

Sun Citian

*The Sun Citian Independent*  
September 19, 1990

# Profile

Portraits Of Our Residents

**Name:** Rose C. Tackles.  
**Former Occupation:** Nurse during World War II. After discharge, was manager of a convalescent hospital.

**Age:** On Sept. 21, will celebrate her 100th birthday with family and friends from throughout the United States.

**Marital status/children:** Widow (since December 1983). One daughter and two sons.

**Memberships and Sun City activities:** University of Michigan alumni; Shriners Sun Unit (wives of Shriners), Order of the Eastern Star, life member; United Church of Sun City, charter member.

**Interests and hobbies:** Started doing lapidary work, then, in 1969 (at 79 years of age) took up painting in oils. Also did fine embroidery handwork.

**How long have you lived in Sun City?** A Pioneer, she and her husband, Charles, moved to Sun City in 1960.

**Former residence:** Born in Hancock, Mich., the daughter of a miner. Resided in Detroit and Royal Oak, Mich.

**What attracted you to Sun City?** A beautiful sunset. Then, we came back to see the city.

**Favorite spot in Sun City:** Love it all!

**What would you like to see changed in town?** Business activity coming back.

**Personal hero:** My husband.

**Favorite foods:** Filet mignon and vegetables.

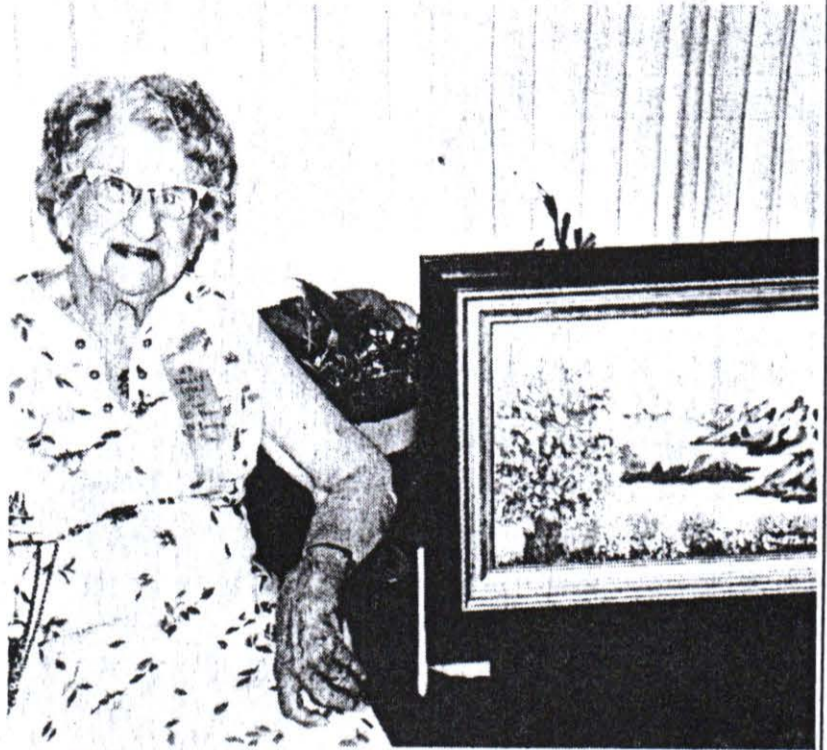
**Favorite weekend get-aways:** Enjoyed traveling.

**What inspires you?** The "home love" of Sun Valley Lodge.

**If you were stranded on a desert island and could only have three items with you, what would they be?** Water and food, fruit, and entertainment (something to read).

**What career would you choose if you were starting over?** Nursing. I'm the oldest living member of the University of Michigan Nursing School.

**If your high school classmates could see you now, they would say:** "She succeeded in becoming a success!"



ROSE C. TACKLES

**Personal accomplishments:** Handiwork and painting. I just finished a canvas, at age 100. My husband and I were among the first 400 people in Sun City to buy a

home. Charles and I were honored as the oldest living couple from our college graduating class. I was the oldest living graduate of my high school (graduated in 1908).

TACKLES, ROSE



## DOERS PROFILE

**Tom  
Taggart**



**Hometown:** Delta, Utah

**Family:** Wife, Ardella, two children and four grandchildren.

**Inspiration:** A love of symphony and sense of accomplishment.

**Philosophy:** "Knowing if I work hard, I'll get results."

# Retiree's work puts symphony on high note

By TINA SCHADE  
Staff writer

**O**n Friday, Tom Taggart boarded a plane to Michigan to surprise his daughter on her 50th birthday. To announce the milestone, he's put an ad in the Lansing newspaper.

Taggart, who received a degree in marketing from the University of Utah, has always been good at publicity. Besides good-naturedly embarrassing family members in the newspapers, he also sings the praises of the Sun Cities Symphony as publicity chairman for the symphony orchestra association.

Taggart became involved in symphony affairs after his wife of 52 years, Ardella, completed a four-year stint as a volunteer with the symphony.

"A lot of what she did just rubbed off, I guess," he said.

As chairman, Taggart spearheaded many different public relations strategies for the the Symphony of the West Valley, which include coordinating the distribution of symphony information to 25 locations throughout the area.

He also implemented the community showcases at the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts and at Arrowhead Towne Center. Each display features the season's performances and photos.

The list of addresses on the media list also jumped from six or seven to 50 during Taggart's tenure.

"When I first got here, I used to write all the press releases myself and now I have someone else help out," Taggart said.

Because of Taggart's efforts, symphony revenues have hit a high note.

"Ticket revenues have risen substantially. We hope it's through orchestra performance and publicity," Taggart said.

Despite his tenacious efforts, Taggart said many people in the Sun Cities are still not aware a symphony exists.

"I talk to people who have lived here six or seven years and they say 'I didn't know there was a symphony,'" Taggart said.

Taggart's promotion for the symphony doesn't stop at the retirement communities' borders. He is also part of the outreach committee which publicizes events in other areas of the Northwest Valley, including Glendale and Peoria.

For the second year in a row, the symphony will be performing on Monday nights at Cactus High School.

Taggart said the symphony provides West Valley residents an alternative to attending classical music events in downtown Phoenix.

"The orchestra is as good as any in Arizona. They don't have to go downtown at night and look for parking. They can spend a nice afternoon in a spacious auditorium with world-class artists," he said.

Taggart also serves on the symphony's executive and nominating committees and works on the annual fund drive.

And he devotes his time to other projects, such as the fund-raising committees for Sun Health. He served on the special projects committee and the Del Webb Hospital fifth anniversary ball silent auction, which raised almost \$10,000. He is now working on the 10th anniversary ball.

"It's a joy to work with the people of these communities. One of the great things is everyone is here by choice. It's just a lot of wonderful people and tremendous amount of talent and the voluntarism never quits," Taggart said.

Taggart, a World War II Navy veteran, moved to Sun City 11 years ago after retiring with 39 years' service in the life insurance business.

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

Taggart, Tom



# Service lauded

## Sun Citian honored for volunteer work

By **KIMBERLY HICKS**  
Daily News-Sun staff

**A**t the age of 86, she's still fighting for a cause.

After nearly 50 years of causes, however, Sun City resident Lillian Tamis is modest about all she has achieved, from setting up a mental health agency in the Bronx in 1952 to establishing a service agency 30 years later for Sun Citians whose families are far away.

"With a committee," she is quick to point out. "I did it all with a committee."

But it was Tamis alone honored last week at the Arizona Biltmore Resort Hotel for her commitment and dedication to Jewish causes.

Tamis was named Woman of the Year by the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix. The award, established in 1982, is given once a year to a woman who has made outstanding contributions to the Jewish community, said Jackie Solomon, a member of the women's division of the federation.

Nominees must have at least eight years of volunteer service to the greater Jewish community, and must have donated money to the United Jewish Campaign. They also must be involved in more than one Jewish organization.

It was an easy bill for Tamis to fit; she has worked with dozens of organizations since 1948, when she became president of the Women's Division of Lebanon Hospital in New York City.

She was a founding member of the Bronx Mental Health Society four decades ago and, in 1956, was chairwoman of the Bronx Riverdale Women's Division of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

In 1973, she and her husband, Dr. Abraham B. Tamis, moved to Sun City. Within two years, she became a member of the Great Decisions Discussion Group and, by 1978, was group leader.

She went on to help found the Jewish Social Service Committee and was Sun Cities area chairwoman from 1983 to 1986.

Tamis also set up a transportation program for the congregation of Temple Beth Shalom in Sun City.

However, Tamis said she is most proud of the Sun City branch of the Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Phoenix, which she helped set up 10 years ago. The agency is a lifeline for senior citizens who cannot turn to their families for help.

"We needed a service agency to help the old people who come here but their children are thousands of miles away," she said. "When you are thousands of miles from your children, you cannot rely on them. They have jobs and families. They can't



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Sun City resident Lillian Tamis sits in front of a portrait she sat for while vacationing in Florida in 1955. Tamis was named Woman of the Year by the Jewish Federation of Greater Phoenix for her nearly 50 years of community service.

come running.

"It was very necessary."

Today, Tamis is chairwoman of Hadassah Israel Education Services, which supports the Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem.

"Israel always needs money," she said.

Her community service extends beyond Jewish causes, however. She is a former board member of the Sun City Fine Arts Society and served as first vice president of the United Nations Association in the Sun Cities.

"I can't limit myself to one area," she said. "There are just so many areas to develop yourself."

Tamis said she — and her committees — have made a difference, and perhaps made life better for others. She attributes her spirit of community service to her late husband, who she described as a physician who cared for the well-being of others.

"He was always active in trying to make it better for the other guy," she said. "Maybe that's why I am the way I am."

TAMIS, LILLIAN



## DOERS PROFILE

**Don Taske**

**Hometown:** Kenosha, Wisc.  
**Family:** Wife, Marjorie, two children, four grandchildren  
**Philosophy:** "I just like helping people."  
**Key to longevity:** "An hour a day on the Nordic track."

# Groups count on ex-Marine for service 1st

By TINA SCHADE  
Staff writer

**Y**ou might say that Don Taske of Sun City is, well, a guy you can count on.

Taske, a retired savings and loan manager, serves as the treasurer for three organizations, including the Sheriff's posse, the Rotary Club and Willowbrook United Methodist Church.

But the 74-year-old does much more for these organizations than sign a few checks. He uses his endless energy working for the clubs in other ways.

For the last 10 years, Taske has climbed through posse ranks, advancing from patrol car trainer to duty officer. He also walked away with the Posse Person of the Year Award for 1997, but remains modest about his contributions.

"A lot of the work with the posse is helping a lady start her car or unlock her car ... There are also those cases where kids will call their folks living out here and they don't answer the phones. About 99 percent of the time, the phone is off the hook," he said.

Taske helps out other kids, too. With his Rotary club, Taske is putting together the plans for a ramada which will be built next to an orphanage in Rocky Point. The ramada will provide shade cover for the orphans, who otherwise might not get the chance to get outdoors. He has been a member of the club since he first moved to Sun City in 1988.

In addition to his treasury duties at Willowbrook, Taske is an usher on Sunday mornings and is the tour guide with the church's travel club.

His tour guide duties have taken him on excursions to San Antonio and Palm Springs.

The trip this former World War II Marine said he found most interesting, however, was the church group's trip to Washington, D.C., where they went to visit the statue dedicated to the flag raising at Iwo Jima.

"The guide told us to watch the flag as we drove around the statue because as you go around, it looks like the flag is being raised," he said.

Before moving to Sun City, Taske worked in Scouting for 25 years and was treasurer of the junior chamber of commerce in Illinois.

Taske also likes to golf and works out on exercise equipment every day to keep in shape.

"I wore out a couple of Schwinn bikes and I've got to have my exercise," he said.

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

Taske, Don





Gertrude Taylor

Neldon and Gertrude Taylor retired to Sun City in 1971, bringing with them many wonderful memories of a rewarding and interesting life. Gertrude was a Wagner, born in South Dakota, but spent most of her life in Northern California.

Gertrude accompanied her husband as helpmate and secretary while he held many offices in the Education Field at the State and National level.

The University of Chicago, under a Ford Foundation Grant, chose Mr. Taylor to introduce and carry out a vocational training program in 21 high schools in Pakistan. They spent five adventuresome years there. Gertrude organized a group of women to help the poor. She knit 525 sweaters for the babies. They had a group to test out recipes for available nutritious foods that could be used to improve their diet, and formed a cook book for the women.

Gertrude introduced and taught macrame in Lakeview Crafts Club. When the Sundial was built, she started a handicraft club in the sewing room there. She became involved in the silver and rock and gem clubs, the garden club, and the trailer club. She held many offices and worked on many committees. The planning committee for the Bell Recreation Center chose her to work on their committee. She managed to

*(Continued on page 2)*

get a craft room and also a room for copper enameling. She was a Recreation Center Club Coordinator for nine years, the last three as Group Coordinator. She has given talks around the country as well as in Sun City, and is willing to fill out a program if needed.

She lost her husband in '76 and devoted full time to her activities and to her trailering. She is active in the Airstream Trailer Club and has held the office of Region II representative.



Taylor, Robert

# THE ART OF GIVING BACK

## Sun City resident volunteers as an art teacher with Interfaith Services

By **JULIA DE SIMONE**  
Independent Newspapers

Robert L. Taylor's conscience started getting to him.

So the Sun City resident did something about it.

"You may say the man upstairs put a message in my computer, 'you'd better do something (to help others),'"

he says. Since July 1996, the local artist has taught art every Wednesday at Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services's Adult Day Health Center in Sun City. IFS is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping area residents remain independent and in their homes for as long as possible.

"I'm volunteering to do that from now on," he says. "I actually have a lot of fun even though I run myself ragged. (But) it really brings a lot of pleasure. It gives you a great feeling."



Photo By **JULIA DE SIMONE**/Independent Newspapers

## Sun City resident gives back to his community

Robert L. Taylor, local artist, teaches art to a resident at Interfaith Services (IFS) in Sun City as volunteer Molly Williams looks over the work. Mr. Taylor said his conscience was getting to him, and he believed this was the best way he could give back and share his talent. IFS is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the area residents remain independent and in their own home for as long as possible. Fees are nominal.

Mr. Taylor zips around resident's tables at the center. He grasps 8 1/2-by-11 examples of watercolor prints in one hand and outlines of the samples in the other. Prints range from desert scenes to a sailboat floating in the water.

IFS employees and volunteers act as additional hands, carrying the paint and water. "The biggest project is getting everybody going," he says.

Residents Ramona Russell, Sarah Vynal and Mary Belle Peterson pay little attention; they're too busy making art.

As Ms. Peterson admires her latest artwork — a budding pink flower surrounded by a green leaf — Ms. Russell dabs some green paint on her cactus.

Kelly King, IFS activity therapist, says many residents at the center have special needs, but function at high level. "This (class) allows them to show their creative side — to keep them stimulated," she says.

