

# EXECUTIVES

NEWS-SUN WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1983

SHANTZ, ROBERTA

## In Kuwait Sun City woman leads hospital volunteers

By HUNTLEY WOMICK  
Staff Writer

A woman in Islam lives and works for her husband and children.

Period.  
It would be unheard-of for a traditional Muslim woman to be an executive of anything but the hearth—and that, only on the sufferance of her husband.

HOWEVER, Roberta Shantz of Sun City has had an experience very few women have had. She has lived in an Arab country and worked there as

an executive, as a leader. The first year Sun City's Boswell Hospital opened, Mrs. Shantz was an auxiliary vice president. The following year she was president.

In 1972, she became director of hospital volunteers and for the next three years she was responsible for recruiting, training and placing volunteers.

SHORTLY AFTER she resigned as director of volunteers, she received a letter from International Executive Service Corpo-

ration, a private, non-profit corporation founded in 1969 by David Rockefeller.

IESC recruits retired persons with executive backgrounds in banking, finance, retail and personnel to do volunteer consultant work in developing countries.

Volunteers' assignments are limited to two to three months, to foster self-reliance of the project without the volunteer.

IESC's LETTER asked Mrs. Shantz to set up a hospital volunteer pro-

gram—in Kuwait.

That was in 1975-1976. "I didn't even know where Kuwait was," admitted the Sun Citian, adding that Kuwait is on the northern shore of the Persian Gulf, flanked by Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

"At the time I was asked to volunteer, the hospital, the Kuwait Society for the Handicapped, was four years old and was the first privately owned hospital in the country," Mrs. Shantz said.

IT WAS THE only one which accepted mentally and physically handicapped children, she added.

"It is a custom in Kuwait for first cousins to marry and such inbreeding has resulted in abnormally high rates of birth defects—mental and physical retardation," she said.

...the children had nowhere to go, so a hospital was started by two women, a radiologist and a physical therapist, with 65 children and approximately 20 nurses.

VOLUNTEER work was a new idea in Kuwait. Women were, as they have always been there, homebound. Kuwaiti women rarely left the home, recalled Mrs. Shantz.

"So I had to recruit volunteer help from the embassies. I began with the American and British," she said.

"The government there takes care of its own," said Mrs. Shantz, "and is very good to its people. Their system of health care is socialized, so hospitalization and medical attention are provided at no cost to citizens."

Mrs. Shantz explained that persons are considered citizens only if they are born in Kuwait.

AT THE TIME of Mrs. Shantz's visit, citizens numbered about half the population. Citizens are provided with good housing and free telephones and pay no income tax, she said.

"The country was really just a desert, with temperatures averaging between 130 and 140 degrees. Only about four inches of rain falls there a year. Cactuses hardly grow at all," she said.

"Because their country was so desolate, most everything had to be imported. Yet, many products were boycotted," said Mrs. Shantz. "The Kuwaiti

robe and veil. It's the custom that a woman never shows her face outside the home.

"THE KUWAITI man is allowed four wives. And if at any time he wants to divorce any one of them, all he needs to do is request permission from the emir, who is the ruler of the country. Divorce is allowed only to the men."

Mrs. Shantz said although the male is granted a divorce, he still must provide for his ex-wife and any children resulting from the marriage.

"This may be the reason the younger men don't have as many wives as the older generation—it's too expensive," she said.

MRS. SHANTZ talked about the women's deep interest in keeping themselves attractive, remarking that the reason could be the competition with the other wives.

She was surprised to find so many beauty shops in Kuwait, particularly since the women's heads were always covered outside the home.

"The Kuwaiti women don't allow their hair to grow white," said Mrs. Shantz.

"IN FACT, one of the younger psychologists who volunteered at the hospital told me that since his mother didn't prefer the beauty shops he dyed her hair for her," she added.

"Once my husband came to pick me up from a beauty shop and was stopped at the door. It's against the law there for men even to enter a beauty shop," Mrs. Shantz said.

"About the only makeup the women used was mascara and this they used lavishly. I guess this is because it's the only part of their face they can show," she observed.

WHEN MRS. Shantz left Kuwait, she left behind a program with a female chairman and vice chairman and nearly 70 volunteers.

"Only three of the volunteers were Kuwaiti women, but it was a beginning," she said.





SHAW, HELEN

## A stitch in time, a starry clime was her job line



**BUTTONS, BOWS AND BEADS** were a tour de force for pattern maker Helen Shaw, Sun Citian who helped produce some fabulous, and fabulously expensive gowns for the movie stars. Labor costs alone were \$600 for a gown worn by an extra in "My Fair Lady." Mrs. Shaw displays a preliminary drawing for gowns she helped produce for the film, "They Shoot Horses Don't They."

By PEG KEITH  
Sun Cities Independent

Helen Shaw is a cut-and-fit artist who says movie stars are just ordinary people with extraordinary jobs.

For nearly 25 years, Mrs. Shaw was responsible for the patterns that made the costumes that made the stars. Or, as she puts it, "I made the patterns; the designers made the sketches. And some of them were a little sketchy with their sketches."

Movies had not always been a part of her life.

The youngest of four children and daughter of a Methodist minister, Mrs. Shaw was reared in a home in Ohio, where sewing was in, but movies were out. She says her mother taught her to sew, out of necessity. It was called the Great Depression.

Out of school and on her own, though, Mrs. Shaw went to California during the war, when the Hollywood film studios were busy and looking for help.

See **STITCH**, page two



## • STITCH *From page one*

With an encouraging boost from her husband's cousin, she applied at Republic Studios, where Irene Rich was making a western movie.

For her initiation by fire, Mrs. Shaw says, "They brought me a gathered period skirt, and told me to make it into a pleated period skirt ... I'd never seen one."

She told them she'd never used a commercial machine, and her job classification -- when she got one -- said she wouldn't work with figures (mannequins). She did both, with flair.

Mrs. Shaw loved her work. "It was something different every day ... I hated to quit," she says. With stars in her eyes.

She was with Republic for 10 years, then worked for Review for nearly a year and moved on to MCA (later Universal). In 1959, she went to Warner Brothers.

It was a memorable experience. She drops a few names: "Hello, Dolly." "Camelot." "My Fair Lady." "They Shoot Horses, Don't They?" "Bonnie and Clyde" (that was a sleeper and it made an awful lot of money). "Dead Ringer" and "The Great Race."

Is your favorite among them?

"My Fair Lady" was her first pattern assignment, doing gowns for extras, and Cecil Beaton became a mentor, of sorts. "He was the top designer, and did the sets, too. He was great. And he loved the wardrobe."

When Bette Davis came in with sketches for "Dead Ringer," other cutters and fitters ducked that extra assignment. Not Helen Shaw.

"Then the cutters were saying, 'Why did they give her to you? She should go to a pro,'" Mrs. Shaw recalls.

"The girls told me to be careful. But Bette was really very nice, because she had lost everything and was on the way up. She bought a couple of my items."

The initiate soon became a pro. In his book "Fair Lady," which told the story of the movie version of the musical, Cecil Beaton included bits of information about cast and crew, including some of the pattern makers.

He penned, "Helen (Shaw), a handsome duchess with white hair, is terribly nervous with me, but need not be, because I'm delighted with everything she does."

"My Fair Lady" was a delight, Mrs. Shaw says, and Audrey Hepburn was her favorite. Always thin. Always a lady. Always considerate, even attired in \$2,000 dresses and \$3,000 hats that weighed nearly as much as she did. Hats that had to be perfectly balanced, just to stay on her head.

"I didn't do the hats. No. That's an art in itself," says Mrs. Shaw.

She worked with the wispy Hepburn once again, on the set for television. Always a lady.

The movies were not like sewing at home. For the stars and the extras, everything had to be perfect (and sometimes it had to be perfect and ready yesterday).

Television hurt the movies, Mrs. Shaw says. The producers found out that some things weren't necessary, like casting a picture three months before they shot and giving the workroom a chance to get things finished.

There were occasions when the cutters and fitters thought they were finished, but discovered they were not.

Faye Dunaway's nine blouses for "Bonnie and Clyde" were hastily superimposed over "Camelot's" schedules. "And there's not a fitter alive who likes to do more than one of anything," says Mrs. Shaw.

"I never did see Faye; we had her measurements, though, and made six silk blouses for the death sequence -- They never thought of washing or cleaning anything; that would take too long.

"We had one hard and fast rule: you kept all your patterns until the show was released. Well, it was 11 hours a day, six days a week, with "Camelot," and we'd done the six blouses for "Bonnie and Clyde." Problem: they had to have three more blouses. We could not find those patterns any place, so we made the three new ones from memory. And kept still about it."

She worked 13-hour days with Edith Head and Paramount, on "The Great Race," "and cried, all the way to the bank." It was the overtime. Eight hours, regular time; 10 hours, more; 12 hours, double.

Today, Mrs. Shaw makes much of her own wardrobe. "I see a picture, and I can make a dress," she says. "I still enjoy it." But she won't hang out a shingle, and she doesn't want people knocking at her door. "I won't sew for anybody, now. When the time comes, you hang it up."

She and her husband, Harvey (manufacturing research, Lockheed), thoroughly enjoy Sun City. They moved here after she retired in 1962, basking in clean air and abundant activities. They take retirement seriously.

The Salvation Army Auxiliary's is the next speaking date on her calendar. She'll be talking about "Dressing the Stars," at 1:30 p.m. May 10. The meeting will be at 10730 W. Union Hills Drive, and the public is invited.



# Storytelling teaches 'survival skills'

Hypnotherapists provide tales that help reduce stress

By PEG KEITH  
Sun Cities Independent

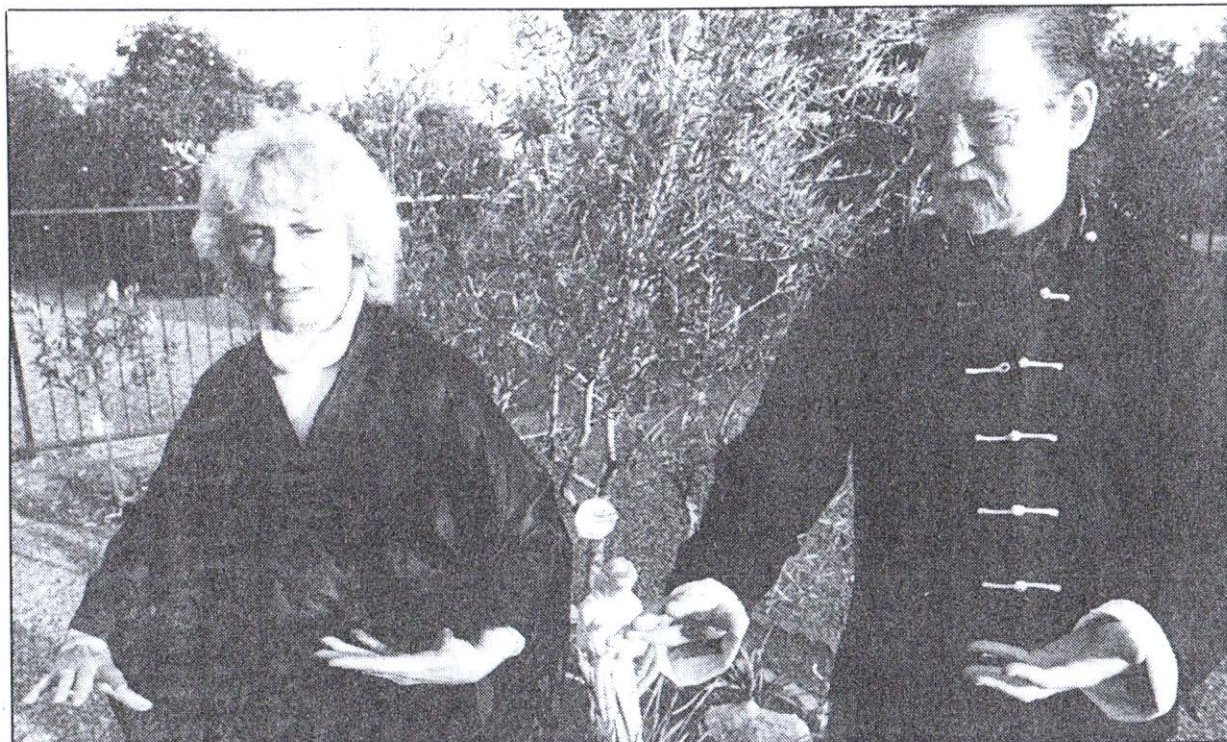
Using creativity is "the thing to do," regardless of one's age, say Sun Citians Ruthmarie Arguello-Sheehan and Brendan Curtin, professional storytellers, Tai Chi Chih instructors and hypnotherapists.

They describe themselves as masters of hypnotic feats for entertainment, for exploring the psyche and for habit control, learning enhancement, stress, motivation and self-confidence.

Together, they form Adelante Productions (Adelante in Spanish is to move ahead, advance). "We have to go straight ahead," she says. "Lots of adults are living in the past."

The two were presenters at the 4,000-member National Guild of Hypnotists Convention and Educational Conference in Nashua, N.H., last month. The Sun Citians received special recognition for storytelling-hypnosis and Tai Chi Chih, an ancient exercise and meditation regimen.

Ruthmarie's first career choice was nursing. As a master professional storyteller for 40 years, she took that program on the road following her husband's death from cancer.



Sun Citians Ruthmarie Arguello-Sheehan and Brendan Curtin are professional storytellers who will teach a class in Tai Chi Chih at Rio Salado Community College.

After "gypsy"ing for three years and with her California house badly damaged in an earthquake, the seventh-generation Californian decided to relocate to Arizona.

In the past year, Ruthmarie and Brendan decided to pool their talents to bring a sharper focus to their varied interests. Both are certified hypnotherapists.

Brendan began teaching in 1962 at the University of Iowa and continued teaching at State University of New York and in Europe. He taught languages

(French and Spanish), comparative religion and was, for a time, faculty advisor to a student newspaper.

"Older Americans have yet so much to give," they say. "And living in Sun City, being here in the middle of it, is very exciting."

Their experience shows that for anyone, any age or level of creativity, there must be replenishment ... nourishment.

The two Sun Citians find restoration in Tai Chi, in reading and swimming, in laughing, collecting, travel and music and in being with people who "are still excited about life."

SHEEHAN, RUTHMARIE  
CURTIN, BRENDAN

skills to the ancients," says Ruthmarie. "In a sophisticated world, storytelling is still teaching survival skills."

She senses that retirees "are very vulnerable to pressure," pointing to financial, marital and emotional concerns that haunt many elderly citizens.

Golden years can tarnish if there's too much living in the past and too little time spent in challenging pursuits.

Hypnotelling and Tai Chi can aid those individuals who face sleepless nights and lethargic days, she says.

Through self-hypnosis, people can be taught to realize that they have "control" over their fears, adds Ruthmarie.

Ruthmarie and Brendan will teach Tai Chi Chih classes beginning Oct. 4, at Rio Salado Community College in Surprise.

Call 877-8822 for further information about classes.

They took to the road together this summer, traveling 3,000 miles, from one resort to another. They taught self-hypnosis (stress reduction, weight control, wellness, self confidence and sports concentration).

They blended stories with hypnotism, to produce "hypnotelling" shows and demonstrations with music and props and collectables gathered during their visits to out-of-the-way places.

"Storytelling taught survival



# Woman linguist awaits Marines' call

*Former Japan resident explains tea ceremony in Sun City*

By THELMA HEATWOLE

SUN CITY — Jeanne Maxant Shimizu, 29, is a temporary resident of this retirement community who has lots of plans for the future.

In fact, she is waiting a call to join the Marine Corps where she has been accepted for officer training.

She hopes to enter the intelligence division and utilize a versatile background in languages and travel to work toward international understanding.

She has studied 10 languages and speaks Japanese, Spanish and Russian. She sings opera, classical, popular and folk music in different languages. She also dances and lectures.

And she has a license in the tea ceremony that she acquired in a five-year residency in Japan.

It was while studying for the tea ceremony that she met and was married for a time to the son of one of her instructors.

Mrs. Shimizu discussed the ceremony recently over coffee and cookies in the home she shares with her parents, the William Maxants of 9937 Cameo Drive.

"A tea ritual in Japan can be very complex," she explained. "It's more than just mixing and serving tea. It's a state of mind. The ceremony teaches one to find the simple beauty in many things and to learn different rituals."

"Instead of awaiting restlessly during tea preparation," a Japanese woman may interpret the sound of the oven as wind passing through the bamboo grove. Every little thing has meaning."

While awaiting her call into the Marine Corps some time this summer, she hopes to entertain with cultural-type programs in Valley clubs, guilds or churches or even larger groups.

"I have developed a Japanese program," she said, "that

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Republic photo

Jeanne Maxant Shimizu, Sun City newcomer who studied 10 languages, has eyes set on Marine Corps.

## Linguist joins Marines

Continued from Page B-1

involves songs, dances, temple chants — even the cries of street vendors — that I intersperse with the tea ceremony or flower arranging, with cultural explanations.

"Many people have a vague idea about the Orient and generalities about the people."

"I believe that in a small way my programs can further international understanding and friendship."

Mrs. Shimizu was reared in Chicago and graduated from Northwestern University where she majored in foreign languages and political science.

In Japan, she studied the culture, attended Tenri University and taught English and Spanish at Tsudo University. She also worked in analytic research for Northwestern's anthropology department.

Getting back to the Marine Corps assignment, Mrs. Shimizu said she will be commissioned a second lieutenant on graduation.

SHIMIZU, Jeanne Maxant



# SCAT president honored for service by the Arizona Transit Association

By ANNE RYMAN  
Sun Cities Independent

The Arizona Transit Association recently named Sun City resident Dale Shockley, Sun Cities Area Transit president, as the outstanding person in the state for transit in 1992.

The association has 75 members from the public and private sectors of the transit industry with the goal of enhancing public mobility in Arizona.

"It was a surprise to me I got it. Being named for the whole state kind of floored me," he says. "It's a nice thing to have after 10 years."

Mr. Shockley has served as board secretary, vice president and has been president of SCAT's volunteer board for the last four years.

SCAT provides door-to-door transportation in the Sun Cities and Youngtown area every day of the year.

In fiscal year 1991, SCAT operated 57,000 rides in Sun City, 8,500 in Sun City West and 4,600 in Youngtown.

Executive Director Donna Gilliland nominated Mr. Shockley for the award citing his 10 years and more than 18,000 hours of volunteer work with the

organization.

"We're very pleased he was chosen," she says.

Mr. Shockley says he still believes in SCAT's motto that "transportation is the key to independence."

"Without Dial-A-Ride door-to-door transportation, a lot of people could not continue living in their own homes."

As well as being concerned about meeting the transportation needs of residents, Mr. Shockley has promoted the use of alternative fuels to gasoline.

SCAT vans have been equipped to run on either gasoline or compressed natural gas since 1988. Compressed natural gas costs about half the price of gasoline and is less polluting.

Mr. Shockley joined SCAT's volunteer board after a neighbor suggested, "it won't take much time, only an hour or so a week."

He laughs as he remembers this statement, because he frequently puts in 30-hour weeks.

"Particularly since I've been president, it keeps me busy. But I've turned a lot over to Donna (Gilliland)."

He has lived in Sun City for 13 years, but says he still finds time to play golf despite his involvement

with organization.

"I retired in '71 so I had 11 years between retirement and 'this career,'" he says. "Once I got interested (in SCAT), I couldn't quit."

He says now that one of his big goals, the permanent CNG station has been installed, he is considering retiring as president.

He says he has enjoyed his time with SCAT.

"It's a lot of fun and interesting. I think my wife is right. It keeps me young."

Shockley, Dale



# SCAT president volunteers for transit needs

**Need a ride?** Just dial 977-8363 and talk to the Sun Cities Area Transit System. For \$1.50, a SCAT van will take you where you need to go in the area.

A van will pick you up as soon as possible, but ASAP might on some days stretch into a two-hour wait, said Dale Shockley, SCAT's president and one of the transit system's early organizers.

"We'd like to pick up every caller within 15 minutes," he said but added that to do that would require a small fleet of reserve buses.

"There's a fine line between reasonable costs and having enough vans to pick up everyone within 15 minutes," he said.

Since 1985, the SCAT Board of Directors has managed the system. Despite his 85 years, Shockley, a retired civil engineer, has found an unpaid career that keeps him working close to fulltime.

