciated."

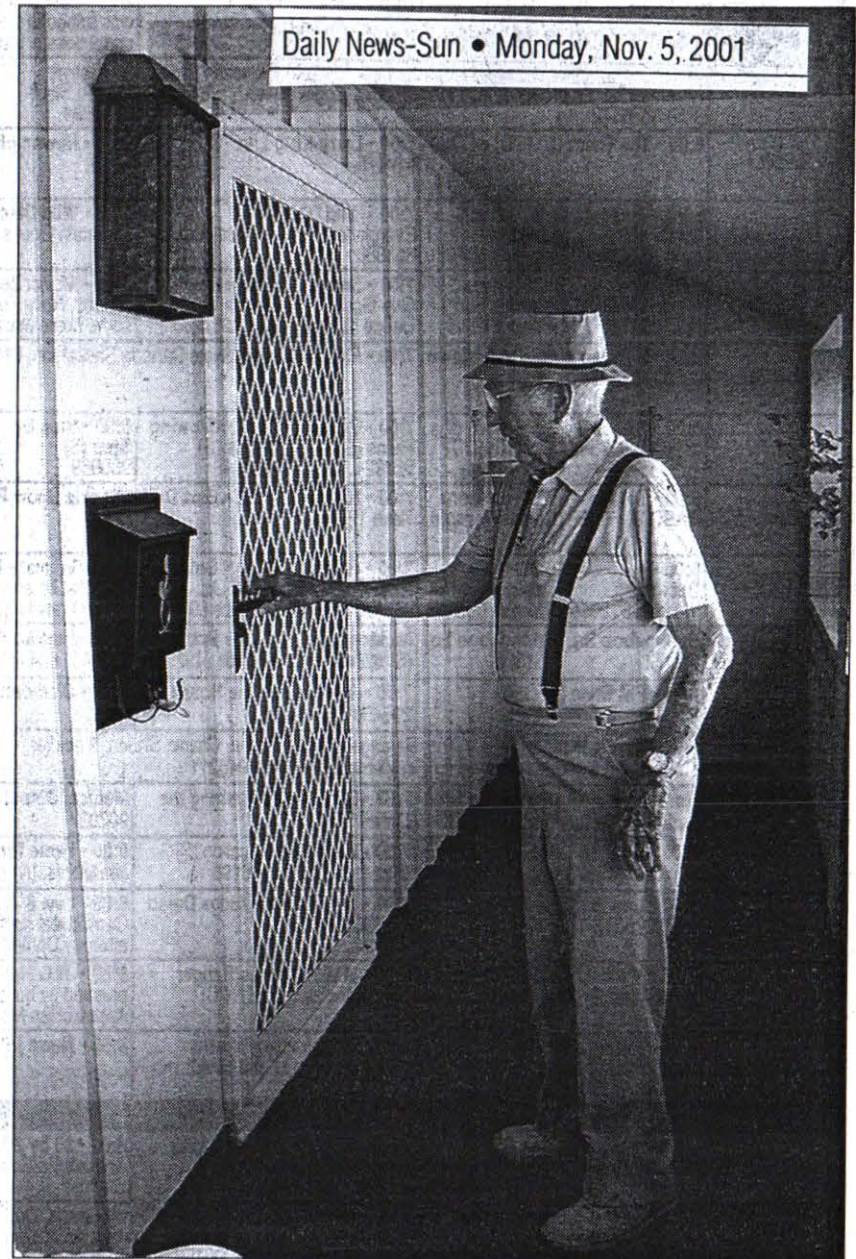
Reid conceded there are times when he will run into "a character" but said he understands where some of these people are coming from as some face some severe challenges.

Interfaith's nomination of Reid read: "Through his tireless efforts, he connects the homebound elderly to the community. On his daily trips, he may bring groceries into homes, drive a visually impaired individual to a doctor's office and assist them to the front desk or pick up a prescription for someone unable to get to the pharmacy."

Reid, the nomination read, gives the personal touch, helping someone shop for groceries and picking out the items needed for a strict diet.

"Reid is the neighbor we all want to have, the nomination read. One person at a time is assisted by his efforts and with each contact he develops a friendship. Through his recommendations and guidance, neighbors, friends and even new acquaintances in the grocery line and at the gas pump learn where and how to get help. By example and dedication he recruits new volunteers."

Michael Maresch can be reached at [mmaresch@aztrib.com](mailto:mmaresch@aztrib.com) or at 623-876-2513.



**KATY O'GRADY/DAILY NEWS-SUN**

Fred Reid rings the doorbell Nov. 2 at the home of a Sun City woman who needed Reid's help getting to a doctor's appointment. Because of his selfless volunteer efforts, Reid is a finalist in BlueCross/BlueShield's Ageless Heroes Award Program.

JULY 17-23, 2002

## Name to Know

**Jean Rettig** was quite familiar with the Penny-Wise Thrift Shop in Sun City before she began volunteering there.

She used to be a frequent shopper at the non-profit thrift shop which benefits the Mingus Mountain Estate Residential Center, Inc. — a residential treatment and education center for troubled and abused young girls.



"I used to shop at the store quite a bit and I saw they needed volunteers, so I started volunteering here," Mrs. Rettig said. "It's a real nice place to work, everybody's so nice."

"I've made quite a few friends here," she continued.

Mrs. Rettig volunteers three days a week at the thrift shop, sorting through clothing and then pricing the items before they are placed on the shelves and racks for sale.

She began volunteering after the death of her husband, looking for an activity to keep her active.

"This is my therapy, coming here, because they are nice to work with," Mrs. Rettig said.

A humble individual, Mrs. Rettig is a mother of three and grandmother of two.

For more information about the Penny-Wise Thrift Shop or to volunteer, call 815-0081.

RETTIG, JEAN

VF

Personalities

SEN

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Daily News-Sun • Tuesday, May 16, 2000

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## Webb Corp. employees mourn loss of friend, coworker

JANICE TARLETON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

If you've visited a Sun City, Sun City West, or Sun City Grand model-home center in the past 30 years, chances are you've met — or at least noticed — Lillian 'Lil' Reynolds.

Though the Del Webb hostess was only 4-feet-11-inches tall, friends say her big smile and warm, heartfelt greeting made her tough to overlook.

Hired on July 28, 1969, Reynolds — the mother, grandmother and great grandmother famous for baking birthday cakes for

coworkers — became a fixture at Del Webb, moving to Sun City West and Sun City Grand on opening days.

"I think she baked a poppy-seed cake for everyone at Del Webb," said Manetta Vojtas, who joined the company seven years ago. That's why employees reacted with shock when they turned on their computers Monday morning and read of Reynolds' May 12 death. On medical leave since February, she died of cancer under Hospice care.

"Del Webb was her family," said Irene Engel, a saleswoman who

worked with Reynolds for 22 years in Sun City and Sun City West. Engel remembers Reynolds' "strong Christian beliefs" and her love of Mexican food most — Earl's Mexican-American Food in Peoria was a favorite.

Vojtas remembers Reynolds was the first person she saw when she walked into Del Webb's sales center.

"Four-eleven, silver hair and a great big smile," Vojtas said. It was her signature smile, willingness to help and easygoing personality that attracted scores of residents and potential residents to

Reynolds, said Sue Walker, a Webb employee since 1983.

Reynolds was born in Edwardsville, Ill., and moved to Arizona in 1951 from Michigan.

She was a member of Calvary Baptist Church of Peoria.

Visitation is 5 to 7 p.m. today in Lundberg's Golden Door Chapel, 11211 Michigan Ave. in Youngtown. Service is 11 a.m. Wednesday at Calvary Baptist Church of Peoria, 8412 W. Washington Ave.

Memorials may be sent to Hospice of Arizona, 2222 W. Northern Ave., Suite A100, Phoenix, Ariz. 85022.

REYNOLDS, MIKE

# SC chef wins 'chef of year' award

By LYNN PYNE  
Emphasis Editor

Executive chef Mike Reynolds, who started working in Sun City when Melody Lane was called Memory Lane, has been named Chef of the Year by the Chefs Association of Greater Phoenix.