Ms. King focuses her attention on Ramona Russell, a blossoming artist.

"She's a real success story," the therapist says. "Some of these people never touched a paint brush, and now, they're very talented."

Mrs. Russell says when she first started the class, she hated art. One day, however, she gave it another try and now can't get enough of it. Some of her **prized artwork** hangs in the center's bulletin board, along with works by produced by her fellow residents.

"If you can color, you can do

this," she says.

Mr. Taylor says he got 'addicted' to art accidentally.

On his 42nd birthday, his mother presented him with his first paint set. Although he wasn't fond of art, he soon found himself working on a painting project to the wee hours of the night.

He retired as a transportation manager in Minnesota to become an artist in Sun City. He currently lives here with his wife, Marian.

"An artist has to be addicted — you're addicted to your work," he says. "Once in awhile you burn out, but it doesn't last because you're addicted to it."

Today his oil paintings are in many private and corporate collections nationwide. His paintings of the desert and Southwestern archi-

itecture have received many awards. Mr. Taylor also teaches art to Sun City West residents.

"I hope I can do this until I fall over," he says. "It gives me a great deal of satisfaction that I can bring enjoyment to others."

It also brings enjoyment to the approximately 10 residents at the IFS center who wait for Mr. Taylor each Wednesday.

Ramona admires her life-like watercolor of a cat that hangs off the center's bulletin board.

"I really enjoy it," she says. "Oh, it makes me feel like I'm accomplishing something."

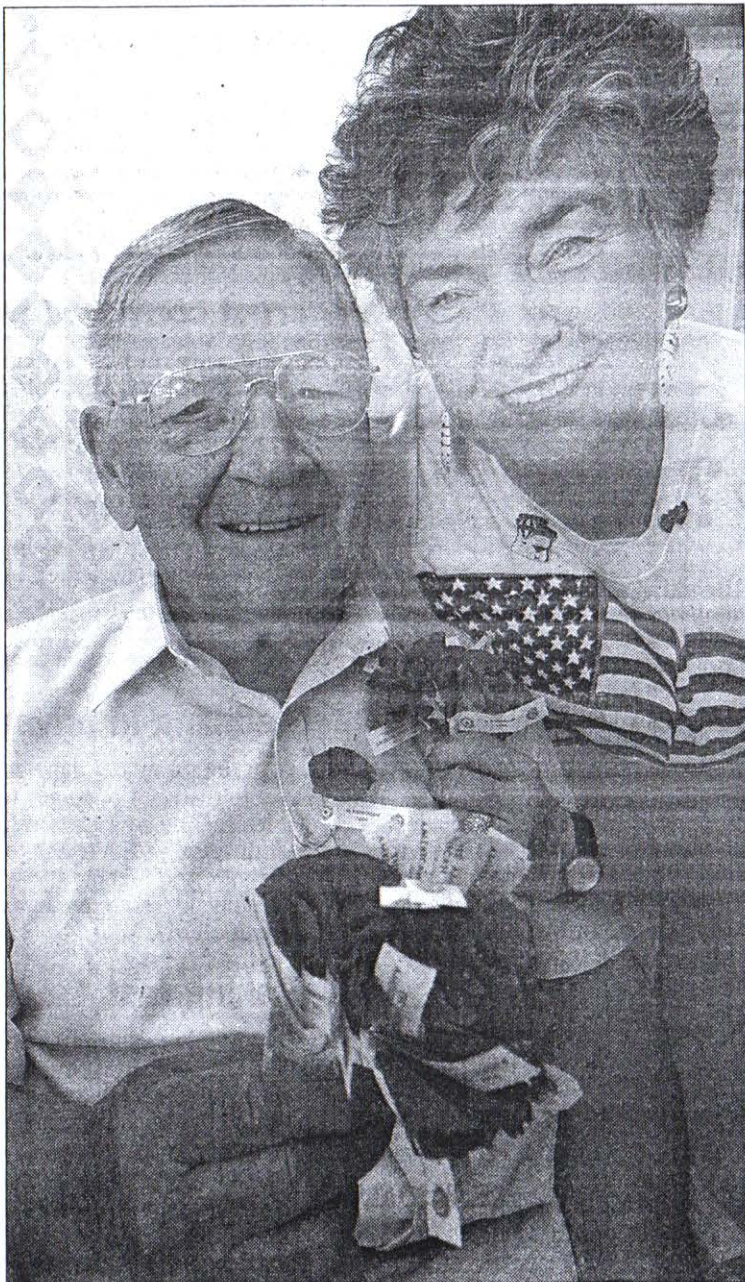
The feeling is mutual for Mr. Taylor.

"I think the best part is seeing what people get out of it ... I always said I should be doing this."



# Sun City woman reinstitutes holiday tradition

Elmer and Doris Theiss of Sun City pushed for a congressional resolution urging Americans to keep the Memorial Day tradition of wearing a red poppy alive to honor those who fell defending the United States.



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

AMANDA MYERS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Long a symbol of death, renewal, and life, the red poppy's seeds can lie dormant in the earth for years, but blossom spectacularly when the soil is churned.

After World War I, red poppies soon appeared in the overturned soil on the battlefields of France and Belgium. Inspired by poems like, "In Flanders Field," wearing poppies soon became a symbol of remembrance for lives lost during battle to sustain freedom.

*We cherish, too, the poppy red  
That grows on fields where  
valor led;  
It seems to signal to the skies  
That blood of heroes never  
dies,*

For more than 70 years, poppies were worn on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day to remember the fallen soldiers. But through the generations, the tradition slowly disappeared and with it, its significance. Now, one Sun City woman is the reason behind a nationwide resolution passed unanimously in the U.S. Senate last week to preserve the wearing of the red poppies.

The resolution, sponsored by Rep. John Shadegg, R-Arizona, in Phoenix, urges Americans to continue the tradition of wearing a red poppy on Memorial Day to honor American soldiers who have died fighting for freedom.

Doris Theiss of Sun City is one of nearly 1 million mothers, sisters, wives, daughters, granddaughters and great-granddaughters throughout the United States that make up the American Legion Auxillary. She is

the department legislative chairman of her unit, number 61. Both her father and her husband, Elmer, are veterans of World War II, serving in the Navy.

"My father welded my husband's ship together when a torpedo went through one side and out the other and exploded in the ocean," said Theiss, adding that miraculously no one was hurt. "Isn't that hard to believe?"

Theiss began writing letters to local congressmen earlier this year urging them to help her revive the red poppy movement in time for Memorial Day and the dedication of the World War II Memorial this Saturday in Washington, D.C. Shadegg answered her call.

"This really stems from his deep respect for veterans and the sacrifices they've made," said Shadegg's Chief of Staff Sean Noble. The congressman was unavailable for comment, but Noble assures that upon receiving the letter, his office convened on the best way to help Theiss and consequently the resolution was born.

"That was the best way to get the word out nationally. It was supported by all the Democrats and Republicans because everyone recognizes the significance of the red poppy," said Noble.

The resolution was passed on May 19 in the U.S. House of Representatives with no opposition and passed by the U.S. Senate the next day.

While Theiss is proud of the movement, she believes it is overdue.

"Why didn't anybody else ever

think of this resolution prior to now?" she asked.

Yet, Theiss knows the effort is more than just wearing the poppy. Its also supporting the sale of the crepe-paper flowers, which are handmade by veterans across the country, including Arizona. She said making the four-petal flowers both helps veterans retain dexterity in their hands and raises money for disabled veterans.

With the help of Shadegg, Theiss mailed enough Arizona-made red poppies to outfit every U.S. representative and senator in Congress, including extra for the president, vice president, and first lady. Last week, Theiss saw many of the Congressmen and women wearing the poppies on CSPAN, and hopes they will continue to wear them through Memorial Day weekend.

Theiss' husband Elmer, 88, a veteran of World War II, couldn't be more appreciative of his wife's efforts.

"I think it's the greatest thing she ever thought of, besides me," he said. "There's too many people that don't know much about the poppy."

He said the younger generation hasn't been personally affected by wars of the magnitude previous generations saw.

"Most of the young people don't seem to take it serious. Maybe some people will get to know a little more about what the wars are about."

To acquire a red poppy, Theiss said to contact a local American Legion Post, or call the American Legion Headquarters at 602-241-1080.





The Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite and his wife, Fern, both 81, read Bible

*By Republic  
Aug. 18, 1973*

# Minister, 81, brings sunshine to hospital beds and homes

REPUBLIC  
AUG 18 1973

By THELMA HEATWOLE

SUN CITY — The Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite, 81, believes exercise — physical, mental and spiritual — is necessary to achieve good living.

He is a man on the go, mostly through making 150 calls a week on the sick and bereaved — all on a voluntary basis.

"You have to do for somebody else," he says.

Mr. Thistlethwaite is founder and chairman of Sunshine Services here. Most of his calls are made in Youngtown and Sun City hospitals, but many are in homes.

"I think God gives me strength to go like I do at my age," he said. The Methodist minister, who "retired" after 33 years active ministry, calls on Catholics and Protestants alike.

"I never try to proselyte. I just try to help people get closer to God," he said.

"My prayers are very brief. God knows more than we do. We may discuss how wonderful God is and how he helps us."

He keeps a large store of jokes for patients.

"They need something to lift them," he explained. "But nothing will lift like a prayer."

He also distributes many sympathy booklets each month to families saddened by death.

He conserves his energy by taking brief naps. Daily Bible

reading is a part of his spiritual exercise.

His wife, Fern, also 81, helps answer phone calls at their home, 10643 Oakmont.

"God sent us out here," she said. They moved to Arizona for Mr. Thistlethwaite's health, which he says has improved greatly.

Sunshine Services consists of a board of directors and hundreds of districts, subdistrict and neighborhood chairmen who help in times of accidents, illness or bereavement. Sunshine also provides hospital beds, wheel chairs and sickroom equipment at no charge to Sun City residents.

Sunshine began in 1961 when Mr. Thistlethwaite realized that retirees, many a long way from former homes, need a close relationship in times of trouble.

With the consent of the Sun City Civic Association, he organized a Sunshine Committee.

Sunday, the Thistlethwaites will observe their 61st wedding anniversary. Mr. Thistlethwaite will celebrate by bringing the message at 9:30

a.m. in Lakeview United Methodist Church, Thunderbird and 103rd Avenue, Sun City.

"There aren't many ministers who live to preach on their 61st anniversary," said Mrs. Thistlethwaite.

THISTLETHWAITE, DUANE



# Impressions

## 95-year-old's accomplishments still endure

By KAREN S. LEONARD  
News-Sun staff

The Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite easily can be called Sun City's own living legend. The 95-year old lives in Sun Valley Lodge and is visited weekly by his 60-year-old daughter, Ruth Thistlethwaite of Phoenix.

"At the rate he's going, he's going to outlive me," she says.

She says her father is blind and can't remember from one hour to the next whether she has visited him. Friends no longer call on him because he doesn't remember them.

Yet, he is far from forgotten.

Thistlethwaite remains a man people can't seem to praise enough.

Mostly remembered as the driving force behind and founder of Sunshine Service Inc., former co-workers recall with fondness and admiration his many hours of dedication to those in need.

"His heart and soul was with people," says Don Palermo whose wife, Dorothy, worked with Thistlethwaite when Sunshine Service first started 25 years ago.

"He was a very conscientious individual and willing to help anybody," says friend Dolores Morris.

"He always had a little joke for you," she says.

Sunshine Service administrator Wilfred E.

Stevener says one of Thistlethwaite's favorite jokes was to ask someone how he was and when he answered, "I'm all right," Thistlethwaite would say, "No you're not. You're half right and you're half left."

Stevener says Thistlethwaite came into Sunshine Service almost every morning. He would look around and then be off to make his many visits to hospitals and homes to people in need.

Ruth Thistlethwaite says her father "got a bigger charge out of visiting people than anything else."

He visited ill people even before he got into the ministry, she says. He went to school to be an electrician and then would go around helping people in his spare time.

After awhile, Ruth says, her father decided to go back to school and become a minister.

Stevener says he believes Thistlethwaite's objective when founding Sunshine Service "was to make certain people in need were taken care of."

Ruth Thistlethwaite says she believes getting Sunshine Service on its feet was his biggest accomplishment. Another was getting a church built in the early 1950s in Indianapolis.

She says her father was always understanding, helpful and tolerant. In addition, he always thought of others.

Thistlethwaite and Stevener didn't always see eye to eye but Stevener says any disagree-

ments they had were easily solved because of Thistlethwaite's ability to get along with people.

Ruth Thistlethwaite says if there ever was anything wrong or her father thought something was wrong, he would go to the person and talk it out.

She says she doesn't remember her parents ever fighting. They disagreed at times, she says, but they'd talk it over and sometimes he'd win and other times her mother, Fern, would.

She says her father had a "quiet way of leading. He didn't intimidate people."

"He could always get me to do something I didn't want to do — willingly," she says.

She does admit her father can be stubborn at times. It's something, she says, he inherited from his father's side.

"I didn't really see (his stubborn side) until he got older," she says. But his stubbornness, she says, is typical of elderly people who have been in charge of their lives and then suddenly find themselves in hospitals or nursing homes being looked after.

Something her father and mother insisted upon and that has stayed with her, she says, is family privacy.

"Whatever I heard at home I was expected to keep to myself. ... To this day, I don't talk about people," she says, including talking about her father.

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1987

NEWS-SUN

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THISTLETHWAITE, DUANE



# Sunshine honors founder

By CHERYL SWEET  
Staff Writer

Sunshine Service dedicated its building to Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite Thursday and about 200 people turned out for the ceremony.

John Meeker, former Del E. Webb Development Co. president, called Rev. Thistlethwaite "a very special man" who began Sunshine Service in his garage with few items of sickroom equipment.

"God has instilled some kindness and caring in all of us. On a scale of one to 10, Rev. Thistlethwaite has to be a triple 10," Meeker said.

Mr. Thistlethwaite attended the ceremony briefly, but had to leave due to illness.

Sunshine administrator Wilfred Stevener outlined the organization's beginnings, in which he said Mr. Thistlethwaite played a major role.

The non-profit corporation got its start in 1961 when the Home Owners Association Sunshine Committee, headed by Mr. Thistlethwaite, bought hospital beds from Memorial Hospital in Phoenix.

Additional sickroom equipment was acquired before the first bed and wheelchair were loaned on April 2, 1962.

Equipment not in use was stored in Mr. Thistlethwaite's home until Devco donated a building site.

The first Sunshine Service building was on Coggins Drive. Cost of that facility and

subsequent buildings were covered by contributions from local clubs and organizations.

As of Wednesday, Stevener said, 3,151 homes were using borrowed equipment from Sunshine Service. The corporation, now at 9980 Santa Fe Dr., has more than 11,000 pieces of sickroom equipment, 75 percent of which is on loan to residents at any one time, he said.