SCAT estimates that Shockley has volunteered an estimated 17,680 hours. "For many years, I worked eight hours a day and on weekends," Shockley said Wednesday.

Recently he cut back to approximately 30 hours a week. In

his years with SCAT, Shockley has negotiated contracts, written transportation specifications, projected transportation trends, and other planning and administrative functions that have shaped the service.

SCAT hasn't always been around to provide its service. It's one of those institutions that has grown up after the Sun Cities Area Community Council recognized the need.

Back before October 1982, "There was no other transportation, other than a taxicab out of Peoria," Shockley said.

Ten years ago, he said, Chuck McKinnis led the formation of SCAT, which began with a Tucson van company providing

passenger service. In its first year, SCAT carried about 20,000 passengers, Shockley said. This past year, the system transported more than 70,000 passengers.

"As the communities age, we get an increased number of people who have no way of getting around other than through SCAT or their neighbors," he said.

With an estimated 1,500 area people losing their driving privileges each year, he said, the need for SCAT continues to grow.

SCAT's financial reserves

have been dwindling as demand and costs have risen. Where federal grants paid for the planning and development of the service, contributions from individuals, non-profit groups and businesses are SCAT's mainstay and lifeblood.

He thanked the Daily News-Sun for its annual \$1,000 contribution, and said, he would like to see other businesses follow suit because contributions haven't increased over the years at the same rate as the increased ridership.

Connie Steele Young is a features writer with the Daily News-Sun.

## DOERS PROFILE

### Dale Shockley

**Vitae:** Bachelor's degree in civil engineering, Oklahoma A&M, now Oklahoma State University.

**Hometown:** Enid, Okla.

**Valley Home:** Sun City 12 years.

**Marital status:** Wanda for 60 years.

**Self-portrait:** A discontented self-starter, an explorer, a thinker who looks for a better way of doing things.



**Motto:** Do your job!

**Greatest feat:** Surviving at age 60 a plane crash into the Panamanian swamp and jungle before search planes made the rescue three days later.

**Walter Mitty fantasy:** I'll find SCAT a \$1-million-angel.

**Inspirations:** Wanda's sound thinking and support.

**Good/bad habits:** Neat/Never voluntarily throw anything away.

**Favorite food/drink:** Mexican/Beer.

**TV programs:** "Hallmark Hall of Fame."

**Books at bedside:** Newspapers and Reader's Digest.

**Vacation spot/luxury:** Visiting family/Time.

**Key to longevity:** Keep busy.

**Last words:** Stay calm. Work it out.



# Woman finds foothold in SC political arena

By TINA M. SCHADE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

7-26-99

**W**anda Shockley of Sun City admits she has always had an affinity for professional fields dominated by men.

For years, Shockley wrote a weekly column for a newspaper and owned and operated her own public relations firm. She was also one of a handful of female pilots who flew during the 1940s and excelled to a level where she cashed in on aviation contests and performed in air shows.

Even after retiring with her husband, Dale, to Sun City in 1979, Shockley pursued a volunteer course that was heavily weighted by men. One such course was politics. Although Shockley had been active in the League of Women Voters in San Francisco for many years, it was Sun City's political climate that cinched Shockley's belief that Republicans touted a platform more akin to her views.

It was in Sun City that Shockley officially switched from being a Democrat to being a Republican.

"I suspected for a number of years that I was thinking along Republican lines," Shockley said. "I think professional and business issues always interested me more than the social issues."

Upon changing her party affiliation, Shockley dived into Republican causes. She championed current Sen. John McCain during his first bid for office by taking him around Sun City neighborhoods and introducing him to locals.

More recently, Shockley, at least in an unofficial capacity, is helping with McCain's 2000 presidential campaign through a letter-writing effort, although she admits she writes intermittently.

Shockley was also campaign chairman for Sun City resident Chuck McKinnis in his run for the state Senate seat that was snagged by a narrow margin by Senate President Brenda Burns.

But what's been at the heart of Shockley's political activity has been her work with the Republican Forum West, where she has held a number of offices over the past 18 years, including secretary and publicity chair.

While she admits she has lightened her load with the organization, she is still a member and is also a member of the Republicans Club. Shockley said she feels that politics is a field women today can pursue with more freedom than years past.

"I think in the last 10 or 20 years, women weren't convinced politics was a field they could handle. But it was just a matter of habit and precedence that men held office," she said. "I think it's pretty much an open field now."

While Shockley said she has no political ambitions, she still has a full plate and these days is pursuing more artistic goals.

Shockley is aiming to finish a novel by spring of next year. She is hoping to have the book published with profits going to needy children.

"I would like to use the money to find young people who have ability but don't have financial backing. I would like to help steer them in the direction that would allow them to reach their potential," she said.

Shockley will celebrate her 87th birthday on Wednesday.

To nominate a doer, call Tina Schade at 876-2514 or e-mail at [tschade@aztrib.com](mailto:tschade@aztrib.com).

VF PERSONALITIES  
(Wanda Shockley)

## DOERS PROFILE



*Wanda Shockley*

**Hometown:** San Francisco Bay Area

**Family:** Husband, Dale, of 68 years, one daughter, four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Inspiration:** "I still find the world and its people interesting."



# Chairmaker takes success sitting down

By MIKE GARRETT  
Daily News-Sun staff

Edwin J. Shoemaker never had a reputation for sitting down on the job.

Shoemaker did become known for building comfortable, folding chairs that encourage people to sit down.

Shoemaker, along with his cousin Edward M. Knabusch, were co-founders of La-Z-Boy Chair Co. They got their start in in Monroe, Mich. after developing a simple folding chair.

Shoemaker, now 84 and a Sun City resident for eight years, said he and his cousin built the world's first folding recliner wooden chair in 1928. They soon incorporated the company and followed that in early 1929 with the first upholstered recliner.

He sold his first chair to a department store in Toledo, Ohio.

In 1991 the La-Z-Boy Chair recorded \$625 million in worldwide

sales, said La-Z-Boy Senior Vice President Patrick Norton.

Shoemaker, a widower, retains his title as vice chairman of the board and executive vice president of engineering and still does design consulting work for the company. Shoemaker is the last survivor of the company's original founding family after Knabusch died in 1987.

Despite the Great Depression, Shoemaker said he and Knabusch launched the company into the retail market and experienced considerable growth throughout the 1930s. "We had to figure out some way to make a living then."

"They (Toledo store) had already bought their things in the fall for the winter market but they wanted something that would sell year-round," said Edwin's son Dale Shoemaker, who is visiting his father from San Diego. "So they figured out a way to upholster their recliner chair."

Both Shoemakers were on hand for Thursday's grand opening of the Valley's newest La-Z-Boy Furniture Gallery at 5191 W. Bell Road. Edwin took the opportunity to stretch out in the latest computer-designed La-Z-Boys, some carrying price tags of \$1,000 or more.

The first recliner chair was made with a band saw, jointer and shaping machine at Edward's furniture and desk manufacturing company in Monroe.

"There were other recliner chairs on the market then but they pulled your clothes and required several manual adjustments," Edwin Shoemaker said. "The back just hinged back but there was no firm completion in the mechanism that would allow the seat in the back to go together as you reclined."

"Our intention was to design a chair so that when you reclined the distance on the back gets less

when you stoop over or sit up in the chair," he said.

From a furniture historical perspective, Dale Shoemaker said the La-Z-Boy is the longest continuous chair manufacturing company under the same ownership in America.

"The only chair companies ahead of us at the time were in Sturgis (S.D.) and one in Iowa," the elder Shoemaker said.

Dale said his father was the La-Z-Boy's chief designer up until the early 1960s when computers were first used in the design.

Dale said it was only after his father moved to Sun City that he abdicated his design responsibilities. "But he still maintains an active role on the board."

Now La-Z-Boy has more than 3,000 retail outlets in all 50 states with distributorships in Germany, England, Mexico, Japan, Australia and New Zealand, Norton said.

OVER





Rick D'Ellia/Daily News-Sun

La-Z-Boy Chair Co. co-founder Edwin J. Shoemaker reclines in Road, Glendale. Shoemaker, a Sun City resident, was on hand recliner at the La-Z-Boy Furniture Gallery store at 5191 W. Bell Thursday for the store's opening.



DAILY NEWS-SUN

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2004

# Blind Sun City man throwing first pitch

ANNIE KARSTENS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Fred Siegel of Sun City will be making Arizona baseball history Friday night.

Siegel earned the honor of throwing the first pitch of the Arizona Diamondback's game against the San Diego Padres at Bank One Ballpark. He anticipates pitching a strike, despite being the first blind 99 year-old to ever throw the first pitch at a Diamondbacks game.

"I love baseball and everything connected with it," Siegel said. "I don't think it's going to be very hard to throw the pitch. If they want a strike, I'll throw it right down the middle."

Diamondback Players, coaches and fans will give an extremely warm welcome to the record breaking senior, said Jeff Golner, senior director of the team's game operations and entertainment.

Siegel, who will turn 100 on May 28, was diagnosed with Macular Degeneration in 1988 which resulted in his loss of sight. Since then, he's been an active participant of the Sun Health Olive Branch Senior Center where he is involved in various discussions involving politics, news and current events. Forty-four of his Olive Branch friends are taking a bus to Bank One Ballpark to support the man many of them look up to.

"He's an inspiration to everyone, especially others who have Macular Degeneration because he's done so much," said Lois Maxwell, activities coordinator at Olive Branch.

Administrators at the center suggested the team allow Siegel to throw the pitch.

"He's always been a great leader, he's a very active gentleman and the nicest guy,"

Maxwell said.

The center's Macular Degeneration support group heartened Siegel during the difficult adjustments associated with the condition.

"We sit and talk and have a wonderful lunch. It's people who like to get together — friends of a feather flock together," he said, emphasizing how important it is to have people to relate to. "That's how I got interested in the senior center."

Myrtle, Siegel's wife of 49 years, is also grateful to the center for being an integral part of their family.

"It's helped him accept his blindness and inspired him that way," she said. "It was really a major adjustment, and they helped him change his attitude. It's been wonderful."

A retired certified public account from Spokane, Wash., Siegel remembers playing second base on his hometown high school baseball team, though admits he was better as the quarterback of the football team. He later became a champion golfer and avid fisherman and is now a member of the Sun City Sportsman's Club.

Siegel recalls watching Babe Ruth play in Tampa, Fla. in 1925 and was a fan when legendary greats like Hank Aaron and Ted Williams were still in the game. His favorite Diamondbacks player is pitcher Randy Johnson, however, he's actually a bigger fan of Greg Schulte, the team's announcer.

"He's a fellow I really enjoy," Siegel said, explaining that Schulte helped him discover the team in spite of his blindness. "He has such a wonderful voice and that's what got me to follow the Diamondbacks."



FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 2004

## Closing in on 100

**Fred Siegel**

**Age:** 99.

**Place of residence:** Sun City.

**Secret to longevity:** "There is no secret. It's all pure luck."

**Interesting facts:** You may recognize Siegel from last Friday night's Diamond-backs game. He was the guy with the cane throwing out the first pitch. It was a birthday wish come



early: Siegel will turn 100 on May 28.

He is the founder of an accounting firm in Seattle. After a successful career, he and his wife, Myrtle, of 49 years retired to Sun City in 1960. He is a champion golfer, an active fisherman and belongs to the Sportsman's club.

"I must be the luckiest man alive because nothing really bad ever happened to me. I would like to say that I am thankful that I was born to good parents who raised me well," Siegel said.



Daily News-Sun • Tuesday, July 18, 2000

# Sun City man inspires others who are visually impaired

RICH OTT  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

**F**red Siegel has always been a beacon of success. The Sun City resident was able to retire in his 40s after a profitable accounting career and was once featured in *Golf Digest* (April 1962) for shooting a course-record 65 at Arizona Country Club. Now the 96-year-old is a beacon of light for those living in a world gone dark.

"Fred is a dynamic person, he probably has been all of his life," said Linda Adams, a rehabilitation specialist who works with a visually impaired group that meets in Sun Health's Olive Branch Senior Center, 10765 W. Peoria Ave., at

10 a.m. every Monday. "Fred is the leader, without him we probably wouldn't have as much fun with the group."

Siegel lost most of his sight eight years ago — he still has some peripheral vision — yet managed to maintain the same demeanor that served him well throughout the years.

"I'll encourage them to never give up," Siegel said of the visually impaired group members. "They had all of their life and now they have to learn to cope with what they have left."

That's where people like Siegel come in, to offer newcomers in the group all the information and techniques needed to cope with losing their sight.

Siegel's Sun City home is a virtual

encyclopedia of what's available for those losing their sight. His room — which has golf trophies everywhere from his days as one of the best amateur players in the world — is set up so he never has to leave.

Siegel has a projection machine that magnifies print on a screen, a huge magnifying glass that enlarges the television (though he can no longer see the TV screen well enough to use it) and a red-digital clock that can be read when he presses his face against it.

The 96-year-old spends most of the day, though, listening to his radio and a special four-track cassette player. Siegel receives books and newspapers, including the *Daily News-Sun*, on cassette from the Arizona Department for the Blind.

"They (ADB) send you the cassette machine and will send any book or magazine you want," Siegel explained. "I spend eight to 10 hours a day on talking books. What else am I going to do?"

One thing Siegel has done in the past is show new members in the visually impaired group his devices and methods used at his home to assist him as well as certain tricks he has learned across the years.

Two tricks Siegel regularly uses are pouring milk into a black cup so he knows when to stop by the contrast in colors and squirting toothpaste directly on his teeth instead of on the brush.

"When something is beyond me, though, I have a wife (Myrtle)," the 37-year Sun City resident said. "But what about those 90 percent widows over there (in the visually impaired group) that live alone?"

Take Eleanor Arcamone, a 10-year member of the group, who is completely blind.

"It's the only place I go," she said of

the group meetings. "This is my big day out. Thank God for SCAT (Sun City Area Transportation), I couldn't go anywhere without them."

"I enjoy coming here because, unfortunately, people are afraid to talk to blind people," Arcamone said. "They think it's catching."

Which is why the visual impaired group has more of a support environment to it than anything else.

"Nobody is a stranger for very long," said Adams, who is a Glendale resident. "They are introduced to the group immediately and these people make sure you have a seat with them. They are always helping each other."

"It's my star group," said the rehabilitation specialist who works with groups in both Sun Cities, Surprise, El Mirage and Peoria. "When you can't see, you are in a world on your own a lot of times. This group doesn't let you give up. The depression that goes with it, they don't let people stay that way too long."

"It's like going through hell when you first realize you're losing your sight," Siegel said. Which is why the visually impaired group always begins every meeting letting any new members tell their stories. "Then we ask if anyone has learned anything new in the last week that can help us cope."

"This group means a lot to a lot of people," said Adams, who has been with the Sun City group for 11 years. "I once had a lady tell me that she wasted a year of her life before coming here. She found so much encouragement from the group. There are no strangers here and that is what impresses me the most."

"I consider them my blind buddies," Arcamone said. "I have gotten to know a lot of them."

"Blind people are not to be pitied," Siegel said. "You learn to cope. That is the whole story."



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Charlie Beyer talks about his experience of being blind while Eleanor Arcamone and others listen. The two are members of the support group for the blind that meets at the Olive Branch Senior Center 10 a.m. Mondays.

OVER





PHOTOS BY MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Fred Siegel, photo above, listens while Linda Adams of Glendale conducts a meeting of a support group for the blind that meets at the Olive Branch Senior Center at 10 a.m. Mondays. He has been a member of the group and a source of encouragement for other members since he lost his sight eight years ago. Siegel, photo left, reads the Olive Branch Senior Center news on a magnifying screen in his home.

# Lighting the way



JUNE 6-12, 2001

## A Name to Know

**Tom Simpson** moved to the City of Volunteers in 1979 and since 1980 has been giving back to the community known for its philanthropy.

Mr. Simpson, 86, served in the Army for 31 years, retiring in 1967 as a brigadier general. He received his bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Alabama and his master's degree in engineering from Cornell University.



His volunteering efforts began with the Red Cross in 1980 and during the time Mr. Simpson spent between Arizona and Alabama, he continued his efforts in both states.

Currently, Mr. Simpson delivers groceries for clients of Interfaith Services, delivers meals for the Red Cross, visits indigent people in care centers once a week and is involved with his church.

He began working with IFS after his friend, Lee Reichstein, asked him to volunteer. The two have been delivering groceries as a pair for the last four years.

"I wanted to give something back after I'd been blessed for so many years," explained Mr. Simpson. "And while volunteering is very helpful to the individuals receiving it, it is also very rewarding for the person providing the service."

Mr. Simpson also enjoys volunteering because of the people he meets and the exercise it gives his mind and body.

"I think the human body is just like an engine, if you don't use it, it rusts out. And the same is true of the brain. I'm a great believer in physical and mental exercise," he said.



Monday, Sept. 28, 1998 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz

# Purveyor of antiquities

## Retired accountant digs role

By JEFF OWENS  
Staff writer

Indiana Jones he's not.

But don't be fooled by the fact that 80-something retired accountant Lewis Singer of Sun City bears little resemblance to the dashing, whip-cracking cinematic archaeologist Dr. Jones.

Far from being a mild-mannered bean counter, Singer has spent decades traveling to the four corners of the Earth and sailing the seven seas as, like Jones, a purveyor of antiquities.

Point to just about any spot on the map — Singer has been there. Together with his wife of 60 years, Mary, he has visited no less than 114 countries on every continent but Antarctica.

He has extensively documented his travels with more than 2,800 stereo photographs and more than 150 hours of film. Looking through his old plastic Revere stereo viewer is like looking through the archives of National Geographic.

Here's a shot of Mary in Rotura, New Zealand. Here's



Gregory Harris/Daily News-Sun

Lewis Singer sits in front of a portion of his collection of artifacts amassed during his world travels.

a minaret in Turkey; a ziggurat in Iraq; Red Square on an overcast day.

The list goes on: China, Yugoslavia, Spain, New Guinea, Australia, Nepal, Egypt ...

"I've been all over every place," he said.

He has sipped tea in Darjeeling, India, in view of Mount Everest. He has pho-

tographed men at work on the Soviet-backed Aswan High Dam on the Lower Nile in Egypt at a time when photographers weren't particularly welcome. He has smuggled large fragments of ancient Mesopotamian temples across the arid Turko-Syrian border.

He is especially fond of his adventures in the Middle

East in the 1960s, when Jews from New York weren't exactly running around Iraq, Iran, Syria and Lebanon in large numbers.

"I must've been the only one," he said, laughing.

In 1967, he and Mary spent 3½ months traveling the barren deserts of the then

► See Travels yield, A5

### ◀ From A1

more-volatile-than-usual Middle East, shooting miles of film and collecting artifacts.

Some of those artifacts were simply "lying around," which, as far as Singer was concerned, meant lying around for the taking.

That's how he wound up with the pieces of the Mesopotamian temple. The large and heavy fragments are from a massive stone building which stood more than 2,000 years before the birth of Christ in the legendary ancient city of Ur, thought to be the home of Abraham, in what is now Iraq.

Chiseled into the fragments are ancient writings, prayers rendered in the simple pictographs of the long-dead Sumerian language.

And some people just have ashtrays on their coffee tables.



# He came, he saw ... he recorded it on video cassette

By **YOLANDA MUHAMMAD**  
Sun Cities Independent

Reels rolling 'round the clock, video entertainment history is being made moment by moment in the Sun Cities.

At the helm of this complex, only-one-in-the-world system is Lew Singer.

With 24 television sets and 24 VCRs churning out the tapes, no wonder Mr. Singer has had to make three room additions to his home just to store his collections.

Four satellite dishes swivel on their axes, receiving images from all over the U.S., Canada and Mexico.

No private individual in the country has more dishes or more tapes.

"I look around at all this sometimes and say 'Jeez ...' I mean even I don't believe it!"

He has over 7,000 films, including 1,354 musicals and all the Academy Award nominated films for best picture, best actress and best actor.

Mr. Singer has over 3,000 programs of concert performances of opera, classical and popular music on tape.

His library of phonograph records numbers in excess of 4,000 and includes every Broadway musical that has ever been recorded.

He also has recordings of every opera singer ever recorded, including a copy of everything Caruso ever sang.

Over 2,000 audio cassettes are filed away in orderly cabinets.

"Name a performer, and I will have them on tape," Mr. Singer says.

He has another cabinet with 3,200 three-dimensional slides that he and his wife Mary took during their world travels to 109 countries. These he keeps in boxes labeled by country name.

