

santa

in

sun city



Family
The Tasek

150

POEM

&

CARTOONS

BY

EVE VANEK

SANTA IN SUN CITY

+++++++

'Twas the night before Christmas
and all through the town,
there were no frozen fingers,
nor toes to be found.

The weather was balmy,
no snow on the ground
where a silly old Road Runner
scampered around.

The grand-children slept
in a row on the floor,
their sleeping bags lined up
all facing the door.

They all knew that Santa
was well on his way
in a shiny red Thunderbird,
instead of a sleigh.

He whizzed up Black Canyon,
then down the side roads,
which led to Sun City,
to deliver his loads.

As he jumped from his car,
that cute little guy
laughed and he laughed
'til he thought he would die!

For, Grandma's and Grandpa's
he met, were so droll,
all wishing that THEY could play
his special roll!

He looked for some chimneys
and uttered: "Oh my!
there aren't any here,
so I'll use the Lanai."

He stopped at each house,
with the grand-children in it
and emptied his bag,
staying only a minute.

There were beach balls
and water-skis
and some roller skates,
as ice-skates were useless
on un-frozen lakes.

Before he departed,
he treated himself,
to a glass of fresh orange juice
that was left on a shelf.

We heard him call out,
as he went on his way:
"Merry Christmas, Sun City,
I'd sure love to stay!"

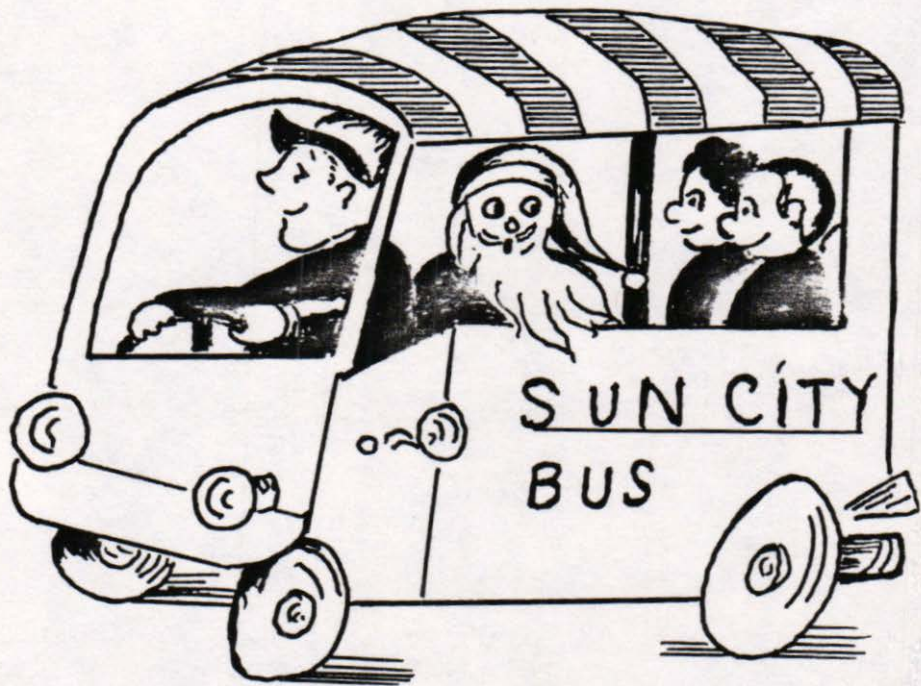
A SEQUAL
SANTA RETURNS

+++++

'Twas a month before Christmas
and all through Sun City
the people were trying to
form a committee
to entertain Santa
at Webb's invitation
to spend his vacation
with their generation.

Now Santa decided
he couldn't refuse
to join all activities,
even pay dues.
So checking the colorful
Del Webb brochure,
he boarded the Sun City
bus for a tour.

He didn't have time
when he came here before,
the visiting grand-children
needed him more.
Sun City he found
was no place for passivity
and soon was included
in every activity!





HE TRIED TO PLAY GOLF
VERY EARLY ONE DAY
BUT THE BALL ON HIS TASSEL-CAP
GOT IN THE WAY



HIS TENNIS WAS BAD,
AS HE WASN'T TOO TALL
THOUGH HE JUMPED AND HE JUMPED
BUT HE STILL MISSED THE BALL!



WHAT A PLEASURE IT WAS THOUGH
TO WATCH SANTA BOWL
WITH STRIKE AFTER STRIKE,
KEEPING ALL THOSE PINS ROLL!



HE RENTED A BIKE
AND RODE OFF WITH A GROUP
AND ALL THE NEXT DAY
HE WAS FORCED TO RECOUP!



AND THEN DEAR OLD SANTA CLAUS
CAUSED A SENSATION
BY USING A MOTOR-BIKE
AS TRANSPORTATION

SWIMMING
POOL 7



THEN STRIPPED TO HIS UNDERWEAR
JUMPED IN A POOL
SINCE LIVING UP NORTH,
DIDN'T SWIM, AS A RULE.



HE JOINED THE BELL ART CLUB
AND WITH NO RESTRAINT
SAT DOWN AT HIS EASEL
AND STARTED TO PAINT!



ONE DAY HE WAS SEEN
AT A WOODWORKING SHOP
BUT WASN'T TOO HANDY,
SO THAT WAS A FLOP!



BUT WORKING WITH SILVER
AND ROCKS HE LIKED BEST
WAS OFTEN OBSERVED
WITH HIS LITTLE TOOL CHEST



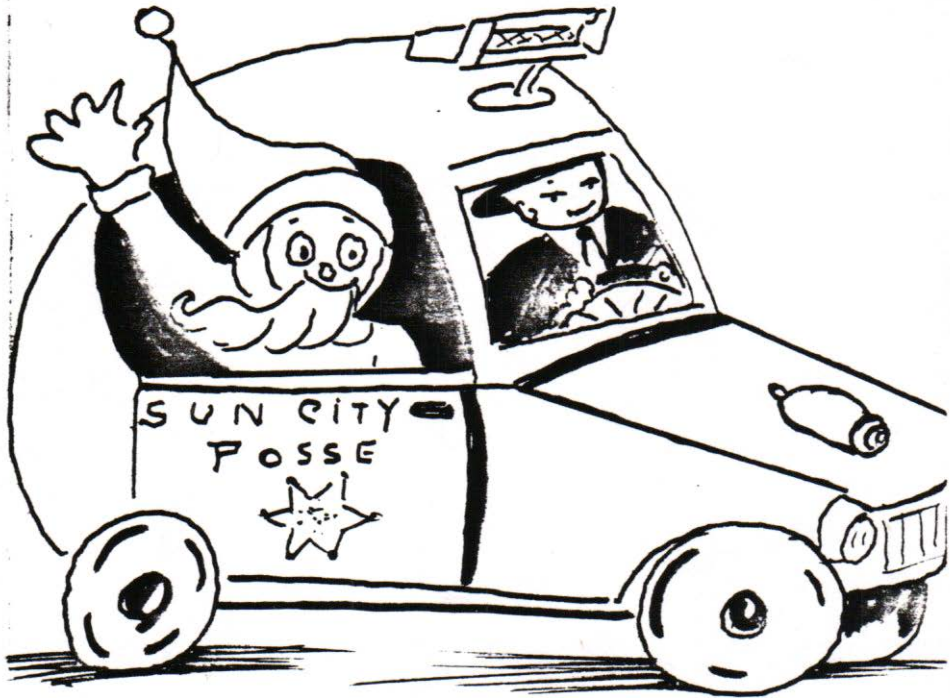
THE SUN CITY PLAYERS
SAID WITH REGRET:
"YOUR ROMEO JUST DOESN'T
MATCH JU-LI-ET! "



WE WENT TO A ROUND DANCING CLASS
AND WE FOUND
THIS JOLLY OLD CHAP
SWING HIS PARTNERS AROUND!



THE SYMPHONY PRACTICED
WITH THIS LITTLE FELLOW,
WHO WANTED A CHANCE
TO APPEAR WITH HIS CELLO.