For the past 11 years, Reynolds has been executive chef at Sun City Country Club.

He is one of about 60 members of the Chefs Association, for which he served as treasurer two years and then as president for the past two years.

Reynolds was named Chef of the Year at a dinner ball Oct. 7 in the Registry. The ballroom was lined with culinary showpieces, including one display table presented by Reynolds and the chefs of other Sun City country clubs.

IT HAD decorated salmons, a roast pig with apple in mouth, horn of plenty with fruit, lobster, fruit basket and other food.

The chefs had intended

to take an ice carving, but decided that it would be difficult enough simply getting the prepared food from Sun City to Scottsdale in three air conditioned pickup trucks through the heat and torn up roads.

The award was given to Reynolds for his experience, ability to cook, participation in chapter activities, job stability and overall excellence. Three past winners selected the nominees this year and all chapter members voted.

**THE RECOGNITION** has thrust the Sun City chef into the spotlight... on television and radio. Also, he has been scheduled to do a Goldwaters' demonstration from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thursday, part of a week long chefs' demonstration tied in with the movie, "Who's Killing the Great Chefs of Europe?"

(Reynolds, who doesn't go to see many movies, nevertheless can describe vividly the "corny" scenes in Great Chefs, chuckling

the whole time.)

The Sun City chef first moved to Arizona in 1954. He owned a restaurant, the Glass Kitchen, from 1954-61. It was located near the capitol and served many legislators. He says many matters were settled over tables in his small establishment.

**FROM 1961-67** Reynolds managed Memory Lane, which then sold sandwiches, ice cream and candy. When Sun City Country Club opened in 1967, he moved to his present position.

As executive chef, he makes menus, has to know the food costs and price of food correctly, manages help in the kitchen, handles any complaints and accepts responsibility for everything in his area.

Reynolds does some of the cooking and must know how to prepare all of the dishes correctly so that he can solve problems that occur and instruct his help. Sometimes being executive chef means delegating duties and

keeping everything running smoothly.

**HE LEAVES** notes for kitchen workers telling them how many trays of potatoes to put in and how many steaks to cut.

He works with the country club board of directors and gives merchandise reports to the bookkeeper.

Reynolds sits down with club members to plan menus for bridge parties, anniversary parties, dances and other social events. The club has about 350 golf members and 150 social members, who Reynolds says "are not hard to please."

**HIS MOST** unusual request was for frog legs from Michigan (which he was able to obtain), but this doesn't compare at all to the wild foods that other chefs tell Reynolds they must obtain per request.

Reynolds tries to treat all the members with equal helpfulness and he says that if someone requests a special food, he will do his best to get it.

There are times when regular foods cause problems. For example, planners for a bridge party for 50 women had requested stuffed avocados. When Reynolds received the avocados from the supply firm, they were hard. "So now I'm running around trying to find 50 good avocados," he said. "I can't serve them hard."

**REYNOLDS** makes a point of cooking with the best ingredients—butter instead of margarine, and prime meat instead of lesser quality.

"I use very few things that are spicy. There's a little garlic in my Roquefort dressing, but I use very little garlic in our menu," he said.

"You get a lot of special requests because of diets here," he added. "You go along with them and fix something different that they can eat. For example, there always are a lot of people who are allergic to seafood so I fix something different for them."

**ONE OF** club members' favorites is a very simple food to prepare—baking powder biscuits topped with Parmesan cheese.

"People always ask for it," he says.

He invented the special biscuits while working at Memory Lane. Hot biscuits were left over from the Wednesday night chicken special, so he added cheese to make a different treat for Thursday.

Reynolds is very active in the Chefs Association chapter, which got a national award recently for its apprenticeship program. "There is a shortage of chefs and no more are coming from Europe," he said.

**IT TAKES** three years in school at \$5-6,000 per year to learn to be a certified cook. Through the apprenticeship program, you can get paid and also learn the profession.

"We require 6,000 total working hours in three years and 144 hours class time per year in food management and related courses. After three years, apprentices get a certificate from the state of Arizona as certified cooks."

OVER

In 1975, Chefs Association here (which is one chapter of a national organization) set up a point-based system for certification of chefs. Reynolds was among the first five in the Valley area to become a certified executive chef. There now are 14.

**HE SAID** the certification was devised as a way to set standards within the profession.

Last summer at the national association convention in Rochester, N.Y., Reynolds was initiated into the select American Academy of Chefs. Each year, his chapter nominates one member for this prestigious group.

Reynolds has shared two recipes which he has prepared for members at the Sun City Country Club:

**BROILED  
SWEETBREADS  
WITH PROSCIUTTO**

2 pair sweetbreads  
2 whole black peppercorns  
2 bay leaves  
½ onion, chopped  
2 stalks celery, chopped  
Salt to taste  
Pepper to taste  
Salad Oil

Bread crumbs  
Prosciutto

Place sweetbreads in cold water and refrigerate for 24 hours. Drain; cover with fresh water. Bring to boiling; add peppercorns, bay leaves, onion and celery.

Cook about 15 minutes until sweetbreads tighten. Remove from pan and cool. Trim away nerve tissue. Split sweetbreads and season lightly with salt and pepper. Rub with small amount of oil and roll lightly in bread crumbs. Broil until browned.

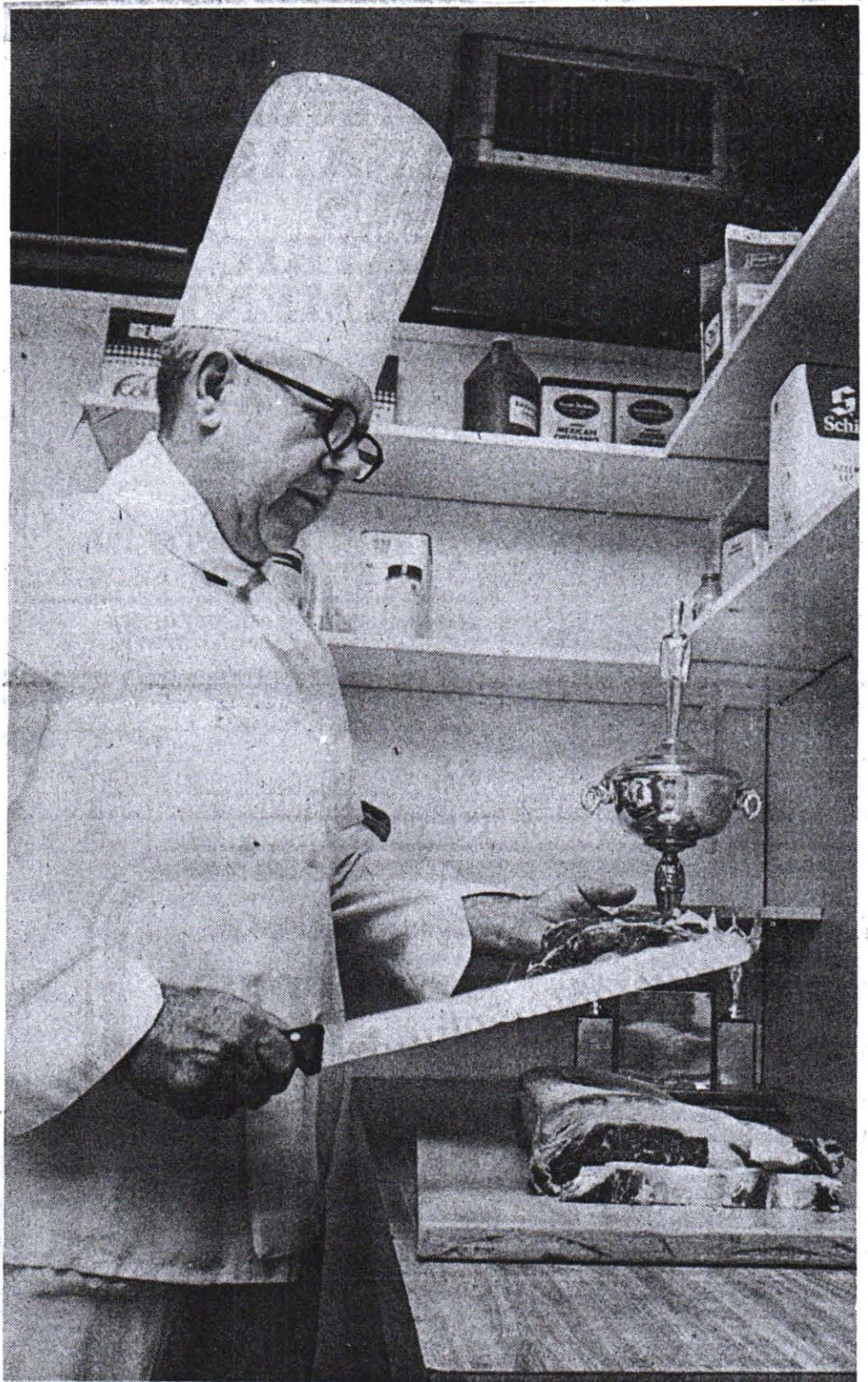
Turn and place a thin slice of prosciutto on each sweetbread; broil until lightly browned. Serve on toast. Yields 2 servings.