Another cabinet has drawers with photographs stored by subject.

A complete collection of *National Geographic* magazines fill bookcases with every issue since 1888.

With all this at his disposal, each week Mr. Singer hosts two programs at Fairway Recreation Center.

On Wednesdays he shows movies and on Thursdays he offers musical concerts --

shows that he has prepared especially for these presentations, with clips and excerpts remixed for a program that can be seen nowhere else.

To keep tabs on all his collections, Mr. Singer maintains an elaborate computerized catalogue system with cross references, which he updates weekly to cover all the new taping he does.

At home, Lew and Mary Singer move from room to room in their artifact museum, where every inch of wall and some floor space is covered not only with tapes and books, but with collections of Buddhas, daggers, African masks, pre-Columbian pottery, Egyptian statuary, carved ivory, Mexican dolls, Italian glass, Chinese figurines and groupings of the folk art of every country they have ever

Their favorite country is China, which they have visited many times since their first trip in 1980.

Mr. Singer has learned to speak Chinese and has friends there, with whom he trades films.

He learned to speak Chinese by picking up radio transmissions from that country over a radio and subscribes to several Chinese magazines to keep his idioms sharp.

He started by showing his Chinese friends some of his Disney movies, which they loved, and on a subsequent visit, he took a VCR so that his friends could tape Chinese movies for him and they trade back and forth.

For the programs at Fairway Recreation Center, Mr. Singer says he starts off with what he knows people in the Sun Cities like and he takes requests.

To keep his collection complete, Mr. Singer says, "I never loan anything to anybody." He trades with collectors in England, France, Italy and China, as well as from a large mailing list in the United States.

When he wants to trade a tape, he makes a copy and keeps his original.

He says part of the reason he has amassed this vast collection is because when he was growing up on the east side of New York, he had

nothing as a kid.

When he and some friends found a radio, the first thing he heard on it was the opera "Carmen." He was hooked. He began to collect records.

Besides his astounding inventory of communications and art, Mr. Singer also characterizes himself as a reactionary.

It all started a few years back when his neighbors objected to a 10-foot fountain he placed in his front yard.

Instead of speaking to Mr. Singer personally, they made

a complaint to the zoning department.

"If they were going to make me move my beautiful fountain, I decided to show them what a house *could* look like."

Mr. Singer was so infuriated, he began to make what he considered unattractive additions to his house and yard.

He painted his garage door hot pink, white and green.

Later he painted his house black. And from there, he made other modifications to

his home for the sole purpose of mortifying his neighbors.

"I have the worst looking house in Sun City," he says with an ironic grin of pride.

On weekends, he says, there are 20-30 tourists who come by to take pictures of the Singer home.

"Fifteen years ago when all this started, everybody hated me, now they love me. I'm called the maverick of Sun City."

Besides the four satellite dishes that flank the home, his front yard is a grove of

trees dotted with statues and lights.

A big metal tub painted a blaring green spouts a tiny jet of water -- his replacement for the stone fountain he was required to remove -- though that fountain sits in dry dock near his front door.

His driveway is lined with several old vehicles, dusty cobwebs clinging to the tires.

And a huge painted set of the eyes of Buddha (symbolizing protection) glare down from the eaves of his garage.

OVER



Sun Citian

# Profile

## Portraits Of Our Residents



**VIDEO MAN.** Lew Singer, the ultimate collector, struggles to hold onto a pile of video tapes as he moves them from one shelf to another. An elaborate cataloging system helps him find what he needs when he needs it.

Mr. Singer says, the amusement playing across his face, he takes strolls past his house from time to time to see what he can add to enhance the overall shock value of his property.

As tenaciously as he guards his rights, he is still energetically good natured.

"Sun City has given me a lot. It is a magnificent place to live and I want to give something back to it."

So when the Recreation Centers of Sun City approached him and asked if he would show some of the material from his video collection, he was happy to do it.

Lew Singer presentations at Fairway Recreation Center for the coming season include the films, "Kismet," "Moulin Rouge," "Yolanda And The Thief," "Annie Get Your Gun," "The King And I" and "Brigadoon."

Concerts to be shown include Liberace, Itzhak Perlman, Tom Jones, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis, Jr., Harry Belafonte, Mario Lanza and holiday programs.

Mr. Singer plans to leave his collection of films, musical programs and other items to the Recreation Centers of the Sun Cities.

"I would love to let my kids have some of the specialized things they want and the rest of it will go to the Recreation Centers.

"There will be rules for who handles it and it will have to stay in a room and not be loaned out, but it will belong to everyone."

Those who attend the programs he presents at Fairway Recreation Center will get more than good entertainment, they will also be a part of Lew Singer's dream.



January 15, 2003

## ■ A Name to Know

If someone in Sun City were to ask "Where's Waldo?" the answer could be "almost anywhere."

A 30-year resident of Sun City, **Waldo Smith** remains active in his adopted hometown. The former resident of Minnesota and Iowa moved to the community in



1972 with his wife, Louise, who passed away in 1995. Mr. Smith remarried, Donna, in 1997.

A director with the Sun City Home Owners Association; Ms. Smith has been a member of the Men's Fellowship group at Bellevue Heights Baptist Church for 12 years, currently serving as chairman.

He is also a bowling enthusiast and currently bowls on four teams.

It is not the competition that keeps him on the lanes, it is the camaraderie. "The fellowship is so great," he says.

Although these activities keep him very busy, Mr. Smith is perhaps best known for his involvement with the Sun City PRIDES.



# Retiree leads rally to save pool

By P. SOLOMON BANDA  
Staff writer

Sun City resident Miriam Smoot figured more than 20 years of service in the community was enough. Actually, it becomes harder to volunteer as you get older, so two years ago, at age 81, she decided to retire.

Now, she is coming out of retirement to help the Dysart Unified School District and El Mirage keep the only public pool in the area open.

"I had a dream about this," Smoot said. "We can't lose it."

In the late 1970s she, along with Roy Fritz and Herb Wilson, helped rally community support to build the pool at El Mirage Elementary School.

Smoot saw the need for the pool as she drove through the city on her way to the El Mirage Community Center where she taught adults how to read. She was also a job developer at the center.

"They had to go to the irrigation ditches to get in water," Smoot said. "We had a child care center and it cost \$100 to take 25 to 30 kids to Peoria to swim for an hour or so."

"There was nothing in the whole area."

An appeal to the National Council of La Raza, an organization founded in 1968 to reduce poverty and discrimination in the Hispanic community, landed Smoot and the com-



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Water flies from her fingertips as Nicole Hunter, 10, swims the 25-meter butterfly in the El Mirage Pool Olympics, for kids who recently finished instruction at the pool. Medals were awarded.

munity a \$210,000 grant to build the pool.

The district put up \$80,000 and Sun Citians donated the rest to pay the \$325,000 cost of the pool.

"Opening day we had 400 kids," Smoot said.

The pool serves as the only water recreational activity for miles

around. Adults and children from Surprise and El Mirage use the pool during the summer.

El Mirage has the contract to operate it as part of the recreation department during the summer and Dysart is responsible for the pool the other nine months of the year. The pool will be dropped from the budget

next year as a result of the \$55 million bond and \$1.4 million override failure.

It cost the district \$15,000 to operate and maintain the pool.

"We have enough money to maintain it through next June," said Gary Mitchell, district maintenance director.



# Attorney raises bar to help Sun Citians

JEANNE WINOGRAD  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Helping seniors with legal advice probably wasn't at the top of Andrea Somerville's list in 1968 when she visited her parents during school breaks. For law students at the University of Wyoming, the closest thing to elder law was a specialization in estate law.

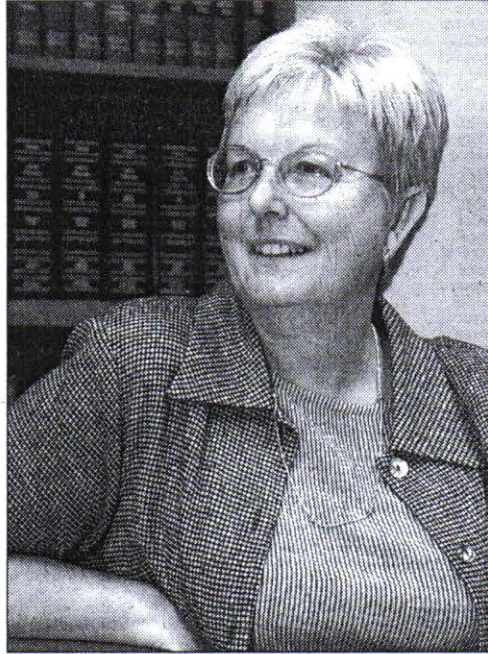
Somerville, who is a partner in the Sun City firm of Norris, Lischer, Batts & Somerville, has become expert at both, since moving to the area in 1989. She also taught elder law as part of the justice studies and gerontology program at Arizona State University.

In addition to running a busy practice, which Somerville said is "not like doing battle, but more like solving problems," she has been fulfilling volunteer obligations with the leading senior support organizations in the Northwest Valley. Among them are Sun Health's board of directors and planning committee, Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital's board and joint conference committee, Sun City Area Community Council, Sun City Lakeview Rotary Club, and Hospice.

"I've always been involved in community service work," Somerville said. "I was first drawn to Hospice because in my work I deal with issues of incapacity and death. Anything I can do to make it easier, I try. It's an area of the law that makes you feel worthwhile."

The typical scenario Somerville has to solve is when an elderly person has become incapacitated, and one of the spouses, perhaps with the help of an adult child, is trying to get the bills paid and take care of the ill person as easily and comfortably as possible.

"We have so many in Sun City who moved away from home to retire. I'm surprised at the number who don't have children. They're all alone. That's when we have to get the system involved. While many plan ahead for the eventualities of life, we still have a number who can't



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

## Working for you

Andrea Somerville, who is a partner in the Sun City firm of Norris, Lischer, Batts & Somerville, says a number of local residents are unprepared for the future if they become incapacitated.

deal with planning what will happen if they become incapacitated," Somerville said.

A good first step in planning is to ask someone you know well and trust who they know well and trust for advice in planning for a long-term illness, or ask a professional you know in another field for a recommendation.

"Long-term planning is a matter of what people can afford. If a person is not fortunate to have saved a lot or to have gotten long-term health insurance, their savings may end up going to long-term care," Somerville said.

She observed that one great advantage of living in the Sun Cities is the network of friends, neighbors and professionals who will check up

on a person if they don't show up for the regular card game or crafts class.

"Everyone needs to know their friend's child's or attorney's phone numbers. If a person is not walking his dog at the regular time, check in on them. You can also ask the posse, Interfaith Services, or Adult Protective Services to check in," Somerville said.

Somerville said she has really enjoyed getting to know her local clients, "most of whom are really great."

"I don't know where you could go to find so many people who've made such a difference in the world," she said.

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

SOMERVILLE, ANDREA



# YOU'RE OUT!

## Eagle-eye Rose calls 'em behind home plate

By KIM SUE LIA PERKES  
Emphasis Editor

Rose Sorace, all 5-feet, 1-inch of her, calls 'em like she sees 'em.

"They disagree with some of my decisions," says the 60-year-old Sun Citian. "I got a lot of teasing like 'kill the ump.'"

But Rose has a good sense of humor and takes all the criticism thrown at her in stride. "I just ignore them," she says.

**ROSE NEVER** missed umpiring a game during the senior Softball League season.

"I heard they were going to have softball teams," she says, explaining how she acquired her position. "Then I heard they were going to have lady umpires so I decided to be an umpire."

The league started with three women umpires but because two of the women had other commitments which conflicted with game times Rose became the only woman to stand behind the plate.



Rose Sorace

"I played practically all my life," Rose says of the game. "I knew all the rules."

**MOTHER** of four and grandmother of four, Rose says after each game the winning team would con-

gratulate her on a job well done and the losing team... well, everyone knows the kinds of things a losing team says.

No matter who disagreed with her, there's no disputing that Rose has a big edge over the National and American league umpires—she's popular.

"They (players) all thanked me for doing it," she says, adding that during tournament playoffs, the teams said they didn't want men behind the plate. "They wanted me behind the plate," she says with great pride.

Rose brought her own broom to sweep off the plate to every game and was given a counter to aid in keeping track of outs and the count on the batter.

**ROSE MAINTAINS** she was out there behind the plate for one reason and one reason alone—to have fun.

"Anybody that wasn't out there for fun should have stayed home. I had a

lot of fun... Everybody had a good time."

The teams made great strides for improvement throughout the season, she says. "It was fantastic how they improved their game from the first week up to the end of the season."

Rose umpired a total of 19 games. She was rewarded for efforts with a trophy given to her by Del E. Webb Development Co. The inscription read "Senior League umpire for your dedication, integrity and excellence."

**ROSE SAYS** she didn't expect to receive any kind of an award. "I was very surprised and pleased."

Concerning women umpires in the major leagues, Rose says, "I don't see why not; I think a woman could do just as good as a man umpire and I'm not a women's lib person."

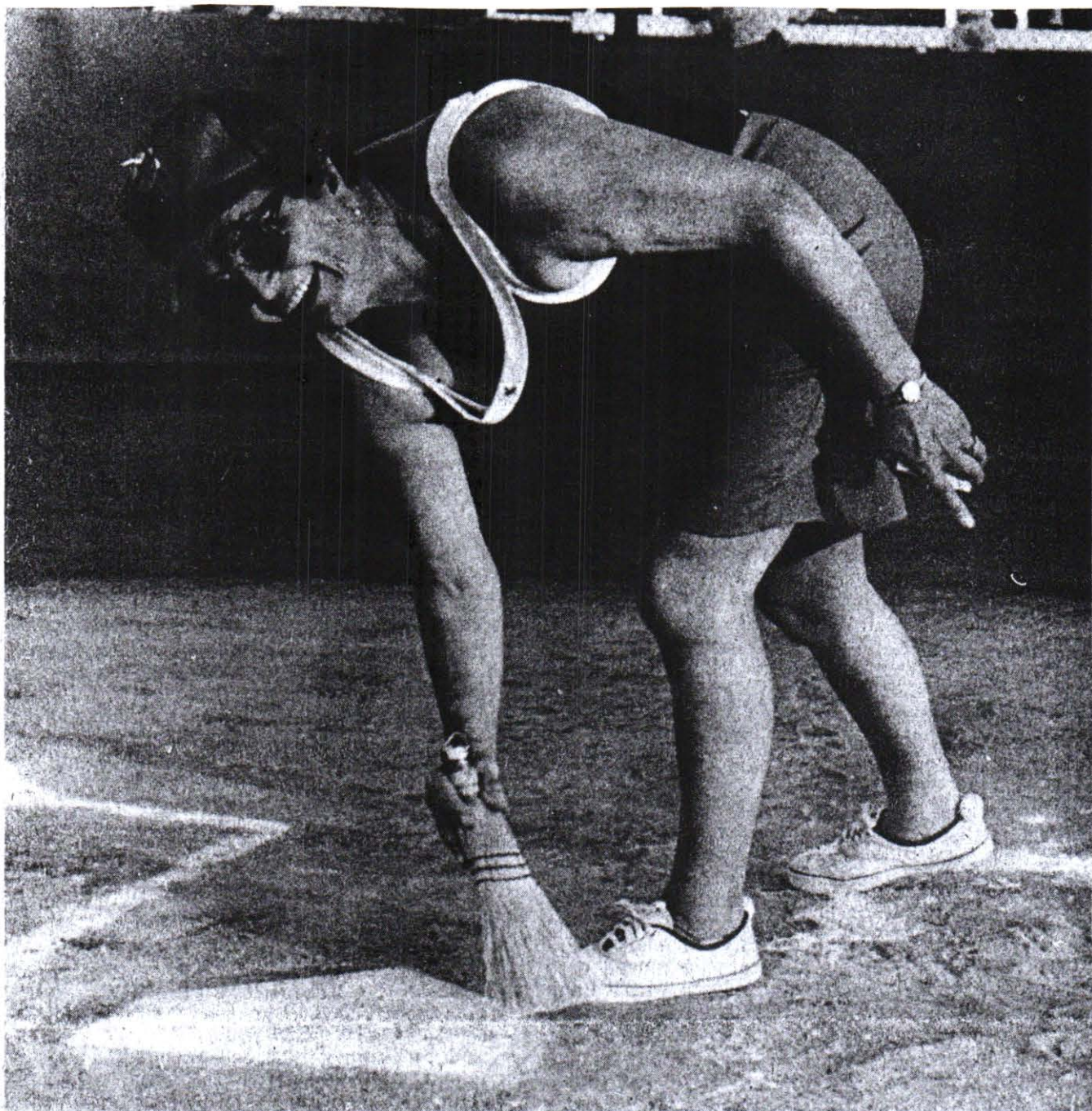
It looks as though Rose will be back shoutin' 'em out next season due to popular demand.

"Well, they all told me to have myself available."

OVER

SORACE, ROSE





Rose Sorace sweeps off home plate with her broom. She umpired a total of 19 games for the Senior Softball League. Mother of four and grandmother of four, she

says she plans to take her place behind the plate again next season.

(News-Sun Photo by Rick Smith)



SOULE, THAYER

**SOULE, Thayer**

Thayer Soule, nationally known travel lecturer and author, died in Sun City West, Arizona on Thursday, January 15, 2004. He was 86.

His career started at an early age in Rochester, New York when, in 1935, after graduating from high school, he took a banana boat trip to Haiti. With a 16 mm camera and the brand new Kodachrome color film, he made his first travel film, and presented it free to any group expressing interest. While a student at Harvard University, he attended all the programs presented in Boston by Burton Holmes, creator of the travelogue. After each performance, Soule talked with Mr. Holmes backstage. After graduation, he became his associate, a position he held for twenty years, until Mr. Holmes' death.

In World War II, Mr. Soule was the Marine Corps' first photographic officer in the field, serving with the First Marine Division at Guadalcanal, and later with the 3rd Marine Division at Iwo Jima, where he won the Bronze Star.

For sixty years he produced travelogues in all parts of the world, and presented them in person throughout the United States and Canada, including twenty-eight performances in New York City's Carnegie Hall. He made hundreds of appearances on television, and his videocassettes were distributed nationwide. In 1988 he received the Centennial Award of the National Geographic Society for his contribution to the spreading of geographical knowledge. Gilbert Grosvenor, President and Chairman of the Society, described Thayer Soule as "a prominent and greatly beloved traveler...and one of the best geography teachers I have ever known."

In 1983, Mr. Soule moved his lifelong home base from Pittsford, New York, to Sun City West, Arizona, where in 1995 he retired from the platform and devoted his time to writing. He is the author of two books, *ON THE ROAD WITH TRAVELOGUES* and *SHOOTING THE PACIFIC WAR, Marine Corps Combat Photography in WW II*.

He was born October 9, 1917, in New York City, the son of Karl Thayer Soule and Ruth Northup Soule. His first wife, the former Nancy Parks of Rochester, New York and mother of the children, died in 1978. He is survived by his second wife, the former Ruth Parks of Rochester, New York; and by his two daughters: Robin Mandell of Greenbrae, California and Cindy Thrane of South Burlington, Vermont; his brother, Gardner, resides in Shelburne, Vermont.

A memorial service will be held at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13724 W. Meeker Boulevard, Sun City West at 2:30 P.M. on Saturday, January 24, 2004. Memorial gifts may be sent to Sun Health Hospice, Sun City West Unit, P.O. Box 2015, Sun City, Arizona 85372.