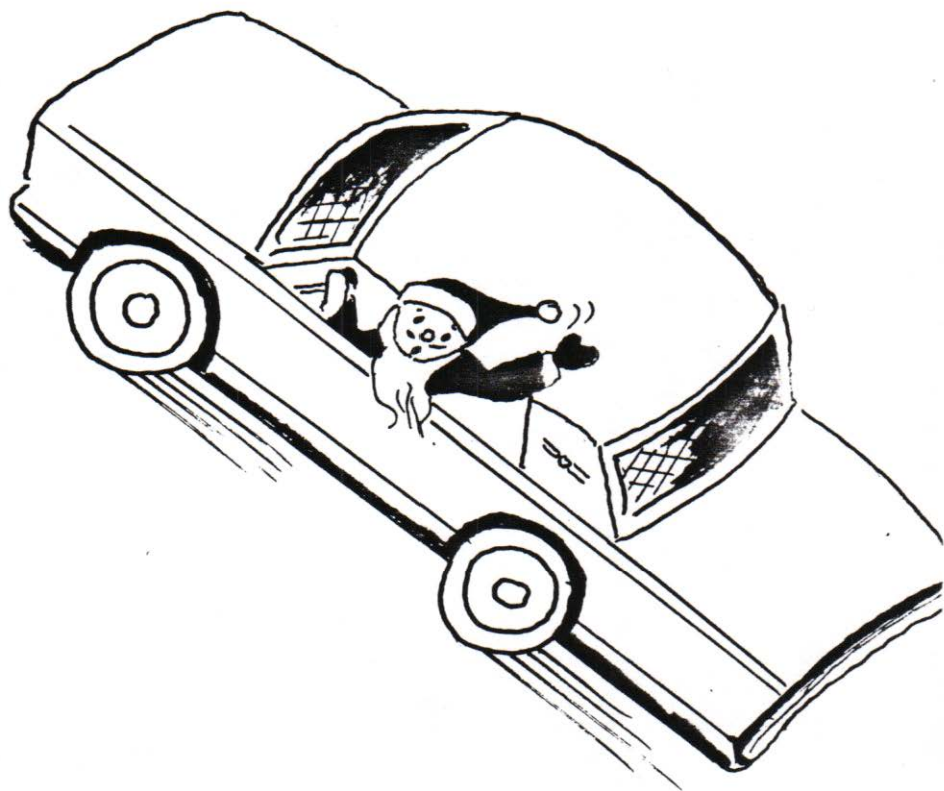
ONE NIGHT HE WAS ASKED
IF HE MIGHT LIKE TO RIDE
ALONG WITH THE POSSE
AND SHERIFF AT HIS SIDE
HE HOPED THEY WOULD CAPTURE
A DAN-GER-OUS BANDIT
TO TELL EVERYBODY
THAT HE HAD A HAND-IN-IT!



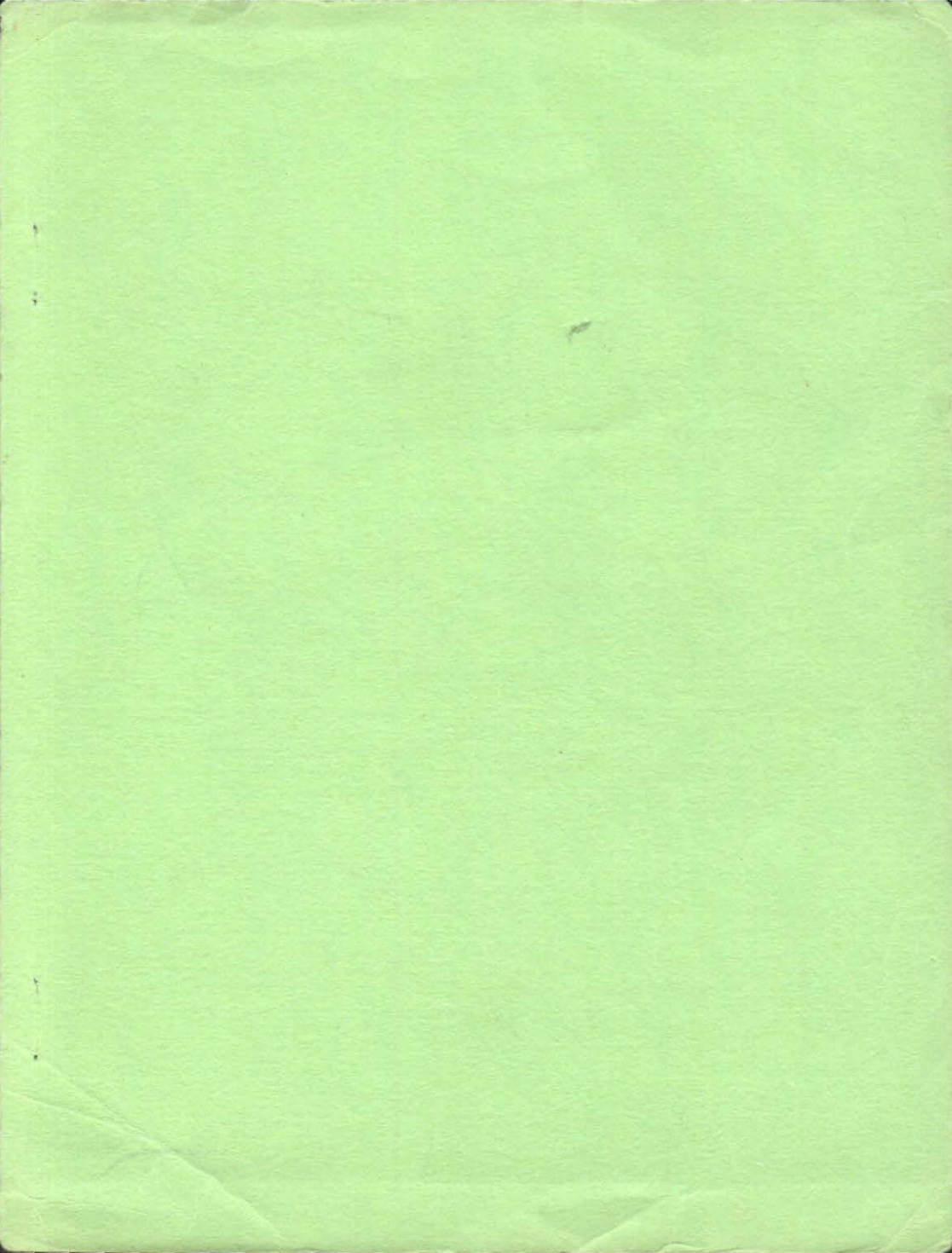
THE NEWS-SUN WAS HAPPY
TO GIVE HIM PUBLICITY
CORRECTLY DESCRIBING HIM:
"FULL OF FELICITY."
HE LIKED WHAT HE READ
AND HE THOUGHT IT QUITE NEAT
AND ASKED TO SELL NEWS PAPERS,
OUT ON THE STREET!



THEN SOON THE WEEK ENDED,
HE'D LEAVE BEFORE DAWN
BUT ONE LAST REQUEST,
COULD HE WATER A LAWN?
FOR WHERE HE RESIDED,
HE ONLY HAD SNOW
AND CACTUS AND GRASS
AND SUCH THINGS COULDN'T GROW.



HE SAID THAT SUN CITY
WAS CERTAINLY BLEST
AND FELT VERY HONORED
FOR BEING THEIR GUEST
HIS THANK-YOU'S WERE CHEERFUL
AND VERY SINCERE
AND HOPED HE'D BE WELCOME
TO COME BACK NEXT YEAR.



Hazel Church Webb

ORINDA, Calif. — Hazel Church Webb, 93, of Orinda and the first wife of Sun Cities developer Del E. Webb, died Feb. 21, 1992.

Webb married Hazel Church, a woman he described as his childhood sweetheart, in 1919 in her native Fresno, Calif. The couple moved to Phoenix in 1928 where Webb launched the construction and development company that would later bear his name.

After the move to Phoenix, Church helped her husband in his office in the early days and occasionally accompanied him on business trips. Their marriage ended in 1952 and Webb remarried in 1961.

Mrs. Webb moved back to California and retired as a surgical nurse.

She is survived by several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews and great-grandnieces and great-grandnewphews.

No services were planned. Hull's Walnut Creek Chapel in Walnut Creek, Calif., was handling arrangements.

Tropical tale

SC man writes book about Hawaiian golf club

By ANN T. DALEY
Assistant sports editor

SUN CITY — J.R. "Red" Uldrick never knew Mother Nature could be so cruel.

A heavy rain had produced **Golf** water hazards

all over the nine-hole course he had built in Kunia, Hawaii, outside of Honolulu, in 1957.

"We had just finished the front nine and had gotten 17 inches of rain overnight," said the Sun City resident. "By daylight, most of the course had been washed down to Pearl Harbor.

"We were stuck. Most people involved with me wanted to hang it up and quit. I couldn't.

"Over the next 15 years, I learned a lot about patience and to never give up ship."

Uldrick and about 10 others banded together to rebuild the International Golf and Country Club, which later became the 18-hole Hawaii Country Club.

After that early disaster, Uldrick managed to enjoy nearly 14 more years of operating the first golf course to be built in Hawaii after World War II.

"I have a good feeling of accomplishment," said Uldrick, who has lived in Sun City since selling his share of the country club in 1971. "It was rough for a while. It

really was.