**FILETS OF SOLE  
SABASTIAN**

2 lb. sole filets  
1 cup sour cream  
¼ cup Parmesan cheese  
1 Tbs. lemon juice  
1 Tbs. grated onion  
½ tsp. salt  
Paprika  
Chopped parsley

Cut fish into serving-sized portions. Place in a single layer in a well-greased baking dish—12"X8"X2"

Combine remaining ingredients, except paprika and parsley. Spread over filets and bake in a moderate oven (350 F) 25 to 30 minutes or until fish flakes easily. Garnish with paprika and parsley.



**Mike Reynolds, executive chef at Sun City Country Club, prepares meat for a special dish for club members. To his left is the trophy which he was given this month as chef of the year of the Chefs Association of Greater Phoenix. (News-Sun Photo)**

# Lending support

## Seeking solutions is full-time job for this resident

By YOLANDA MUHAMMAD  
Sun Cities Independent

As children, we could always run to Mommy for a kiss to make things better when we scraped our knee, cut our finger or bruised our soul.

In adulthood we become responsible for shepherding our own wellness. For some, this is a task beyond their abilities.

For others, like Phyllis Riely, striving for a balance of health in body and mind, is a personal requirement tempered with compassion for those in like circumstances.

Though she looks very much in the pink, Phyllis Riely suffers from Parkinson's disease. She says she has an "avid interest in trying to find ways to minimize the changes" in a person's life once this disease strikes.

In 1982 she took an early retirement and moved to Sun City West because, as she says, "I was falling in airports all over the country. They call it 'freezing' and your feet lock and you tend to propel your body forward because your feet don't go."

Unable to find out the cause of her condition, her position as manager of microbiological research at Marion Laboratories, Kansas City, was cut short.

Born in Ohio, she says she originally wanted to be a doctor, but growing up in the Depression, there was not enough money for her studies. She took a degree in nursing, and though she loved patient contact, it was research that most excited her imagination.

After raising her four children, she went back to work in 1960 in the aerospace industry and says she "had a wonderful career working on waste management

the Royal Academy of Health, American Society of Microbiology, Society of Industrial Microbiology and American Society of Public Health.

Phyllis lives with her mother, Ethel Carson, 92, whom she calls a "delightful person" and says keeps her on a "straight line."

"My stepfather died of Parkinson's and this was before medication could control it, so she was upset when she found out I had Parkinson's, but with the new medications, one does fairly well.

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"My stepfather died of Parkinson's and this was before medication could control it, so she was upset when she found out I had Parkinson's, but with the new medications, one does fairly well.

Sun Citian

## Profile

### Portraits Of Our Residents

people. The muscles in the throat gradually become tight and it is difficult to chew. Speech is impaired, unless you do your exercises.

"The thing we try to fight is inactivity, because exercise is imperative. If you don't exercise the muscles will gradually stiffen.

"I spend 45 minutes a day, six days out of seven, in the swimming pool, and more if possible. We have a definite exercise plan."

Medications, which help with the stiffness, she says, are difficult to balance. Some have to be taken before meals, some after meals and heavy proteins can cancel out the medications.

And, of course, the medications are very expensive. Some of the pills are as much as \$1.80 each and others run \$1800 a year.

"Part of the disease is you tend to not want to do anything. It is easier to sit. If you sit down, you won't fall; and you are just perfectly content to sit."

At the Institute for Biogerontology Research at Boswell Hospital Mrs. Riely performed work on cell cultures -- this involves being able to produce cells to replace cells that are dead in the brain.

"It's a natural evolution for me because I have a background in microbiology."

Mrs. Riely has been commended by the Secretary of the Air Force; is cited in Who's Who of America International Women

of America International Women



Tyson Kuhrt/Independent

PHYLLIS RIELY, microbiologist, uses her skills to help fellow Parkinsonians overcome the symptoms of the disease.

not afford to take it. So we are trying to help him with that."

There is no charge to be a member of the Parkinson's Support Group.

The third Monday in the month is the general meeting. "We try to have a program which will give people something to take home."

are invited to speak at the meetings.

"And I find that people will relax if they have cookies and coffee and they will talk to each other."

"The patients ask each other all sorts of questions they will not ask their doctor, because the

"It takes a lot of work from a number of people to keep a support group going, Mrs. Riely says."

The spouses also meet once a month to vent their problems and concerns for the partner with the disease.

National Parkinson's Disease Month is April. "It is a time when we hopefully bring to everyone's attention the fact that Parkinson's is under better control now," Mrs. Riely says.

"But we have a big job trying to educate people."

Mrs. Riely points to the success of the Parkinson's Support Group at Boswell Hospital, which averages 4-8 new people a month. There are up to 200 people at the meetings in the winter.

"I am a positive person. Oh, everybody has down days, but I refuse to slip into that. The worse thing you can do is feel sorry for yourself."

Saying she has much to be thankful for, she is also proud of her life's work.

She holds a patent for a process for separating liquids and gases in a moving stream. It was the basis for the waste management in space project.

And there is another patent in her name for an intravenous blood filter device used in hospitals.

She says she "sees simple ways for doing things, rather than complicated methods."

Her commitment to helping others has made her strong. She is not a woman caught in the throes of a debilitating disease.

She is a scientist researching ways to help others move past their discomfort and find their own level of competency.

Anyone interested in further information on the Parkinson's disease Support Group may

# Departure details sketchy

**CHUCK ROACH:**  
22-year Webb  
executive had hinted  
at retirement

**JOHN SOKOLICH**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Details remained unclear this morning as to why the senior vice president and general manager for Sun City Grand resigned his position with Del Webb Corp.

Chuck Roach, who had been with the firm 22 years, resigned from his position effective Tuesday, but Sun City Grand officials have declined to elaborate.

"We are not really commenting on the departure," Del Webb spokesman John Waldron said. "As it's been reported before, Del Webb is involved in a new strategic direction. That can be inferred anyway people wish, but we really do not have any comment about his departure."

While with Del Webb, Roach was responsible for all aspects of overseeing operations at the master-planned communities of Sun City West and later Sun City Grand, and Waldron said his expertise will be missed.

"He has an incredibly distinguished career in the Sun Cities," he said. "And he is credited with being one of the visionaries behind Grand and its successes."

Roach was not available for comment Wednesday or Thursday morning, but those who have worked with him said they considered him an important figure in the operations and community.

Surprise Mayor Joan Shafer said this morning that in the past year Roach has been withdrawing himself slightly from community activities, but she attributed

it to his high work load.

"We used to have lunch once a month, but it's been four months since the last one," she said. "But I thought that it was from Del Webb's reorganization. He was also quite busy with other projects."

Rep. Ed Cirillo of Sun City West, R-District 15, who has worked with Roach on numerous projects in the community, said his departure came as a surprise because he's done so much to boost the perception of the Del Webb Corp.