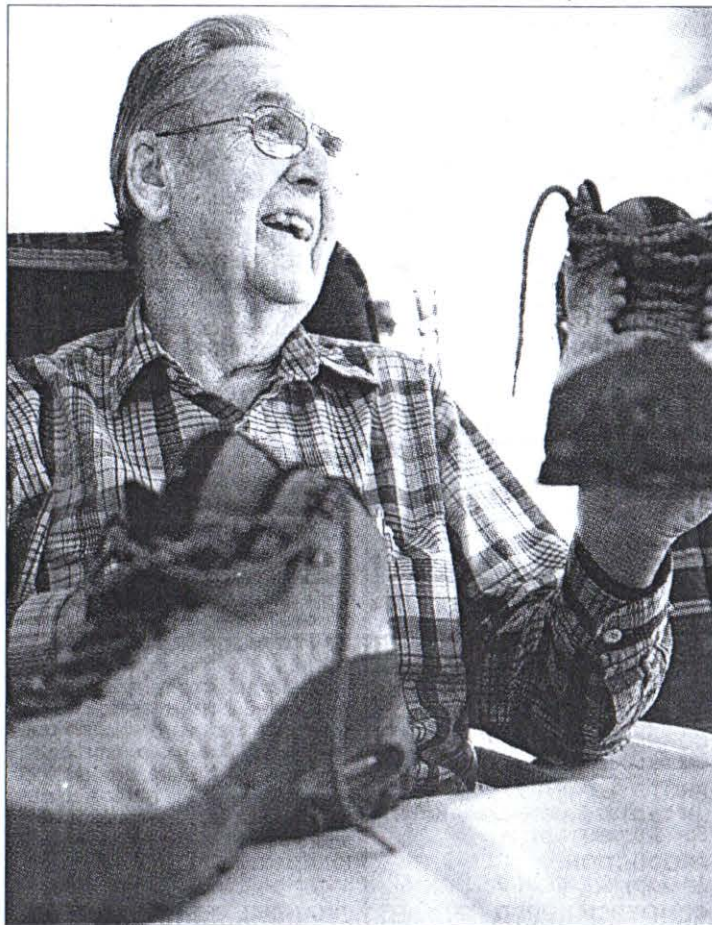
**Visit this person's Guest Book at [www.dailynews-sun.com](http://www.dailynews-sun.com).**



DAILY NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, JAN. 24, 2003

# Walker puts heart, sole into trek around Sun City



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Warren Sparks holds one of the hiking shoes he wore walking every street in Sun City, including cul de sacs. He estimated he walked 300 miles in three years.

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

It took two maps and two pair of hiking shoes, but Warren Sparks made it through Sun City.

Down every street, around every corner and through each intersection, he marked off each street on his map as he made his way to his goal. He set out about three years ago to walk all of Sun City's streets.

"That means the cul-de-sacs, too," said his wife, Pauline.

Walking several hours each week, Sparks successfully wrapped up his goal last year.

"I was working on the second map by then, because the first map was worn out," he said.

There are 228 miles of Sun City streets, according to the Maricopa County Department of Transportation.

"I checked with MCDOT the other day just to find out," Sparks said. "With all of the backtracking, I imagine it was about 300 miles."

Sparks said Pauline sometimes walked part of his routes with him. He hiked 2 to 2½ miles about three times a week.

"I regularly walk — I've got about five routes from the house here I can regularly do," he said.

Sparks said he didn't originate the idea to walk all of Sun City's streets. He just followed in others' footsteps, picking up the idea several years ago from an article in the Daily News-Sun about another walker.

"I just got a map and a red marker and started off," he said. "It didn't intimidate me. I figured I'd do it a little bit at a time."

When he finally finished, "I felt like I had accomplished a little bit — nothing earth-shattering," he said.

He continues to participate with the Sun City Hiking Club, joining hikes which are about four miles long every three weeks.

Sparks' Hiking Club buddies had mixed feelings about his goal when he started: "Some of them thought it was a good idea, and some of them thought I was nuts."

The club's John Walters said he hikes with Sparks sometimes and is impressed by his accomplishment.

"I think it's fantastic," Walters said. "I walk a lot, but I hadn't thought of doing it quite that way."

Edna Robinson, one of the club chairpersons, also was impressed: "I think it's wonderful. I wish I could do it."

Basically, Sparks started in Sun City's Phase 2, moved to Phase 1 and finished with Phase 3. He has a new pair of hiking shoes to show for his efforts.

"The ones I started with were fairly well worn to begin with, so I graduated to another pair," he said.

He also gleaned some interesting tidbits about Sun City. He recalled one home that had a mailbox set high on a post with a message saying, "Air Mail." Another house had a post topped by an old toilet with a sign reading, "Junk Mail."

He's also noticed the way Sun City's architecture changes from phase to phase.

"When you're driving, you don't see much," he said.

Katy O'Grady can be reached at 876-2514 or kogrady@aztrib.com.



# Volunteer Spotlight

## Jean Spence Lends a Helping Hand



Jean Spence, 69, has spent the past 17 years helping the Sun City community. She is always willing to lend a helping hand to neighbors, friends, and those in need. She's a compassionate, good-natured person who enjoys giving back to her community.

At a Fun Fair in 1989, Jean met with Sun City Posse representatives and decided to volunteer. In her hometown of Racine, Wisconsin, she was a receptionist for S.C. Johnson Company for 20 years and these skills came in handy as she started answering phones and dispatching for the Posse.

Now Jean is the manager of the Vacation Watch Program where she gathers vacation cards from residents and enters them into the computer. She then files them and selects around 40 cards a day, on a rotating basis, for Posse members to check properties.

Along with her duties as manager for Vacation Watch, she is

also a vital part of a new program urging residents to fill out Resident Emergency Information Cards. Jean visits homes in Sun City and explains to residents the importance of this card for emergency personal and family members in case of an emergency. The card contains information such as medication, next of kin, and a local neighbor with access to the property.

With these two programs, and her duties on dispatch and patrol, Jean logs over 100 hours a month with the Sun City Posse.

Jean is also a driver for Meals on Wheels, an organization she has been with since moving to Sun City. Every Sunday, she delivers 8 to 10 meals for home-bound seniors. She also goes out of her way to help neighbors and their pets by volunteering her time to dogsit and by doing other odd jobs whenever she's needed.

In addition, she was a volunteer for Boswell Hospital for five years delivering prescription medication to homebound patients and spent 10 years with Habitat for Humanity building houses for the needy in Surprise and El Mirage.

She moved to Sun City in 1989 with a friend, a decision she made after visiting her mother who moved here in 1975. Of the city, she says, "I like it all. There's so much to do," and of volunteering, "I volunteer a lot of time because I still think I'm too young to sit around...There are so many things you can help people with."



# Lawrence Spitz, Union Club founder, dies at 96

STAFF REPORT

Lawrence "Larry" Nathaniel Spitz, a pioneer of the organized labor movement in New England, died Dec. 5.



Spitz

Mr. Spitz, who was instrumental in the creation of the West Valley Union Club, will be remembered as a "champion for the little people in (Sun City)."

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., Feb. 19, 1912, he joined the United Textile Workers of America in 1930 and began a life-

long pursuit of advancing the economic and social welfare of working people. He was instrumental in forming the Committee of Industrial Organizations in Rhode Island, served as Secretary General of the Industrial Trades Union in Woonsocket and drafted and mustered support for key labor legislation in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Mr. Spitz graduated Phi Beta Kappa magna cum laude from Brown University in 1951 while working as a sub-district director for the United Steel Workers of America. In 1976, he received an honorary doctor of laws degree from

**SEE SPITZ, A5**

## SPITZ: Union club founder remembered

FROM A1

Brown.

Mr. Spitz also lectured extensively at various colleges and universities throughout New England and for labor and management groups from Europe, Asia and South America.

Mr. Spitz and his wife, Lillian, retired to Sun City in 1976, where he played a key role in organizing the West Valley Union Club, an organization of retired union members, which to this day still boasts a large membership.

West Valley Union Club Secretary David Robinson said Mr. Spitz "epitomized the word

gentleman" and was a "champion for the little people in (Sun City)."

"He's one of my heroes. It just doesn't get much better to have somebody of Larry Spitz's caliber call you friend. It's a real honor," Robinson said. "I think the Good Lord held off on taking Larry as long as he could because he knew once he got there he'd start organizing the angels."

Mr. Spitz is survived by his daughters Marjorie Spitz and Barbara Bassett of Aquinnah, Mass., and his grandchildren Leah Bassett of Aquinnah, Meadow Bassett of New York and Daniel Spitz Lee of Ore-

gon, as well as his nephews Howard, Marshall and Neil Greenstein, Marshall Spitz and Robert Spitz and niece Malvina Feinswog.

A memorial gathering will be from noon to 3 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Palmbrook Country Club, 9350 W. Greenway Road, Sun City.

Memorials may be made to American Hospice Foundation at Plaza del Rio Inpatient Unit, 12740 N. Plaza del Rio, Peoria, AZ 85381; The Union Club Sun City; or the USW Charitable and Education Organization, USW Secretary Treasurer, Five Gateway Center, 12th Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.



# Labor leader looks for successor

## Sun Citian devotes life to 'little guy'

By MIKE GARRETT  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Members of the Union Club regard Larry Spitz as a living legend among the country's union leaders.

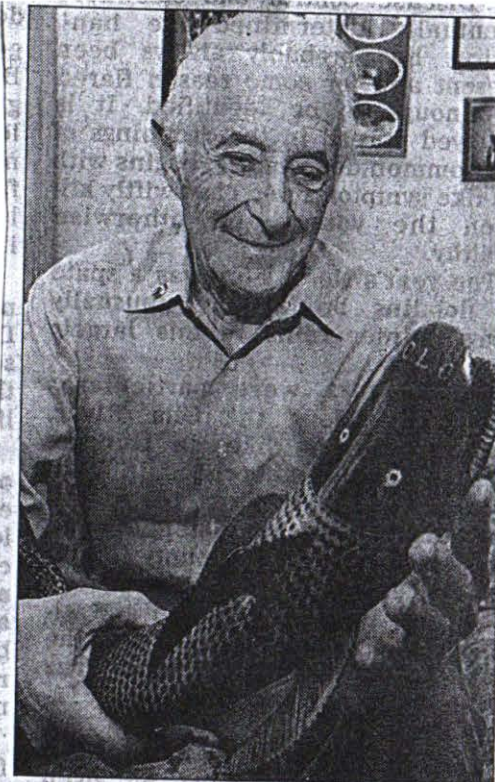
They've never considered nominating or electing anybody else to fill his shoes as club president, they say, and they attend meetings because the retired union leader discusses issues, problems and solutions they hear nowhere else.

But Spitz's feistiness, the glint in his eyes and his commanding voice may be waning after 15 years as president of the Sun Cities' largest club.

Spitz said this month he can no longer maintain the pace and responsibilities inherent to the position, and wants to step down, possibly by February.

"I would like to get somebody to take it over," said Spitz, who will be 82 in February. "Otherwise we may have to change the club's organization and format, maybe not meet as often or take on so much responsibility."

"I would like to see someone continue with it because it would be a shame to let the club wither and die," Spitz said. "Our meetings are well-attended because the topics and issues we discuss are so important to retirees."



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Larry Spitz, president of the Union Club and a labor leader of several decades, shows a souvenir from his travels to the Philippines.

"But I was very disappointed we didn't have our regular October meeting this year because no one was willing to step forward while I was in the (Hawaiian) islands, even after I told everyone in May I wouldn't be there."

Spitz's oratorical diatribes are

directed at big government, big business, incompetent politicians and their threats to cut Social Security, company pensions and health benefits. His efforts on behalf of labor and "the little guy" are well-documented.

He said his Sun City home and the Rhode Island Historical Society Museum in Providence are filled with documents, newspaper clippings and mementos of his labor career that began when he joined the United Textile Workers of America in 1930.

But Spitz said his main claim to fame was gained as a tough but fair labor negotiator who helped settle numerous United Steelworkers of America strikes from the 1940s until

he retired in 1978.

In a two-hour interview with the Daily News-Sun at his Sun City home this month, Spitz, a candid man, talked about what motivated him in the past, what keeps him going and what he sees as the future of the labor movement in America.

Labor and the development of Sun City are synonymous, he said, noting it's no coincidence that 84 labor unions are now represented in the Union Club, which meets monthly in Mountain View Auditorium.

"When Del Webb first started to build Sun City in 1960, he sent letters that crossed my desk to the higher-paid unions like the electrical, auto and steelworkers," Spitz said. "Webb was a lifetime member and had a close relationship with the Carpenters' Local 59 of Glendale before he became a successful contractor."

SPITZ, LARRY



in 1974) that he would never break a union," Spitz said. "But he was not going to bend to unreasonable demands either."

When local masons wanted to become the highest-paid among the home-building crafts, Spitz recalled that Webb decided to keep them in line by using masonite instead of all sump-block construction.

Spitz said Webb would personally intervene if a homeowner had a workmanship problem, such as his renter did with a malfunctioning television hookup that required replacing most of the ceiling three years after Spitz bought the home.

Spitz has few kind words for state politicians he has known over the past 15 years and says it's because of their inability to respond to the common man's problems.

"The thing that I'm proudest of and have found most gratifying as Union Club president was the fact I was able to bring about a satisfactory resolution of so many cases for people who have been denied their Social Security, railroad retirement benefits or their private pensions and insurance benefits," the retired labor negotiator said.

Regarding the future of the labor movement, Spitz said he's concerned by a lack of able labor leaders with the dedication, vision and motivation of the leaders of his day.

"I also see the middle class disappearing. We were responsible for bringing millions into the middle class with the labor gains we made in the 1940s and '50s," Spitz said. "But technology is making the middle class disappear and people in their 40s and 50s are being laid off and can't find a job."

"College graduates today are roaming all over this country looking for a decent-paying job and they're being rebuffed," he said and warned, "No industrial society can be a viable democracy without a viable middle class."

"These letters kept urging us to come out and take a look at his retiree homes," Spitz said. "The information we got was the homes south of Grand Avenue were selling for between \$8,000 and \$12,500."

Former United Steelworkers of America President I.W. Abel told Spitz to go to Arizona and check out the price and quality of the homes for union people then preparing to retire.

"I came back to the steelworkers with a very favorable report about this guy Del Webb. We had had some business dealings with him and he was very fair."

"The first people who came to Sun City were electricians, United Auto Workers and steelworkers," Spitz said.

Spitz said he was so impressed with Sun City home values and quality that in 1971, he purchased his current home on Thunderbird Boulevard for \$36,500, and rented it to a retired Steelworkers friend for five years before his own retirement.

"Del Webb told me (before he died



# Starr of the pool retires after 19 years

By **GEORGE WITKOWSKI**  
Independent Newspapers

After 19 years with the Masters Swimmers program, Sun Citian Lee Starr is finally calling it quits.

Starr, 88, says his decision to leave the program was prompted by health concerns. He retains his love for swimming and admits his competitive and fiery nature will always be there.

"I've been talking about getting out," says the swimming coach.

"I had pneumonia for two months and I'm still feeling it. My wife (Hazel) says, 'What do you have left to prove?'"

Starr has earned more than 250 medals from different meets, was an All-American four times in one year and nine times overall, won numerous national championships and one international championship and served as an ambassador for the Master Swimmers.

"We're very proud of the fact that (the Sun City Master Swimmers program) has been noticed nationally and worldwide," Starr says.

"When we were on TV in Australia and Tokyo, I felt that the publicity we generated for Sun City was worth the effort."

Starr says even his swimmers have questioned his desire to continue in the sport.

"I'm just at the point where I feel I can't do my best anymore and I just don't feel that I have what I used to have. It's starting to catch up to me."

Stepping away from a sport is often difficult for an athlete. Starr says the move came at the right time.

"I think it's easier than I expected it to be because I was having so much trouble recuperating."

Starr says he'll miss the idea of competing, but he hopes to be with the team at meets to coach if he can.

Until the position is filled on a permanent basis, Masters Swimmer John Jorgenson is running the show.

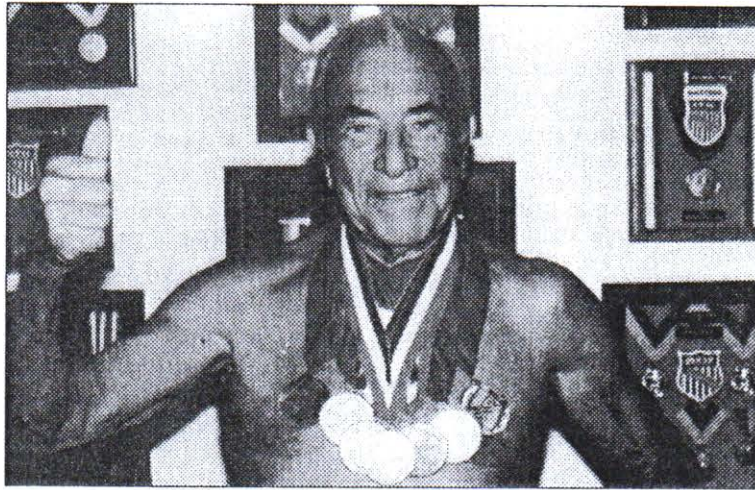


Photo by **GEORGE WITKOWSKI**/Independent Newspapers

## Retiring with a splash

After running the Sun City Masters Swimmers program for 19 years, Lee Starr is retiring from the sport. He swam his final lap during the 1997 Arizona Short Course State Masters Championships held April 4-6 in Scottsdale.

Starr, who plans on staying active and healthy, will be able to devote more time to his golf game.

"Swimming has cut in on my golf considerably," Starr says.

He began the Masters Swimming program with Sun Citian Lisa Bogatko, a Masters Swimmer from New Jersey, in the late 1970s.

"I was the very first Masters Swimmer in Sun City and he came to a national meet with me in San Antonio, Texas, and thought that he'd like to get a program started," she says.

"He has really been fighting for the Masters program and he gave us lane lines, flags and pool time (8-9 a.m. at Bell Pool)."

Starr is known nationally for his individual efforts, but he's quick to admit he enjoys helping others. He says the biggest thrill he gets is making a champion out of a swimmer.

"You have to make up your mind that you're going to be dedicated," Starr says.

"I just don't like to coach a person who's just there to get some

free time with a lane to work in."

Starr, who first began swimming for his freshman team at Evander Childs High School in the Bronx, N.Y. (1923), trained four years in hopes of making the 1932 Olympics.

"On the night of the finals I got appendicitis," he says. He was unable to make the team.

Starr has co-authored several textbooks on swimming, training lifeguards and the legal aspects of being a lifeguard.

He studied law for four years at Fordham University in New York before moving on to the University of Missouri where he majored in physical education. While a student at Missouri, Starr organized the school's first swim team.

After he graduated, he was asked to be the school's first swim coach. Starr was part of the first U.S. swim team to be invited to a swim meet in Tokyo.

He was also in charge of New York City's municipal lifeguard training program.

(over)



"I turned out 1,500 lifeguards a year," he says. "I got no pay for it and it was strictly a love thing."

Fellow Master Swimmer Dick Westerfield says the Masters Swim program and Starr go together.

"Lee's been just a real stalwart for Master Swimming for many, many years and he's just been great," Westerfield says.

Dorothea Winniford, who was surprised to hear of Starr's resignation, remembers when she met Starr.

"I met Lee when I started taking swimming lessons in the spring of 1984 at Sundial," she says. "When the lessons were over he said that I could swim with the Masters group."

"I have Lee to thank for getting me into this program."

Although she'd like him to stay, Dorothy Kimmel says there comes a time when everyone has to step aside.

"He's just been a good guy to help all of us and give us support," Kimmel says. "We shall miss him, but he'll still come to the meets and support us."

Dick and Polly Herzer found that Starr's persistence was an enjoyable quality and that he was an "inspiration by being a fine swimmer."

"He deserves all the credit in the world for starting this program and we always have great representation through Lee," Dick Herzer says.

Polly Herzer applauds Starr's decision to call it quits.

"We kept saying 'Lee, you're older and you can't do what you did 10 years ago,'" she says. "He's got to hang up his towel or Hazel will leave him."



# Sun City swimming legend finally calls it quits

By JONATHAN DALTON  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Once and for all, Lee Starr has decided to hang up his swim trunks.

It was a decision he has reached in the past, but never could get the heart to enact.

As recently as two weeks ago, Starr was adding to his lengthy list of swimming triumphs at the sixth annual World Senior Games in St. George, Utah.



Starr

But now, at age 83, he said it's time to retire.

"I'm just getting too damn old for this," said Starr, who will remain as coach of the Sun City Masters swimming program. "I've done just about everything there is to do. I'll miss it, but I'm getting tired."

During his 12 years of Masters competition, Starr won 46 national championships in individual events and was tabbed as an all-American eight times.

He dominated during his appearances in the World Senior Games, earning 14 gold medals, two silvers and setting records in the 50 and 100

backstroke, and the 50 and 100 freestyle.

His best year was in 1989, when he won three gold medals each at the U.S. Masters short-course and long-course championships, won three more at the Senior Olympics and finished with four golds and four records at the Senior Games.

Thirteen gold medals in 12 months.

Five mornings a week, Starr could be found swimming at Sundial with the remainder of the Masters swimmers. Each morning, he'd swim between 1,500 and 2,000 yards.