He said the corporation's equipment is valued at more than \$600,000 and saves residents a substantial amount of money each year in equipment rental fees.

Mr. Thistlethwaite was born in Louisiana and moved to Sun City in 1960 from Indiana. He is founder of the First Methodist Church of Sun City.



Elster, right, daughter of Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, who led committee which founded Sunshine Service, and Charlotte

Bowling admire plaque during Thursday's dedication ceremonies for Sunshine Service Building. (News-Sun Photo by Jim Painter)

THISTLETHWAITE, DUANE



# I remember The Reverend "Mr. T."

By DOUG MORRIS

His physical life extended beyond his living. His final days were coma-free of suffering, and disconnected from his remembering ... but not from ours.

There will probably not be a statue erected to the Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite; but there will be a myriad of memorials indelibly inscribed in the minds and hearts of Sun Citizens.

If the purpose of living is to leave the world a better place, his life went beyond physical accomplishments into areas of spirit most wouldn't have dared and few could imagine.

Sunshine Service is his shrine. It began with a couple of beds and a wheelchair, and became a huge storehouse of man's humanity to man.

His gentle face and quiet demeanor disguised a steely determination to let nothing stand in the way of his dream.

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## Guest Opinion



What he wanted, he asked for, and got.

He was grateful for cooperation, but not surprised by it. The Del Webb Company found it irresistible to provide the land and build the buildings he needed to house a community service which constantly outgrew its facilities, but never exceeded the Rev. T's expectations.

He enjoyed the recognition and honors that came to him from around the world; but his enjoyment was not egocentric -- he seldom made reference to awards -- "those things that hang on the wall."

He stayed free of the bickerings that too often impede a community's fulfillment of its capacities. He quietly went about the business of seeing to it that things which needed doing got done.

He was well aware of his mortality; and the organization he inspired testifies to his plans for perpetuity.

In these days of committee-diffused responsibilities, and impersonal majority votes, the Rev. T. reminds us of "the infinite capacity of one man to do something about it."

We all pass this way only once. The Rev. T. didn't just pass this way, he blazed a trail and paved a highway to make it more comfortable for others.

He was luckier than most; he found a practical purpose for his life -- a problem he could solve -- a service he could render, probably better than anyone else could do, or would attempt.

A poem, written by Isla Paschal Richardson, echoes what the Rev. T. would want to say to us:

### To Those I Love

If I should ever leave you whom I love  
 To go along the Silent Way, grieve not,  
 Nor speak of me with tears, but laugh and talk  
 Of me as if I were beside you there.  
 (I'd come -- I'd come, could I but find a way!  
 But would not tears and grief be barriers?)  
 And when you hear a song or see a bird  
 I loved, please do not let the thought of me  
 Be sad ... For I am loving you just as  
 I always have ...  
 You were so good to me!  
 There are so many things I wanted still  
 To do -- so many things to say to you ...  
 Remember that I did not fear ... It was  
 Just leaving you that was so hard to face ...  
 We cannot see Beyond ...  
 But this I know:  
 I loved you so -- 'twas heaven here with you.

*Editor's Note: Doug Morris is the former editor of the Sun City Citizen (now the Independent). The Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite passed away June 18, 1987.*



# Sunshine Service founder

News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — The Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite's name is honored on a plaque proudly displayed on the door of Sunshine Service Inc.

In the building are many more tributes to his name, from as far away as Washington, D.C., as national in scope as the American Cancer Society and as local as the Sun City citizen of the week.

Thistlethwaite died late Thursday at Sun Valley Lodge, 24 years after he helped found a \$1 million service for Sun Citizens who couldn't afford to buy medical equipment.

He was 95.



REV. THISTLETHWAITE

Sunshine Service grew from a committee of a newly formed civic organization, which later became the Sun City Home Owners Association.

Thistlethwaite chaired the committee and at his suggestion members pooled their money to purchase two used hospital beds to lend to sick Sun Citizens who needed them.

Donations of other adapted equipment began piling up in the minister's carport.

What started as a kind gesture grew into 10,000 pieces of hospital and adapted equipment housed in a 1,600-square-foot warehouse — still loaned free to

anyone in need.

Thistlethwaite remained president of the organization until 1981.

"He was second to none when it came to helping people," said Wilfred E. Stevener, administrator of Sunshine Service and a longtime friend. "If you were to name all the things he has been honored with it would take up the whole paper."

One of Thistlethwaite's most recent awards was the Twelve Who Care 1980 Honorary Kachina Award.

"I thought he did enough for other people that he deserved the greatest award anyone could be-

## leaves mark

stow," said Stevener, who sponsored Thistlethwaite for the award.

"This service has provided the people of Sun City \$1 million in savings."

The Sunshine Service will be closed Monday in honor of his dedication to the organization.

Thistlethwaite was born in Sheridan, Ind., and pastored in several Methodist churches in the state before he retired in 1956.

He moved to Sun City in 1960 and later co-founded the First Methodist Church of Sun City.

In 1967 he was given the Lane Bryant Annual Award for service and since then received numerous

honors for his leadership, dedication and devotion.

In 1972 he joined the Host Sun City Lions and was given the National Foundation Volunteer Award that same year.

He was voted 1973 Man of the Year by the Sun City Sons of American Revolution and given the News-Sun Apex Award in 1983.

Thistlethwaite's daughter, Ruth, of Phoenix, said he was admitted to Sun Valley Lodge in 1978.

A service has been scheduled for 11 a.m. Monday in First United Methodist Church, 9849 N. 105th Ave.





Stephen Cherneck/Daily News-Sun

Alberta Thompson visits with Makota Tsumori in her Sun City home Saturday. Tsumori lived with Thompson and her husband Kenneth as an exchange student in 1952 in Minnesota.

## Exchange builds friendship

By PAUL JUTZI  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Forty years ago, Alberta Thompson started a friendship that blossomed into a love for people around the world — literally.

In 1952, she and her husband, Kenneth, agreed to board an exchange student from Japan in their Minneapolis home.

The student, Makota Tsumori, became more than a good friend. He became a bridge between the Thompsons and exchange students from 35 countries, whom the couple took into their home while living in Minnesota.

Saturday the friendship was renewed when Tsumori came to visit Thompson in her Sun City home.

"He's like a second son to me," Thompson said, smiling broadly. "Makota was the first (exchange student she boarded), and he made me very grateful that I did it."

In 1952, Tsumori was to attend the University of Minnesota at Minneapolis for two years while living with an American family. He said he

was unsure what might happen to him in America.

At that time, Japan was governed by the Allies and Tsumori wasn't sure what people were like in the United States. The Japanese liked Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who was in command of occupying forces, and Americans they came in contact with in Japan, he said, but propaganda spread by the Imperial Army before the end of the war had Japanese believing Americans were evil.

"We had thought American people were devils. In our hearts, we thought people are people. But that's not what we were told," Tsumori said.

A long ship ride from Japan to Washington state and a railroad ride from there to Minnesota gave Tsumori more time to worry about Americans.

"She (Thompson) was the first person I met (in the United States). She made it easy for me. Since then, I don't believe any propaganda," Tsumori said.

Thompson and Tsumori have kept in close contact over the past 40 years through letters,

calls and visits. Thompson has visited Japan three times, but this was Tsumori's first visit to Arizona.

"I am honored to be here," Tsumori said. "How shall I express it? They (the Thompsons) are more than family to me. They are friends and family. Good friends. I don't know what kind of words to choose to say how I feel."

Tsumori expressed his feeling toward Thompson for her openness to him and other Japanese exchange students in 1986, when he nominated her to Japanese Emperor Hirohito to receive a humanitarian award, which she won.

"This is a very special honor," Tsumori said. "I could not get one like it."

Thompson said Tsumori was a real blessing to her and her family, who learned to love people of all races because of him.

"If we really get to know people from other cultures and backgrounds, world peace would have a real chance. I know that sounds idealistic, but that has been my ideal," she said.

Tsumori said that idealism is realism — to children who haven't yet been taught they are different from other people. Tsumori, who is principal of a school for mentally challenged children in Japan, said adults need to learn a lesson from children.

"With children there are no boundaries with countries," he said. "This sounds idealistic and romantic at first, but it is not so. It is a realism that we need."

"We (he and Thompson) have been friends for 40 years. We have learned that people are people," he said.

Tsumori planned to stay with Thompson until today, when he is scheduled to return to Japan. He had been in Flagstaff last week to attend the World Organization for Early Childhood Education congress.

Tsumori is one of Japan's leading advocates for improved developmental education for young children. Last week he was chosen to coordinate the world organization's 21st congress, which will convene in three years in Japan.





## Sun Citian wins poetry award

Sun City resident Ruth Helen Thurman, right, joins Florence Henderson at the 7th annual Symposium/Convention of the International Society of Poets in Washington, D.C. Ms. Thurman received the "International Poet of Merit" award at the convention Aug. 8-10. Several of Ms. Thurman's poems have been published by the National Library of Poetry and she was invited to become a distinguished member of the International Society of Poets.



# Duo thrives in spotlight

By BRITT KENNERLY  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — If musicians Warren and Dottie Tiedemann say they're going to retire, don't believe them until a few years later — they've been known to use that line before.

"We've stopped working a few times," Warren said. "But now we plan to keep playing as long as someone wants to hear us."

Saxophone player Tiedeman took the professional name Bill Warren back in the '40s when told that his name "was not acceptable" for a musician, he said.

A respected musician, Warren had played with Freddy Nagel in clubs around the country, including the Trianon and the Palmer House in Chicago.

After leaving Nagel, Warren took a job with the Ken Harris Band, a small combo.

Meanwhile, Dottie Thornbury, a singer/pianist from West Logan, W.Va., was program director and staff vocalist at WLOG radio station.

Dottie read in Billboard that the Ken Harris Band needed a female vocalist.

"It wasn't that far from Logan to the Mayflower Hotel in Akron, where the

band was playing," she said. "So I went for an audition. I had never been in the musicians' union, and I was scared to death."

She wowed Harris, however.

"Ken hired Dottie and changed her name to Dorothy Lane," Warren said.

Dorothy Lane bowled Warren over as well.

"It was love at first sight," Dottie said.

Another name change was imminent for Lane — three months later, Warren and Dorothy were married in Chicago.

The couple stayed in music, but were not in the same band after marrying until teaming up for an act billed, "Bill Warren and His Society Orchestra, with Dorothy Lane at the Piano."

Those big band days were exciting years, they said.

The couple broke racial barriers by hiring a black musician in 1947.

"We had one of the first integrated bands of the time," Warren said.

"It was unheard of," Dottie said. "We played in my hometown for a while, and I said, 'If we ever leave Logan, we'll all get killed.'"

In 1953, after "bouncing around" from band to band and city to city, Warren and Dottie retired from music professionally, took back their own names, and changed career paths.

Warren became a retail florist and Dottie earned a degree in social technology.

They retired in 1976 — just long enough to decide to open a bakery in Burlington, Iowa.

"We opened it against all advice," Warren said.

In 1982 they — you guessed it — quit working again.

This time, the city of choice was Sun City.

"It was metropolitan, cosmopolitan and had a better climate than Iowa," Dottie said. "It was no contest."

Once settled however, the couple got the urge to perform once more as a duo. As they had never entirely given up practicing and performing, it wasn't hard to find work.

"We really didn't intend to work again, but a month after we moved here, we got a job playing in Candle-

wood Supper Club," Warren said.

After a four-year stint at Melody Lane ended in May, 1988, it looked like the couple might retire for real.

In February, 1990, however, they were booked at Lou's Tivoli Gardens in Sun City. Playing a mixture of dance music that belies their love for big bands, Warren and Dottie entertain Wednesday through Sunday nights weekly.

"We really did come here to retire," Warren said. "Playing, though is a glorious way to continue to make people happy and make money at the same time."

OVER





Daily News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

After several career moves and retirements, Warren and Dottie Tiedeman play dance music in Lou's Tivoli Gardens.



Dottie Tiedeman, '40s



Warren Tiedeman, '40s



Tiedman, Howard

## 'Gramps' shows he's an old softy

By ANGELA MULL  
Staff writer

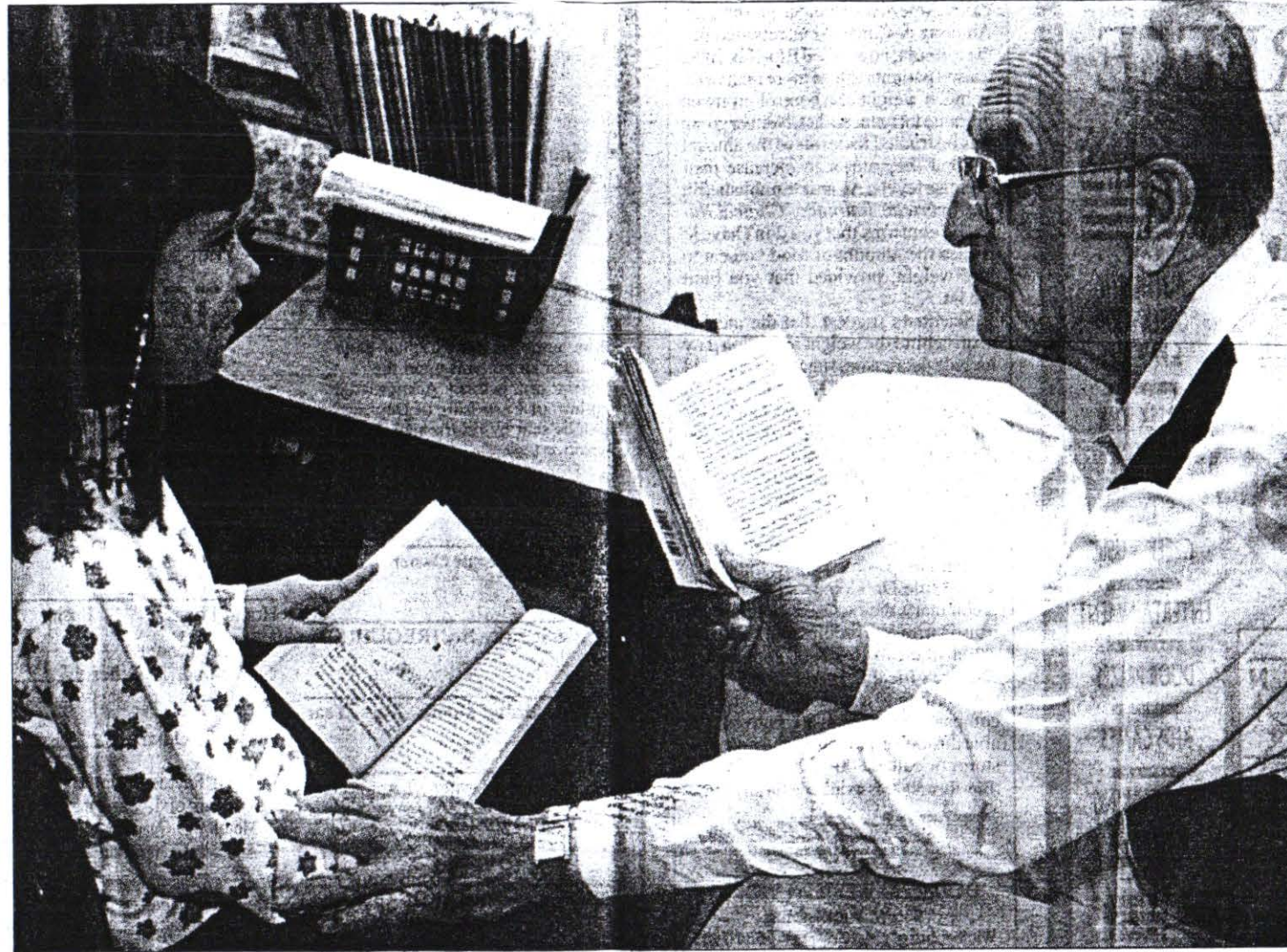
Howard Tiedeman didn't stand a chance.