"Golf really hadn't caught on in Hawaii in the early 1970s. There weren't that many golf courses in the islands then. Now there are hundreds."

Uldrick's experiences with the golf course are tracked in his book "Golf Balls and Monkey Pods: A Narrative History of the Hawaii Country Club." The 380-page book includes pictures and a detailed explanation of Uldrick's, and his wife, Vena's, experiences.

The 82-year-old retired Army officer said he felt relieved when the book was published on Feb. 1, ending six years' work on the project.

The Battle Creek, Mich., native began his story at the Kalakaua Golf Course in Schofield Barracks near Wahiawa, one of three courses owned and operated by the U.S. Army Golf Association. Uldrick had become secretary and manager of Kalakaua and the association's two other courses — Leilehua and Fort Shafter.

One day, a casual conversation with locals in Kalakaua's clubhouse changed his life forever.

"They were complaining it was so hard to get tee times," Uldrick said. "I said, 'Why don't you build your own golf course?'"

It didn't take long for all to realize he had the qualifications to take on the job of designing, build-

ing, owning and operating a public golf course.

By scraping enough money together through partners, stockholders and locals, Uldrick started with nine holes in a nearby valley featuring plush green mushroom-shaped trees called Monkey Pods, pineapple trees and sugar cane.

The country club thrived on business from weekend players.

"It was never quite as big as some others," he said. "We had about 300 members when I sold out."

Upon his departure in 1971, new management placed an emphasis on catering to tourists.

He returned to Sun City and spent time traveling with Vena before her death in 1993. A little more than a year later, he married a longtime friend from Hawaii, Helen, whose husband also had died recently. The couples had known each other while living in Honolulu.

Although he still owns a golf car and several sets of clubs, he has played once in the past year and has no plans to take up the game soon.

"I kind of lost the urge," said Uldrick, who belongs to Union Hills Country Club and the Lakes Club. "I may take it up again someday."



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

J.R. "Red" Uldrick and his wife Helen display Uldrick's book about his experiences constructing a golf course in Hawaii.

SEPTEMBER 13-19, 2000

A Name to Know

Sun City resident **Gerald "Gerry" Unger** says the reason he enjoys volunteering his time is because it makes him feel good.

"I have
n e v e r
a c c e p t e d
o n e n i c k e l
f o r a n
e x p e n s e
a c c o u n t o r
n o t h i n g



because I want to do what I want to do, when I want to do it. It's something that's good for the community and if it's good for the community, it's good for me," said Mr. Unger.

After serving on the Recreation Centers board from 1991 to 1993 — including a stint as president — Mr. Unger went to work for the Home Owner's Association and has been working with them ever since.

A member of the transportation committee, Mr. Unger was directly responsible for bringing bus service into Sun City and convincing Valley transit officials to extend a bus route that had previously gone only as far as the Sun Bowl. He was also involved in the long-range planning committee, which masterminded night-time S.C.A.T. service from local hospitals.

He is currently involved in a project to provide emergency light beacons to all Sun City residents and also one which would allow for the utilization of the Sundial and Mountain View recreation centers as emergency shelters for the Red Cross.

YAN DAELE, AUGUST

Local gardener wins fame with colorful gardening style

By BRITT KENNERLY
Daily News-Sun staff
SUN CITY — Three years after the blooms from August Van Daele's 1988 garden first reached fruition, they will be enjoyed again via a national publication.

Van Daele, whose blazingly colorful gardening style has blossomed into a photo spread in the spring 1991 issue of Garden Ideas and Outdoor Living magazine, is no stranger to fame.

About 1500 visitors have toured Van Daele's garden each spring, since 1982. One year, 3,000 onlookers viewed Van Daele's work.

They seem to enjoy the product of Van Daele's hard labor, he said.

"I've always enjoyed gardening," Van Daele said. "The only time I haven't opened my garden to the public since I started in '82

was last year. I had to cancel both the spring and fall garden show due to illness."

Van Daele said that the idea for the magazine article germinated when a fellow member of the Valley of the Sun Men's Garden Club of Phoenix received a phone call from a Scottsdale-based feature writer for Better Homes and Gardens magazine in 1988.

"The writer wanted information on nice gardens in the area," Van Daele said. "My friend gave her my name, and she came out that spring and did photos and a story for one of the magazine's special interest publications."

Van Daele said he had all but forgotten about the story when it was not printed after more than a year, but in November 1990, he received a letter informing of the publication date.

"It was a real surprise, after all this time," he said.

Van Daele first got his hands dirty as a child in Kansas.

"My parents raised vegetables for commercial sale," he said. "Then we found out that flowers could be sold for a fancy price, and so we graduated to blooms."

Van Daele studied to be a lawyer but found "some success" in the food business in Chicago.

He then built a home with an attached greenhouse with his wife, who bears the perfect moniker for the bride of a gardener — Flora.

Van Daele said he hopes to have both a spring and fall show this year.

"I hope to have the show going by April 14," he said. "It depends on the frost we get. Right now, I have a garage full of plants."



Daily News-Sun photo by Britt Kennerly

FLOWERY PRAISE — Sun City gardener August Van Daele covers some of his plants with flowers. Van Daele's garden will be featured in a Better Homes and Garden publication this weekend.

OVER

Mr. Green Thumb is aware of the ground rules

Sun City garden gathers fame

by Julia Jones
staff writer

SUN CITY — August Van Daele specializes in doing what can't be done.

Then he invites one and all to see it. Van Daele, a lifelong gardener, brings maryllis back to bloom a second year, when everyone knows you can't do that; rows delphinium outdoors, when common sense says the delicate things can't survive in Arizona; has an array of ornamentals blooming on trellises, though professional gardeners advise that the heat blast here will knock them dead.

When his garden is in full bloom, spring and fall, Van Daele invites the Valley in to see, and, therefore, to believe. (Dates in April and November are announced in area newspapers.)

He and his wife, Flora, have arranged the sides and back yard of their Sun City home to simulate a garden walk, with steppingstones directing traffic along a path past bed after bed of carefully coordinated colors.

Thanks to an article and photos in glowing color in *Better Homes and Gardens'* spring 1991 issue of Garden

Ideas and Outdoor Living, his fame has spread beyond the confines of the Valley.

"I've been gardening all my life," he said.

In fact, it could be said that Van Daele was born to a family of gardeners. In Kansas City, where he grew up, the family raised vegetable plants commercially.

When he was 21, Van Daele left the family business to study law in Chicago, got distracted along the way and spent his working lifetime in the food business, gardening on the side for pleasure.

The Van Daeles have lived in the Valley 12 years, he said, and he is convinced the area is a fine choice for gardeners, more interesting by far than gardening in Illinois.

One of the secrets of his success, he says, is that most flowering plants simply have to be treated as annuals, regardless of their designation elsewhere as biennials or perennials. Here, he says, "they just can't get through the summer."

It took three years to learn the rhythm of the Valley's two growing seasons, he says. "And I'm still learning."

See FLOWERS, Page 3



Dana Leonard / Staff photographer

Flowering shrubs such as camellia are among the plants that thrive under the care of August Van Daele of Sun City. Twice a year, he opens his gates so the public may view his garden in full bloom.

FLOWERS

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

Monday, February 11, 1991

From Page 1

But one thing was sure: This time he'd get his garden started right. In Illinois, he said, he had worked with what was there. "And I spent five or six years trying to make bad soil good."

For his Sun City garden, he drew a plan, laid out the beds, then hauled off the soil that was there, including the troublesome caliche, or crusted layer that hampers gardeners and their plants in various dry regions.

"Unless you get rid of the caliche, it's almost like planting in a bathtub," he said, because water can't drain past that layer.

Then he filled the raised beds, sloping for good drainage, with a layer of gravel, topped with a balanced mix of soil and mulch.

Van Daele orders his seeds from a catalog, then raises his seedlings under lights in his garage to make sure his garden walk will have the impact of broad expanses of solid colors.

Dressed in their early spring-time green are seedlings of nasturtiums and poppies, petunia and foxglove, pinks and dianthus, calendula and ageratum, not to

mention impatiens. There are also a couple of flats of marigolds, Van Daele's ace-in-the-hole for sudden disasters that might leave a less-than-perfect spot in his gardens at our time.

Van Daele keeps his drawn plans year after year, he says, to make sure that plants are rotated through the garden. Repeating in the same spot just encourages problems, like wilt, he said.

Already in progress are flowering shrubs such as a camellia, blooming next to the gardenia, and flowering vines like clematis in soil Van Daele has made acid on the cool north side of the house. On the south side, hibiscus and bougainvillea are ready for their prolific summer blooms.