"I worked closely with Chuck over the years, and he has just been an excellent individual," he said. "I think that he, single-handedly, changed the image of big business with what he's done in Del Webb."

Since Roach became active in the workings of Sun City West and Sun City Grand, Del Webb has supported many community organizations, Cirillo said, including community posse organizations and the Sundome.

Although there hasn't been official word on the reason for Roach's sudden departure, Cirillo said in past conversations, Roach made it clear that he was considering retirement.

"I'm not sure of the inner workings at Del Webb, but Chuck did mention he was nearing an age of retirement," Cirillo said. "But the official reason is something I am not privy to."

Roach's career with Del Webb began in 1979 when he joined the company's gaming operations in Las Vegas. From there, he held numerous financial, community development and management positions with the firm during his tenure.

Bob Eck, associate general manager, will assume Roach's responsibilities temporarily.



10-11-2000

## A Name to Know

With a smile that would stop almost anyone in their tracks, **Phyllis Roach** spends almost every day trying to make Sun City a better place.



Currently the vice president of the 40th Anniversary Committee, Mrs. Roach also serves on the

Sun City Foundation, the Club Organization Committee and is part of the Grandmothers Club.

Since arriving in Sun City 16 years ago, she and her husband of 24 years have been avid bowlers, and while she enjoys making crafts, Mr. Roach has been bitten by the golf bug.

Mrs. Roach worked for R.C.A. in California for 31 years before retiring in the Valley of the Sun. She met her husband while working for the internationally known company.

In the little free time she has, Mrs. Roach enjoys making crafts, sewing and cooking. She also loves to collect things such as stamps.

She believes her time in Sun City has allowed her to grow as a person. As a student, Mrs. Roach said she could never get up in front of a crowd and speak.

"I was never good at speaking out with a whole bunch of people. I would run like crazy," she admitted. Now she really enjoys being around people and working to achieve a goal.

"I think when you get to my age and you don't do anything to kind of fulfill your life, you aren't really living," she said.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, JULY 8, 2008

# Cleo Roberts, philanthropist, dies

STAFF REPORT

Philanthropist Cleo Faith Roberts of Sun City died July 4.

A memorial service is planned at 1 p.m. Friday in Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd., in Sun City, followed by a reception.

Mrs. Roberts and her late husband, L.J. "Bob" Roberts, were major individual donors to Sun Health Foundation, particularly in support of the Sun Health Research Institute. The institute's L.J. Roberts Center for Alzheimer's Research is named in their honor.

Before they moved from California to their Sun City home in 1969, Mr. and Mrs. Roberts watched many family members and friends fall victim to Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease

and other age-related disorders. When news was announced in 1987 that a research institute was planned in Sun City, they realized the need to reach out and help future generations.

The couple provided a major gift to renovate a temporary building to accommodate four staff members and one volunteer. As the need to expand research became apparent, a fund-raising campaign began to fund construction of a new, larger institute.

In 2000, the Sun Health Research Institute's Center for Clinical Research was named the Cleo Roberts Center for Clinical Research to reflect Mrs. Roberts' dedication and commitment to the mission and vision of institute.

The clinic conducts research trials into possible

prevention and treatment of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases and arthritis.

A tradition that she and her late husband began, and that Mrs. Roberts continued in recent years, was a generous matching gift to double the proceeds of the Sun Health Palmbrook Golf Classic, which is played each spring to benefit the institute.

Mrs. Roberts was named as the first-ever recipient of Sun Health Foundation's Inspiration Award in 2000. She also received the Spirit of Philanthropy Award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals in 1997.

The Roberts' name has become part of the institute's legacy of progressive research and is reflected in one of the laboratories within the institute's walls,

and in the L.J. Roberts Recognition Plaza, an open-air, terraced walkway.

"Cleo was a dedicated and faithful friend of Sun Health Research Institute through the years," said Pamela K. Meyerhoffer, executive vice president/CEO of Sun Health Foundation. "She realized the legacy she and Bob had begun and how greatly it benefits people with these devastating diseases."

The Roberts supported many nonprofit organizations. Gifts provided for the communion table and an organ for Faith Presbyterian Church, an organ for Northern Arizona University Music studies, homes for low-income families through Habitat for Humanity and cancer research funding through the American Cancer Society.

# Soul and sentiment forge way of life, career of giving

By YOLANDA MUHAMMAD  
Sun Cities Independent

Big eyes brimming with tenderness, she approaches life with the same reverence as if it were a nativity scene.

"Some people tell me I am too sentimental, but I don't know ...," she says, pointing out a board with mementos from her family -- a necklace her daughter wore when she was "Bratwurst Queen" back in Wisconsin, two of her grandmother's tortoise shell hair combs, ribbons, a jeweled pet collar, photos, bits of this and that.

A Sun Citian through and through, Allene Rohan loves the life she lives.

She makes jewelry trees -- brooches, necklaces and bracelets arranged on a cloth background in the shape of a tree. She makes collages, some that highlight important family milestones. And wreaths, and needle point and flower hats.

Her home has several photo walls, trophy shelves, displays of sports letters and ribbons for flower arranging -- every moment of family pride lovingly mounted for all to see.

For her military husband's work station, she has hung curtains made of camouflage and parachute material. On either side of Patrick's huge desk are two bomb lamps -- practice bombs painted yellow and green by the men in his flight crew, complete with lamp shades.

Athletic as a child, Allene was active on a girl's softball team, but later became ill with "romantic fever" as her younger brother called it.

"Most patients died with rheumatic fever in those days, but I didn't expect to ... and so I didn't!"

During her professional years, Allene was a nurse. She had what many would consider a dream assignment --



Laune Hurd-Moore/Independent



ALLENE ROHAN, left, still maintains the same pretty smile she had when she graduated from nursing college, below. Above, an autographed photo from Judy Garland, one of Mrs. Rohan's favorite patients.



Sun Citian

## Profile

### Portraits Of Our Residents

- she took care of the Hollywood movie stars at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital. Two of her patients were

Judy Garland and Eleanor Powell in the 1940s -- "two of the most absolutely precious and darling persons," Allene

says of them both. Allene says she did not even know the hospital was in Hollywood when she applied

for the job; and after seeing some of the stars at their worst, while ill, she says she is not all that enthralled with stardom.

"It is very disenchanting to find out what some of those people are like," she says, the disillusionment ringing in her voice.

But they were not all terrible people she is quick to add, saying she remembers Merle Oberon with fondness.

Born in Richland Center, Wis., to a family of ten children, she recalls, with a tear in her eye, that her parents gave her a "world of music, books and above all else ... charity, which brimmed over into every member of our family so that we are either in medical, sociology or criminology and prison work."

Her father was a "multi-businessman," she says. He sold appliances, worked his farm, owned a dairy and a cheese factory and finally a mink ranch business.

Allene remembers him as a talented public speaker.

"They both gave us so much. My mother was the highly cultured lady who knew nothing about cooking when she was married, but developed into a perfectly marvelous cook.

"She was an expert singer, pianist and artist."

Allene attended nursing school in Madison, Wis. Her interests began as a child, taking care of small, injured animals.

Her decision to go into nursing was in part because she wanted to care for her mother, who was ill.

She met her husband in Calif., while he was in flight training. When he graduated in Texas, he invited her down and asked her to marry him.

Their son, Patrick, and daughter, Vicki, are the delights of their lives, as are their grandchildren -- their

faces smiling down from pictures on the wall in every room.

Wisconsin was not good for her rheumatic fever and she decided to join her husband, who was stationed in Hawaii.

"I got there just in time for Pearl Harbor. Much to my unhappiness, because of my illness, I was unable to help out with all those who were injured in the surprise attack.

"That day of infamy was so devastating to the ships in the harbor and all our military structures.

"The bombing started about 8 o'clock in the morning. We wondered why it was so noisy on a Sunday morning.