The minute they saw him, they rushed over and clamped onto his lean frame. Arms reached for him and he smiled and leaned over to return the hugs.

To the 25 enthusiastic children in Pam Lekan's second-grade class at Desert Harbor Elementary School, the 79-year old Sun Citian is "gramps." A man who will help them sound out tough words as they read books or who will dole out math advice. A man who will murmur encouragement and return affection.

"I get along great with them," he said. "I don't think there's ever been a kid that didn't like me."

Tiedeman started volunteering his time at the elementary school in October after seeing a flier about the need for volunteers in the Peoria and Dysart school districts. Tiedeman chose the Peoria district because it was close to his Sun City home. He said he's glad he wound up



Heather Kadar/Daily News-Sun

Howard Tiedeman of Sun City helps second-grader Meg Simpson with her reading skills in Pam Lekan's classroom at Desert Harbor Elementary School.

► See 'Gramps' bursts, A5



# 'Gramps' bursts with pride

■ From A1

in Lekan's classroom, although he originally wanted to work with older students.

"These kids are further along than I thought they would be in second grade," he said.

And Tiedeman would know. He has spent the last few months getting to know each student. He is so familiar with them that he can point out the best readers and the pupils with a natural gift for solving math problems.

Tiedeman donates his time to the school on Tuesdays and Fridays. On this particular Tuesday, he paid close attention as Lekan had class members take turns reading the book, "The Chocolate Touch." He took a whirl at reading, too. After, while students wrote their impressions of the latest chapter into their journals, he called them back one at a time to read to him.

They wriggled out of their small desks and chairs and sat in front of him, several calling him "gramps" as if it were second nature. Tiedeman paid close attention to each student, offering tips here and there. He helped some students sound out big words and told others to make natural pauses after the periods. No matter what his advice, he also provided positive reinforcement.

As Cherie Bates finished reading in a spirited voice, he smiled.

"You were very good," he told her, patting her shoulder. "You even used the exclamation point."

Tiedeman wasn't always so comfortable with the second-graders. On his first day with the class, he said, he was nervous. Still, he got up in front of the room full of students and started talking.

"I said, 'I bet you want to know why I'm here,'" he said. "'It's because I love children.'"

The man the children at first called "Mr. Tiedeman" became "gramps" soon after. They missed him when he wasn't there, even if it was only for a couple of days, Lekan said. Their feelings for him were strong enough that when they gave him a pothos plant in a red and green pot for Christmas, they wrote "Merry Christmas, we love

you," on the pot.

The students are not the only ones enjoying Tiedeman's volunteer services. He said he loves working with them and is glad he decided to donate his time.

"I think it's all meant to be because it's going so well for me," he said.

Tiedeman also volunteers at the American Lutheran Church and Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital. He began his volunteer service in August 1994, two months after the death of his wife, Lucy.

Before moving to Sun City, Tiedeman lived in Colorado, where he and his wife owned a floral business.

Now retired, he spends much of his time volunteering. One person who is glad he does is Lekan. She said his presence enables each student to receive the one-on-one attention that they love.

"All of the other teachers are jealous," she said, smiling.

Lekan said it will be hard for the students to say goodbye to him when they finish up the second grade.

"They're really attached to him," she said. "They latch onto him when he leaves for just a day."

Which is exactly what they

did when Lekan announced Tuesday that it was time for him to leave for the day.

The students yelled out, "Thank you, gramps," and once again crowded around for hugs. Some clung to him as Lekan waited for them to get ready for physical education. He had to urge them to let go and get in line.

"I don't want you to leave," Amy Ong said as she stopped hugging him.

But he did leave. And in June it will be their turn to leave as they end the school year and prepare for the third grade.

Tiedeman said he can handle them moving on to the next grade.

"I'm looking forward to another group and learning names again," he said, smiling.



TISDALL, GAILER D

# Sun Citian's volunteer work reads like an open book

By JACKIE DISHNER  
Daily News-Sun intern

This past summer Gailerd Tisdall and his wife, Mary, drove to their summer condo in Park City, Utah, just like they do each summer to escape the Arizona heat.

When the usually busy Tisdall found too much time on his hands, he did what he usually does in the Sun City area.

Volunteer.

Tisdall works with the Sun City Telephone Pioneers of American chapter at the Recorded Recreational Reading for the Blind office, 9449 N. 99th Ave., Peoria.

In Park City, he offered his services to the Utah library system.

Not only did the library accept his offer, but Utah's governor, rewarded Tisdall with a certificate of appreciation.

Tisdall received the certificate Oct. 21 from Richard Peel, director of the Arizona Braille and Talking Book Library, a division of the Library for the Blind.

The Arizona Braille and Talking Book Library provides books and magazines on cassettes and recorded discs which are loaned free of charge to any person who cannot hold, handle or read conventional printed matter because of a visual or physical disability. The talking book machines play back these tapes, which provide as much as six hours of reading material.

The library, which is funded by federal and state grants, serves 10,000 people in Arizona.

Tisdall is an associate member of the Telephone Pioneers of America, a group of retired telephone workers and their spouses who volunteer to repair talking book machines for patrons of the Arizona Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

"The Talking Book Program absolutely could not exist if it weren't for the Telephone Pioneers," Peel told the Pioneers recently. "You are recognized as one of the best groups of Pioneers. You have set the pace. ... I'm proud of the whole family of volunteers."

"You not only do the work here, but you leave the state and spread the word about us. For the people who use the program — it's a lifeline," Peel said.

A modest Tisdall said, "I don't think I'm any different than any of the other volunteers. Mostly I volunteer for my own satisfaction, for something to do."

His wife, who is a vice president of the Telephone Pioneers, boasted for him. "He loves it. He works at least 30 hours a week on the machines at home."

At the Peoria office, Tisdall acts as the quality control man, checking and testing the machines already cleaned and repaired, making sure they are sent back to the Talking Book Library in working order. He, like other volunteers, also repairs machines at home.

In Utah, Tisdall repaired machines and taught volunteers how to do more preventative maintenance on the special playback equipment. In addition, he arranged it so that the state of Utah could send its backlog of machines in need of repair to Arizona, which has more volunteers.

"They were more than glad to have some help," Tisdall said. "They have fewer people and only work one four-hour day a week. So I watched the repairmen and their procedures. I saw that they were only repairing the necessary item requested. They weren't repairing the machines to last."

"I worked two days a week, all day long, to help them with their repairs and to get caught up. They had a lot of machines in storage — machines they didn't know how to fix. So I taught them how. You're only as good as your instructors," Tisdall said.

Since February 1990, the Sun City Telephone Pioneers have been repairing talking book machines at the Recorded Recreational Reading for the Blind office. The space is donated free of charge by the Lions Club.



Gailerd Tisdall, left, receives award from Richard Peel, director of the Arizona Braille Talking Book Library.



APRIL 25-MAY 1, 2001

## A Name to Know

Sun Valley Lodge volunteer **Mary Todd** moved to Sun City in 1978 and in 1986 she decided she needed something to do.

And do something she has. For the last 15 years Mrs. Todd has volunteered four or five days a week at Sun Valley Lodge, the first retirement home in the City of Volunteers.



Mrs. Todd managed The Gold Chest, a gift shop at the lodge, for 10 years and in 1990 she spearheaded the effort to open a thrift shop, which is located at 102nd Avenue and Coggins Drive.

Since the shop opened, it has yielded \$40,000 for Sun Valley Lodge.

Currently, Mrs. Todd works in the gift shop, which generates money for a resident assistance fund, and anywhere else she is needed. She said residents often come to her with broken jewelry, which she always takes the time to fix.

Mrs. Todd volunteers at the lodge because she really enjoys it.

"The relationship between the residents, volunteers and employees is just wonderful," she said. "This is a very good place. If I was going to move into a nursing home, this would be it."

Mrs. Todd's husband of 42 years is also a volunteer at the lodge.



## DOERS PROFILE

Diana  
Tollefson

**Hometown:** Minneapolis, Minn.

**Family:** Widowed; four children

**Motto:** "The harder you work, the luckier you get. Try it."

**Inspiration:** "It's a spiritual inspiration." A power which comes through and nudges you in various directions.

**Key to longevity:** "Moderation. I try to lead a good, clean life."

## Artist credits creativity to higher power

RUTHANN HOGUE  
Staff writer

**D**iana Tollefson believes she will never grow old.

At 78, the artist, musician, writer and gardener said she is just getting started. "I don't feel 78," she said. "I don't think I look it. And I certainly don't act like it. I giggle and laugh as much as teen-agers do."

Indeed.

Tollefson's comfortable Sun City home doubles as a gallery for her life's collection of original paintings. One bedroom has been converted into an art studio where she captures images from her imagination on canvas and sketch pads.

Indian folklore and legends are a favorite theme. There is also religious art depicting biblical scenes such as Jesus teaching little children or, Adam and Eve. Nude women are used to represent the four directions of Mother Earth.

Tollefson often collaborates with photographer Morris Berman. He shoots an ordinary object or scene and makes a print. Tollefson works it into a painting to create what she calls a "simile," because it is similar, but not the same.

Berman's photograph of a man driving a golf car titled "Highway to Heaven," became a chariot in the clouds in Tollefson's hands.

"I saw a hoop dancer in here with all those round shapes," Tollefson said, pointing to a simile based on a close-up shot of unpicked oranges.

Tollefson, known to the Lakota Sioux in South Dakota as "Little Woman," was adopted by the tribe on Sept. 26, 1970. Being an "adopted Indian" is something the former art teacher takes quite seriously. She proudly displays a photograph of herself wearing a buckskin dress one of her daughters made for her. Another framed 8-by-10 shows Tollefson with longer, darker hair, on the day she was named and adopted by the Lakota Sioux.

"I've always been interested in Indian mythology and legend," she said.

The Lakota Sioux became interested in Tollefson because of her extensive work on the reservation with their children as an art teacher. She also organized the first Indian Club in Rapid City, S.D., and a Tee-pee Time group.

Two educational television series featuring Tollefson, taped in the 1970s and 1980s, still air on Public Broadcast System channels in the upper Midwest.

Most recently, Tollefson taught Native American culture and the arts for Arizona State University. She decided to retire this semester after 10 years of teaching similar classes for ASU at the Sun City extension campus, for Rio Salado Community Colleges and at Phoenix College.

But it's time, she said, to focus on enjoying life.

"I think I've given and given so much to others, you wonder if anything's left," Tollefson said.

So, instead of writing lesson plans, Tollefson plans to write poetry. She hopes to spend more time working in her backyard Japanese garden and soaking in her hot tub.

Still, Tollefson will remain involved in the community. She was previously the president of Ex-PRESS Club, is currently the president of the Sun City Chapter of Arizona Penwomen, the local affiliate of The National League of American Penwomen. The group celebrated the 100th anniversary of the national organization on Saturday. The local group marked 25 years in October 1996. Tollefson plans to remain active in the group.

Tollefson, Diana



## DOERS PROFILE

Clara  
Toon

**Hometown:** Indianapolis, moved to Sun City in 1979 from Park Ridge, Ill.

**Family:** Two brothers and many nieces and nephews.

**Philosophy:** "Busy people are really happier people."

**Motto:** "I like to keep busy."

## 74-year-old stays in Toon to lifestyles

By TINA SCHADE  
Staff writer

**F**rom bowling alleys to buses, Clara Toon has been involved with just about every aspect of the Sun City lifestyle.

When she initially came to this area, she thought she would just test the waters. But she soon found herself immersed in activities.

"There's such an opportunity out here for people not to sit on their haunches," said the 74-year-old.

For the past 18 years, Toon has been a familiar face to fellow retirees.

She's run the computer scoreboard at the Lakeview Recreation Center bowling lanes; she put in a three-year stint on the membership committee for the Home Owners Association; and she tackled administrative work for about three months with the Sun Cities Area Transit.

"I did a little bit of everything," she said.

Toon also patrolled with the Sheriff's Posse at night. Although she never chased down a burglar, she did recall one incident that kept her and her partner zigzagging through neighborhoods.

"We, my partner and I, chased a little dog one night. We chased it all evening and we alternated getting out of the car and trying to catch it," she said with a laugh.

Tapping into her experience as a secretary, Toon serves in that role with the Minnesota Club, despite being born in Indiana and having lived in Illinois.

"My brother asked me, 'How in the name of heaven did you get mixed up with the Minnesota Club?'" Toon said explaining they couldn't find someone else to do it.

She is also the secretary of the Willowbrook Singles Club and participates in its potlucks and luncheons.

Toon knows her way around Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital, where she's volunteered since 1992.

She used to be the driver for the van and the golf car used to move patients around, but surgery drove her indoors.

Toon now works in payroll two days a week every two weeks with another two days a week dedicated to the accounting department.

And if that's not enough. She recently was elected as the vice president of Chapter 4 of the American Association of Retired Persons, an organization she served before her arrival in Sun City.

"They are people who are lobbying for retired people," she said "They care about their futures, Medicare and how that's going to be handled."

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio recently spoke to the group and members have invited state Sen. Brenda Burns of District 17 to speak at the November meeting.

Of all her activities, Toon said she was most proud of her work with the Sheriff's Posse.

"I felt I was doing more for the people of Sun City," she said.

Toon also said she is fond of some of the sheriff's programs.

"I think he's trying to do something, especially what he's trying to do with the schools," Toon said.

In her spare time, Toon likes to read mysteries and novels and likes to watch tennis matches on television.

Doer nominations may be submitted to Tina Schade at the Daily News-Sun, 10102 Santa Fe Drive, Sun City, Ariz. 85351.