Beds of snapdragons and pinks surround a backyard tree rose, while 48 roses in beds just behind the house are leafed out, almost ready to begin their own flowering season.

Around a backyard citrus tree, Van Daele has arranged flowering ground cover, but it was a challenge, he says.

"The citrus roots will come up

and steal nutrients and moisture from the flowers," he said. "So I sank a window screen about eight inches below the surface, then cover that with soil and have the flowers above the screen."

There's even a small blooming cactus garden out back, a particular fancy of his wife's, he says.

"This garden and the walk every spring is an obligation, and it takes a lot of time," he says, "but when I go out on the golf course and get frustrated, I can come back to work here and calm down."

In the Valley, as a member of the Valley of the Sun Men's Garden Club and the Sun Cities Garden Club, Van Daele is known as "the amaryllis king."

"Nine out of 10 people can't make an amaryllis bloom the second time, but it's easy enough if you know how," he says, and the most important part is the care that's given immediately after the plant blooms.

Most folks tend to water the spent plant too much and keep it too much in the shade, he says, resulting in a plant that's spindly and weak. Van Daele has learned

the rhythm of amaryllis seasons, though, and finds it easy enough to duplicate.

Rows of pots, each marked with an owner's name, are lined up in his garage, with lengths cut from dryer exhaust tubes helping to stretch out stalks for a more graceful length, as buds continually reach upwards toward the light.

Men's Garden Clubs all over the country prepare a series of pictures from gardens of note in the various regions, Van Daele says. He suspects his own garden's spot in the magazine came from just such photographs.

Photographers and handicapped viewers are invited to come a day early for the tour, he says, since they're hard-pressed as it is to keep the crowds moving so all may see.

His neighbors have grown accustomed to the twice-yearly invasion.

"They say they have all the advantages of a flowering garden and no disadvantages, except that they can't park in front of their houses that day," Van Daele says.

VAN DAELE, AUGUST

Sun Citizen Profile

Betty van Fredenberg
Director, Home Owners Association

Betty van Fredenberg has served a previous three-year term as director for the Sun City Home Owners Association and is a past president of the organization. Earlier this year she was once again appointed to the board, filling a vacancy left by the resignation of a board member. Her term will expire in December.

Involvement in a number of political activities, van Fredenberg is a Republican candidate for the Justice of the Peace on the Peoria Justice Court. A primary election will be held September, 1986.

NAME: Betty van Fredenberg

RESIDENCE: Sun City

FORMER HOME: Phoenix, Ariz.

BIRTHPLACE: Lewiston, Idaho

WHEN MOVED TO SUN CITY: 1973

FORMER OCCUPATION: School teacher for the Alhambra School District for 23 years. Also taught in Mesa, Peoria.

EDUCATION: Bachelor's degree in education from National College of Education, Evanston, Ill.

FAMILY: Son, Merton III, living in Oklahoma. Grandson, Merton IV and Jan Micah.

CHURCH: All Saints of the Desert Church, Sun City.

MEMBERSHIPS: Chairman, Sun City Republican Club; past chairman of the Republican Forum West; past president of HOA; chairman of Maricopa County Board of Adjustments; precinct captain and deputy registrar of Emerald Precinct; past president of Valley West Republican Women; served as an elected delegate to the Republican National Convention in Dallas, Texas in 1984.

FAVORITE RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY: Playing golf on Saturday at Quail Run Golf Course; knitting for grandchildren and swimming.

FAVORITE HOBBY: Politics.

FAVORITE VACATION SPOT: Enjoys staying right here in Sun City. "Sun City is a resort area — everything I need is right here."

WHERE I LIKE TO TAKE VISITORS: Sun City recreation centers, Phase I, Lakes Club, Sedona as well as other parts of Arizona.

FAVORITE REPUBLICAN: Senator Barry Goldwater

FUTURE GOALS: "Be elected Justice of the Peace next year so that I can continue representing and serving Sun City."



BETTY VAN FREDENBERG

VAN FREDENBERG
BETTY

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Monday, April 15, 1991 Community A3*

GOP stalwart to leave

Van Fredenberg packs elephants, heads for Oklahoma

By JACQUE PAPPAS
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Political circles in Arizona know the name Betty Van Fredenberg.

Civic organizations in Sun City know Betty and so do most people who have ever contacted the Sun City Home Owners Association.

Van Fredenberg, 72, who has held an office in virtually every local, state and county Republican club, has decided it's time to move on.

As soon as she sells her Sun City home, Van Fredenberg is moving to Forgan, Okla., to live near her son, Merton "Deree," and his family.

Van Fredenberg said her failing health and frustration with politics in Arizona helped sway her decision to leave Sun City.

"I am disappointed that ultra-conservatives have taken over much of the county and the state (Republican party). I just feel that there's a trend and I don't want to be involved in it," Van Fredenberg said. "The iron maiden has rusted out. I just don't have the vim and vigor I used to have to do battle against these people."

Van Fredenberg has been president of the Sun City Republican Club, Republican Forum West, Valley West Republican Women and Republican District 17. She was a delegate to the 1984 presidential convention to nominate Ronald Reagan for a second term and was a presidential elector for George Bush.

Despite her devotion to Re-



Daily News-Sun

BETTY VAN FREDENBERG

— The Sun Citian has supported the Republican party in Arizona for decades.

publicans in the state, Van Fredenberg said it's time to be with her family.

On primary election day in September, Van Fredenberg was getting ready to work at the polls and slipped and fell, crushing her right hand. She said a hearing problem also convinced her to move.

"After all, some day I will end up in that big caucus in the sky," Van Fredenberg said. "My grandson tells me, 'I pray every night that you sell your house and move out here with us.' Now how can I turn that down?"

Van Fredenberg is a Republican through and through — down to her extensive collection of elephant statuettes. Recently, she gave one of the GOP mascots to Arizona Sen. John McCain as a goodbye gift.

"I call it my good luck ele-

'I am disappointed that ultra-conservatives have taken over much of the county and the state (Republican party). I just feel that there's a trend and I don't want to be involved in it.'

Betty Van Fredenberg

phant. Betty has been one of the major pillars of the Republican party not only in Sun City but in the state," McCain said, adding that she has also knitted blankets for his children. "She has combined humor and energy so that I would say she ranks among the top two or three active Republicans in Arizona."

At a recent gathering of state Republicans in Sun City, Van Fredenberg's GOP friends presented her with a plaque naming her the "Mother Republican of Sun City ... For unselfish sacrifice and dedication to Republican grass roots leadership."

Van Fredenberg said McCain, former president Gerald Ford and Sen. Barry Goldwater are among her favorite Republicans.

"Goldwater was always my pal. My cousins in the Midwest just thought he was it so I would drive to his home and fill a box with rocks from his lawn and then give them to my cousins to be used as paperweights," she said. "I told Mr. Goldwater about the rocks one day and he said, 'So that's where all my rocks have been going.' I think he got a kick out of it."

Van Fredenberg moved to Mesa in 1951 from Idaho and taught first grade in the Alhambra School District for 23 years.

She took an early retirement and worked once a week in Indian education.

One year after she moved to Sun City in 1973, Van Fredenberg unsuccessfully ran against Pat Wright and two others for the House of Representatives.

In 1986 she ran for Peoria justice of the peace but lost to Lex Anderson.

Van Fredenberg was elected to the Sun City Home Owners Association board in 1980 and served as president. In 1986 she was appointed to the Maricopa County Board of Adjustments and became the first and so far only woman to be chairman.

Van Fredenberg used her knowledge in county planning and zoning regulations as an information officer for the HOA, where she now works.

She is also president of Royal Oaks Kiwanis and an active member of All Saints of the Desert Episcopal Church. Her hobby is knitting.

Van Fredenberg said she will miss her Arizona friends, but is looking forward to moving to Oklahoma.

"I hope to volunteer in the school there and work in library."

It's a strictly Democratic stronghold so I hope to establish a Republican cell over there," she said. "I haven't seen seasons for so many years. I will enjoy the colors and the trees and visiting my relatives all over the country."

Lioness founder honored

Sun City woman cited for helping less fortunate

By JACQUE PAPPAS
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Eleanor Vick loves to go to local elementary schools on Veterans Day and hand out flags to the children.

"They are so patriotic and they are so proud to show us their school. When we hand them a flag they can't wait to wave it in the air," Vick said.

The flag distribution is just one of many ways local Lionesses serve the community.

Vick, 70, started the Sun City 79ers Lioness Club 10 years ago, and was recently honored by the Lions Clubs International Foundation for her generosity, compassion and concern for others.

She, along with Sun City West Lioness Helen Klett, are among the 451 women in the world who have been named a Melvin Jones Fellow.