"When the lighting fixture fell from the ceiling onto our bed, we jumped up, ran to the window and the Japanese plane was so low over our house ... we could see the rising sun on the wing tips and the face of the Japanese pilot."

She says it was such a shock she could not believe it and for a while it "didn't make any sense -- it was like a nightmare."

But as Allene and her husband Pat looked out the windows all around their house, there were flames and black smoke everywhere.

Mr. Rohan left immediately to see what he could do and Allene and a neighbor were told to leave the area and were separated from their husbands for several days.

One of the saddest things she says were all the men killed in the mess hall who were having breakfast when a bomb hit; and the sinking of the Arizona.

As members of the Pearl Harbor Survival Club, she and husband Pat have gone back for each of the reunions.

"It is very hard for us to get over and very hard for the

See PROFILE, page 13

# Sun City couple retraces

## 46 years ago paved highways were scarce

By THELMA HEATWOLE.

Ruth and Ted Rolf of Sun City jostled over the bouncy ribbon of gray from Kingman to Oatman and found it paved with memories.

Forty-six years ago after their wedding in the Little Church Around The Corner in New York City, the couple traveled the same road (now known as old U.S. 66) they toured on their honeymoon.

"We were kids of 21, too young to know that driving across country in 1927 was a daring adventure," Mrs. Rolf recalled. "From Texas westward it was often an hour on the road before another person was sighted."

IN OKLAHOMA relatives advised the young people to buy a gun.

"I don't know if the gun was for bandits or wild animals," quipped Rolf, a retired electronics engineer.

Only once was the gun considered for use.

That was when the couple twice in one day sat beside the road patching the patched rubber tubes in tires not designed for Arizona roads. Finally,

Rolf was forced to leave his young bride behind to hike three miles to the nearest town for a new tire.

"I sat alone in the car for more than an hour, terrified at the sight of herds of wild horses streaming across the desert," Mrs. Rolf remembered. "Though they were at least a half mile away, I envisioned them thundering around me.

"Gingerly I picked up the pistol I had never fired and laid it gently in my lap — just in case. The wild horses never came near and galloped off into the haze. But it was a relief when the new tire was mounted and we got underway again," she added.

THERE WAS NO paving on the cross-country highway that year between St. Louis and Los Angeles except in major cities. And roads were often rough. Once when the tenderfoot travelers were racing across the Arizona desert, their 1924 Oldsmobile suddenly dropped into a deep dry wash.

"Our large bedding roll bounced from the back seat on to our heads, leaving us stunned and astonished," said Mrs. Rolf. "No damage oc-



Republic photo by Thelma Heatwole

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Rolf of Sun City in ghost town, Gold Road

ROLF, Ted & RUTH

OVER

# 1927 honeymoon route



Rolf and "merry" Oldsmobile

curred, however, so we pulled out of the wash and proceeded a bit wiser and more cautiously but still at 50 miles an hour. That pace was necessary to keep the car moving relatively smoothly over the tops of the ruts in the dirt wash-board highway."

It was the fourth week of September when they arrived in the tall timbered country of Flagstaff. The temperature dipped below freezing and the Rolfs had to break the ice in the pitcher of their tourist cabin when they washed up for breakfast.

Later that day they encountered more desert heat.

"It didn't take much to make the old car boil," said Rolf. "And in some places we had to buy containers of water for the radiator."

By mid-afternoon the couple veered out of Kingman on Highway 66 that coiled through washes and over mountains and that later offered a view of the Colorado River in the distance. The road was winding, narrow and rutted with loose gravel adding to the hazard.

"Even today I can remember being terrified," said Mrs. Rolf.

The road wound through a mining town with wooden buildings that looked deserted. For years afterward they wondered about the name of the ghost-like town.

The honeymooners were relieved to leave the winding road to spend the night in Needles. But, there were problems there, too. The Colorado River was low and mosquitoes were breeding on the mudbanks.

"THE TOWN PHARMACIST had tripled the price of citronella because it was nearly sold out," Mrs. Rolf continued. "We got enough to douse the entrance of our tent and smear ourselves protectively."

Recently, the couple took up the quest of finding the old mining town. They searched old maps, inquired by phone and letter. Then they decided to retrace part of the trail through Arizona. In the end they decided that the town they remembered as deserted was Gold Road which in 1927 was busy mining gold and silver.



The Rolfs on honeymoon

A visit this anniversary month to the ghost-town mining camp pocked with mine entrances and crumbling buildings and foundations was a memory-shaking affair.

Later they stopped for a picnic lunch on top of a mountain lookout point not far from Gold Road.

In shades of the yesteryear honeymoon, another car cruised up the same trail and parked a short distance away.

The inscription on the car, still decked with yellow crepe paper streamers, said, "Just Married."

women's  
THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC  
Forum

Thursday, Sept. 13, 1973  
(Section D) Page 1

# Veteran posseman calls it quits

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Earl P. Root chose his 75th birthday Tuesday as his last day in the khaki uniform worn by Sun City Sheriff's Posse members who carry weapons.

The crisp shirt bearing posse insignias and badge No. 3549 soon will be given away, along with about eight other posse-issue shirts Root has collected in 20 years and two months as a volunteer posse member.

"I've never thrown any of them away," he said.

In keeping with a longstanding ritual, Root drank coffee Tuesday morning with fellow posse members. Many in the group belonged to a new generation of retirees keeping watch on their community.

Later Tuesday, he talked about how difficult it was for him to sever his ties with the posse and how it seemed appropriate to make his break on his birthday.

He thought about it for weeks before finally sitting down and writing his resignation letter. "It wasn't easy," he said.

"There are two happy people today — my wife and my daughter," he said, smiling with the knowledge he is wanted and needed at home.

Root joined the posse in 1973, the year the auxiliary arm of the sheriff's office was formed. He had recently moved to Sun City from Florida but was not yet retired.

"I pulled duty on weekends to get my share of hours in," he said.

A former military policeman, Root wanted to make use of his training and experience in criminal investigations. He also wanted to help people.

He commanded the posse in 1982, a year after retiring from Honeywell. He has served the organization in nearly every capacity, including range master and duty officer for 18 of his 20-year tenure.

Root often put in 35 to 40-hour weeks for the posse. "It's been challenging and yet very rewarding," Root said. "No two patrols are alike."

Root has never had to use the gun he has carried since the early days of the posse. He readied it once, however, while assisting a Maricopa



J.J. McCormack/Daily News-Sun

Earl P. Root retired this week from the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City. Root's tenure with the posse spanned more than 20 years, much of which he served as a duty officer supervising patrols.

County Sheriff's deputy searching a local hardware store a burglary suspect.

A lot has changed in 20 years, Root said, recalling that the original posse patrols were on foot and members used hand-held radios. Later, posse members patrolled in their own cars. From there they graduated to standard-issue police vehicles thanks to generous public financial support.

"That was a big turning point in the posse. We grew from that," Root said. "Donations are what made this posse."

Crime in Sun City hasn't changed over the years, but there is more of it, Root said, citing purse snatchings, burglaries and vandalism.

The posse's first female member, Dorothy Olmstead went to Root when she wanted to join.

"We were just alike," Olmstead said, recalling working alongside Root.

Today, women outnumber the men in the posse, Root said.

Root said the sense of accomplishment he got helping people and occasionally helping save a life kept him in the posse over the years.

Good friends kept him involved, too.

"We didn't get too far away from each other but we didn't get too close to each other either," he said of his posse colleagues, living and dead.

The names of many deceased posse members decorate a memorial in the posse office. Root makes it a point to visit the memorial regularly to pay tribute to his lost friends and fellow community servants.

ROOT, EARL

# SUN LIFE

by Dick Kemp

January 1998

He worked on several productions as a schoolboy in Williamstown, Mass. Though never in the cast, he discovered that the stage held a special fascination.

All through Harvard, and while earning two advanced degrees, he didn't don greasepaint or draw applause.

Even while Dr. Robert Root spent a career as a civilian psychologist with the U.S. Army, guiding research in personnel selection, classification and testing of enlistees, the theater remained a daydream.