Toon, Clara



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*VEE TRAYLOR, board member at the Sun Cities Art Museum, parliamentarian, golfer and art collector, to name a few of her activities, stays in the retirement fast lane.*

Bret McKeand/Independent

Sun Citian

# Profile

Portraits Of Our Residents

OVER

TRAYLOR, VEE



## Public service, the arts provide means for creative humanitarianism

by YOLANDA MUHAMMAD  
Sun Cities Independent

Vast and varied as is the family of man, empathy can be the binding force that civilizes humanity.

Self confident and poised, Vee Traylor, Sun City West resident for five years, talks about her life's work casually, as if she had been a file clerk shuffling dusty papers in a lim cubby.

Instead, she has had a fascinating career in public service that has reached far beyond her own community, or even her own government, touching mankind on a global level and leaving her own subtle imprint on history itself.

Born in Springfield, Mo., she lived in Kansas City until she was 13 and finished the growth process in the big city jumble of Chicago, absorbing the urbane savoir faire necessary to be the ambassador of good will she was later to become.

"I have not lived under the same roof for more than two years, since I was about 20," she says with wry self amusement, "except for Sun City West, where we have been for five years.

"I told my husband it is time to move, we have been here so long. I have no idea where we would go, but we have never lived anywhere enough that we had to redecorate.

"There is something nice about moving and settling down in a new place -- seeing

your paintings in a new setting. People think I am crazy," she says with good

"But I love the weather in the Sun Cities; and the ease of playing golf. My husband, Gip (Lorenzo), retired to play golf and I have become a golfer since I met him."

She and her husband left a home in Palm Springs, Calif., to retire to Denver, Colo.

"But I didn't like it, it was too cold. We moved there the year of the blizzard in 1982," Vee says with an ironic laugh.

"So my husband says, 'let's go see what that Sun City West is like.'"

After studies in sociology and post-graduate studies in social psychology at the University of Chicago, Vee began to work at her first love -- teaching.

In 1946 she went to Germany for three years, but raising her finger in caution, she says she moved around a lot, "never staying under one roof for more than two years."

She was a program director for Red Cross there and then later for Army Special Services.

Next she worked for the United Nations International Refugee Organization, while still in Germany, working with displaced persons as a welfare counselor, especially Ukrainians and people from Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia.

This was in 1948 and 1949.

"Different countries had different schemes for bringing the refugees over.

"Canada and Australia brought more than anyone else because the United States was functioning under old immigration laws with small quotas. It took the United States quite some time to prepare special legislation to help us get more people settled.

"I always had an

interpreter, but I spoke broken German and I tried to speak directly to them."

When she returned to the United States, she worked with "another kind of displaced person" in slum clearance in Chicago.

"Insurance companies were building big high risers for middle and mixed income and

they were displacing the lower income people.

"In Chicago they built new public housing for these lower income people. The Land Clearance Commission was formed in Chicago and I worked for them, helping these lower income families qualify for public housing or helping them find private

housing they could afford."

The strand of humanitarian work had begun to weave its way through her career.

Next she moved to New York and worked for IBM as an instructor in their customer school, "even though I do not type," she says smiling, as if she has pulled one over on someone.

"I love the act of teaching. It doesn't matter to me what I am teaching. There is something satisfying to me to see someone who does not understand, and then because of something I say ... get that spark of understanding," Vee says.

Next on her list of accomplishments -- marriage. Then she moved to New Haven where her husband was a graduate student at Yale.

While birthing and raising her four children -- three boys and a girl -- she worked at home for a psychology professor at Yale in marketing research.

In 1961, Vee and her first husband went to Nigeria, enrolling her children in the English School there.

"The humidity there matched the temperatures -- in the high 80s. We had to keep sun lamps in our closets to keep our shoes from mildewing -- it was so damp!"

Her husband was working at the executive level for Olin Mathieson, Squibb division.

One of the jobs Vee had while there was working as a secretary for the African-American Institute, which gives scholarships. She helped out with the paper work. "I can use a typewriter," she says, "but I can't type!"

She also worked out of a huge warehouse that issued supplies to the embassies in the area.

Vee will not admit to any particular driving philosophy of life -- "I might live one, but I do not articulate one. I just 'do' in the world.

"After I divorced my first husband I went to Washington to look for work.

"An interviewer asked me what it was that I did -- I

See VEE, page 5



hadn't thought about that before. But he looked over my resume and said -- 'You work with people.'"

So she got a job with the Veterans Administration in people management.

Vee also worked with the Civil Rights Commission, doing research into race and education; with the National Council of Negro Women and with the National Center for Voluntary Action, which is a clearing house for training and placing volunteers.

"My very last job," Vee says, "was as executive director of the Los Angeles City Bicentennial Committee.

"We acted as a catalyst to stimulate activities. We had a parks group, a historic group, ethnic groups -- and we gave their plans our seal of approval. It was more than a notion to coordinate all this for a city the size of Los Angeles.

"It was a fascinating job. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

"My bicentennial present to myself was to get married again."

Now that she is among the actively retired generation, she says her husband accuses her of spreading herself too thin.

When he invites her to do something he always prefaces it with, "if you can fit it into your schedule ..."

Vee says she has been active in the Sun Cities TV Production Club and wants to find time to do more, as she

used to do quite a bit of television when she lived in California, often participating in panel discussions and making appearances in connection with her Bicentennial post.

As president of the Parliamentary Club, she plans a fall workshop. "There are so many clubs out here and everybody thinks they know about Roberts Rules of Order, but hardly anyone does. We want to find a way to help people move their meetings along and get them out of the doldrums.

"If a meeting is done well with the elements of group dynamics as well as parliamentary procedure, then a meeting can go along smoothly.

"The whole subject fascinates me. I am a nit picker -- I guess that's why. I started this study after I came to Sun City West, but I had always wanted to take the time.

"I had been on the board of the Girl Scout Council in California and a fellow board member interested me in Parliamentary procedure; and I also had an opportunity to help a company formulate their bylaws.

"And I have studied further to become a professional registered parliamentarian."

With this certification she can help companies revise their bylaws or help them conduct a convention or meeting.

"We act as professional presiders to facilitate the movement of the organization's meetings," Vee says.

And then there are all those paintings on the wall and sculpture sitting about her home. It's like a gallery.

As a natural outgrowth of her love of the arts -- her mother was a concert singer -- Vee is a member of the board of directors at the Sun Cities Art Museum and a docent at the Phoenix Art Museum.

She began her interest in art at the age of 14 when her father organized an exhibition of Black art in Chicago.

She has a varied and lively collection of African and Black American art, most of the works by well known artists, including Ed Dwight, who has been commissioned by the Smithsonian to do a sculpture series on jazz.

The rooms and halls of her home are rich with bright colors, images of native people and places and faces of character.

They make a powerful statement. Even though she maintains a modesty about her past and present work, contending there is no plan -- she is one of the stones in the stream of humanity that changes the course of things.

And she does it with an elegance and style that makes everyone take note.



FEB. 13-19, 2002

## Name to Know

Ann Trick wanted to be a missionary once she retired.

A family illness deterred her from taking on missionary work and paying for her child's college education depleted her retirement account.



Returning to the work force and not being able to be a missionary, Mrs. Trick wanted to take on a vocation in which she would be able to help people.

"If I had to pick a job, I wanted something to be in service to people," Mrs. Trick said.

Two years after coming out of retirement, Mrs. Trick is a program health aide at the Interfaith Community Care Sun City Day Center at St. Clement of Rome Church.

Helping patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia, as well as stroke victims, is arduous work, but has been quite rewarding for her.

"Yes, I'm tired," she said. "But it's a satisfying feeling that the day has been well spent and that I've been a help to somebody."

Recently Mrs. Trick, 67, was the initial recipient of the "Extra Mile Award," a quarterly award presented by Interfaith.



Arizona author

# Writer attacks aging, Sun City with humor

By Melissa R. Giello  
Staff Writer

When Jack M. Tucker decided to write about aging, he headed to the public library to do some research.

After some time he realized most books about aging are done with a clinical approach and by younger people. Since Tucker, 74, was an "oldie" and a writer with his own ideas about the aging process, he decided to write a different type of book.

"I'm one of the oldies myself, I know what it's like," he said, adding that he also spent six months researching the people in Sun City for his book, "Sun City."

"I spent that time in Sun City to get a people approach," he said. "It's a people story."

"I tried to get humor in the book," he said. "Older folks love to laugh and they like to laugh at themselves."

The book is a somewhat humorous approach to agism while still providing information and facts.

Tucker said he wrote the book in hopes that those who are retired or soon to be retired will learn a few things they weren't aware of and prod them into thinking about their situations.

"If the book makes them think, I'll be happy," he said, adding that the one chapter on alcoholism and the aging is most important.

"If that one chapter helps anyone, I'll be happy," he said.

Tucker said he chose Sun City as the focus of his research and book because it is the largest retirement community in the world.



Jack Tucker

"Sun City is the prototype for all retirement communities," he said, adding that Sun City "has everything."

"If you can't find anything to do in Sun City, you can't find it anywhere," he said.

Tucker, a former newspaper reporter and editor in New York, Los Angeles and Arizona, released the book two months ago after working four years off and on to finish it.

The book has sold 1,000 copies in Sun City but Tucker said he

didn't expect it to be a bestseller. He said he feels the book is his way of being of service to this community.

"Everyone should do something to be of service to our society," he said. "Maybe this is my contribution."

Tucker's book, Sun City, sells for \$4.95 and is available in various stores throughout Sun City or by mailing \$4.95 plus \$1 postage to Quail Run, 2705 E. Indian School Rd., Phoenix, 85016.



# The edge: Book by former newsman on seniors portrays many Sun City residents

By ROBERT BARRETT  
Arizona Republic Staff

After working as a reporter for several months for no pay, Jack Tucker met with the publisher of the *Niagara Falls (N.Y.) Gazette*.

"Am I doing a decent job?" Tucker asked the publisher.

The publisher nodded.

"Will you start paying me now?"

"I can get anybody to work for nothing," the publisher answered.

Tucker laughs now at the memory.

"That was my introduction to journalism," he said.

Since that introduction, during the Depression in 1930, Tucker has worked at several newspapers, free-lanced articles to magazines such as the *Saturday Evening Post* and earlier this year published his first book: *Sun City — 60-Plus and Hanging Tough*.

*Sun City*, a non-fiction paperback published by Quail Run Publications Inc., is a look at the elderly

living in the Sun Belt, focusing on Sun City in particular. It is humorous, but it has a biting edge.

In a chapter on alcohol, Tucker tells the story of Millie, a widow with a drinking problem and a son who checked on her at unpredictable times.

One time Millie was drinking when the son came to the door. She hid the bottle between her legs, under her nightgown. When the son left, Millie reached for the bottle.

"The cap had slipped off, and only the mattress was drunk," Tucker quoted Millie as saying.

In another chapter, a Scottsdale woman, who had a penchant for becoming engaged, proudly flashed her diamond. On the advice of a friend, the woman had the diamond appraised.

"When she learned it was worth \$14, that was the end of that relationship," Tucker said.

Before writing the book, the

75-year-old Tucker spent a year doing research, which included living in Sun City for six months.

"They would find out you're a reporter, and it was like you were a priest or bartender once you get them talking," he said.

"Some of the stories they tell would curl your hair... if you had any left."

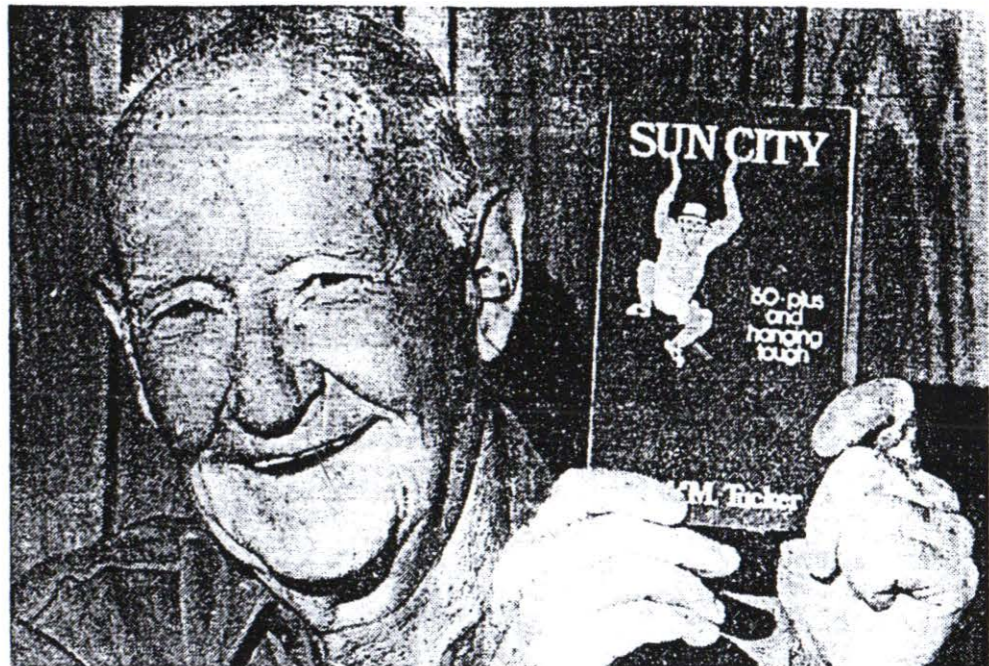
The idea for the book came naturally to Tucker.

"I went to the library and looked at everything they had about aging and gerontology," he said. "All the books had been written by sociologists, psychologists, people like that. They were all very clinical."

"I thought it was a people story, and I felt a different type of book should be written about older people."

After a year of research, writing the 380-page book only took two months.

— Book, Extra 8



Charles Krejcsi/Republic

Jack Tucker with his book about Sun City, which he wrote in two months after a year of research. "I

thought it was a people story, and I felt a different type of book should be written," he says.

## Book

Continued from Extra 1

"I've always been a fast writer," he said.

Tucker learned to write fast during his career as a reporter. After leaving his unpaid position with the *Niagara Falls Gazette*, Tucker worked for many years at the *Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat & Chronicle*. He had become the sports editor and columnist when World War II started.

"Before I got nailed in the draft, I volunteered," Tucker said. He was assigned to the Americal Division and served in the Pacific. "I was lucky. I got out in one piece."

Tucker rejoined the Gannett newspaper chain after the war. He also free-lanced to magazines such as *Esquire* and *Saturday Evening Post* before retiring and moving to Phoenix in 1968.

Tucker, who worked several years as a part-time copy editor for *The Arizona Republic* beginning in 1974, said he moved to Sun City

because of the large concentration of retirees.

"Old people are pretty much the same everywhere," he said. "They have the same problems."

The two major problems of the aged are loneliness and boredom, Tucker said.

"I'm glad the younger generation is finally realizing that there's nothing wrong with Dad, who is widowed, and a nice lady living together for companionship," Tucker said.

A Phoenix resident, Tucker said he has visited Sun City several times since his book was published.