There are now 5,529 Lioness clubs with 143,754 members worldwide.

The 57 members of the 79ers club support 18 different charities and participate in a number service activities.

"It was such a surprise. The club arranged for this and I didn't know a thing. I feel that it's such an honor," Vick said.

In 1973, the Lionesses and Lions Foundation established the Melvin Jones Fellow to honor members who are dedicated to humanitarian service.

The designation was named in tribute to Jones, who founded Lions 75 years ago.

Sandy Holman, president of the Sun City 79ers Lioness Club, said members of a committee secretly nominated Vick for the award and presented it to her at a meeting earlier this month.

"There was a lot of suspense as to who it would be, but once the name was announced everyone agreed it couldn't have gone to a more caring person. They don't just give out this award to anybody," Holman said. "Lioness Eleanor is quite an unassuming lady, a friend and example to all of us. She has definitely shown concern and compassion for others in many ways."

The club donated \$1,000 to the Lions Clubs International Foundation for its Sight First program geared to cure and



Stephen Chernenk/Daily News Sun

Sun Citian Eleanor Vick, 70, was recently honored by the Lions Clubs International Foundation for her generosity, compassion and concern for others. Vick along with Sun City West Lioness Helen Klepp are now among the 451 women in the world who have been named a Melvin Jones Fellow.

prevent blindness in third world countries.

Although Lioness clubs are an offshoot of Lions clubs, Holman said members do not have to have a spouse who is a Lion.

As most Lionesses, however, Vick and Holman are married to Russell Vick and Bill Holman.

The local Lioness clubs remain active around the year.

Fund-raisers include rummage sales, style shows and helping florists deliver flowers to local residents. Holman said the Lionesses got \$820 for delivering flowers on Mother's Day.

"Humanitarian service is the goal of the association. Vick was one of the founding members of the club and helped it get organized to serve others," Holman said.

Vick, who worked in elementary and middle schools in Illinois for 16 years, was the second president of the club.

The club now usually meets on the first

Wednesday of every month for a luncheon meeting. For information, call 974-9623.

While Vick is believed to be one of the first Sun City Lionesses to be named a fellow, several Sun City West Lioness Club members have been given the honor.

Most recently, Helen Klett of the Sun City West Lioness Club was named a Melvin Jones Fellow. Klett is one of several Sun City West Lionesses who has the distinction.

Klett's husband, W.M. "Doc," was past Lions district governor in South Carolina. Klett started a Lioness club there and later became a Lion when the couple moved to Florida.

She moved to Sun City West 2½ years ago and joined the Lioness Club.

"Our club does so much to help people. That's what makes being a part of it so special," Klett said.

VICK, ELEANOR

James F. Vivian

Professor Jim Vivian is a native of Arizona, and he spent two years in the Army before beginning his university studies. He earned his B.A. degree from Coe College in 1960, his Master's degree from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1964, and his Ph.D. from the American University in 1971.

While working on his Ph.D., Jim taught high school, was an instructor at a junior college, and worked as an archivist for the National Archives and Records Service in Washington, D.C. After he completed his degree, Jim taught for two years as assistant professor in history at the University of Wisconsin, Platteville, before joining the UND History faculty in the fall of 1973. It is a mark of Jim's scholarly achievement that he was brought to UND as an associate--rather than an assistant--professor. He became full professor in 1981.

Among Jim's many awards and honors is an award for Distinguished Service from the National Archives and Records Service in 1970. At the very beginning of his career, Jim gave evidence of what would be his most prominent achievement: archival research. Jim is one of the most prolific and

productive archival researchers in the department. He is perhaps most famous for his article "The 'Taking' of the Panama Canal Zone: Myth and Reality," published in *Diplomatic History* in 1980, in which he uncovered what Theodore Roosevelt *really* said about the Panama Canal. However, this is only one of countless articles on Latin American, U.S. Diplomatic History, Theodore Roosevelt, and North Dakota History that are based on Jim's painstaking research.

Jim has published articles in prestigious journals like *The Americas*, *American Neptune*, and *Presidential Studies Quarterly*; edited and annotated two books, *The Journal of Chester Fritz: Travels Through Western China, 1917*, and *William Howard Taft: Collected Editorials, 1917-1921*; and written two more, *The Romance of My Life: Theodore Roosevelt's Speeches in North Dakota* for Harold Schafer and the Medora Foundation, and *The President's Salary: A Study in Constitutional Declension, 1789-1990*.

Jim's devotion to archival research is reflected in his teaching. In History 440, the capstone course for history majors, Jim is well known for urging students to delve into valid historical records. Under his direction, many of these students have made original contributions to local and regional history. They discovered, for example, who Theodore Roosevelt appointed consul-general in Canada, North Dakota's first diplomatic celebrity; how the President ruined the giant HT ranch in the eastern grasslands; and why there is no equestrian statue of him in Fargo.

Jim's dry sense of humor, quiet charm, and encouragement to his students have made him a

'Between the crosses'

World War I veteran leads Memorial Day honors

By IAN MITCHELL
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — One of Sun City's few living World War I veterans will read the poem "In Flanders Fields" at the Sun City Memorial Day ceremony Monday.

Bernard Vogel, 99, who served in uniform during the end of World War I but narrowly missed being sent to Europe, spent most of his brief military career training at Fort MacArthur in Waco, Texas.

This is the third time Vogel has been chosen to read the poem, which was written in 1918 by John McCrae and memorializes a cemetery in France where thousands of soldiers are buried.

Monday's observance begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Garden of Valor of Sunland Memorial Park, 15826 Del Webb Blvd.

Vogel, who turns 100 years old July 3, recalled how he became part of World War I history with the Army.

"I was a candidate in officers' training school when the war ended," said Vogel. "They offered me a commission in the reserves or a discharge, so I took the discharge."

Vogel's family had a military tradition, including a three-star general, which "didn't appeal to me the way it did the rest of my family. ...

"I did not grow up with that in mind," Vogel said. "I wanted to be a CPA, and that's what I was gunning for."

After his discharge, Vogel worked for 50 years in the hotel industry, but the military tradition in his family continued: Both of his sons served in the Navy; the oldest in Korea and the youngest in the Vietnam War.



Bernard Vogel will read the poem "In Flanders Fields" at the Sun City Memorial Day ceremony Monday. Vogel, now 99, is shown in his World War I uniform, at left.

When Vogel first moved to Sun City 17 years ago, he was one of about 400 World War I-era veterans in the retirement community.

Now, the Sun Citian knows of only five others who are active in veterans' groups.

"In Flanders Fields" is traditionally read at the conclusion of World War I veterans' meetings, Vogel said.

"It's not that I'm qualified to say the poem, but it's to the point now that we're limited," he explained.

The poem reads:

*In Flanders fields the poppies
blow*

*Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we
lie*

*In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies
grow
In Flanders fields.*

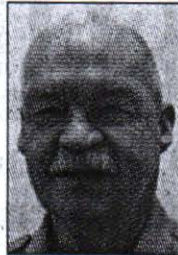
December 11, 2002

■ A Name to Know

Lt. Bill Waits was recently elected as the 2003 commander for the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City.

Currently the Posse's operations officer, Mr. Waits has been with the volunteer law enforcement organization for the past five years.

A retired public works employee, Mr. Waits followed his children's footsteps when he began volunteering with the Posse.



"My kids are all in law enforcement, so I took an interest in the Posse," Mr. Waits said. "It's something to do and it's a service to the community."

Mr. Waits and his wife Carolyn's three children have all worked professionally in a form of law enforcement — one as a police officer, another in a district attorney's office and the final child works for the Internal Revenue Service.

The camaraderie with fellow volunteers and doing patrol work also hooked Mr. Waits on the Posse.

"I certainly don't think I'd be in the Posse if I didn't enjoy what I was doing," Mr. Waits added. "Service to the community is just a plus."

Royal Oaks Center founder Walker dies

Staff report

Roe Walker, one of the founding members of Royal Oaks Lifecare Center, died Friday.

Walker, 86, of Sun City was a former president of the board of trustees of Royal Oaks. He also was past president of Lakeside Rotary of Sun City and a member of the board of trustees of Sun Health Foundation.

"Roe Walker was a doer — a man with high principles, integrity and really a true love of people," said Bob Howsam, a Royal Oaks board member and Walker's friend of more than 30 years.

Howsam said Royal Oaks was a dream of Walker's and that he spearheaded the effort to start the center. When the center opened in 1984, it was the first of its kind in Sun City.

Walker was born in Braidwood, Ill. After graduating from Northern Illinois University in 1932, he became



Walker

superintendent of schools in Malta, Ill.