Last Monday, for the first time, Starr stayed out of the water.

It was a day neither he nor his athletes will soon forget.

"I was telling them what they were doing wrong, and they didn't like that too much," Starr said with a chuckle. "When I'm swimming with them, I can't see what they're doing. But now that I'm out of the water, I can look and offer suggestions."

Starr's input has been heard at many different levels. Back in New York, he worked for the New York City Parks Department and was in charge of 20 miles of beach and 11 golf courses.

Starr spent 12 years as a consultant. See Starr, B2

## Starr

— From B1

Starr, a member of the Council for National Cooperation in Aquatics, was twice a national chairman, and was once a representative of the Amateur Athletic Union.

While at the University of Missouri, he founded the school's first swim team, securing pool time at a local women's college.

"I was still a student, but since I started it, I had to coach it," Starr said.

In 1952, Starr was the director of the U.S. Olympic Trials for swimming, diving and water polo. He was a member of the United States Olympic Committee in 1964.



# Steele focuses on others

**“T**here's no sense being alive after you're retired unless you are doing things for others.”

So says Sun City resident **Forde Steele**, who has logged more than 19,000 volunteer hours in the Northwest Valley since 1979.

Steele, a retired bank executive and educator, has found a way to share the world with others. In the past 14 years, the Sun City Photo Club member has presented more than 2,300 slide shows at local schools, care centers, churches and clubs.

Just consider the names and themes of some of his programs: “Unbelievable Turkey,” which explores the nation's geology and unique architecture — including its underground cities — and vast religious history; “African Safari,” which focuses on its land, people and animals; “Egypt,” which provides insight into the pyramids, Sphinx and life in Cairo; and “Deserts of the World,” a look at Death Valley, the Sahara and other arid regions.

This time of year, the most popular of his 55 prepared shows is “Wildflowers of Arizona.” The holidays are another busy time for Steele. He has put together four Christmas programs that explore yule traditions in various countries, secular and non-secular.

Steele has 100,000 slides in his collection, half of which he shot.

“For me, travel was not a holiday,” he said. “I would take thousands of pictures.”

He also researches all of his topics and narrates each of his shows — live, and without the help of a script.

“It's all in my head. But people say as I get older, I should probably tape some of these things.”

## DOERS PROFILE

### Forde U. Steele

Vita Bachelor's degree from the Carnegie Institute of Technology; retired bank executive and instructor.

Hometown Millersburg, Ohio.

Valley home Sun City, 19 years.

Marital status Married to Eileen, 57 years.

Self-portrait A volunteer dedicated to helping others.

Motto There is no sense in being alive after you are retired unless you are doing things for others.

Greatest feat The part I played in helping the banking industry move into the automation age.

Walter Mitty fantasy To win a lottery that would enable me to establish a charitable foundation for anything that needs to be done.

Inspiration My parents and my wife's dedication.

Good/bad habits Doing things for others. My bad habit is I tend to injure myself by overworking.

Favorite food/drink Vegetables, fish and poultry. My favorite drinks are fruit juices or water.

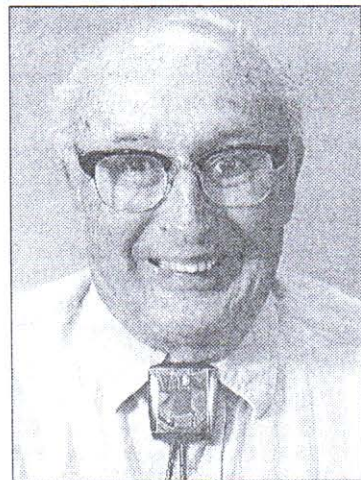
TV programs Travelogues and documentaries.

Books at bedside Reference books.

Vacation spot/luxury: Having time at home and in my garden is my favorite vacation. My greatest satisfaction is putting on programs people like. To me, that is luxury.

Key to longevity Doing things for others.

Last words The greatest reward in life is doing things for others.



Steele carries a file folder brimming with handwritten thank-you letters from children, reminding him of the days when he took his slide shows to Northwest Valley schools.

“To me, the real rewarding part has been the effect I've had on children.”

He continues to present up to 12 programs a month.

His volunteer efforts, he said, are something he “owes to humanity.”

Steele said he hopes others will follow in his footsteps and give back to society.

“Volunteering is something people should look forward to doing,” Steele said. “It is a very important part of Sun City.”



# Local volunteer helps struggling youths from single-parent homes

By KATHLEEN WINSTEAD  
Sun Cities Independent

The emptiness felt by some children from single-parent homes motivated Sun City resident Mary Stein to become involved with the Valley Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

"I just feel a great sympathy for the boys and girls who are out on the street with no one to guide them," says Ms. Stein, a seven-year member of the Valley Big Brothers/Big Sisters Sun Cities Auxiliary, a fund-raising arm of the organization.

Valley Big Brothers/Big Sisters is a non-profit agency which matches adult volunteers with children from single-parent homes who are in need of a one-to-one relationship with an adult role model and friend.

The adults and children spend a few hours together each week and the average match lasts more than two years. Matches are carefully

screened and monitored by professional caseworkers.

"After talking with some of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters, you can't help but want to help the children," Ms. Stein says. "Children of single-parent homes need a role model."

Her involvement with the organization was also inspired, in part, by her family's situation.

"I know their needs," she says. "My grandson back in Ohio is a Big Brother and he was a child of single parent."

Although auxiliary members don't work with the children directly, they raise funds by holding events such as garage sales, card parties and style shows. Auxiliary members recently held a Christmas luncheon to raise funds for the organization.

Fund-raising is vital to the organization's existence, Ms. Stein says.

"It is expensive to find people to

Mary Stein is one of many local volunteers who help raise money for Valley Big Brothers/Big Sisters. "Children of single-parent homes need a role model," she says.



do this and they have to pay caseworkers. They have 500 boys and girls on a waiting list (aged) from first grade on up."

Having a Big Brother or Big Sister has helped many of the children turn their lives around.

Statistics confirm children's involvement in the program reduces the likelihood they will drop out of high school, commit

See ■ BIG SISTERS, Page 9

## ■ BIG SISTERS

From Page 1

suicide and become involved in criminal activity.

Girls involved in the program are less likely to become pregnant in their teens.

"The children themselves will

tell you how much it's helped to have a role model," Ms. Stein says.

To get involved with Valley Big Brothers/Big Sisters Sun City Auxiliary, call Ms. Stein at 972-8099.



## Sun Citian reins in new hobby

By MIKE GARRETT  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Paul Steinmetz doesn't horse around when it comes to hobbies.

"My hobby is to make things that amuse me," the 12-year Sun City resident said. "I love to do a variety of things."

Steinmetz' latest creations are two wooden rocking horses complete with saddle, stirrups and real horse hair. It took him about six to eight months to carve each horse out of a single block of wood and attach all the accessories.

Carving the wood was easy, Steinmetz said. The biggest problem with the rocking horses project was finding genuine horse hair for the mane and tail.

Steinmetz said he tried a local wig shop, a Youngtown doll shop, a Northern Avenue horse rancher and finally a leather specialty shop. The shop just happened to have the hair on hand for \$45 along with the saddles he needed.

He said the rocking horses will probably go to his grandchildren on the East Coast.

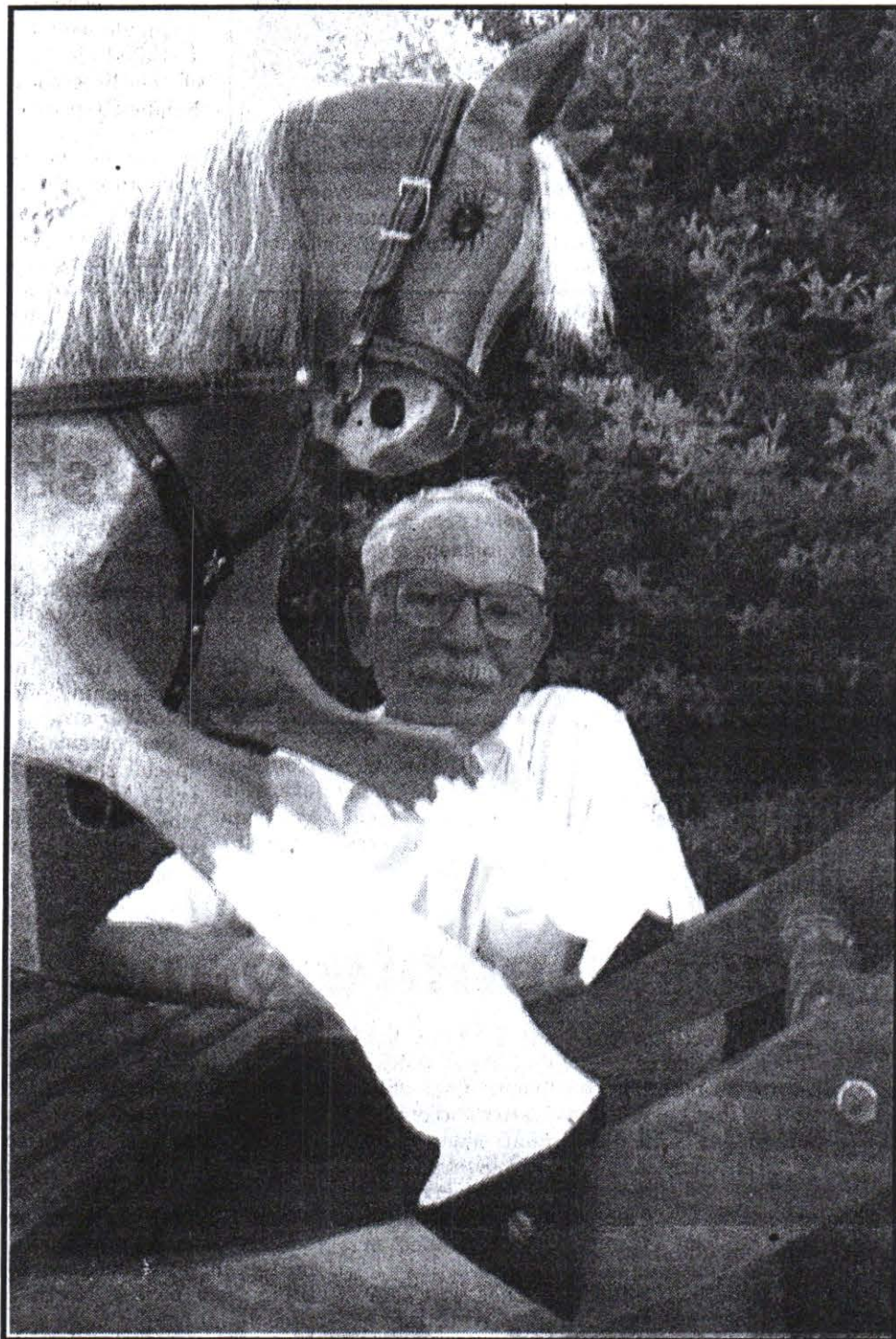
Steinmetz looked to handcrafts as a way to occupy his time and mind shortly after arriving in Sun City.

When he first moved to Sun City after retiring as a motel owner in Ocean City, Md., he tried playing golf like many retirees.

"I took out a membership at North Golf Course for \$360 a year, played 18 holes and never played golf again," Steinmetz said. "I couldn't get on the darn golf course when I wanted to. I would have had to get up at 4 in the morning to get a reservation."

So he walked over to the Lakeview Recreation Center tennis courts where he found a match right away. "I hadn't played tennis for 50 years and it nearly

See Retire resumes, A5



Stephen Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Paul Steinmetz of Sun City looks at one of his latest creations, a wooden rocking horse complete with saddle, stirrups and real horse hair. It takes him about six to eight months to create a horse out of a single block of wood.

STEINMETZ, PAUL



# Retiree resumes playing tennis

—From A1

killed me at first. Now I play tennis five days a week, even in the middle of the day."

While he enjoys talking about his tennis game, it's a sure bet his first love is his collection of handcrafts that are spread throughout his home.

"I make things, then I get tired of making them and I look for something else to do," Steinmetz said.

He said he has always been good at working with his hands and designing things, including some of his homes.

"When I first started in my career, my ambition was to make \$18.50 a week," he said, noting he could now sell some of his wood creations for 100 times that amount.

His current project is carving a wooden carousel horse that will be somewhat larger than the rocking hobby horses.

Steinmetz's home is full of his meticulous handiwork, all built from scratch. He loves to show visitors his wooden ships that are exact replicas of those piloted by explorers Christopher Columbus and Sir Francis Drake, a 6-foot high grandfather clock, ornate wooden music and

jewelry boxes and a wooden storage cabinet carved with Far East ornamentation.

He said he assembled the Santa Maria ship from a small magazine picture. Everything is down to the finest detail, including the ballast and all the rigging.

Steinmetz has placed the models in a realistic dock setting by pencil drawing a background.

Once he's done creating, he puts his creations on a shelf in his home. Despite numerous offers from friends to buy his creations (one woman offered to pay for the materials if he would make her one of his custom rocking horses), Steinmetz said they're not for sale.

While satisfying his creativity, Steinmetz said his hobbies also play a factor in his good health and longevity.

"I've never been in the hospital before," said the 87-year-old Steinmetz.

"I believe in getting out and working up a good sweat and eating right — no junk food," he said. "The doctors can't find anything wrong with me. All I do is take some occasional blood pressure pills."



# Shutterbug

## Photographer adds depth to bird photos

By Julia Jones  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Bernard Stell, a photographer for 60 years, has gone to new depths in taking pictures of hummingbirds.

Specifically, Stell works in stereoscopy, a specialty in which a pair of photographs of the same subject, taken at slightly different angles, are viewed side by side, giving depth or a three-dimensional appearance.

In the photographs that accompany this article, what appears to be three hummingbirds against a black background is really a stereo of a single bird with rapidly beating wings on a single approach to the feeder. It has been captured in three separate positions by three exposures in each of two cameras, illuminated by three separate but closely spaced bursts of lights from the flash units.

When two color slides of the bird in stop action are seen through a lighted, hand-held stereoscopic viewer, the bird seems to be alive, and within arm's reach.

The story of his accomplishment is recorded in the December edition of the International Stereoscopic Union's publication, *Stereoscopy*, in Stell's article, "Sequential Hummingbird Images in Stereo." He also has been recognized with a five-star rating by the Photographic Society of America for his stereo work.

Stereoscopic photography isn't new, Stell pointed out. You may have seen stereoscopic viewers at your grandmother's house, rickety handheld devices that positioned a two-image photograph, generally in sepia, at a precise distance from viewing glasses.

His expertise in the field involves strobe work, Stell ex-

plained, speaking slowly for the photographically illiterate.

It takes two cameras hooked up and synchronized, plus three pairs of strobes.

Slowing down a bit more, Stell said: "It's like making a cake. You have eggs, sugar and flour, but you have to figure out how to put them together."

Stell, who has been working in stereo since 1972, overlapping his professional life in Buffalo, N.Y., as a psychiatrist, obviously has explained his hobby before.

"Things don't look like we think they do," he said.

In his pursuit of stereo sequences, he has photographed droplets of water splashing and breaking bulbs, he said. He has captured images of a tennis ball being hit and a golf ball at the point of impact with the club.

Then it came to him, he said, that it would be an interesting challenge to capture on film, in stereo, the hummingbirds that he has fed so faithfully since he and his wife moved to Sun City.

The project would take nearly two years to complete.

"Some of the birds seem so tame," he said. "They'd come up to inspect the raspberry jelly on my wife's toast."

Normally, during the day, he said, birds visit the feeder on their patio every 15 to 20 minutes. At dusk, traffic picks up to a visit every five minutes.

"So that's when I set up," he said.

He experimented with a strobe flash first, he said, positioning it about 9 inches from the feeder.

"As it goes off, about half the birds will fly away, and they won't come back. The other half backs off three or four feet but come back immediately. They just get used to

it."

To catch the image of the bird's wings, which beat 50 to 100 times per second, the usual "on camera" flash won't freeze the wing action, Stell said.

A flash duration no slower than 1/6,000th of a second is needed, and although equipment has become available with that and faster speeds, it was either prohibitively expensive, commercial equipment or otherwise limited for the job Stell had in mind.

Stell would sacrifice neither speed nor detail. The strobe units were set up in over-and-under pairs and fitted with hoods so the feeder would get only one flash exposure at a time. He used two Konica FT-1 cameras, synchronized.

Stell called on his neighbor, Henry Koerber, a retired telephone technician or "troubleshooter," he said, to rig an electronic gadget to trigger the flashes.

If it sounds like clockwork, think again, Stell said. Because the speed of the hummingbird and its flight path are unpredictable, there were many failures because of overlapping images and the like. His success rate "in this chancy business," he wrote for the journal, "was about six good shots out of 36 attempts."

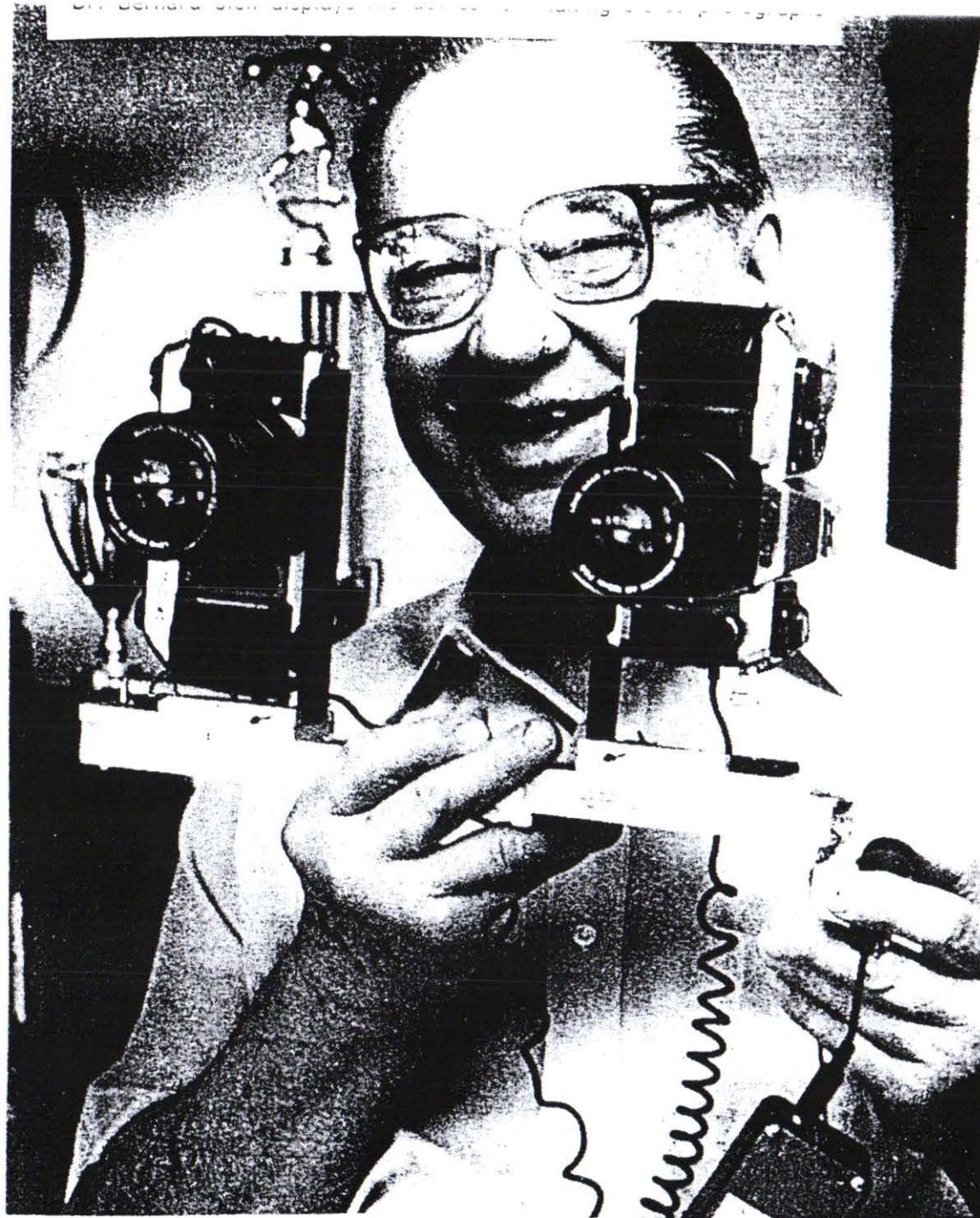
"The fascination remains undiminished," he wrote. "I trust that this story of my love affair with sequential shots of hummingbirds in stereo inspires at least some of you to try this technique..."