"I thought I'd get a lot of flak from the old biddies because the book isn't all sweetness and light," he said. "Surprisingly enough, there have been no negative comments at all."

Tucker may eventually move to Sun City but, for now, his reaction is like that of a 65-year-old couple he met who were considering living there.

"We can't live here," he said the couple told him. "This place has too many old people."



View Friday, October 17, 1986 NEWS-SUN

# Author tries to put Sun City on the map

By DOUG DOLLEMORE  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Somewhere in New York, a book publisher is hunting for a map of Arizona.

At least that's what Jack Tucker hopes.

Tucker, a 75-year-old author, tried for months to interest New York publishers in his book, "Sun City: 60-Plus and Hanging Tough."

"I discovered that most people back there weren't even sure where Arizona is," Tucker says.

"They thought it was still full of cowboys and Indians. They thought we didn't have any water or any greenery at all. They had no idea what I was talking about."

Frustrated, Tucker decided to find a publisher closer to home. He convinced John Long, a Phoenix publisher, to take a chance on his book.

It's a gamble that has paid off both for Tucker and Long. Now Tucker's wry, witty look at retirement life in Arizona is a regional hit and is number three on the Sun City best-seller list. The first printing — of 3,000 copies — is nearly sold out and Long is planning a second printing.

"I'm really surprised," says Long, publisher of Quail Run Press. "It's been exceptionally popular. It's been selling exceptionally well."

"I simply didn't expect 3,000 books would get up and walk off the shelves in three months."

The book was released in February and was in short supply by May. Now only 160 remain undistributed, Long says.

He thinks the book might have national appeal.

"We've tried test marketing it in Rochester, N.Y. and Miami," says Long. "The response was nice, not great, but nice."

Since his resources and distribution network are limited, though, Long may sell publication rights to a larger publisher, if one can be found.

That means Tucker and Long will once again be pounding the streets of New York.

"Everything's in the mill," Long says. "We have to convince book publishers and distributors that this book isn't just about Arizona."

"It's about retirement life and aging. The fact that it's set in Sun City is incidental."

"I really used Sun City as a springboard," agrees Tucker. "It really gets into social, health and economic problems that retirees face anyplace."

Tucker decided to write the book after a visit to a Phoenix library. He was interested in gerontology, but only found dry, academic books that were filled with graphs and statistics.

"I wanted to write a people book," Tucker says. "I just wanted to talk to older people and find out about their problems. What kinds of ups and downs they felt. I simply wanted to find out something about them."

He spent two years researching the book, including a stint living in Sun City.

Tucker, a former newspaper reporter and editor in New York, Los Angeles and Phoenix, worked as a News-Sun staff writer for six months while he gathered material for his book.

What he discovered amid Sun City's affluence was boredom, loneliness, alcoholism, poverty and martial discord.

"Loneliness and boredom were two words that kept cropping up in conversations," Tucker says. "A lot of people were workalcoholics. Now they're suddenly retired and don't know what to do with themselves."

For many people the easiest thing to do is get drunk, Tucker says.

"There's a high incidence of alcoholism," he says. "Some of those people were social drinkers when they worked. But they don't work anymore, so they go to more parties."

"But again, it comes back to loneliness and boredom. I think that's why most of those people drink."

Tucker also found many Sun Citians were poor.

"The first people who moved out there could buy a house for as little as \$10,500. So living was fairly cheap. But as years went by and inflation really set in, they really began to have it rough," he says. "They're living below the poverty line and it's a miracle for them to get by."

Despite its bleak moments, the book is also lively and colorful.

For example, Tucker pokes fun of Sun City golfers. At one point he writes that hole-in-ones are so common that someone without one must feel like a leper.

Tucker, who now lives in Phoenix, felt like he fit in when he lived Sun City, but decided he didn't want to live here too long before he wrote his book.

"If I lived in Sun City for a number of years and tried to write a book like this, I'm not sure I could do it. I don't think I would be as objective as I should be."

That objectivity helped Tucker take swipes at singles-club dances, evangelists and Sun City politics.

"Boy, are they political out there," Tucker says. "But I think that's fine. At least they take an interest in it."

And Sun Citians have taken interest in his book. His humor has been a hit.

"I haven't received one derogatory letter," Tucker says. "I'm surprised because I was prepared to get them."

"The only thing that I've heard is a few people object to the cover (which



JACK TUCKER

shows a monkey hanging from the title) on the grounds that I'm comparing them to apes. I think that's rather funny."

Tucker hopes that positive response will influence Eastern publishers to take a serious look at his book. But even if readers put Sun City on the national best-seller list, Tucker doubts it will put the area on the map.

"Hell, I don't think those Easterners will ever find us," he says.

"Sun City" is available at local bookstores for \$4.95. It also can be ordered from Quail Run Press, 2705 E. Indian School Road, Phoenix, Ariz. 85016. Add \$1 for postage and handling.

TUCKER, FACE



May 5, 1998

# Author treks Vulture Road

By DAVID MILLER  
Staff writer

As a kid growing up in Connecticut, Al Tudor's mind was always on the Old West. The cowboys, the ranches, the lore of the frontier — all filled his fantasies. And more than 50 years later, they would fill the pages of his book.

Tudor moved to Phoenix in 1943 and found exactly what he'd imagined: a cowtown still immersed in the Old West. Here in the '40s, the local sheriff toted pearl-handled pistols and the West survived in more than the pages of dime-store novels.

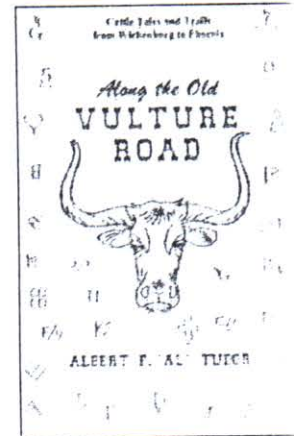
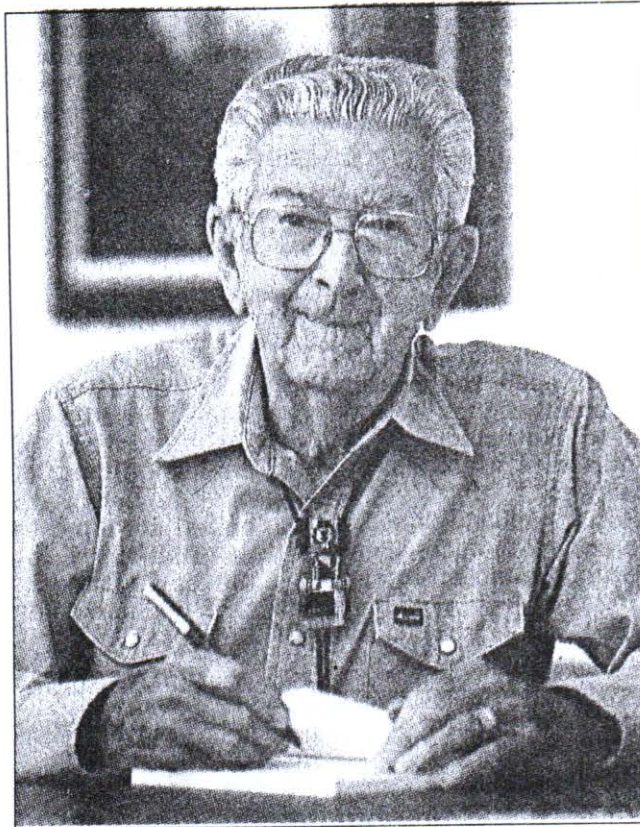
And though he never learned to ride a horse or throw a rope, Tudor did manage to visit scores of Arizona ranches and towns. Now, after years of compilation, that research forms the basis for his book, "Along the Old Vulture Road."

Published in March, the Sun City resident's book chronicles in short story form the tale of the trail that bridged the scope of the West Valley. The Old Vulture Road, of which part is now known as Grand Avenue, originally linked the town of Wickenburg to a military camp known as Phoenix, with ranches dotting the line in between, along with what would become the Sun Cities, Peoria and Glendale.

And though the road never reached the fame of its northern cousin, Route 66, it still saw many a traveler venturing across the desert to the cool hills of Prescott. In the '20s, that trip could take as much as two days by automobile, Tudor noted in his book.

"I believe you will be pleasantly surprised at just how much of the Old West, past and present, you can still discover along the Old Vulture Road," Tudor wrote.

Over the years the road would



Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Sun City author Al Tudor's book, "Along the Old Vulture Road," chronicles some of the history of the Northwest Valley.

change almost as much as the burg in which it ended, Phoenix.

"Phoenix originally was just a little hay camp that served the military," Tudor said Saturday, following a presentation for the Youngtown Historical Society.

But that military link made it vital to the ranchers and farmers whose spreads dotted the road. And so the highway became a vital commercial artery.

It also linked another well-known getaway to Phoenix, the rejuvenating waters of Castle Hot Springs.

Tudor's book chronicles all this growth, along with his lifelong interest in cattle brands. In fact, the

book that became "Along the Old Vulture Road" started out as a more grandiose work, called "Cattle Brands of the American West."

He eventually had to scale the book back. But the former APS official says he'll one day get it all into print. "I have the next two books about a third written," he said. "The next will be titled 'Famous People of Arizona Past and Arizona Present.'"

In the meantime, the 79-year-old Tudor will be promoting his Vulture Road collection, available at the Sun City Area Historical Society or by mail.

To contact Tudor about the \$11.95 book, call 972-8275 or write to Cowhide Productions, P.O. Box 2244, Sun City, Ariz. 85372-2244.



**TUDOR, Albert Foch**

Albert F. Tudor of Sun City, Arizona, passed away Tuesday, January 28, 2003.

Albert was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut October 29, 1918, he and his wife, Betty, came to Phoenix for their honeymoon in 1943 and remained ever since.

Albert began work at Arizona Public Service Company where he spent 33 years. As Public Relations Director he helped to develop and grow the Valley of the Sun through hard work, devotion to community and personal achievements. His public relations career with APS and later with Samaritan Health Services has honored him with numerous local and national awards. Among his life-long involvement with many community service organizations he was a founder of Barrows Neurological Institute. He is the author of "Along the Old Vulture Road", a real tribute of his love, interest and commitment to Arizona and the Old West.

Al is survived by his sidekick, confidante, and motivator of 59 years, wife Betty. Also feeling the loss, are their five children: Barbara, Richard, Ronald, Bonnie and Randy; and daughter-in-laws; Kathy and June Tudor as well as nine grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and countless friends and colleagues.

He will be greatly missed by all those whose lives he touched.

A mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 1, 2003 at St. Joachim and St. Anne, 11625 N. 111th Avenue, Sun City, Arizona. In lieu of flowers, tax deductible donations can be sent to the Plaza del Rio Foundation, Scholarship Fund at Casa del Rio, 12751 Plaza del Rio Boulevard, Peoria, Arizona 85381.

Arrangements handled by Sunland Mortuary 623-933-0161.



TUDOR, ALBERT

Since 1999 Al has also been a member of the Board of Trustees of  
The Sun Cities Area Historical Society

VF

PERSONALITIES



**Daily News-Sun** Nov. 1987

# Local 'information please' manager retires — again

By MARY DUMOND  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Most retirees will voice a variation of, "I feel like a fish out of water."

However, most of them say that when they arrive at the Sun Cities-Youngtown area.

Gertrude "Trudy" Turnbull, 13208Q 98th Ave., is saying it about 11 years after her arrival in Sun City.

She retired, she recalls, from a paid job as a trade association management administrative assistant — not a bad job to look back on.

Then, after she had arrived in Sun City she saw a classified ad under Help Wanted in the Daily News-Sun.

That was a little more than 10 years ago and the ad had been placed by Information and Referral Service for a paid office manager.

Many were called, but Trudy was chosen.

A little more than two weeks ago Trudy retired again, this time from Information and Referral.

Although she has a schedule of activities lined up, she still is looking back at 10 happy years working with volunteers.

"These were my babies for over 10 years," she said. "I

mothered them, I listened to their problems, I helped them when I could ..."

Her mothering was appreciated.

"I thought, 'The last day, I'll just get all my work done and silently creep away,'" Turnbull said.

The volunteers, the officers and the board of directors had different ideas.

Trudy was the honored guest at a retirement party, was presented with an engraved silver candy dish and a handmade carousel about a foot high that plays "Memories." The carousel was bought by the volunteers, who weren't satisfied with just the silver dish. Trudy received several other gifts from Sun City organizations.

Jim Groundwater, public relations director of Information and Referral Service, said, "Trudy's blend of efficiency, dedication and warmth will be sorely missed by the Sun City I&RS."

After her own orientation, Trudy said she listened in on each new volunteer's calls to provide tips and guidance until each person could handle calls alone.

"You don't fire volunteers," Turnbull said. "You, learn to

work with them."

"We have two shifts of volunteers. One comes in from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the other from 12:30 to 4 p.m. I came in later in the morning so that I could work with both shifts."

But now, "I think it's time I spent some time with my husband," Turnbull said of her husband, Al. "While I feel good, I'd like to really get out and travel and be with my husband."

High on her list of things she wants to do are bowling, doing something with her hands — "like the Clay Club" — and being together with the couple's family for Christmas for the first holiday in a long time.

They will see their son, Jonathan, and grandsons at the home of their daughter, Susan Revit, in Mission Viejo, Calif.

Not too long ago Turnbull's brother died and left her an inheritance.

"I bought a little Mustang with it and I've taken driving lessons," she said. However, she will drive to Mission Viejo "only if my husband is at my side and approves of my driving," she said.



## DOERS' PROFILE

Trudy  
Turnbull

**Vita:** Retired professional secretary, former office manager for 10 years for Sun Cities Community Information and Referral Service.



- Hometown:** Born on a North Dakota homestead; raised in New York City.
- Marital Status:** Married to husband, Al, 54 years; three children; three grandchildren.
- Greatest Feat:** "Just being a good wife and mother. That's more important than anything."
- Key to Longevity:** "Good genes and strong discipline."
- Inspiration:** "My grandfather who raised me. He was a good person."
- Last Words:** "Be good, have a belief and respect your elders."

## People person dedicates time to service line

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Daily News-Sun staff

A year of retirement and a newspaper advertisement seeking an office manager for Sun Cities Community Information and Referral Service were the forces that lured Trudy Turnbull back into the work force.

At the time — 1977 — the former New York City secretary was eager to keep busy and meet new people in Sun City, her new home.

Turnbull's husband, Al, claims his wife wanted to go back to work because she got tired of looking at him "and had to get out of the house."

Trudy recalls that the help-wanted ad specifically sought "someone who liked working with people."

A self-described "people person," Trudy not only landed the job, she held onto it for 10 years. The first year, she didn't earn a paycheck. The second year, she became the agency's first paid staffer. Within a few years, "when the work became hectic," she lobbied for and was granted the authority to hire an assistant office manager.