But now, Sun Citian Bob Root is making up for lost time.

He is vice president of the board for Theater Works in Peoria, and one of its biggest boosters.

"All along, it was backstage that interested me the most," says Bob.

With his easy smile, and admiration for Theater Works, he is an ideal candidate to help lead the fund drive expected to be announced this year.

#### Theater Works has agreement

Theater Works has a purchase agreement with Sun Health to buy 1.5 acres near 91st Avenue

Julia and all dedicated Theater Works employees work at a "very modest salary," says Bob.

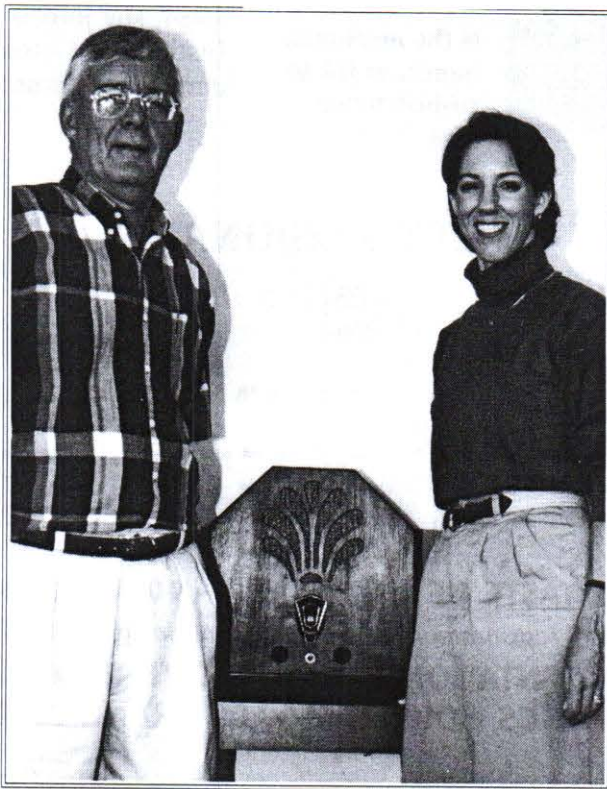
"I really admire everyone involved with Theater Works for their selflessness and talent."

#### 40-hour volunteer weeks

Theater Works is not Bob's only volunteer effort, although it usually leads in his often 40-hour weeks.

He helped Meals on Wheels soon after moving to Sun City in 1994, and before long found himself on the Sun Health Planning Committee and the Boswell Hospital board.

Also, weekly at Boswell, Bob helps with a variety of routine work in the emergency room. Helping soothe the fears and apprehensions of friends, relatives and sometime even patients is one task he finds "very satisfying."



**RADIO DAYS** – Bob Root chats with Julia Thomson, managing director of Theater Works, near a display of old radios during the recent successful run of *Radio Days*.

and Thunderbird, with an option for 2.5 additional acres. Planned in stages, the first will be a 250-seat auditorium.

A subsequent phase will include Senior Works, a performing group of seniors, and senior acting workshops.

Senior Works will be modeled after the current Wonder Works, a program of youth performing essentially for other youth. The just-concluded *The Best*

The Sun City Ambassadors provide him another opportunity to wear two hats. When he isn't helping decide board matters, you'll find him greeting visitors or leading a tour. He is also on the board of the Aqua Fria Kiwanis Club.

Is there need for more volunteers at Theater Works?

Yes, Bob emphasizes, in set construction right now. When the fund-raising drive is announced, there will be additional opportunities to get involved.

Until then, Bob Root suggests taking in a Theater Works production "to get an idea of just how good this community theater really is."

I did, recently, for the first time, and heartily agree. Watching actors that good and that enthusiastic, from that close to the stage, can be addictive. ☺

*Christmas Pageant Ever* involved more than 150 kids, ages 6 to 18, that performed to 28 packed houses.

In addition to housing Senior Works and Wonder Works, the proposed Phase II "Black Box" Theater would welcome new playwrights and directors and be available for rent.

Until the new Phase I opens, Theater Works will be happy with its location at 9850 W. Peoria Ave., in Peoria. Its 165 seats there provide everyone a "front row" feeling.

#### Business good in 1997

Attendance in 1997 ran about 20 percent ahead of the previous year. Though about 80 percent of season ticket holders are seniors, few know about the dedication of the staff, says Bob.

"Even though the cast just began receiving 'car fare,' no one gets paid for performing. Each production averages 100 hours in rehearsal and 55 hours in performance, per actor."

Theater Works deserves the title of "community theater," for its commitment to youth and local talent. "All cast members – 110 in an average year – live in the Valley," says Julia Thomson, managing director.



**MANY HATS** – Helping at the Boswell Memorial Hospital emergency room is among Bob Root's many volunteer efforts.

ROOT, BOB

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2000

## Sun City couple avidly volunteer

By Connie Cone Sexton  
The Arizona Republic

Why did they become such avid volunteers?

Bob and Nancy Root blankly stare at each other, weighing the question.

"There is a great need for help. And Bob and I are both cancer survivors and we wanted to give something back to the community," Nancy, 65, says. She quickly breaks into a broad grin.

Bob, 69, shares her amusement.

"Oh, this is starting to sound a little corny, but it's true," he says. "Actually, we started this before we got

sick. We wanted to simply help improve the quality of life."

Since moving to Sun City about 10 years ago, the couple have jumped in to help dozens of community organizations. Between them, they have held more than 15 board seats serving as president or vice president in some cases. Their resume includes the Sun City Community Fund, various Sun Health Corp. entities, Theater Works, the Sun City Foundation and the Symphony of the West Valley.

"Exceptional is the word that comes to mind when talking about Bob and Nancy," said Leland Peterson, chief executive officer for

Sun Health. "They have exceptional skills, but creativity and great energy."

The Roots were honored in October with a Westmarc leadership award. The recognition touched them deeply, Nancy Root says.

Why should others jump in as volunteers?

"It's an alternative to the casinos," Nancy says.

"It's an alternative to television," Bob quips.

And for the two, it's an alternative to needed rest.

"Bob and I are facing the same job stress and workload that a working person has," Nancy says. "But it's worth it."



Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

**Bob and Nancy Root won the Westmarc leadership award in October.**





Nathan and Alice Rosenbluth

Nathan and Alice Rosenbluth have been residents of Sun City since 1971, when they moved here from Bay City, Michigan. They were married in Flint, Michigan, in 1935, and spent the first sixteen years in Flint and Flushing (a suburb of Flint), where they were active in community affairs. Nate was a music teacher in the Public schools, directed church choirs, played in the Flint Symphony and other musical organizations.

Alice was involved with child-oriented groups. She was a Girl Scout Leader — of both Mariner (senior girls) and Intermediate troops. She also served on the Community Council.

While in Flushing, Alice had her first experience with stagecraft, designing and painting scenery for musical revues.

After moving to Bay City in 1952, Alice and Nate were active in the Bay City Players.

During their Bay City years, they helped organize the School Employees Credit Union. Nate was treasurer-manager and Alice was bookkeeper and loan officer. Alice was also bookkeeper and office manager for Bay City's Largest music store, was a volunteer driver for the Red Cross, American Cancer Society, and the General Hospital Guild. She served on the Board of "Studio 23", Center for Fine Arts.

*(Continued on page 2)*

The Rosenbluths moved to Sun City in October, 1971 — the following month they joined the Players and have been active members since then — "Damn Yankees", "South Pacific", "Kiss Me Kate", "Oklahoma", and "Pajama Game". The next show in the fall of 1985 will be a musical, "Kismet".

Through association with the Players, both Nate and Alice have been involved with Recreation Center projects: The Bi-Centennial Pageant at the Sun Bowl, Alice painted the scenery and Nate directed the orchestra. Alice also designed and painted scenery for two Christmas programs; the 23rd Anniversary Party, the Tucson Light Opera Company's Operetta, "The Gondoliers" — all at the Sun Bowl. She also was stage director for the Players presentation of "The Best of the Musicals" (under the musical direction of Chris Gaensbauer) at Sundial auditorium as part of the 25th Anniversary Jubilee. She also assisted Olympia Sorokin with the decorating of the booths for the Food Fair.