Stell, who said he'll be 81 "shortly," serves as chairman of the Sun City Photo Club.

On reflection, he said with a small smile, "I'd probably be in better shape if I'd done this all my life," instead of going into psychiatry.

STELL, BERNARD





(News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherek)

# Images

MONDAY, JULY 21, 1986 NEWS-SUN

## Photographer gains notoriety

By JOHN NICK  
Staff Writer

SUN CITY—Being ranked 13th in the world is not something everyone can say.

One person who can make that claim is Dr. Bernard Stell, a stereoscopic photographer.

Stell's photographs create the illusion of three-dimensions on a two-dimensional image.

They are taken with two cameras that instantaneously take a shot of the same subject. The two prints are mounted on a slide and seen through a viewer called a stereoscope. Lighting from behind the slide illuminates the prints, which blend together and give the picture the illusion of depth.

Stell earned his ranking by entering his slides in international stereoscopic competitions. The rankings are published by the Photographic Society of America.

Some of his subjects include a golf ball being struck by a club, flowers and hummingbirds.

He also has worked with a close-up photographic technique called photomacrography. That uses droplets of water in place of a glass lens to produce a photograph of a small object as part of a larger photograph.

His photography is in color and Stell follows the production of a slide from start to finish.

Stell is a retired psychiatrist and college professor. He also is

an inventor and enjoys woodworking.

Some of his inventions include moving Christmas decorations and photography equipment.

"If I can't buy it, I design it," he says.

Stell also designed his own darkroom and constructed his own photographic enlarger when he was 15.

He began to specialize in close-up pictures in 1972 and founded the Arizona Stereographers Club in 1980. In 1977-78, he was named the photographer of the year by the Sun City Photography Club, of which he is a member.

Some of his work is displayed on the walls of his living room. His trophies and awards also adorn the home.

"Everyone needs a hobby to relieve some tension," he says.

His current project is putting together a travelogue about the Viking countries. His travelogues include slides of the subject, with synchronized narration, music and sound.

"I don't have enough time to do everything I would like to do," he says.

Stell also is an instructor at the Bell Recreation Center. He teaches a beginning woodworking class.

"Photography offers me a chance to create, while woodworking lets me design and construct."



SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT APRIL 17-23, 2002

# Sun City booster retiring

## Visitors Center director stepping down after 4 years

By Mike Russo  
Independent Newspapers

She has seen many changes during her nearly 18 years of residence in Sun City and one more major change is in store.

Lila Stephens, executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center for the last four years, is about to retire — again.

She has submitted her resignation effective April 30, but has agreed to stay on until the Visitors Center board of directors has found a suitable replacement for the one paid position at the center.

Ms. Stephens, a native of Clearfield, Pa., retired to Sun

City in September 1984 from Tamarack, Fla.

She came out of retirement four years ago to assume the reins of command at the Visitors Center and guided the center through the community's 40th anniversary and the production of a new Sun City promotional video.

She also increased awareness of Sun City by overseeing the launch of a Web site.

"We get quit a few hits on the Web site," Ms. Stephens said.

"I think we have accomplished a lot," she continued. "We have managed to keep pace even though we have had

so many retirement communities spring up around us competing for residents. We have helped the real estate people keep the houses full."

More than 1,000 of the videos have been sold, at \$5 each, with proceeds going back into the promotion of Sun City.

The Visitors Center has also been selling the leftover 40th Anniversary Cookbook, which were donated by the 40th Anniversary Committee, for \$5, with the funds again going for promotion.

Bob Budorick, Visitors

Center board president, praised Ms. Stephens for her dedication, leadership and incite.

"Lila did a great job," Mr. Budorick said. "She carried a big load for the center over all the years.

"She handled the residential fund drive each year," he remarked. "She was also the inspiration for the (April 7) din-

ner/dance fund-raiser," the first such fund-raiser staged by the center.

More than 500 people attended the dinner/dance at Sundial auditorium.

Final figures are not in, but Mr. Budorick estimated the Visitors Center would realize about \$10,000 from the event.

Mr. Budorick said directors

were not anxious to see Ms. Stephens step aside.

"We all reach that point in life when it is time to step aside," she said. "She is just ready to retire."

Directors, however, must do more than replace an executive director. Ms. Stephens also served on a volunteer basis as the Visitors Center's bookkeeper.

The board is currently soliciting resumes of potential replacements.

"We have several resumes already," Mr. Budorick said. "We are in the process of interviewing and I would hope we would have a replacement on hand before the end of May.

"Lila has been very cooperative and very helpful in the whole process," he added. "She is a wonderful lady."

Although rightfully proud of her accomplishments as Visitors Center executive director, Ms. Stephens would have liked to have done more.

"We haven't gone as far as we

should go," she said. "It is hard when you are a one-person office and you are overseeing 80 volunteers."

"I would have liked to been just the manager of the Visitors Center," she continued. "To be on the board of directors, secretary and treasurer was just too much."

She hopes residents will continue to support the Visitors Center as it fills its valuable niche in the community.

"Before I became executive director, I had no idea how important the Sun City Visitors Center was to the residents of Sun City," Ms. Stephens said. "Keeping the stores and residences filled is the only way we are going to keep Sun City alive," she commented. "Sun City residents should appreciate the effort put forth."

And Mr. Budorick believes Sun City should appreciate the effort that has been put forth on its behalf by Ms. Stephens over the last four years. "She did an outstanding job," he said.



Photo by Mike Russo/Independent Newspapers

After serving as executive director of the Sun City Visitors Center for four years, Lila Stephens has decided to re-enter retirement.



# Man's work makes world safer for kids

Retiree has managed to get codes altered on railing widths

By Alison Stanton

SPECIAL FOR THE REPUBLIC

Thanks to the hard work of Elliott O. "Steve" Stephenson, countless children have avoided being seriously or fatally injured.

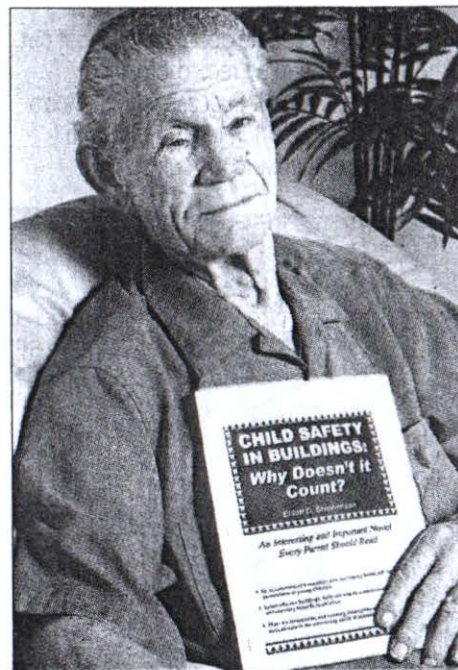
With such an impressive claim to fame, you would think that everyone would know who he is. But most people probably have never heard of Stephenson, 89, nor his tireless crusade for child safety.

Stephenson, a Sun City West resident, has helped change building codes in all 50 states, as well as many foreign countries, to reduce from 9 inches to 4 inches the allowable size of openings in guards on vertical railings.

When he started his work, it was not uncommon for small children to crawl through the guards and railings on structures like porches, balconies and decks. That would often lead to falls, resulting in serious injuries or death.

Stephenson, who retired from the American Iron and Steel Institute in 1977, said he first was made aware of the issue that same year, when a friend who worked as a building official in Santa Maria, Calif., pointed to a half-mile of guardrail being installed at a mall. The guards had 8-inch openings, and Stephenson's friend knew it was unsafe.

Stephenson, who at the time had three young grandchildren, told his friend he would see what he could do to remedy that. He began working to change building



JOHN SEVERSON/THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

"Steve" Stephenson has been instrumental in changing building codes in all 50 states.

codes so that the maximum opening on guards would be 6 inches.

Unsure that that width would be safe enough, Stephenson undertook an investigation that examined injuries sustained by children in falls and jumps from balconies, porches and decks. He showed how almost every child younger than 7 could get through a 6-inch opening, and younger kids could make it through a gap of just 5 inches. He worked on his study until 1988.

Stephenson said he wrote about his

work in an article titled *The Silent and Inviting Trap*. By 1996, as the result of his investigation, building codes across the country were changed to allow guards no wider than 4 inches apart.

Not willing to rest on his laurels, in 1990 Stephenson embarked on an around-the-world journey, traveling 50,000 miles to 20 countries to persuade them to change their building codes.

Stephenson now has three great-grandchildren, and he says he is working to change codes that will limit the horizontal, easily climbed guards. He said he is facing challenges from architects and builders.

"I have a list of 25 countries around the world that don't allow them, but I can't get them changed in the United States," he said. "But that doesn't stop me one iota."

Kas Winters, who has helped Stephenson publish his articles and short books on the subject through her company, Winmark Communications, said he is among the people she most admires.

"I quickly discovered that his goal was not selling books," Winters said. "That was simply one of many vehicles he chose to alert parents to an alarming safety hazard in buildings — not just in his neighborhood, but around the world. Every time I talk to him, he has a new brainstorm in the works to bring about his vision of a safe environment for children."

Stephenson said he will not stop until every balcony, deck or porch is safe for kids of all ages.

"I'll keep battling this until I die," he said.

For more information, visit [www.winmarkcom.com/climbableguards.htm](http://www.winmarkcom.com/climbableguards.htm).



Everett Stoffel  
is the brother of  
Chloe MacDonald -

First owner of the  
First model home at  
10801 Oakmont Dr.

He and his wife lived  
on Augusta Dr.

Barb Wagers

VF - SC - Personalities  
Stoffel, Everett



Everett Stoffel, 12649 Augusta Dr. W., credits bicycling with curing gout and arthritis, as well as being factor in keeping him alive to age 90.

(News-Sun Photo)

By TIM  
Staff

At 90 years old, Everett Stoffel isn't a member of the Pushers, a club.

Oldest home year-old Max

However, claim some because he standing on h roof of his h

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Nov. 28.

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Everett is  
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## ***In shape***

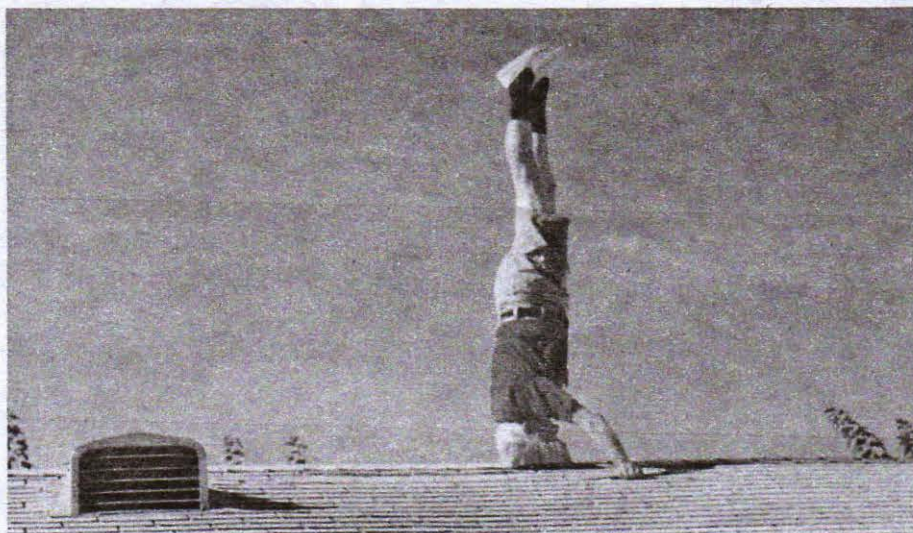
Why is Everett Stoffel standing on his head on his rooftop? Sun City photographer Harold Graham caught Stoffel in clowning stunt. See page 10A for how nonegenarian stays in shape.



# LETTERS

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Empire welcomes correspondence. Please include name and address.



## Deceased? No indeed!

The letter from O. W. Fischer (*Letters*, Feb. 6) telling about Princess Tsianina being photographed by Everett Stoffel was all true — except that I, a professional portrait photographer in Denver for more than 40 years — am not deceased. I am living in Sun City, Ariz., and am very much alive as you can see in the photograph.

This picture was made Nov. 28, 1976, which was my 90th birthday, and shows me standing on my head on the top ridge of our house. My wife, Margaret Temple, and I ride about 12 miles early each morning on our bicycles with the other 230 Sun City Pedal Pushers.

I retired from my portrait studio in Denver in 1951 and moved to Sun City in 1962.

Everett A. Stoffel  
Sun City, Ariz.



# Rooftop headstand marks 90th birthday of Sun Citian

By TIM CLARK  
Staff Writer

At 90 years, Everett Stoffel isn't the oldest member of the Pedal Pushers, a local bicycle club.

Oldest honor goes to 97-year-old Max Fregger.

However, Everett can claim some distinction because he relaxes by standing on his head on the roof of his house.

That's how he celebrated his 90th birthday Nov. 28.

How he started that little stunt is made only a little clearer by his answer to a question.

"IT WAS kind of a joke," he allowed, adding "heights never bothered me."

Indeed they didn't, as Everett climbed most of the high peaks in Colorado with his sons during his younger days.

Exercise has not been a retirement activity only for Harry, who also was an avid swimmer in his earlier days.

Everett is a believer in physical fitness.

"CYCLING is the one thing that keeps me going. I feel better now than 15 years ago," said Everett, who founded the Pedal Pushers a decade ago.

He began cycling shortly after he moved to Sun City, at a time when he had gout in his foot and arthritis in his knee.

Those ailments, he claims, have disappeared since he began cycling in earnest.

"I FIGURE if I hadn't taken up bike riding, I don't know if I'd be here or not," he commented.

Everett says he is not alone in seeking physical fitness through his bicycle riding. Practically all the members of his club ride for the same reason, he said.

"Old folks should never jog; it's hard on the bones and joints," he added.

FOR THOSE who might think the second oldest cyclist in the Pedal Pushers takes the easy rides, guess again.

Everett isn't in the speedster group of the club, but he rides 10-15 miles six days a week with

the regular bikers.

One recent weekend he joined the Pedal Pushers for their annual trek to a charity breakfast in Peoria. Peoria police escorted the group to the breakfast to be certain there were no accidents.

"IT WAS a pretty strong wind, blowing right in our faces, but I made it," Everett said.

Everett, like most of the regular cyclists in Sun City, favors a three-speed two-wheeler.

An elite group of cyclists in the Pedal Pushers ride 10-speeds and enter marathon races during the year.

Although he emphasizes the exercise benefit of cycling, a bicycle is Everett's only method of transportation.

LEGALLY blind, he must rely on his wife's golf cart for transportation unless he rides his bicycle.

Everett said there have been no casualties on Pedal Pushers rides during his 10 years with the club.

Everett was a portrait photographer, primarily in Denver, before getting into the construction business in the 1950s.

As a photographer, he did portraits of Buffalo Bill, "Unsinkable" Molly Brown, band leader Paul Whiteman, and Presidents Woodrow Wilson and Teddy Roosevelt.

AFTER he "retired" as a photographer, he built a million-dollar hotel in Denver.

"I think the key to life and health is to be rid of all mental strain. That's the most important thing in one's life," Everett said.

And when did he get rid of the pressure and strain?

"When I came to Sun City," he answered with a laugh.



MAY 17-23, 2000

## Name to Know

He is a master of light and sound, an artist who has been perfecting his craft since 1956.

Dick Stout came to Sun City eight years ago, after being actively involved in Southern California's entertainment business, where he owned and operated two nightclubs.

For the past six years, he has served as a part-time volunteer sound man for clubs and organizations around the community,



including 40th anniversary committee activities and numerous performing arts groups.

"I volunteer three hours for a certain number of paid ones," he said. "I donate lots of time."

Because of Mr. Stout's unfailing commitment to quality, the sound systems at both the Sun Bowl and Sundial Recreation Center are in the process of being updated with state-of-the-art speakers. A member of the Entertainment Committee, Mr. Stout acquires and sets up programs at the Sun Bowl, and recently produced the Irish Show there.

Mr. Stout, who also possesses expertise in lighting systems, has on occasion become a performer himself, as narrator for the Sun City Handbells, and as a participant in the Easter Sunrise Service.

On his own dollar, Mr. Stout trekked to Tucson and Mesa to find just the right equipment for his projects.

"I thoroughly believe in what we are doing," he said of the Sun Bowl. "It is all professional, all free to the people who live here."



# Sun City doctor recalls beginnings of community

BY LAURIE HURD

Feeling pulses, tapping knees and checking the temperatures of Sun Citians has been Dr. Robert Stump's job since the days of the community's beginning.

The pioneer sought out the Sun City lifestyle after watching his brother struggle with the after effects of a stroke brought on from overwork.

"After watching my brother walk, dragging one foot and needing the aid of his wife, I asked myself, 'Will this be me in 10 years?' So I contacted Del Webb," Stump says.

Stump soon became the remedy to a Del Webb problem — the need to bring a doctor to Sun City.

"When I went to the Del Webb office, they told me to pick out a

lot and they would build anything I wanted," says Stump.

"For example, I got a gas stove, they weren't putting those in. Del Webb also built my office. It was located behind the Grand Shopping Center near the tower."

When Stump was not at his office, he took advantage of the surrounding cotton fields to hunt quail.

"There were no more than 500 people when I came out here. The only main road was Peoria Avenue and there was only one operating golf course," he says.

"I made one house call to El Mirage but since I came out here to help Sun Citians I was determined not to travel out there anymore. But I always made house calls up until the time I stopped practicing.

"I was the old family doctor. I did everything. I started doing my own surgery while I was in Winslow along with my practice," Stump says.

The Sun Citian has operated in all the Phoenix hospitals except St. Luke's Hospital.

"I'm an Arizona boy. Turn me loose anywhere else in the states and I'll come back."

Stump lived in Phoenix when it was young, and 7th Avenue and Van Buren was the center of town. He and his family use to run cattle where Sun City is today.

Stump believes Sun City hasn't changed that much since the first 500 people set up housekeeping here.

"I don't want Sun City to change. The way it is now is how I would like it to stay."



Photo by Laurie Hurd

DR. ROBERT STUMP is Sun City's first physician. He remembers the days of cotton fields around Sun City and house calls to El Mirage.

1961



STUMP, ROBERT

# SC MEDICAL PIONEERS

## First practitioner downplays many accomplishments

By CHERYL SWEET  
Medical Writer

Dr. Robert Mac Stump doesn't like to brag.

If you want to discover the achievements of Sun City's first physician, ask his wife, Lucille.

It isn't until she begins rattling off her husband's accomplishments that the 82-year-old family practitioner modestly interjects comments.

FOR INSTANCE, he relates in a gruff voice, "I delivered the second baby in Glendale Hospital in 1960."

And, "I've helped start partially every hospital in Phoenix. The only one I didn't was St. Luke's."

Still, Stump insists on downplaying his 55-year medical career, the last quarter of a century which was spent in Sun City.

"I JUST WAS an old family doctor," he says matter-of-factly, in his characteristically scratchy voice.

Stump would have you believe good doctoring is no deal, requiring no great skill.

"I didn't worry about proudness or high times. I brought 'em (patients) in the world and signed them out."

THE DOCTOR moved to Arizona in 1908 and practiced in Winslow and Phoenix before setting up practice here nearly 25 years ago when Sun City was born.

For almost a year—before other doctors moved into the community—many of Sun City's 500 residents depended on Stump for all their medical needs.

In those days, relates the white-haired Stump, there were no hospital emergency rooms or handy outpatient centers.

GRAY-BLUE EYES staring behind tinted, wire-rimmed glasses show signs of fatigue as Stump recalls early morning house calls.

"If a kid fell down and broke his leg, I fixed it. Or I'd get up in the middle of the night to stop a nose bleed. I made house calls when I was in Winslow 100 miles on a

dirt road. There were no emergency rooms in those days."

Stump charged \$7 for house calls in those early days of practice—a bit more than the \$2 he charged during the earlier Depression era and markedly less than the \$55 fee assessed by most doctors today.