Trudy gave up the office manager's position at community information and referral in 1987 when she felt she could no longer give it her all.

"If she can't do the job perfectly, she can't do it at all. She got out when she was still the champ," Al Turnbull said.

Today, Trudy continues to volunteer for what she calls "I and RS" — not to be confused with the IRS — a few hours every other week.

She also volunteers weekly at Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City. She has been associated with Sun Health Auxiliary since moving to Sun City from New York in 1976.

The opportunity to meet people and help them with their needs is the reason for Trudy's long tenure at community information and referral and the hospital auxiliary.

"I loved the work," she said, noting community information and referral volunteers still call her from time to time for help assisting clients who call the agency seeking financial, health and other services.

Trudy said she admires anyone who volunteers their time to help others.

"We're special," she said of volunteers. "Sun City wouldn't be Sun City without volunteers."

TURNBULL, TRUDY



**TURNER, WARREN AUSTIN**


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April 13, 1999

First Administrator of the Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital in Sun City, Arizona State Senator from District 15, 1993 to 1997.

Place Born: Berkeley, California

**Synopsis:**

- grew up on Stanford University Campus; went to the University of California at Berkeley from 1946-1952 following two year in training in the US Navy as an Electronics Technician's Mate. Degrees in Zoology & Business-Accounting. Worked for Price Waterhouse in San Francisco, married Daune MacKay and moved to Las Vegas to work for A W Blackman CPA. Audit work at the Clark Co. Hospital interested him in Hospital Administration and resulted in a return to Berkeley to obtain an MPH-hospital Administration.
- was Associate Director at UCLA Medical Center, came to Sun City in 1968 as Administor of of the planned new acute care geriatrics hospital- the first in the Country.
- Sun City Community Hospital Inc. a non-profit corporation, formed to build the Boswell Hospital, attractive features were the circular nursing units, geriatrics as a new acute care hospital specialty; initially wasn't involved in fund raising but worked to get Planning Council approval ; also worked on financial planning and projections; equipment planning and staffing.
- early needs recognized; local emergency service and geriatric education and research.
- Del Webb Development Corp. President John Meeker encouraged the use of Arizona based Engineers to work with Ellerbe Architect of St Paul, Minnesota; Webb built a mock-up patient room to determine any necessary changes.
- First department head hired was Mary Simunich Public relations director to keep the community informed;early 1970 began hiring staff: head of Nursing, Marion Clark; chief Financial officer, Gary S. Turner; Personnel director, George Wilson, Purchasing director, Ruth Neblett.
- Hospital Volunteers had job description and worked under hospital staff directions; Auxiliary worked under their Board to raise funds for scholarship, equipment,etc.
- J. G. Boswell Foundations initial contribution of \$ 1.2 million was on condition that the Hospital serve the entire NW area.
- A medical advisory board was formed with 5 local specialists including; Bayard Horton MD, Leonard Larson MD, Walter Sittler MD, Jack Cannon MD & Emil Cohey MD. They drafted the Medical Staff Bylaws and screened initial Staff applicants.
- It was always a struggle for Planning Coucil approval for more beds to keep up with the rapid retirement population growth. The expiration of the Certificate of Need law through the effort of local legislators allowed us to plan and complete beds as needed and financially feasible.
- the Del E Webb Hospital construction and changes in Medicare payment allowed the planning for an eventual addition to this hospital with a pediatrics and womens unit.
- In 1983,developed a Geriatrics Research Center; Joe Rogers PhD, first director came from an Alzheimers unit connected with Harvard. The research unit has received over \$7million in support from Sun Cities residents.
- looking for top quality administrative staff early interviewing of students resulted in attracting Lee Peterson from Berkeley in 1973; he was the first administrator of the Del E Webb Memorial Hospital and replace me on my retirement as the president of the Sun Health Corporation in 1989.
- from 1970 to 1989 ;expansion from opening the first 100 acute care beds to over 400 beds; added the first hospital based home care servicein Arizona; opened a free standing surgical eye center;established an extensive health education program; implemented a geriatrics medical journal distributed to all physicians in Arizona, US medical schools and other promient physicians; first hospital based outpatient surgical unit and a number other new program during a period of rapid growth while maintaining a finacially stable operation. Property acquired during the period was used to generate other income.

*W*

Information submitted by Mr. Turner



# Past serves as prologue to future

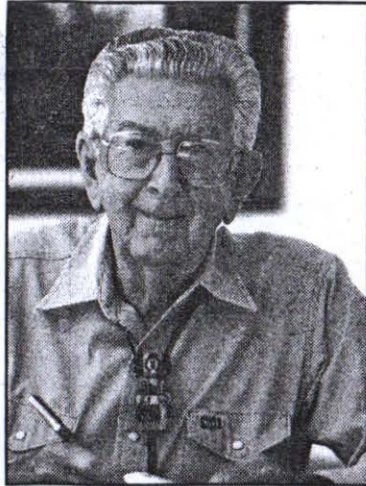
ALBERT TUDOR  
SUN CITY

Others can worry about what dire consequences are in store for us when the clock strikes midnight of Dec. 31. I am not concerned with exactly where the new millennium will be first celebrated. Nor do I really care who were the sexiest, best dressed or undressed, most popular or most despicable people of the last century — let alone the last 1,000 years.

My concerns are much simpler. I wonder what's in store for our little corner of the world as we journey into the year 2000 and beyond. So, since the past is prologue to the future — because history has a way of repeating itself — let's see what has happened during the last quarter of the 20th century as we journey along the Old Vulture Road.

That was one name given to the wagon trail pioneered by Henry Wickenburg and others who journeyed from Wickenburg to Phoenix in the 1870s and 1880s. Most folks call it Grand Avenue or Highway 60.

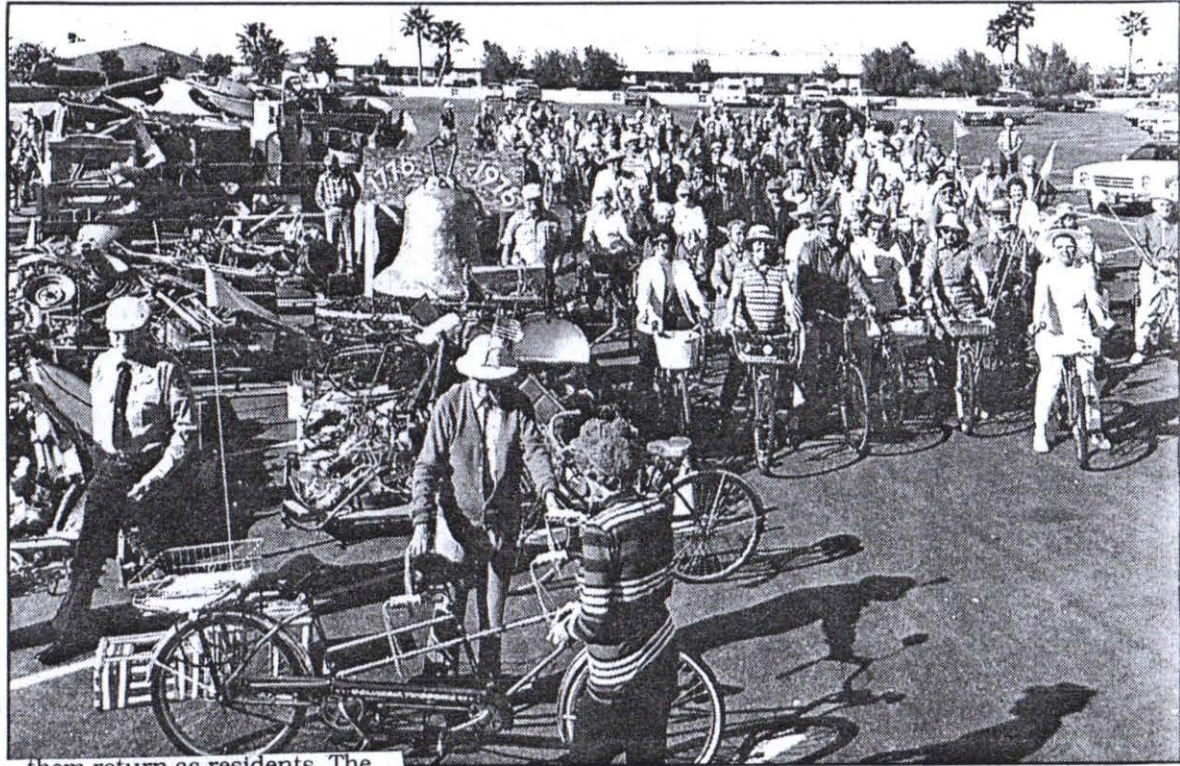
As we begin this journey in 1976, Wickenburg's long-held title of "Dude Ranch Capital of the World" was voluntarily relinquished. To me, this was a strange decision because people have an unashamed love



Albert F. "Al" Tudor of Sun City is author of "Along the Old Vulture Road," cattle tales and trails from Wickenburg to Phoenix.

affair with the mystique of the cowboy, and willingly pay hundreds of dollars to savor "cowboy life." We may not go on a cattle drive or even an overnight trail ride, but we do want to rub shoulders with cowboys, cowgirls and all the trappings of the Old West.

That is one of Wickenburg's greatest appeals. Tourists enjoy the laid-back, small town atmosphere that has the unmistakable flavor of the Old West with the distinctive look of Arizona in the 1950s. Tens of thousands of people each year accept the chamber of commerce invitation to travel "Out Wickenburg Way." Many of



them return as residents. The town has grown from about 3,000 people in 1976 to more than 5,000, and interest in Wickenburg has boomed since the town was awarded the No. 4 spot in the 1999 edition of Retirement Places Rated — ahead of 183 other communities.

Mayor Dallas "Rusty" Gant, Jr. admits that, "Along with growth come problems such as zoning and providing additional services from a small tax base." Another dilemma is how to cor-

rectly frustrate drivers, pedestrians and business people alike.

A decision should be made early in 2000 on the route of a highway "bypass" that avoids downtown entirely. "You can imagine the divisiveness this has caused," Gant said.

Royce Kardinal, president of the Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce, emphasizes, "Wickenburg must preserve our unique historic downtown, which has great appeal to visi-

will make the town more 'tourist-friendly' by reducing traffic congestion."

Kardinal, whose family came to Wickenburg in the 1920s, likens the impending bypass to the 1986 completion of the "Brenda cutoff," which gave travelers a direct route between Phoenix and Los Angeles on Interstate 10 — replacing the old U.S. 60 route through Wickenburg. "We weathered a few tough years then, and we will do the same with the

PHOTO COURTESY OF SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## Sun Citians celebrate the nation's bicentennial in 1976.

own well and have water delivered to our homes." Before that, water came in by railroad tank cars and was dumped into a cistern, where the locals came for their water.

The quality of education at Morristown has improved, but the old school buildings have not. The 100 students and teachers are crammed into four tiny, decrepit buildings. The main classroom, in a century-old, former boarding house, seats only 14 pupils.

However, Morristown will get nearly \$2.4 million in state funds to build a schoolhouse to accommodate twice the current student population. When it's occupied, one old building will be torn down; the others saved as historic sites.

A world-class hotel that opened in 1896-97 for rich and famous guests, Castle Hot Springs Resort, burned down in 1976. In the years since, several people have spent fortunes trying to restore the resort to its former glory. The current owner has the interest, vision, ability and track record to put the Grand Old Lady back among America's grant hotels and resorts. Reopening is scheduled for 2001.

The biggest surprise along the historic Vulture Road has been the city of Surprise and its explosive growth. Mayor Joan Shafer indicated a patch of land just south of the city hall and said, "That's where it all began 70 years ago — in that one square mile of farmland. Being an agricultural community, Surprise got off to a slow start,

but we're on a fast track now."

Shafer proudly claims that Surprise is the fastest-growing city in Arizona. "The city area has grown from one square mile to 68 square miles. In the past 25 years, our population has mushroomed from 3,000 to more than 32,000."

Surprise has enjoyed phenomenal residential growth, with commercial activity beginning to keep pace. For years the main shopping area was Crossroads. It was joined recently by two others, and a third major center is planned for early 2000. The city is the home of West Valley Art Museum, an important cultural asset for the entire area.

The success of Del Webb's Sun Cities has been adequately chronicled in local and world media. We're fortunate that three Sun Cities blossomed right here along the Old Vulture Road.

Sun City Grand, located within the city of Surprise, opened in 1996. It will have a population of about 20,000. Sun City West began in 1978, and the last lots were sold this year. The population is about 32,000. Sun City models were unveiled Jan. 1, 1960, and 15 years later most of the land was built out. The current population is about 42,000.

Del Webb himself would be astounded at the tremendous impact that his Sun Cities have had on the communities all along Grand Avenue. In addition to the obvious economic boost from construction and development, the Sun Cities

have significant and far-reaching influence on the social, cultural, educational and political aspects of the Northwest Valley and beyond.

Much of this is due to the great spirit of voluntarism that permeates the Sun Cities. There is no better example than Jane Freeman. I call her the First Lady of Sun City. Dick Kemp, editor of Sun Life Magazine, says, "Without Jane Freeman, Sun City wouldn't be what it is today." I agree.

Jane is a doer as well as a leader. She stuffs envelopes, delivers meals and lugs books for library sales as readily as she serves as president or attends board meetings. The library, historical society, community council, meals on wheels, volunteer bureau and Sun Health's many branches are some that have had the benefit of Jane's tireless efforts.

Undoubtedly, there is a "Jane Freeman-type" in the other Sun Cities. However, I know Jane, and feel that she is well qualified to speak for the others. She was quick to respond to my query about the most significant things that have happened to this are in the last 25 years. "Two things readily come to mind," Jane replied. "First, the proliferation of options for seniors: independent or assisted living facilities, extended care or nursing homes and units for special needs such as Alzheimer's. In 1976, we had Sun Valley Lodge, and later Royal Oaks Life Care Center." Today, there are doz-

**See Significant, Page 3**

Eleven miles south on the Vulture Road in Morristown, things haven't changed too much. The historic Morristown Store weathered another 25 years and reached the century mark. Proprietors John and Jean Hardee are still as sharp and interesting as ever. The three-story building was once a hotel whose wealthy guests stayed only a night before undertaking the arduous 24-mile by wagon to the luxurious Castle Hot Springs Resort. John's father bought the building in 1929, and it has been in the family ever since.

"The most important event in the town's history," says Jean, "was in the mid-70s when John signed the note that allowed Morristown to drill our



# Significant developments shape Sun Cities

## From Page 2

ens of retirement complexes and nursing homes that offer various types of retirement living and health care, according to Jane.

"The second significant occurrence is the vast network of adult health care, research and education facilities available to the people of this entire area," Jane said. "We are a recognized pioneer in geriatric health care. Sun Health — with its twin-anchors of Boswell and Del Webb hospitals — has provided the leadership in making the quality and availability of senior health care a major asset to the northwest Valley."