Alice is a member of the Sun City Rockhound Club and the Sun City Hikers, as well as the Symphony Guild and Art Museum.

# Sun Citian remedies household quandries

By TINA SCHADE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

**G**arage door stuck? Call Floyd Runkhe. Busted washing machine hose? Floyd's your man. Water leak? You guessed it, Floyd.

Sun City's preeminent handyman? Well, maybe. But, it's actually Runkhe's volunteer work as a patrolman with the sheriff's posse that has the 78-year-old remedying some of Sun City's most common household quandaries.

While his job may be reporting suspicious activity in the Sun City, Runkhe said the Sheriff's posse serves a more important function.

"The purpose of the posse is to be of assistance to the citizens of Sun City," said Ruhnke, a former funeral director.

As an eight-year member of the posse, Runkhe has also witnessed his share of the not-so-common.

One year, the Kansas native was called to fish ducklings out of the settlement basins of Sun City's streets. Runkhe received a call from a woman who had a fishing net and blanket waiting for him when he arrived.

Assisting people with the little things seems to be a common theme in Runkhe's volunteer career.

As a seven-year board member with Fountain of Life Lutheran Church in Sun City, Runkhe, along with 11 others, acted as "caretakers," calling on church members.

"Very few of our people needed assistance that would require social work. Most of the time it would be satisfying their need to know what's going on at the church," he said. "Sometimes, it would be satisfying their need for company."

Runkhe has been the treasurer for the Grand Canyon Lutheran Layman's League for the past four years. The League sponsors a weekly radio show known as the Lutheran Hour Ministries, one of the oldest-running religious programs in America.

The organization also sponsors a television program.

Between his volunteer work, Runkhe likes to spend his time shooting pool in the

The Daily News-Sun

## DOERS PROFILE



**Floyd Runkhe**

**Hometown:** Atchison, Kansas

**Family:** Wife of 52 years, Marie;  
one daughter;  
two grandchildren;  
one great-grandchild.

**Inspiration:** "Voluntarism is what makes most organizations function beyond beyond that could be accomplished by staff and that's what makes Sun City great. Also, volunteer work is satisfying."

**Philosophy:** "I expect honesty out of myself and out of others. I've tried to be honest with everyone I have served."

# Pipe dreams

## Organ lover discovers instruments are keys to happiness

By Thelma Heatwole  
Special for The Republic

SUN CITY -- Amazingly, six organs, two of theater size, fit tastefully with room to spare in a living room.

It helps, of course, that the room is 50 feet long with a 15-foot ceiling.

The organs were collected over the years by Herbert and Helen Rusalem, both organ buffs, musicians and psychologists.

The collection includes a Rodgers, a three-manual theater organ with four speakers, reportedly close in sound to organs found in the Rockefeller Center in New York City.

The Lowrey MX-1 is an electronically sophisticated organ with an additional orchestral instrument called Magic Genie Chords, which utilizes computer chips.

Other organs include the Allen Digital computer organ with nine speakers; a Baldwin Pro 222, a comfortable organ for entertainers; a Baldwin Marquee; and a Yamaha 415.

The couple's pursuit of organs had an inauspicious beginning in 1967.

"We bought our first organ from a Sears and Roebuck catalog," Helen Rusalem said. "We lived in New York City and were so busy with our careers we couldn't take time to go shopping."

The last organ, the Baldwin Marquee, was acquired four days before her husband's death 18 months ago.

She taught her husband to play the organ, which he picked up very quickly, she said.

"We were living in a New York apartment, and while it was a big apartment it wasn't big enough for two organs, a grand piano and a harp."

When the couple bought a home in New Jersey, they gave the organs away.

Soon, however, they soon were collecting organs again in earnest.

"We bought two big theater organs — the Rodgers and the Allen Digital," she said.

The couple had four organs when they moved to Sun City in 1978.

Each organ has individual qualities and personalities.

"The Rodgers has 'weeping tibias,' a very rich chocolate-fudgy whipped-cream sound," she said. "The Allen has a sharper — more to the Calliope sound. It can be readily programmed to a liturgical organ."

"The Lowrey MX-1 is a prize instrument. I would never give it up. That and the Rodgers are my favorites."

The Rusalems looked at Hawaii, Florida and Canada with retirement in mind, but decided on Sun City, a place they had visited many times.

"It turned out to be the right choice because the lifestyle was so wonderful," she said. "We were able to become involved in educational and cultural activities. Coming from New York, we found it as fascinating and more convenient, comfortable and safe and full of very vital interesting people with rich background experiences."

Rusalem said she still finds people here fascinating.

"People have time to share these experiences with each other, which makes it such a good place to live," she said.

The Rusalems designed and started a program, "Never Too Late," at Rio Salado Community College — the program was for retirement-age individuals who wanted to go on to college and never did so, she said.

Arizona State University officials heard about that program and asked them to start a similar one for retirees.

"We worked there (for ASU) a year and a

After her husband's death, Rusalem said she looked for a new activity.

"We had always worked as a team," she said. "My task was to develop a single lifestyle that would be satisfying. I thought it would be best to start to tread new paths and new roads."

One of her new pursuits is travel, she said, noting she also teaches organ and computer classes to small groups in her home.

"I do it for no fee," she said, "but if people want to they can contribute to a charity."

Rusalem said the basic reason she decided on computer classes was to help people get over their fear of computers. As students gain understanding, some go elsewhere for formal courses, she said.

As for the organs, Rusalem said, "As long as they provide pleasure, I will keep them. They are a lot of fun."

RUSALEM, HELEN



Helen Rusalem prepares to play her Rodgers three-manual theater organ. The organ has "weeping tibias," a very rich chocolate-fudgy whipped-cream sound."

# Bilingual singing star keeps SC act quiet



**MEMORIES**  
 — Andy Russell, who replaced Frank Sinatra as host for the Hit Parade in the early days of television, reflects on his days in show business. Russell is now retired and living in Sun City.

RUSSELL, ANDY

OVER

Daily News-Sun photo by Frances Guarino

By ROSA De SIMONE  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Area residents can now boast they have a star in their midst who ranks with Frank Sinatra and Perry Como.

Singer Andy Russell, 70, who reached stardom in the 1940s, has become a Sun Citian.

Russell began his 40-year career in Los Angeles at the age of 15, and quickly joined the likes of Sinatra, Como and Dick Haymes as young, up-and-coming teen-age idols.

"I started a style — singing in English and Spanish," Russell said. This style established him as not only a huge hit in the United States, but also in Mexico and Argentina.

It was Russell's bilingual singing abilities that first attracted Capitol records to him. This discovery occurred while he was a drummer and singer with such bands as the first Stan Kenton band, Johnny Richards, Gus Arnheim and Alvino Rey.

"You had to play an instrument to get into the music business. I chose the drums because I thought I could learn it in a hurry." Upon discovering how difficult it would be to learn how to read music, Russell realized that he would have to study the art of drumming more seriously. According to Russell, he succeeded and became a "top drummer."

Capitol offered him a once in a lifetime chance — a test record. Russell recorded two singles, and received \$175 for them. In the long run, he gained much more than monetary rewards. In no time at all his test record "Besame Mucho" became a hit-record.

"I always felt protected with a band," Russell said. Suddenly this protection was gone, and he was alone on stage for the first time. But after hearing the screaming fans he knew he would be fine, "I couldn't believe it, all of a sudden I'm a star," he said.

Russell's first hit was followed by a series of other bilingual chart-busters: "Magic is the Moonlight," "Amor," "What a

'I always felt protected with a band. I couldn't believe it, all of a sudden I'm a star.'

Andy Russell  
international singer

difference a Day Makes," "I Can't Begin to Tell You," "Laughing on the Outside" and "Without You."

Russell attributes his success to some advice given to him early on by his long-time friend Gus Arnheim. "Gus told me, 'Do something different and people will notice,' and that's what I did."