THE DOCTOR holds the oldest medical license in the state, which he refuses to let expire. Although Stump officially retired last year, he maintains a current license by attending continuing medical education classes.

"After 55 years, the doctor would begin to feel a little undressed without a license in his pocket," explains his wife, Lucille.

Reflecting on changing medical practices, Stump sadly shakes his head while speaking about the deteriorating patient-doctor and doctor-nurse relationships.

As Stump sees it, multiple factors contributed to physicians' decreased dependence on nurses' expertise.

"There are too many doctors and they're in too big of a hurry," he complains. "They all make rounds at the same time and there aren't enough nurses."

Stump's career left little leisure time. Sitting in an easy chair in his Sun City home, with feet propped comfortably on the living room coffee table, it's apparent he's now catching up on some rest and relaxation.

According to his wife, that isn't all Stump is catching up on.

"He's got a new hobby—his wife," grins Lucille.

"I think all doctors feel this way—that they now have a chance to catch up on their home lives."



ROBERT MAC STUMP

rom C.  
YEARS AGO, you had a following and it stayed with you," he remarks. "today, there's not the rapport you developed with patients. Doctors nowadays don't treat the patient, they treat the sickness."

The working relationship between physicians and nurses isn't what it used to be either, he contends.

In Stump's day, nurses were an invaluable help in treating patients. They could be depended upon to provide detailed accounts of the patient's condition.

"I think the doctor and nurse should be a team. When I came in a nurses station, they stood up and gave me the charts. When I wanted to see a patient, the nurse came with me. Doctors don't depend on nurses at all now."

OVER



# Doc sets record for shortest retirement

By PAT KOSSAN  
Staff Writer

Arizona's oldest working doctor just set another record.

This one for the shortest retirement in Sun City history.

"One of these days I'll drop dead in the street and then I'll retire," said Dr. Bob Stump—73 hours after quitting his practice.

THE 79-YEAR-OLD is back to scheduling morning office hours and averages two house calls a day.

Stump doesn't enjoy poker and isn't a tennis player. He doesn't bowl and said he took up golf too late in life to care much about it.

"What else can I do?"

Woven throughout the doctor's story is a man's struggle to cling to the best in what is old—the warm back-country bedside manner and a moti-

vation to serve—while keeping up with the lightning pace of a half-century of medical progress.

Cranking up the Overland each morning, young Dr. Stump of Winslow spent long hours on the rutted dirt roads to Springerville or Show Low.

MANY TIMES over, the eyes of an anxious family watched carefully as he scrubbed the dust and sweat from his neck and hands in time to deliver a baby or examine a case of still prevalent smallpox.

Before the long trek home there was always flat tires to fix or the bartering over a \$1 house-call fee.

"The doctor today is after the buck. When I became a doctor you were in it because you wanted to take care of sick people, and you didn't care what they had," said Stump. "You couldn't

send them to County Hospital. I took out many an appendix, charged \$100 and still never got paid."

Among Stump's treasures is a hunting rifle he received in exchange for delivering a baby.

DURING THE 10 years at Winslow, Stump built the town a hospital, hammering and sawing late into the night until the

neighbors complained. He coaxed a nurse out of retirement and together they cut and rolled yards and yards of muslin into bed sheets and bandages. An old army medic employed by the railroad took time off to assist Stump with surgery.

A native of Phoenix, Stump left Winslow in 1937 and bought the family farm on Van Buren.

"Have you ever been to Winslow? The wind blows all the time. It drives you nuts. I had to get out."

STUMP continued his tradition of distant house calls going to the aide of families from Tolleson to Tempe.

He practiced at, helped to build or sat on the board of almost every hospital in the Salt River Valley.

The first doctor to leave Phoenix during World War II, Stump spent five

years and two months in the army. That term included one year of active duty as a regimental surgeon, dodging bullets at battlefields in Europe, including the Battle of the Bulge.

Back home Stump continued doctoring, was chief carpenter on 25 homes for sons, daughters, nieces and nephews, and followed the family's farming tradition.

"I EVENTUALLY had to give up farming. The babies and the irrigation waters always seemed to come at the same time."

For many years Stump diagnosed without the benefit of instant laboratory tests, EKGs, Scans or Ultra Sound.

"You couldn't call some one up and say, 'Come see this patient with me.' Any tests you ordered you had to do yourself. I examined with my fingers and a

tuning fork maybe and had to make a diagnosis in a confident voice."

Twenty-one years ago Stump moved to Sun City, the first doctor to set up shop. He was a prime mover behind Boswell Memorial and Valley View hospitals.

Don't stop listening and learning, Stump tells young doctors.

"You may have the poorest peon of a patient and you may think you're God's gift to the nation but you listen to them and develop a bedside manner. And never be satisfied until you know what's wrong. You learn medicine until the day you die."



DR. BOB STUMP



DAILY NEWS-SUN

THURSDAY, JUNE 10, 2004

# Volunteer's poem in the cards

## 'Gift of Love' 1st published in 'Chicken Soup'

AMANDA MYERS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Lois Clark Suddath of Sun City had no idea she had recently become the author of a greeting card until about three weeks ago when her friend, Larry Allen, received one.

Allen, recognizing the name on the front of the card, called a very surprised, but pleased Suddath to let her know.

"That's the first time I heard

about it! Was that a coincidence or what?"

In 1999, Suddath had written a poem called "A Volunteer's Prayer" for publication in the book "Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul," published in August 2002. An excerpt of that poem now appears on an American Greetings thank-you card.

Labeled "A Gift of Love," on top, Suddath's excerpt reads, "May my arms be strong to give someone a hug, my hands comforting and warm to hold another's hand, and through my eyes and smile, may someone know I care."

A volunteer for the last seven years at Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City, Suddath can be

found at the information desk near the front door. She's often the first face incoming patients see and talk to.

"Sometimes they're scared, they don't know what to expect," said Suddath, who is used to being a source of calm and comfort.

When she heard back in 1999 that editors of the popular series of "Chicken Soup for the Soul" books were looking for submissions relating to volunteering, Suddath's poem came effortlessly.

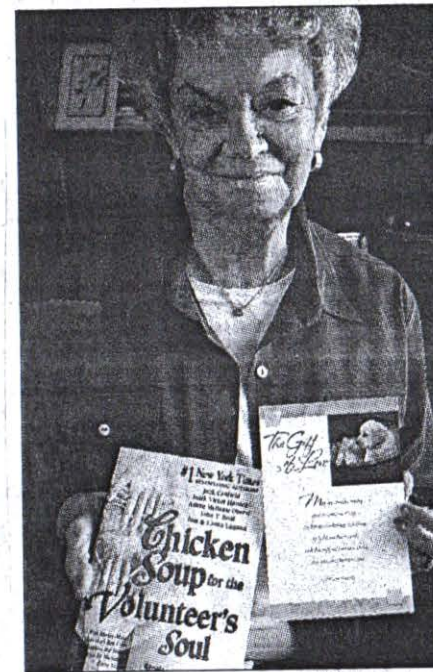
"I can't explain why I got the inspiration to do it. It just kind of flowed out of me. I guess it was just waiting in there to come out."

Suddath said that out of nearly 6,000 entries from around the country, the book's editors picked 101 selections for the book. Suddath was the only Sun Cities area person to be published, and the only Sun Health volunteer. She received \$300 for her poem, which she donated to Sun Health Hospice Services.

Since the prayer was published, Suddath said she's received requests from people all over the country asking for permission to use her words in various ways. Her answer is usually always "yes."

"I love to share the prayer with anyone," she said.

But "Chicken Soup" editors didn't give Suddath any



MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Lois Clark Suddath's poem is published in "Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul," and most recently on an American Greetings card. The Sun City woman volunteers at Boswell Memorial Hospital.

heads-up when they released a line of greeting cards recently, including her poem. Upon finding out, however, Suddath wasn't hesitant to spread the word, literally.

"I went out and bought about 10!" She said she sent them to family and friends. "They loved it!"

Jane Harker, Sun Health director of Volunteer Services, said the hospital is looking into getting Suddath's greeting card into their gift shop, alongside the book in which Suddath's poem is published.

"It would be something we'd be very proud to have in the gift shop," said Harker. "She is an incredibly talented woman."

Harker said that volunteers with Suddath's dedication for the hospital are

always in need.

"Certainly many of our volunteers share that same spirit, that of caring and giving so generously of their time to reach out to their fellow man and to provide invaluable reception and services."

While Suddath doesn't have any immediate plans to write more, she does intend to keep up her four to eight hours a week volunteering at Boswell Hospital. She said her motivation to do it is simple, she likes the feeling that she's helping other people.

"And they seem so appreciative of the volunteers."

Amanda Myers may be reached at 876-2513 or [amyers@aztrib.com](mailto:amyers@aztrib.com).



# Popular book hears volunteer's prayer

ERIN REEP  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Volunteering at Boswell Memorial Hospital's information desk means more to Lois Suddath than just answering phones and directing inquiries. To her, it is a chance to hold someone's hand, hug a worried patient or calm someone's fears on the way to a medical procedure.

"I love it," Suddath said.

Suddath's volunteer experience at Boswell led her to write "A Volunteer's Prayer," which was published last month in "Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul." The book is the latest in the popular Chicken Soup series, and is co-authored by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Arline McGraw Oberst, John T. Boal and Tom and Laura Lagana.

Suddath said you "have to know a little about everything" to work at the information desk, to answer inquiries of those who come through the front door.

"We also transport patients to where they need to go," Suddath said.

Suddath is going on five years as a Boswell volunteer. She wrote the poem about three years ago after seeing an article in The Intercom, a monthly newsletter for Sun Health volunteers.

"I did it in calligraphy, with a rose on it," she said.

The poem conveys the plea of a volunteer, crying out for strength and wisdom to comfort suffering and lonely patients.

"O God, today, I will be with those who are suffering, and frightened, and possibly alone. Some will have no one to talk to today, Lord, but me," the prayer reads.

"It's based on relationship with the patients," Suddath said. "You talk to them, or

hold their hands, or give them a hug."

Suddath was born in Illinois and spent 27 years in Albuquerque as a marketing officer for a bank before moving to Arizona. She is married with two children and two grandchildren.

**"O God, today, I will be with those who are suffering, and frightened, and possibly alone. Some will have no one to talk to today, Lord, but me."**

## A Volunteer's Prayer

Suddath received \$300 for publication of her prayer and donated the money to Sun Health Hospice Services and Residences. "I just felt like it was the right thing to do, because it all revolves around volunteering," she said.

Suddath said the poem just "flowed out" of her and that writing it was not difficult. Her submission was chosen for publication from 6,000 entries.

Kay Scherting, information supervisor for volunteer services at Boswell and Del E. Webb Memorial Hospitals, oversees Suddath at the infor-

mation desk.

"She truly exemplifies what a volunteer should be at all times," Scherting said. "She's professional, knowledgeable and has a friendly greeting for everyone."

Scherting said Suddath not only volunteers at the front desk, but also helps out with fundraising for the Sun Health Auxilliary.

Suddath said that even though most people feel like they can't make much of a difference in the world's problems, just one person can change things.

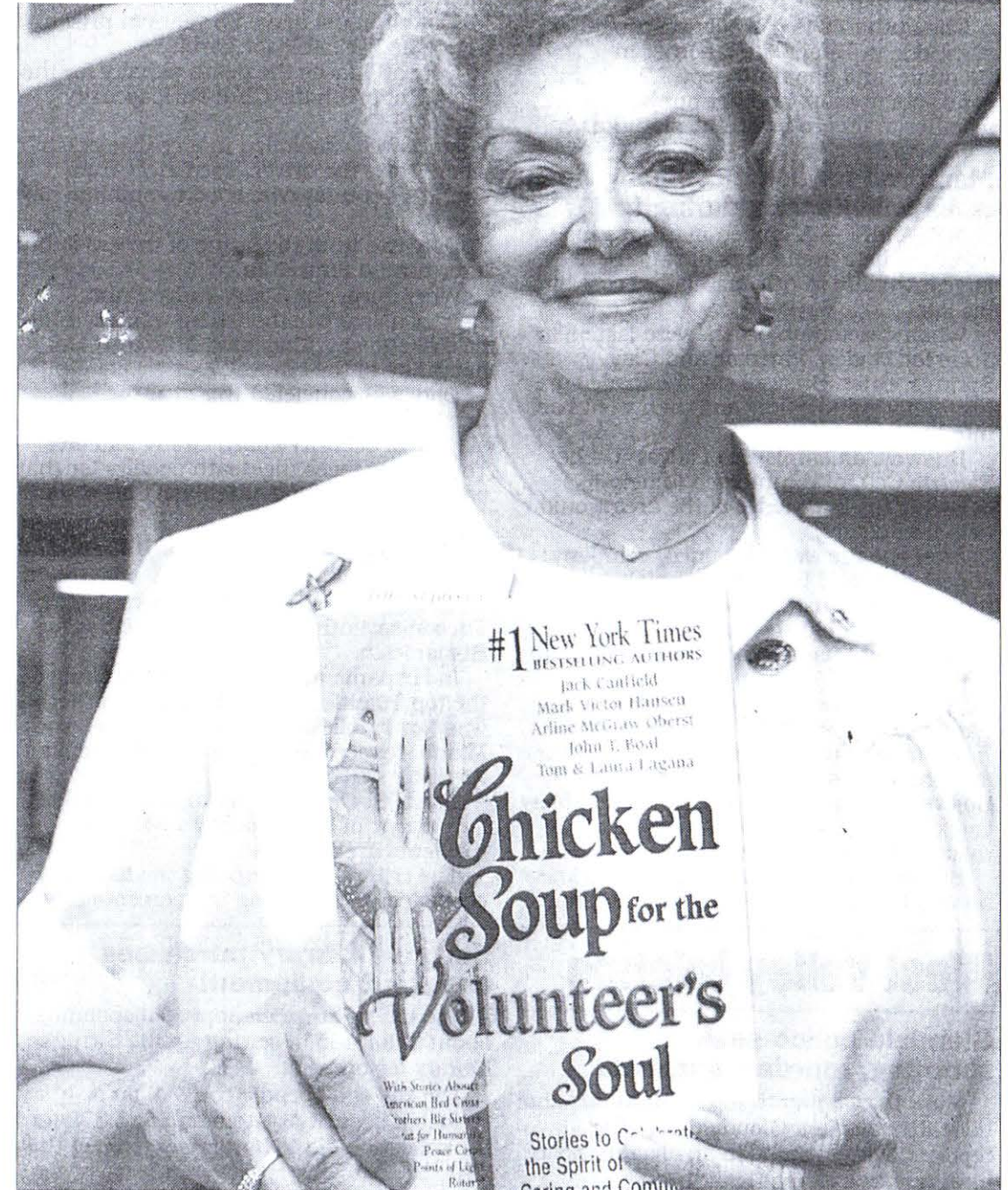
"Sometimes we feel as one person, we can't make a difference. But we can; I've seen it over and over here at the hospital," she said.

The prayer expresses a similar thought: "I am only one person, Lord, but you and I know one person can and will make a difference in another's life."

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

DAILY NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, AUG. 13, 2002



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Lois Suddath has been published in Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul. She volunteers at Boswell Hospital at the information desk.

OVER



## 'Chicken Soup' publishes Sun City volunteer's poem

**S**un City resident **Lois Suddath** has received plenty of kudos for having a poem she wrote published in **"Chicken Soup for the Volunteer's Soul."**

But now residents are clamoring for a copy of that poem. Suddath said one person wanted to share copies of it with people in a church group who minister to the sick.

Suddath has volunteered her time at Sun Health Boswell Memorial Hospital for about 4½ years. Her thoughts on voluntarism are reflected in her poem titled "A Volunteer's Prayer," which was one of 87 out of 6,000 submitted stories, poems and cartoons chosen for publication in the book.

Entries were submitted from throughout the world,

and only one other Arizona resident was published in the book, which was released July 15.

So, to satiate those curious about Suddath's poem, here it is:

### A VOLUNTEER'S PRAYER

By Lois Suddath, Sun City

O God,  
today I will be with those  
who are suffering,  
and frightened,  
and possibly alone.  
Some will have no one  
to talk to today, Lord, but  
me.

May my arms be strong  
to give someone a hug,  
my hands comforting and  
warm  
to hold another's hand,  
and through my eyes and  
smile  
may someone know I  
care.



**Katy  
O'Grady**

*Your  
Turn*

face what lies ahead.

I am only one person,  
Lord,  
but you and I know  
one person *can* and *will*  
make a difference in  
another's life.

And if I can do that for  
someone today,  
when my head  
lies upon my pillow  
tonight,  
and my eyes close,  
*I will be at peace.*  
(Published in *Chicken  
Soup for the Volunteer's*

But  
most of all,  
Lord,  
give my  
heart  
the com-  
passion  
and under-  
standing  
that will  
calm  
another's  
fears,  
dry a  
tear,  
and give  
strength to

*Soul, July, 2002.)  
To submit news for  
"Your Turn," e-mail Katy  
O'Grady at  
kogrady@aztrib.com; fax to*

*876-3698; mail to Daily  
News-Sun, Attn.: Your  
Turn, 10102 Santa Fe  
Drive, Sun City, AZ  
85351; or call 876-2514.*



November 20, 2002

## ■ A Name to Know

It is not an exaggeration to say that **Bill Sullivan** has the energy of 10 people.

A self-described Type A personality, Mr. Sullivan is driven in all his endeavors.

Lucky for northwest Valley residents that he focuses his energy on helping those around him.

The Sun City resident's volunteer activities

include:  
leading  
the music  
curriculum at  
the Rio  
Institute  
for  
Senior



Education, doing book recordings for the Reading for the Blind and Dyslexic program, working at the Westside Food Bank's "Kids Cafe" program, feeding the hungry at St. Vincent de Paul's downtown main dining room and entertaining in nursing homes and other venues for Interfaith Community Care.

Having had a good life, Mr. Sullivan believes it is important to give back to the community.

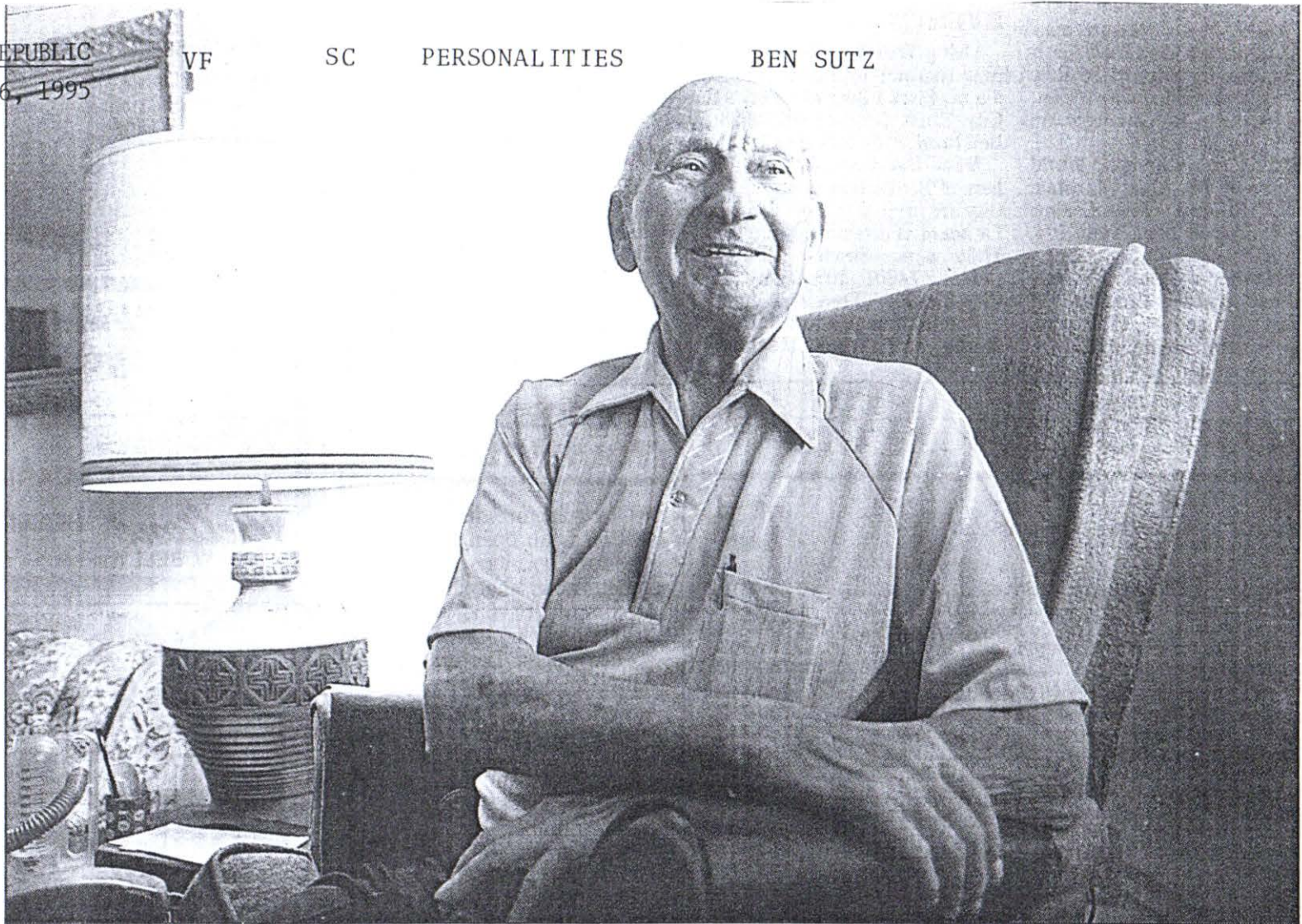
"I enjoy volunteering and I think I owe it," Mr. Sullivan said. "I'm very blessed and so are a lot of people here."