Although Sun City gets most of the credit for being the original retirement community solely for people over 55, Youngtown came on the scene six years earlier, in 1954. However, in 1998, the state attorney general ruled that at least part of the age-restrictive zoning was illegal. The town council soon repealed most of the senior overlay zoning — opening Youngtown to all age groups. About 250 under age 18 now live in the community.

Little else has changed. With limited land area, the population has never reached 2,800.

But that may change, and Youngtown's population may double if plans materialize for a 160-acre development around an executive golf course.

The last 25 years were packed with spectacular events that transformed the once-sleepy farming community of Peoria into one of Arizona's major cities.

Two people who played key roles in shaping today's Peoria are Ron Travers and Ed Tang. They served many years on the city council, and each served three terms as mayor (Travers 1985-91 and Tang from 1979-85).

Both agree that major developments include:

- Peoria Sports Complex, spring training home of two major league baseball teams.
- The extensive retail and

commercial development along Bell Road.

- The modern City Hall complex.

Travers also points to other main growth factors such as Loop 101, that courses through miles of Peoria, and the 1988 annexation that extended Peoria north to Lake Pleasant. Tang cites the many services offered since 1980 at the Community Center, as well as Peoria's first housing development for the elderly.

Priscilla Cooke, whose husband was a mayor in the 1970s, has both feet firmly planted in Peoria's past and present. For years, she has worked tirelessly to persuade city councils to preserve the past while revitalizing the present downtown Peoria. Both crusades have been successful.

The Peoria Arizona Historical Museum is housed in the original elementary school, and downtown got a face lift this year.

Glendale continues to be one of the fastest growing cities in Arizona and the nation. During this period, the Sahuaro and Manistee ranch houses were saved and renovated; a new municipal complex and a modern airport were built; and the city's centennial was celebrated in 1992. With explosive expansion of area and population, Glendale still manages to maintain a pleasing blend of the old with the new.

It's mind-boggling to reflect on what has happened to the

old Vulture Road since Henry Wickenburg pioneered this horse and wagon trail between Wickenburg and Phoenix. The greatest shock is to find that the tiny settlement that in 1870 became Phoenix has now become the nation's sixth largest city.

If history remains true to form, it will be even more incredible to look back in the year 2100 and ponder the changes that fate and mankind have wrought on this historic highway that we call Grand Avenue.

So, a fond *adios* to the fascinating 20th century, and a warm *howdy* to the 21st.



# Sun Citian proudly puffs Highland pipes

**“W**hen I start playing, people stop talking.”

That's what Dennis Turner of Sun City told me when he picked up his silver mounted Highland bagpipes. “These were meant to be played out on the battlefield and not in the house.”

As he placed his Black Watch tartan-covered bag under his arm, I watched him slowly fill it with air by blowing into the blowpipe. I studied the engraving of a wild boar on the sterling silver and admired the instrument's handsome ivory pipes.

A bit winded, Dennis, 76, said, “I smoked for many years, and I'm paying for it now. My lungs are pretty well shot, but they'd be a lot worse if I didn't play the pipes. Once you get the bag filled up, you're supposed to be able to fill it in three puffs because you have three rolls to the drum and the fourth roll you start. But me, I take about 10 to 15 puffs.”

As he readied to play, I said, “Still, you must have pretty good wind.”

“My wife says all you need is hot air,” he laughed. “I'll play you one of my favorites, ‘Scotland, the Brave.’”

He took a deep breath, squeezed the bag under his arm, and blew into the chanter bringing the reeds and drones to life. He was right. These were no ordinary parlor pipes. The Highland war pipes were made to project sound.

A rather shrill and disquieting instrument, I could hear first-hand how the penetrating notes might carry well over the rumble of battle. From his sheet music, I glanced at the lyrics: “Hark hear the pipes a calling, loudly and proudly calling down through the glen.”

When he finished playing, he said with a look of pride, “To me, the Highland pipes are the only set to play.”

Born and raised in Detroit, Dennis worked as a police officer until he was 35 years old. He moved his family to New Jersey in 1963 so that his wife could care for her mother who was dying of cancer. It was in New Jersey that he decided to take up the bagpipes.

“No one thing triggered it,” he said. “I think it's something in your blood, probably my Scottish heritage on my mother's side. And the uniform, too, of course. I got to wear a kilt. It would be shame to cover up



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dennis Turner of Sun City plays his bagpipes in his back yard Wednesday. He plays for the Sun City Pipers at weddings, funerals and special events.

these legs.”

Dennis played the pipes in a military band for the National Guard's First Battalion. In addition to playing for funerals and weddings, he's played for the Miss America Pageant, street parades and mayoral political functions.

He and his wife, Marilyn, moved to Sun City in 1988. He introduced me to her as she hurried by us in the kitchen on her way the Sun Health Thrift Shop where she works

as a volunteer. I asked her how she liked the bagpipes.

“I like it now,” she said. “I didn't before. When he used to play, I'd go shopping because I never liked them. You either like it or you don't. I guess I had to grow to like it. There was no choice because he wasn't going to get rid of his pipes.”

She paused for a moment and said, laughing, “He'd get rid of me first!”

Today, Dennis is the piper for the

TURNER, DENNIS

OVER



Glendale Police Department. He also plays in a small group called the Sun City Pipers comprised of two drummers and five pipers. "We're a close-knit group," he said. Unfortunately, our group consists of snowbirds. When they leave in the summer, I'm the only piper left."



**Rich  
Kenney Jr.**

Thumbing through some of his sheet music, I noticed many of the songs had military themes. There was "The Battle of the Somme," "The Earl of Mansfield's March," and "Skye Boat Song."

It's the military connection that's important to me," he said. "Many of the songs were played for charges. The piper would lead the troops into battle."

From her essay "Pipers Played to a Different Tune," Lana Larche writes, "As a musical instrument of war, the bagpipes were without rival. They bolstered the morale of soldiers as they fought for victory, or as legend suggests, lulled and comforted souls as they died for their cause."

She adds, "The Scottish Highlanders never went into battle without their pipers. Realizing their importance to the Highland Army, the bagpipes were classified as an instrument of war by the English government."

"Is it still a thrill for you to play?" I asked Dennis.

"I'm proud when I play it well," he said. "I used to be Color Sergeant for a marching band in New Jersey. I would be in the very right rear of the band. I could see the whole band marching. You'd be marching and, all of a sudden, you could feel the band come together — all the kilts are swinging, all the pipes are swinging the same way. That's what you call coming together. It's quite a moment."

He tapped his fingers quietly on his pipes and said, "Sometimes it never happens in a parade. Sometimes it won't happen at all. But when it does, you can march forever."

*If you have a column idea, e-mail Rhkenneyjr@aol.com or write Rich at the Daily News-Sun, 10102 Santa Fe Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351.*



# State champion lives in Sun City

DAVE SPRIGGS  
SPECIAL TO THE DAILY NEWS-SUN

Leila Turner has never rolled a putt, rifled an iron shot or even beat a range ball since moving to Sun City in 1996.

Yet the 78-year-old Turner has been named honorary captain of the Sun City women's team for the upcoming Daily News-Sundial Classic, which will be played March 29 at Lakes West in Sun City and March 30 at Grandview in Sun City West.

Sponsored by the Daily News-Sun and the Sundial Men's Club, the match-play tournament will pit Sun City men and women versus their Sun City West counterparts.

Sun City will determine its team this Thursday and Friday during a 36-hole stroke play tournament at Lakes West.

"Leila Turner may be the best kept secret in town," said Mary Walker, tournament director of the women's division.

There was a time when Turner was among the best golfers in the Southwest.

At 45, Turner won the 1969 Arizona Women's Golf Association state championship. Nine years later, she won the AWGA senior title.

In between, Turner won three Southwestern Amateur Golf Association championships (1970, 1971 and 1972), an area which encompasses Arizona, New Mexico, west Texas and southern Nevada.

Tournament organizers retired the championship trophy after Turner's 1972 victory.

Past champions whose names are engraved on that retired trophy include: 1958 champion JoAnne Gunderson Carner, an LPGA Hall of Famer; and two-time winner Ruth Prather (1952, 1954), the mother of Dirk Prather, who will be playing for Sun City West in the men's division this year.

Back problems ended Turner's playing days. Operations in 1996 and 1998 failed to correct the problem and her game couldn't be fixed even though her husband, Dick Turner, is in the

business of fixing golf swings. The retired Mesa Country Club pro is the teaching pro in Sun City.

"I really miss it, but I just can't play," Leila Turner said. "I watch it on television, but that's it."

Turner served as president of the AWGA from 1979 to 1981 and also was chairwoman of the state course-rating committee, a position that requires a real understanding of the game.

At her peak, the 5-foot-4, 120-pound Turner had a 5-handicap.

"I wasn't very long with the driver and sometimes not too straight," the five-time Mesa Country Club champion recalled. "But I was pretty good with the fairway woods and the rest of the game."

Her husband remembers her game well.

"From 100 yards in, she could play with anybody," Dick Turner said.

The Turners also have received national publicity for their golf success.

In 1969, when she won the state amateur title, her husband won the Arizona Professional Golfers Association championship. Golf Digest featured an article on the husband-wife feat.

That same year, the two set course records at Canyon Country Club, now known as Elden Hills, in Flagstaff. Dick shot a 65 while Leila fired a 71.

Sound easy?

Shouldn't the wife of a golf pro be good?

It was 10 years into their marriage before the golf bug bit Leila Turner.

With son, Doug, in school, she had the time as well as a hand-picked teacher.

Pro or no pro, Turner said she doesn't believe husbands should teach their wives how to golf. Frayed nerves and high-decibel conversations are commonplace.

"We had our moments," she said.

However, those moments led to many wins which are chronicled in the yellowed press clippings packed in a box waiting to be put into a future scrapbook for her son.

"I was competitive — maybe too competitive," Turner said. "I was eligible for the seniors in 1974, but I just couldn't make myself step over the line.

"I kept trying against those younger players for four more years before I entered as a senior in 1978."

OVER

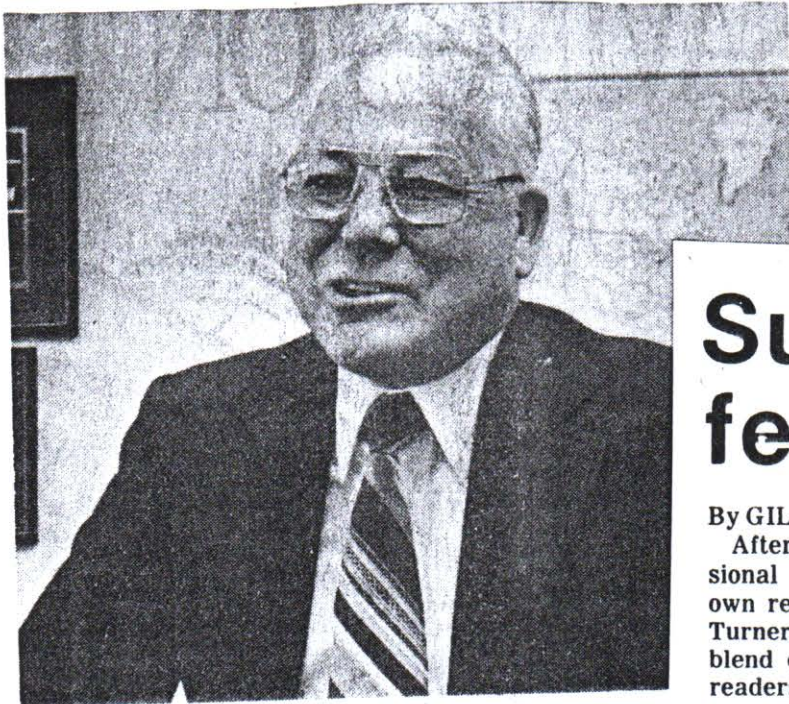


# GOLF SECRET



Leila Turner of Sun City holds aloft the trophy she won for capturing the Arizona Women's Golf Association state championship in 1969. Turner will be the honorary captain for the Sun City women's team in the upcoming Daily News-Sundial Classic.





WILL TURNER

## Sun City author featured in SCI

By GILLIAN SILVER

After many years as a professional writer, Sun City's very own resident celebrity, William Turner, will share his unique blend of nostalgic humor with readers of the Sun City Independent.

For Turner, the weekly column represents a leap into another creative realm.

A writer with several nonfiction books under his belt, and experience in public relations writing, Turner says he's busier now as a "retiree" than he was when he was employed full time.

Simultaneously involved in a number of projects, his latest nonfiction piece, "Secrets of Personal Persuasion," was recently published and will be available soon in bookstores nationwide.

He enjoys writing motivational books that explain skills others can develop and use successfully. But when it comes to challenges, Turner's fascinated by exploring different writing styles.

"The most fulfilling type of writing is the one I do the worst — fiction," Turner says.

"I've even self-published a piece of fiction. It sold well but never did attract the attention of publishers."

Fiction is a difficult style to master he says, and competition for publication is fierce.

Although he will continue to dabble in fiction, Turner is one writer who does not have any intentions of pushing his interest in other writing forms aside.

"Nonfiction isn't unattractive to me," he says. "Paradoxically, it's the area in which I've done the greatest amount of writing."

Turner is no novice when it comes to long-term research projects either. He spent the better part of two years accumulating information on the Ohio Farm Bureau.

Transferring the research notes into a "popular style" of reading material, something he describes as "a more chatty, informal, almost fictionalized style," Turner helped the

organization pass along important historical information in a more entertaining fashion. And that, he says, is one of the reasons he writes.

In his column for the Independent, Turner plans to provide a variety of tidbits, many of which are true anecdotes.

Although he claims he does not plan "too far in the future," Turner has general ideas for "about 100 columns."

Using a personal computer as his indispensable writing companion, he formulates his middle-of-the-night brainstorming into what he describes as "what purports to be the final draft."

After carrying the computer runoff around with him for a few days, and jotting down various comments in the margins, Turner sits down to polish the material.

As he develops the column, Turner says he purposely avoids a sarcastic approach. Relying instead on positive, amusing recollections, he likes to "stretch the point a bit" to entice a smile.

"I might be satirical once in a while, but I don't see this (writing the column) as a way of taking a jaundiced look at society. I'm not condemning it (that form of writing) I just don't want to be a part of it."

For Turner, the most exciting part of the project is choosing the subject matter.

"It's a challenge searching for ideas. They can come to you at any time, bombarding you in the grocery store or in the morning when you get up. It's fun seeing what you can do with them then trying to formulate them."

He's a great advocate of technology, saying today's writers are provided with the word processor, making literary endeavors even less painful.

"It's amazing," he says, "you can sit down and flip paragraphs around. It's faster, more accurate, and much more fun."

Turner's column will appear weekly on the Independent's editorial page.

TURNER, Will