Three years later, Walker joined Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co. During his tenure with Northwestern, he served as district agent in Bloomington-Normal, Ill., superintendent of agencies in Milwaukee and general agent in Cincinnati. He was a lifetime member of the Million Dollar Round Table since 1947.

Walker served in the Navy during World War II and was a member of Faith Presbyterian Church in Sun City. He also was past master of Hyde Park Lodge 589 and a member of Consistory of Scottish Rite, Syrian Temple, both of Cincinnati.

"He was a world-class dad and a world-class man," said his daughter, Joan Lee.

Walker was preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Mildred. He is survived by three daughters, Janice Pogue of Richmond, Va., Joan Lee of Houston, Texas, and Barbara Alice Walker of Carrollton, Ohio; and six grandsons; and five great-grandchildren.

Service is 10 a.m. Wednesday at Faith Presbyterian Church, 16000 N. Del Webb Blvd., Sun City.

Walker, Roe



■ Sam Walzer

Sam Walzer, who became a member of the Sun Cities Shrine Club in 1997, assumed presidency of the group and conducted his first meeting at the Masonic Center at Sun City Jan. 12.

Mr. Walzer became a noble in 1950 at the Aloha Temple in Honolulu, Hawaii, where he served as the club secretary and then president of the Kwajalein Shrine Club in the Marshall Islands.

Upon becoming a member of the Sun Cities club, he was appointed a director and subsequently elected to the office of vice president. Last year Mr. Walzer was honored by being made an Ambassador of the Aloha Temple in Hawaii.

Mr. Walzer has been in charge of the club's Vidalia onion sales, which is the club's biggest fund-raising project. Funds are used to provide transportation to send physically challenged children to one of 19 Shrine hospitals or three burn centers.

He has also been busy providing guest speakers for each of the club's stated meetings and arranged for facilities and catering for official visits of various potentates in the past three years.

Mr. Walzer is especially proud of the Clothe-a-Child project the club undertakes each year. One hundred needy children are provided with approximately \$70 worth of clothing as a result of this annual project.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT
June 9, 1993

Life in the fast lane

Sun City racer still relishes high-speed battle on dirt tracks

By BRET McKEAND
Sun Cities Independent

Ask a Sun City resident what his or her favorite form of recreation is and activities such as golf, tennis, bowling, swimming and bridge usually top the list.

The sport of automobile racing is hardly mentioned, if at all.

That may all be about to change, however, and the image of Sun Citians as "slowpokes" may be shattered forever.

Ron Ward last week became the first Sun City resident to ever compete in a race at Manzanita Speedway. Competing in a dwarf car he built himself and calls "The Sun City Streaker," Mr. Ward proved you're never too old to live

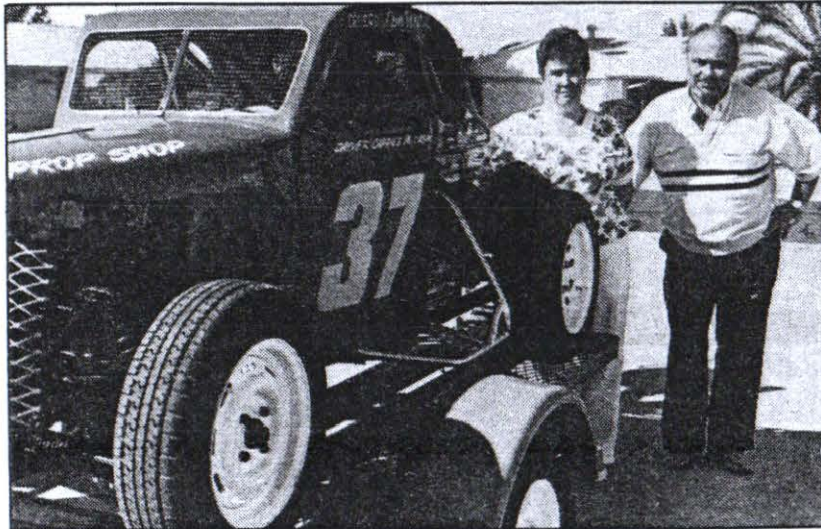
ever drove was a 1937 Chevrolet coupe.

"You could build a '37 Chevy for a lot less money in those days," he says with a laugh.

The car weighs approximately 1,000 pounds and is powered by an 1100cc Kawasaki motorcycle engine.

Mr. Ward says the vehicle can reach speeds up to 105 mph.

Racing can be fun, but at times dangerous. Mr. Ward says well-built machinery and proper safety equipment can help minimize potential hazards. Mrs. Ward adds



Photos by BRET McKEAND/Sun Cities Independent

Ready to go racing! Dee and Ron Ward stand next to their dwarf car, "The Sun City Streaker." Mr. Ward will race the car this summer at Manzanita Speedway and other dirt tracks throughout the Southwest.



The Wards have dubbed their race car, "The Sun City Streaker."

ability."

The race at Manzanita is the first of a series of dwarf car races held during the summer at tracks throughout the Southwest. The Wards plan to enter their "Sun City Streaker" in several of those events.

remains small. In addition to the Wards, the only other participant is engine builder John West. The Wards are hoping to find other auto racing enthusiasts in the Sun Cities to help with the endeavor.

"There have got to be some old racers out here. They can't all be

life in the fast lane.

"We're racing against kids but we've still got a lot left," says Mr. Ward, referring to his driving skills and competitive spirit.

Mr. Ward started racing at the age of 13 back in his native Pennsylvania. Since then he's raced everything: midgets, stock cars, motorcycles, airplanes and boats.

His last professional race, however, was in 1978. The desire to "go racing again" prompted the Wards to undertake the venture of building their own dwarf car.

"We wanted to get back into racing but found that sprint cars were too expensive. The dwarf cars were cheaper and seemed like a lot of fun," says Mr. Ward.

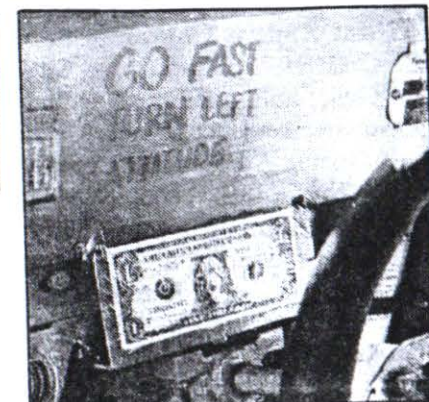
Mr. Ward and his wife, Dee, live

in Sun City but continue to work at normal, full-time jobs. Mr. Ward owns the Prop Shop, a marine propeller-repair shop in Peoria, and Mrs. Ward teaches for the Peoria School District.

The couple moved to Sun City last November. Having a "hot rod" in the neighborhood doesn't seem to bother the neighbors much, says Mr. Ward.

"They've been great about the whole thing," he says. "They call us the teenagers on the block!"

Mr. Ward's racing career may have come full circle. His newest car — built entirely at his shop in Peoria — is a 1938 Chevrolet coupe. Ironically, the first car he



Simple instructions for the driver: "Go Fast, turn left." The dollar bill? "That's what we're racing for," says

Thelma Ward

More than just a familiar face

By Barbara Lacy

There's no doubt about it – Thelma Ward has a familiar face. If you think you've seen her someplace before, you probably have!

First, she has been a member of the celebrated dance troupe, the Sun City POMS, for 14 years; she has done commercials for Budweiser and Fox Investments, among others; she was Ms. Senior Arizona 1991, she models women's clothing in local shops and if you've attended an estate liquidation conducted by T & M Estate Sales, you've seen her there. She's the T.

Then there are the hours she spends at a place no one knows about – the abused child center on the west side, a philanthropic project of her sorority, Beta Sigma Phi.

Of course, none of this was planned... she wasn't a professional dancer although she and her husband Charles did enjoy ballroom dancing; she wasn't even a working wife, yet the beginning of her late-in-life career started with a skill she picked up as an Air Force wife.

Charles was in the Air Force, and the Wards lived 30 years in various



Model, dancer, contestant and businesswoman Thelma Ward, the former Ms. Senior Arizona.

locations around the world – five and a half of those years at Luke Air Force Base.

“We decided we'd like to retire in Phoenix and in 1968 opened the first deli in Sun City in anticipation of Charles' retirement. I ran it for two years, but then Charles was sent to Iran so we sold the deli.”

Next came the stay in Iran, then England, before retirement – first in Myrtle Beach, S.C., then in Hawaii and Redwood, Calif. It wasn't until 1972 that the Wards returned to Sun City.

Charles then embarked on a different career – new home sales for Del Webb. That's why the Wards are in their ninth new home in Sun City.

But Thelma? She was soon to become a “career woman”!