"Knowing that one of five kids in the state of Arizona could possibly be hungry every day, that's a frightening thing," Mr. Sullivan added. "All we can do is pitch in and I simply feel obligated to do that. And I want to do that."



"I am thankful to the powers above that have done so much for me," Ben Sutz said in an interview celebrating his 100th birthday.

Sutz, born in Russia on Oct. 25, 1895, has seen the birth and death of communism as well as two world wars, the Korean War and the Vietnam War.



Peter Schwepker / Staff photographer

# 100 and going strong

## Sun City man remains active, recalls growing up in Russia

By Robert Barrett  
Staff writer



## Sun City

**H**e was a 2-year-old when the USS Maine blew up in Havana harbor in 1898.

He was 8 when the Wright Brothers made the first flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C., in 1903.

Ben Sutz also has lived through the birth and death of communism; two world wars; the St. Valentine's Day massacre in Chicago; the stock market crash in 1929 and the Depression that followed; the birth of the nuclear age; the birth of the Space Age; the assassination of President Kennedy; and the resignation of President Nixon.

As Sutz hits the century mark — he will be 100 on

some guy bumped into me and I said, 'You SOB.' I learned then what it meant."

Sutz worked where he could during the day and attended night school where he met Bertha, who became his wife.

She sat across the aisle from him, and one night she borrowed a library book from him. That started an argument that lasted until her death in 1987.

"She never gave it back," Sutz said. "For 70 years she claimed she gave it back to me, and I always said she didn't. It was a joke between us."

Despite the missing book, the couple became serious. When he graduated, Sutz was filling out an employment application for A&P, — a grocery chain, when he came to a line that asked if he were married.

"I wrote down, 'I will be if I get

Oct. 25 — about 50 friends and relatives are planning a series of parties to celebrate, culminating with an Oct. 28 dinner at Best Western Thunderbird Suites, 7515 E. Butherus Drive, Scottsdale.

"I am thankful to the powers above that have done so much for me," Sutz said in an interview at his home last week.

Sutz, who was born in 1895 in Bialystok, Russia, near the Polish border, remains active. His memory is sharp, although some details are now fuzzy.

Physically, his handshake is strong, his eyes are clear and, although he stoops slightly, he walks briskly.

It isn't hard to believe his claims that he was an active child, always getting into things. When he still for one," he said, a catch in his voice.

**"I don't play golf, but I went swimming each day, and I did 10 laps without stopping. Then I reduced it to five laps a day and then two."**

**Ben Sutz**

this job," he said and laughed. "I did, and I did."

Sutz hopped up from the chair in his living room and led the way down a hall to a bedroom where the wall is decorated with photographs. Most of them are of Bertha, their five children, 16 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

One photograph shows Sutz, at age 37, posing proudly with 14 members of his family during his visit to Bialystok in 1932.

"They all died in the war, except

was in Bialystok he loved to listen to his uncle, who would stand on a soapbox and protest the treatment of the Jews by the Czar's government. Fortunately, Sutz was not there the day the authorities came to arrest his uncle and shot him to death when he tried to escape.

"My parents insisted they had to get me to America or they were sure I'd also be shot," Sutz said.

In 1907, when he was 12, Sutz was sent to live with an aunt and uncle in Chicago. He is sure he came through Ellis Island, but he has no memory of it.

"I couldn't speak English when I got here," he said. "I never heard what SOB meant, and one day

laps without stopping," he said.

"Then I reduced it to five laps a day and then two."

He paused and, with a sly smile, added: "Then I heard about a man who dropped dead at the pool trying to do too much. I didn't want to take any chances, so I've decided to slow down."

He may have slowed down, but he won't quit the Happy Nooners, a group that meets for lunch three times a week.

"It's designed to get us out of our houses," he said. "We just get together and yakkity-yak."

Sutz said seeing his friends and relatives is the best birthday present he could get.

"I can honestly say I'm a happy man," Sutz said. "I don't need charitable help. I have no health problems and no financial problems.

"What more can one ask for?"



# Staying young

## Jerry Svendsen practices what he preaches

By Connie Cone Sexton  
Staff writer

**J**erry Svendsen's theme song for life could very well be "Don't Worry, Be Happy."

During a recent interview, his "think positive" demeanor was embodied in a cheerful tone.

It's no wonder he is a favorite of Peoria Chamber of Commerce members. He often graces their monthly luncheons with jokes and songs. Even die-hard grumps seem to be taken by his bouncy enthusiasm.

After earning a degree in radio and television production at Arizona State University, Svendsen worked for a short period at a local television station. In 1961, he landed a public relations job with home builder Del Webb, who only a year before had opened Sun City.

Svendsen stayed with the Webb company until 1982.

**What were your early years like in Sun City?**

"When I came to work in Sun City, there were 2,500 people here. When I left the population was about 47,000."

**How did the people receive you, since they were retirees and you were so young?**

"I was 26 when I came.

"I would write about residents and

### PROFILE

**Name:** Jerry Svendsen  
**Birth date:** March 4, 1935  
**Profession:** Publisher of *Sun Life Magazine*; seminar presenter  
**Years in Glendale:** 18 years; has lived in the Valley since 1948  
**Birthplace:** Chicago  
**Hobbies:** Public speaking, hiking, bicycling  
**Family:** Married for 26 years. Father of three children

send the articles to their hometown newspapers. I would go to their house to do what should be about a 30-minute interview, and I would end up spending 2½ hours with cookies and milk."

**How did you start *Sun Life*?**

"Wes Grant, a former photographer for Del Webb, had the idea for a magazine. Grant and I started it in 1984 as the *Sun Cities Life Magazine*." Grant later moved to Oregon. And the magazine later broadened its service area. Its name was later changed to *Sun Life Magazine*.

**Who does the magazine serve?**

"It concentrates on the lifestyles of those 50-plus. It's published 11 times a year and has about 35,000 copies in subscription."

**What is your latest venture?**

"Carol Secord, a Rio Salado Community College teacher, and I have formed what we call the Prime of Life Co.

"With her background in education and mine in entertainment, we feel that at whatever age — whether 30, 40 or 50 — if you always look for new pathways toward growth, you will never grow old."

**What do your programs offer?**

"They're inspirational, motivational, educational. We have three programs — 'The Power of Laughter and Play'; 'Don't be Adultish (Reclaiming Your Childhood Traits)'; and 'Renaissance for Body, Mind and Spirit.'"

**What is your 'Power of Laughter and Play' program like?**

"People really have a lot of fun. We have a play program where we take a recess and blow bubbles and use Hula Hoops. We laugh together and tell jokes, and before you know it, they're telling me stories."

**You're 57 years old, but how old do you really feel?**

"I guess 35. I like to swim and bicycle and throw around a football with my boys."

**Do you have a pet peeve?**

"When the (Chicago) Cubs lose — and they lose a lot, so I guess my pet peeve is being sad. I was 13 years old when I came here, and I'm still a Cubs fan."





**Dana Leonard / Staff photographer**  
**Jerry Svendsen, publisher of *Sun Life Magazine*, believes in staying young by searching for new pathways toward growth.**



A4 NEWS-SUN Saturday, June 5, 1982

# Svendsten bids SC/SCW area au revoir, not goodbye

By JERRY SVENDSEN

I appreciate the opportunity of writing to so many friends in the Sun Cities and of reminiscing for a few paragraphs.

I recall those early days when my office was a temporary building on Peoria Avenue across from Fairway Center (then called Town Hall). I'd sometimes pause in my day's work to step out the back door and into the cotton fields that seemed to stretch to the South Mountains.

My main occupation early on was to write hometown newspaper stories about new residents, describing their new way of life in Sun City. I was in my mid-20s then and was adopted by more mothers than you can imagine, most of whom had left family in the Midwest. The interviews lasted far longer than they should have—cookies and coffee at each stop.

## COMMENTARY

Those were exciting days for developer and pioneer residents alike as we set about shaping the town that would change America's viewpoint on retirement.

**DURING THE 1960s** I attended dances, block parties, luaus, Easter sunrise services and potlucks. Where a function was in Sun City, there I'd be with my camera. Many of those pioneer residents with whom I became well acquainted are now gone, but quite a few are still at home in Sun City. These lovely people will remain with me for as long as I live; as a Pioneer Club member, I plan to attend their periodic get-togethers.

In 1962, we opened the South Course; in 1963, there was the National Senior Open Golf Tournament; in 1964, new models; in

1965, a housing slump. In 1966, things picked up again—especially for me. I married Lynda, and late that year the Sun Bowl was dedicated. In 1967, Mountain View opened; in 1969, construction moved across Grand Avenue—and for the next decade plus, more models opening, premiere of Boswell Hospital, shopping center and recreation complex dedications.

Highlights for me personally were Western Days at Grand Shopping Center; anniversary celebrations, the Bicentennial with parade and Bell dedication (will be back in 2026 to help open the time capsule—will be only 91); 12 years of Sun Bowl events; all-resident variety shows; grape festivals, fireworks shows, fitness festivals; Fiesta Bowl parade floats; assistance in formation of the Walking/Jogging Club and Senior Softball League.

FOR YEARS it was my respon-

sibility to edit the Sun City Newsletter, activities calendar, to create special promotions, to prepare news and feature stories and to emcee vacation dinner shows for visitors (many of whom became residents). In all these ways, I cam in contact with hundreds of Sun Citians. They worked with me, encouraged me, taught me, at times re-directed me—they helped me grow.

Then in February 1978, we began again with ground-breaking ceremonies at Sun City Wet. In October of that year we welcomed first residents. From that point on it was newcomers coffees, grand openings, of models, recreation center and Sundome, more vacation dinners, resident holiday variety shows, anniversary celebrations, and with staff reduced in the past year, the necessity of personally editing the activities calendar.

**THE LATTER WAS** a real pleasure (except for deadlines). It gave me the opportunity of meeting some more terrific people and viewing first-hand dozens of groups and individuals in action: jazzercise, yoga, arts and crafters, discussion groups, the Posse, Hospital Auxiliary, library volunteers and PORA. I observed their intensity of living, their concern for others and sense of purpose and involvement. Westers are people I learned to respect and like very much.

My departure from the Webb Co. really was by mutual agreement. The company has changed—I, too, have changed positively. My plans and desires for myself were different than those they had for me. The break should have come sooner, but it is hard to dissolve a two-decade habit. I feel grief for having to

leave that portion of my life behind, but am relieved and excited about the door opening to my future.

I will more than remember by friends in the Sun Cities. I will share my experiences, observations and lessons with others through my public speaking and seminars career. In my new work, I will speak at conventions, to employee groups and associations about lesiure, health, communication and attitudes.

My present hour-long address is titled "Creative Long Life." To my many friends in the Sun Cities I wish you jsut that—creative long life. No reason for goodbyes. As a neighbor living with my family in Gelndale, the Sun Cities will remain familiar territory for me as I visit friends, attend events and address groups.



# Webb chief: debt to dividends

First of three parts  
By MIKE GARRETT  
Financial Editor

A mystique seems to surround Robert Swanson, Del E. Webb Corp.'s chief executive officer, board chairman and president. It's there despite the fact that he's an accessible, straightforward, honest, open and down-to-earth chief executive whose accomplishments in his 3½ years with Webb certainly speak for themselves.

His peers, associates and employees speak of Swanson, not so much in awe of his accomplishments, but with respect and admiration.

In a nutshell, Swanson, 51, is a master of planning, persuasion, perseverance and promotion. He gets things done where others have failed.

Once his management team's plans are implemented, Swanson is perfectly willing to let his executives run their own show—as long as their performance remains within established standards.

**HIS CHIEF TALENTS** seem to be as an organizer and communicator.

And what he has been communicating the past year is what Del E. Webb Corp. stockholders, executives and employees have been waiting to hear since Swanson took over as CEO and board chairman in July 1981. The company has made one of

the most dramatic U.S. corporate turnarounds in history. It has come from a company that had been projected to be \$279 million in debt by the end of 1981 to a company that will be paying its first dividend since October 1980 on July 2.

When Swanson first joined Webb Corp. as president in January 1981 following a nine-month tenure as Greyhound Corp.'s president and chief operating officer, he was well prepared to take over a company that had greatly overextended itself and was deeply in debt.

Swanson had already helped orchestrate numerous turnarounds with several subsidiaries of General Mills Inc. and Needham, Harper & Steers Inc., a Chicago advertising conglomerate.

**MUCH OF WHAT** he learned in his experiences with those two corporations he applied to the Webb turnaround.

"A lot of the things I learned at General Mills (which he calls one of the best-managed companies in the U.S.) I've applied at Del Webb—the way we're organized, the function of the public relations and the control departments and some of my attitudes on human resources."

After a recent human resources convention speech in San Diego, Swanson said he was asked how similar General Mills was to Del Webb.

"I said it's not similar at all, it's a duplication, or almost is. They're different industries but the organizational structure is the same. So I think what I learned at General Mills was a great help to my efforts at Del Webb."

**SWANSON HAD HOPED** to stay in the Valley despite a scarcity of opportunities after a mutual agreement to leave Greyhound in October 1980. But it was only when a newspaper article appeared noting that fact which was spotted by Dave Babcock, Webb's executive committee chairman, that the wheels began turning to bring Swanson to Webb.

Actually, Swanson only had to move 17 floors, since he had been working in the ground floor of the Webb building where his Greyhound office had been.

Swanson said he took three months to scrutinize Webb before he decided to take the presidency.

He talked to local and national bankers, other companies, securities analysts who followed the company, top Webb management and visited Del Webb properties.

**"WHEN THE BOARD** made me an offer and I finally accepted, I was pretty well aware of the problems and had a fair idea of what had to be done," said Swanson. "So I think I knew a lot of what was

\* Swanson, A2



ROBERT SWANSON

OVER



—From A1

wrong and I had a broad scheme plan on what it would take to turn it around.

"However, you never really know everything about a company until you get into a company, not that anybody tried to hide it from me. But until you're here, and are living with it day to day and get into the details, you don't know all the problems."

Swanson noted that the banks were willing to give Webb six months to begin enacting a turnaround program.

**"BY THE END OF** six months we had done everything we had said we would do or at least most of it. So they relaxed a little bit more and we were able to turn the company around.

"At that time we had 17 banks in our revolving credit and 15 of them were very supportive and helpful, including the four major banks in Phoenix."

Although many people thought Webb was on the verge of bankruptcy in 1981, Swanson saw right away that it was an asset-rich company. As such his course of action was clear—sell some of the assets.

"Part of that asset base is Sun City. Other parts of it are the recreational properties, the casinos, two of which we sold—Mountain Shadows and Newport Beach. But we did have the assets in which to make the corrections. If we hadn't had those assets, I probably wouldn't have taken the job.

**"WHEN I JOINED** Webb, the projection was in January 1981 that by the end of 1981 we would have had \$279 million in debt and most of that (90-95 percent) was service at 120 percent of prime and prime in 1981-82 was 20 percent.

"At one stage we were paying 24 percent interest. That's why in '81, even though we sold some assets, we had a debt service charge of around \$32 million."

Swanson remarked that it was a lot easier for him to sell off company assets than it was for longtime company management who had such an emotional attachment to their properties.

"I didn't have any emotional ties. I like Mountain Shadows

very much. It's a beautiful resort and I love Newport Beach but I hadn't been a part of the group that bought it or built it or like Bob Johnson (former Webb chairman) who lived there.

**"I WISH WE WOULD** not have had to sell Mountain Shadows and Newport but we did because we had to get the debt down and we got good prices for them."

Swanson also realized when he took over that Webb needed new people and some of its younger employees were not being utilized to their fullest potential.

For the first six or eight months Swanson was meeting with his top management every Saturday morning to develop long-term plans while the rest of the week was devoted to just surviving.

"It (the turnaround) was not just my plan. It was top management's plan and the board's plan. Not only do they develop it,

but they have to believe in it and then they'll make it happen. If somebody else hands them a plan that they don't really understand, which they haven't been participating in or work with, they probably won't execute it. Then if it doesn't go, it's not their fault. It's somebody else's fault.

**"BUT IF THEY'RE** part of it, and they develop the plan and believe in it, then the odds are that they'll execute it and execute it very well."

And that's just what happened. By 1982, Webb reported a profit of one penny. In 1983, the profit was \$6.9 million or 81 cents a share and through the first quarter of this year it was already \$3.8 million or 48 cents a share.

As a result, Swanson is predicting a doubling of 1983 earnings this year.

**NEXT:** Swanson's philosophy in running a company, his future plans and the Devco turnaround.



A4\* Region Monday, Sept. 17, 1990 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

## 23 years of care

### Nursing-home administrator retires to do volunteer work

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — A pioneer in the area's retirement home industry has decided to retire after 23 years of service in Sun City.

Virginia Sylvis, credited for carrying Sun City's first nursing home out of its infancy and taking the reins of one of the state's first life-care centers, retired Friday.

"Every day was special. I have been doing what I love to do," Sylvis said. "I'm going to cry buckets when I leave."

Sylvis, 69, started working in the area in 1963 for Valley National Bank in Youngtown.

A few years later, she started working as a secretary in Sun Valley Lodge.

"I found out when I was working at the bank in Youngtown that I have a special feeling for the elderly," Sylvis said. "I knew I wanted to spend more time in a field that deals with them every day."

Sylvis worked her way up quickly through the ranks at Sun Valley Lodge and eventually became administrator.

She was among the first administrators in Arizona to be licensed by the state Department of Health Services. Her license was the second to be issued.

Sylvis was planning on retiring in 1986 until executives from Sun City's first life-care center — Royal Oaks Life Care Center — asked her to fill in as administrator.

"They asked me to come and fill in just for one year but it has ended up being a little longer than that," Sylvis said. "One of the greatest compliments I got was to be asked to come here and take over the top position."

Dozens of well wishers attended a party in Sylvis' honor on Friday in Royal Oaks.

Among those attending was Roe Walker, chairman of the

OVER

SYLVIS, VIRGINIA





Daily News-Sun photo by Stephen Chernel

**TOASTING RETIREMENT** — Virginia Sylvis, who has worked in the nursing-care industry in Sun City for 23 years, retired Friday. Sylvis, right, is joined in a toast, from left, by her mother, Emilie Galante; her daughter-in-law, Tia Sylvis; and her daughter, Carole Sylvis.

center's board, who asked Sylvis to work at Royal Oaks.

"She had too much to offer to retire and we needed someone with her qualifications," Walker said. "You can't say enough good things about Virginia. She's a people-oriented person, and has a great empathy for the residents."

Bud Hart will take over

Sylvis' duties as administrator.

"She has made a significant contribution to Sun City and Royal Oaks. She brought a new ambiance here and created a very positive atmosphere," Hart said.

She is a member of the local Soroptimist Club and hopes to spend more volunteer hours at the club's thrift shop in Young-

town. Sylvis will remain on the Royal Oaks board of directors.

Sylvis' is known by many as the "mouse lady." Her hobby is making mice out of felt.

"Maybe I will start selling the mice now that I am retired," Sylvis said. "Just because I'm retiring doesn't mean I'm going to stop doing the things I love to do."