Perhaps his most important break came in 1947 when Russell replaced Frank Sinatra as lead singer on the Lucky Strike "Hit Parade." That same vintage year, Russell sang at one of the largest galas of the year, the Academy Awards show.

"You had to make it in New York, or you didn't make it at all," Russell explained. This fact eventually led him to the Big Apple, along with Sinatra and Como. Following appearances on the "Old Gold Show," the trio of new-comers were a "big hit all over New York." Russell takes joy in explaining that Jackie Mason opened for him with a five minute comic relief spot on the "Old Gold Show."

After years of live radio and television performances, Russell moved on to the world of motion pictures. He made six movies in Hollywood working with such greats as Groucho Marx.

There isn't anyone who Russell wishes he had worked with simply because he has "worked with everyone in the business," he said.

Having conquered his homeland, Russell set his sights on international territory. His quest began in 1956 when he left for Mexico City, and to everyone's surprise it lasted 14 years. During this time Russell had great success through a

number of television variety shows, motion pictures and concerts in Mexico and throughout Latin America.

"I was hot as a firecracker," Russell said of his years abroad. He credits this to the public's ability to "accept me as one of their own."

After returning to the United States, and hearing several remarks of "Andy-who?" Russell realized he had his work cut out for himself again. But in no time the American public was reminded of the voice that first brought him fame.

Russell went on to draw large crowds at his appearances at the Fremont Hotel in Las Vegas, the Sahara-Tahoe Hotel in Lake Tahoe and in clubs from coast to coast.

He also became a favorite guest on Merv Griffin's late-night show, and also appeared on the "Tonight Show" and the NBC morning news show "Today."

Having achieved top-performer status all over the world, and after receiving titles such as "The Pioneer of Argentine Television," "The Showman of the Americas" and "Eagle of the Americas Award," he decided to leave the world of show business.

"I'm getting out while I'm ahead," Russell said of his decision to retire. While his voice sounds the same, he admits that hitting high notes takes a little more work than it used to.

"I'm too proud to keep going. I've always had a bright, fresh voice," Russell said.

Russell and his fourth wife, Doris left all the big city problems of Los Angeles behind for the relaxation of the Northwest Valley. Russell has received offers to do a show in the area, but so far has refused. After 40 years in show business, and having been all over the world many times Russell now intends to just simply enjoy life.

# Blindness doesn't slow Sun Citian

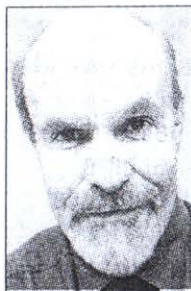
## 88-year-old's 'richest guy you'll ever meet'

**J**oe Zweben, who has lived in Sun City 25 years, recently sent me an e-mail. He wrote, "I go dancing a lot with my lady friend. A few years ago, we saw and met a blind Sun Citian who loves to dance. His name is Will Rowling, and he's in his late 80s. A few weeks ago, I heard him say how happy he was and how much he enjoyed dancing with the ladies. He has an excellent attitude, and if I use the word 'happy,' I would not be far off. I think a write-up of this gentleman would be an inspiration to all of us."

When I called Will Rowling, a

resident of Sun City since 1976, he spoke of his blindness from macular degeneration very candidly.

"Blindness is not a difficulty," he said. "It's an inconvenience. I lost my sight 18 years ago, but I can do everything I want to. And, like I always say, if you take the letter 't' off the word 'can't,' you can."



**Rich Kenney Jr.**

As our phone conversation wound down, I told him I looked forward to meeting him.

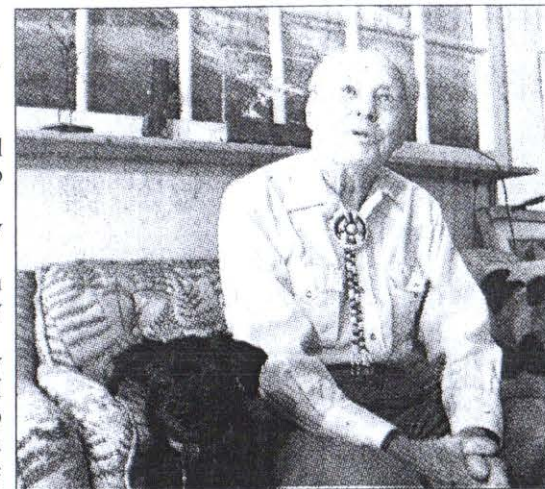
He replied, "I'm the richest guy you'll ever meet."

I met Will, who will be 89 in December, at the home of his lady friend and dance partner, Flo.

"I was a model maker all of my life," he began. "It all started when I was a kid in Michigan. I used to build model airplanes. All the kids in the neighborhood would come to me for help, because I was the only one who could understand the prints. I guess I was just positive about myself and what I could do."

During his career, Will designed and constructed engineering,

**See SUN CITIAN, A5**



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Will Rowling and dog Terry sit in front of a window Rowling painted depicting an Arizona scene. Rowling says his blindness can't keep him from enjoying life, including dancing several times a week.

OVER

## From A1

automobile and medical models for display, teaching and sales promotions for a number of companies.

"I've made models of anything you can imagine," he said. "I made a free-piston engine for DeLorean to show the action of pistons. That one's in the Smithsonian Institute now."

Will's worked for companies like Chrysler, Ford and Disney, often taking on difficult projects.

"I never took a negative attitude to anything," he said. "When I worked for Chrysler, anytime they had a job that no one would take, they'd bring it to me. Nine times out of ten, I didn't know how the hell to go about it. I'd go home, sleep on it, and the next morning I had the solution. I could actually see what I was going to have as a finished product. I don't know why I'm that way, but I am."

Despite not having had any formal training in model making, Will said companies sought him out for his expertise.

"I've learned everything in my life from observation," he said. "I would observe people setting up projects, and I

would somehow know how to do it. Like one time, I was working on a model, and I made a temporary spring. I went to a spring company to have a permanent one made. The guy looks at me and says, 'Did you make this spring?' I said, 'yes.' He studied it and said, 'I got guys who've been here 30 years, and I don't think they can make one better.' He said to me, 'Could you make other springs?' I told him I could make anything if I wanted to. Suddenly, I was in the spring business."

When I asked him how long he did that, Will said, "Oh, for a couple of years, I guess." Then, growing somewhat impatient, he said, "Maybe three. I don't know. I have no concept of time that I've done things. I've just done them as they appeared, that's all. I've made some fabulous springs, though."

Today, Will spends much of his time dancing at Sun Cities-area dance clubs. He dances three or four times a week at such places as the Sundial or the Bell recreation centers.

"I dance with all the women," he said. "Good or bad - I dance with them. I'll dance with women with two left feet, too, because they come to

dance, and I think they all should dance."

While Will believes most of the women are good dancers, he's not so sure about the men.

"A lot of the men just sort of stagger around. They put one foot out, wiggle and let the girl do all the work."

So how good a dancer is Will?

"I dance all the dances," he said. "I keep the beat. All the girls like to dance with me, so I guess I must do all right."

When Will explained how he never sits down between dances, Flo reminded him of a triple-bypass operation he had two years ago.

"I was going to go dancing after the first week," he said, looking at Flo, "but she talked me out of it. I had to wait two weeks before I could go. I think I could have danced the day I got out of the hospital."

Loss of sight doesn't stop Will from dancing, or traveling - his second passion.

"I had a girlfriend several years back, and she was as blind as I am," he said. "We traveled over a 100,000 miles together. People would say, 'why do you want to travel like that - you can't see anything?' I'd say, 'Well, we like to feel our way around the

world.'"

Will said he likes to leave people with a laugh.

"I like to enliven people," he said. "I don't have any money, but I'm rich. I have my health, I have my outlook - and there isn't a day that passes that I don't enjoy life."

Positive thinking, Will says, is ideal for anyone.

"If people start thinking positively, there's no way they can be licked. Remember what I said about the word 'can't.' Drop the letter 't,' and there you are."