“The Air Force Wives Clubs had

style shows and I was asked to be a model. I enjoyed it, so each time I moved to a new base I asked the local stores if they needed a model. I never did couture modeling, just local ramp modeling.

“England had good conservative fashions; Tehran had the latest fashions from Paris. The women would wear the shadors but when the wind blew you could see that the younger women had on miniskirts and boots.”

Thelma models at noon every Wednesday, September to May, at Westbrook Village and once a month at Kaptive Komers.

She has a good figure so trying out for the 14-year-old Sun City POMS was a natural. She's been with them for 10 years. The Poms have outgrown their origins as cheerleaders for the first Sun City

ladies fast pitch softball team.

Today, they appear in 50 to 60 shows a year and are known worldwide. Their repertoire includes tap, soft shoe and clogging.

"We recently made our second appearance at the Houston Thanksgiving Day Parade. We didn't know in advance about the interview on 'Good Morning America' until the morning of the parade."

The POMS have become accustomed to hosting news media from Germany and Japan. The sight of women past retirement age dancing on stage in tights is always of interest to their readers.

"You don't see women our age performing in dance groups in other countries. It blows their minds when they see us on television or read about what we are

doing."

While active in the POMS, another career avenue opened for Thelma. A friend who models suggested Thelma be represented by an agent. She followed through, and, as an "active senior citizen type," and has been in demand ever since working with United States and Canadian advertisers.

You might see Thelma in a show about the POMS or on a billboard, in a television ad or magazine layout.

"Charles and I were on vacation in Costa Rica and our tour guide was from Yugoslavia. When she found out who I was, she said 'I've seen you on TV and in magazines.'

"I audition several times a month. I don't get every job but I do get my share."

Pageant Contestant

Her skills in appearing in public led to her entry in the Ms. Senior Arizona contest.

She entered first in 1990 and was third place runner-up. She was the winner the next year.

"I'm just an amateur; (in the national contest) I was competing against professional performers."

She had a busy year as Ms. Senior Arizona, approximately 170 appearances to squeeze in between her other activities. Even today she is busy as a speaker and advisor for the organization.

That's why the estate sale business came as a surprise, even to Thelma. It was just not something she had envisioned herself doing.

She enjoyed going to estate sales but had never considered conducting them herself. Then the Ward's family lawyer asked her to liquidate an estate for him.

"The house was full of antiques, a golf cart... the couple had to move to a nursing home and there were no relatives in the area." That sale led to another and another.

"My partner and I don't advertise; our business is all from referrals. We never get what an item is worth but we do the best we can.

"It takes at least a week to set up each sale. The merchandise is displayed by categories, on tables covered with sheets."

Name to Know

Anne Watkins, a seven-year volunteer at the Interfaith Services Sun City Adult Day Health Center located in the St. Clement of Rome Catholic Church, was recently presented the "Award of Excel-



lence" by the Arizona Association of Adult Day for her contribution to the community.

Mrs. Watkins used to bring her husband to the center for the much-needed respite that all caregivers deserve. She would also spend some of her respite time volunteering for the center, answering phones and greeting people with her friendly smile.

Four years ago, Mrs. Watkins lost her husband to Alzheimer's disease and through her tragic experience she has been an example to other caregivers and gives hope that it is possible to get through such a difficult time and be able to persevere.

There have been months where she has donated over 100 hours of her time and caring nature to the center.

For more information about programs and services please call 623-584-4999.

— SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT — MAY 19-25, 1999

PEDAL POWER PREVAILS

Sun Citian completes 2,800-mile bike journey

By MARK CASSIO
Independent Newspapers

Education — and power bars — helped fuel Keith Watkins' coast-to-coast adventure.

Mr. Watkins, 67, a Sun City West resident, recently completed a 2,800-mile solo journey from San Diego to St. Augustine, Fla., aboard a Mercian 24-speed bicycle. He left the San Diego March 18 and arrived in the Sunshine State May 2.

Visits to historic Spanish missions in Texas and other locations gave Mr. Watkins — a retired seminary professor and history buff — more insight into Spanish

settlers' influence on culture in the southern United States. Throughout the trek, he also talked with local residents for their perspectives on such issues as water conservation.

Desire to obtain this valuable knowledge stood as a key factor in his decision to undertake the monumental adventure.

"It was just a fine trip," Mr. Watkins said.

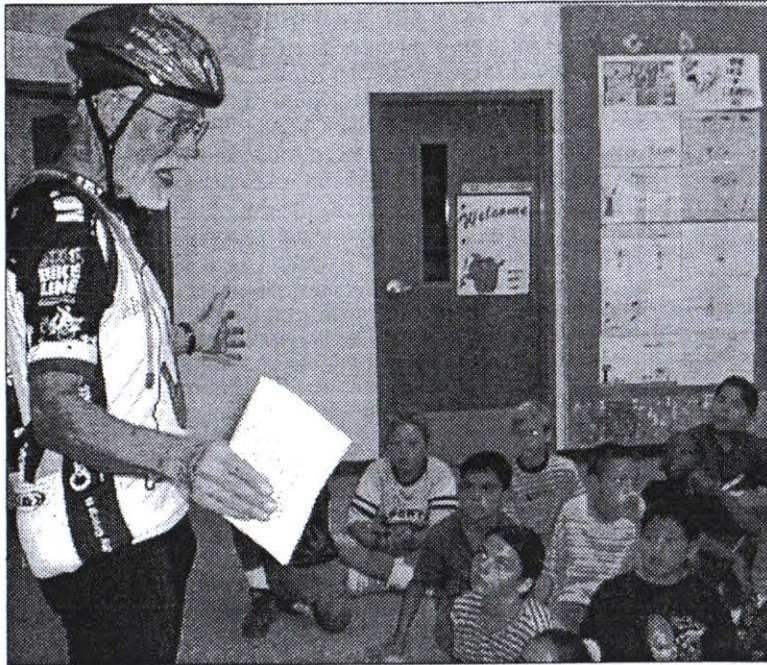
And, as the ride unfolded, 50 Kingswood Elementary School fifth-graders also learned.

Teachers Fran Sperling and Rosie Garcia and their students, who met Mr. Watkins before the ride started, charted his progress on a wall map. The students wrote

letters to the rider and received postcards from key landmarks along the way. The man and his journey generated student interest and taught geography and language arts lessons.

"It was nice, it really was," Ms. Sperling said.

On May 13, Mr. Watkins returned to Kingswood to recount his journey for the students and answered all questions. Equipped in identical fashion to the cross country trek, he rode to the school to display and describe his cycling clothes and each component on the bicycle — pack bags, water transport backpack, clipless pedals,



Sun City West's Keith Watkins tells Kingswood Elementary School fifth-graders about his cross-country bicycle trip from San Diego to St. Augustine, Fla. He and the students communicated by mail during the 2,800-mile journey.

quick-release tires and air pump, among others.

"I want to tell you how much fun it was for me to have you following along on this trip with me and writing to me," he told the students.

Mr. Watkins spent 33 days on his bike, averaging 85 miles per day. His least productive day spanned 39 miles while his best reached 122 miles. He took a 10-day recess in San Antonio and Ft. Worth to deliver religious seminars.

For maximum pedaling efficiency, Mr. Watkins' 20-pound bike and all essential supplies weighed just

44 pounds combined. His wardrobe consisted of little more than a cycling shirt and shorts. Since sunshine largely prevailed, he wore rain jacket and pants just once to battle showery conditions.

He unpacked spare tire tubes, repair kit and tools to fix five flats in a two-day period near El Paso, Texas, but had only two more tire punctures and a failed valve over the rest of the journey.

Mr. Watkins overnighted exclusively at hotels, eliminating the need to carry a tent and other camping equipment for stays outdoors.

To maintain energy, strength and good health, his food intake about doubled from his normal diet.

He ate at fast-food and traditional restaurants and bought bagels and bananas at grocery stores. He always carried power bars, sandwiches and other food items for consumption on long stretches of undeveloped roads — with no stores in sight for as many as 50 miles.

When asked by a student if he ever thought about the mileage left to complete the whole journey, he replied, "Nearly every day. It was a

long trip and I looked forward to finishing."

Meeting and talking with residents along the route marked a key highlight for Mr. Watkins.

"I found the people, everywhere I went, wonderfully approachable, friendly, ready to talk and interested in what I was doing," he said. "That was a very reassuring part of the trip."

Though Mr. Watkins has no plans to attempt a future trip of similar distance, he said a ride from the Canadian border to Mexico "would be fun."

Library aids education

Magazine sharing program has roots in volunteer idea

By TINA SCHADE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When Sun City resident Bob Watral found out that the Sun City Library was turning away extra copies of literary gems like National Geographic and Smithsonian magazine, a light went off.

Watral, a substitute teacher in the Peoria Unified School District, thought the materials could be put to better use nurturing the young minds of schoolchildren than moldering in an area landfill.

So in 1995, Watral started an ambitious magazine distribution system, with the Sun City Library serving as the pick-up point and the Peoria school district headquarters serving as the drop-off location.

From district headquarters, the magazines are divvied up among Peoria's 25 elementary and five high schools.

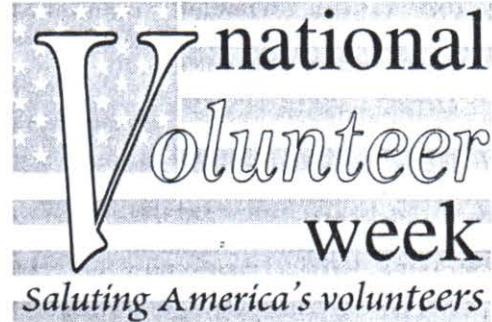
During the project's first year, more than 20 years of National Geographics were meted out to every seventh- and eighth-grade science class in the district, Watral said.

"We just thought we'd try it for a year, and that year has become four. It's a popular program, especially for the elementary classes," Watral said.

The program is effective, he said, because instead of 20 or 30 students sharing the same few magazines, nearly every child in the classroom uses his or her own for research.

Watral's brainchild spurred other efforts. Soon after, the Sun City West library began supplying materials to the Dysart School District.

The Deer Valley School District may see the start-up of a similar program in their classrooms this fall, Watral said.



In addition to coordinating this time-consuming project, Watral, a business school graduate, substitute teacher, navigating students through topics like English, history, science and math.

He said his daughter, a former elementary school teacher and assistant vice principal for Sun Valley and Peoria elementaries, suggested he delve into the world of education.

But the experience wasn't entirely new to the 67-year-old Watral, who served on the PTA in New York, where he owned a wire business.

Watral said at-risk high schoolers worked in his office a few hours a week.

Watral, who spends as many as five days a week in the classroom, said he enjoys watching his students progress.

"Besides, it keeps me young," he said.

Watral is also an active member of St. Elizabeth Seton church, where he is past president of the men's club and helps out with bingo.

"My wife would wring my neck if I got involved with anything else," he said.

Watral and his wife, Peg, recently celebrated their 45th anniversary. The couple has three children.

Watral was honored Wednesday for his contributions to education at a Volunteer Recognition Celebration at Centennial High School.

To learn about opportunities for volunteering, contact the Sun Cities Volunteer Placement Services, 546-1774.

BOB WATRAL

OVER

Loving thy neighbor and community spurs the volunteer spirit in the Sun Cities. Thousands of residents give thousands of hours each year to making life better for their neighbors. While the Daily News-Sun recognizes these people every day, we will be focusing on several volunteers and organizations during this National Volunteer Week.



Lisa Goettsche/Daily News-Sun

Bob Wátral acknowledges his award as Peoria Unified School District's Volunteer of the Year during the Volunteer Recognition Celebration at Centennial High School Wednesday evening.

1965



Frank Gianelli

Del Webb Should Remain in Baseball

DEL WEBB WITHOUT BASEBALL is like peanut butter without jelly, Mutt without Jeff, Girl Scouts without those cookie sacks.

All are compatible—and should stay that way.

And in the case of the aging, introverted (how can you be introverted with all that cash...?) Phoenix contractor, the decision to sell his remaining 10 per cent interest in the New York Yankees and retire from baseball inevitably must be short-lived.

Webb's life has been too much tied to baseball, from the days when dreams of personal stardom were shattered by a fizzled pitching arm, through 20 year's progress with the Yankees and dominating influence on American League baseball.

That he would withdraw completely is debatable.

Association With Yanks Great Help

Baseball has meant too much to Webb.

His association with the Yankees has been passkey to social and business gains. True, Webb was a wealthy man when he bought the Yankees in partnership with Dan Topping.

But as a wealthy contractor he was just another rich man in a big industry. While as figurehead of the Yankees, Webb was part of an elite club and lionized beyond scope enjoyed by other tycoons.

The speculation now is "whereaway, Bro. Del...?"

At 66, the man's too young to go idle. His life has been action and when Webb stops, it'll be in the middle of a sprint.

His nationwide business developments are percolating harder than ever before—but Webb has stepped aside from much of the construction and realty pressures and yielded worries to L. C. Jacobson.

Webb may not have time on his hands—but he has time, and a lifetime of interest to still devote to baseball.

And if the man comes up as a new partner in the Los Angeles Angels, or has his name interjected among those considered as replacement for retiring Commissioner Ford Frick, baseball won't be surprised.

Tieup With Club in West Possibility

Webb keeps denying any intent to shift his baseball finances to Los Angeles. But he was instrumental in creating a league enclave in California, long has been buddy-buddy with the Angel owners and his firm presently is building the Anaheim stadium which will be the Angels' new home.

In the wonders of construction financing, it's not improbable that Webb could take part of his stadium fee in baseball shares and thus become an Angels partner—or could make an out-and-out stock purchase.

Most of his realty holdings are concentrated in the West.

A baseball bauble would not be out of place.

As for a commissionership—the chances seemingly are remote. There has been indication baseball seeks a man with some legal training, this being an era when ability to combat lawsuits and congressional investigations is more sought than the firm handshake and a cheekful of plug tobacco.

Webb may not qualify as a barrister.

But he knows what every rich man has found basic:

You can hire brains.

But savvy is hard to come by.

In baseball—Webb has savvy.

ARIZONA REPUBLIC
March 3, 1965

VF PERSONALITIES
DEL WEBB

DAILY NEWS-SUN • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2003

Sun City to honor Welch, 15 others

RICH BOLAS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Betty Welch got kicked out of golf class and then became a golf champion.

Welch had never played the game before setting foot on the campus at the University of Kansas. So the college junior decided she'd better hit some balls before her first lesson more than 50 years ago.

That's when the trouble started.

Welch's college golf instructor took one look at her hitting practice shots and chased her off the range.

"He started yelling at me and told me I shouldn't be there," said the 74-year-old Welch. "He said I was too good and couldn't fool him into thinking I'd never played before."

Welch didn't give up on the game even though her instructor gave up on her.

Instead, the Sun City woman began playing a sport which will give back to her this Thursday during a board meeting of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc.

Welch and 15 other volunteers will be honored for their contributions as golf volunteers during the meeting, which begins at 9 a.m. in Sundial Auditorium, 14801 N. 103rd Ave.

"I didn't really begin playing a lot of golf until I moved here 18 years ago," said Welch, a Missouri native. "I walked over to South Golf Course on one of my first days here and it just happened to be a Tuesday — ladies day."

Welch has dedicated much of her life to sports.

She taught and coached sports for 26 years at Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa.

"I wore a lot of hats during my time there," Welch said. "I coached four women's sports and was head of the physical education department before finishing as the college chair in health, physical education

and psychology."

Despite no previous coaching experience, Welch began Graceland's fledgling programs in women's field hockey, basketball, tennis and track.

"I attended a lot of clinics back then and relied on a lot of the coaches in the men's programs," Welch recalled. "My days would start around 7 in the morning and wouldn't end until 9 at night."

Welch also learned to operate on a shoestring budget and improvise to make ends meet.

"A lot of the girls would buy college sweatshirts at the bookstore and we would use those as uniforms," Welch said. "Sometimes we'd have to get to meets in a pickup truck, with the players sitting in the back of the cab."

Welch's teams thrived despite the hardships and fared well in all sports. Graceland even competed in track against big-time schools such as Iowa and Iowa State.

"I still keep in touch with a lot of the players," Welch said. "I had three of them come out to visit just this year."

Welch brought that same can-do attitude to Sun City, said Marj Mikkelsen, who plays at Welch's home course, South.

"Over the years, Betty has been an important factor in keeping our South women's golf group on track and remarkably free of controversy," said Mikkelsen, the 2001 Sun Cities Ladies Octogenarian golf champion. "When she's in charge, she delegates and then steps back and lets you do your job."

Welch has twice served as president of the South women's golf groups — 1988 and 2002. In 1990, she also served as president of the Sun City Women's Golf Association, which represents all

See Recreation, B3

WELCH,
BETTY

OVER

From B1

the recreation centers courses in Sun City.

Welch also has had her share of success on the golf course.

Those same talents which helped get her kicked off the golf course at Kansas helped her win the Sun City

Champion of Champions Tournament in 1991. She captured the South club title three times and won eight medals at the Arizona Senior Olympics.

"I can't compete with those young girls anymore, but my Arizona Senior Olympic experience shows me I can still compete with my age group," Welch said of the senior

games which are divided into separate age divisions.

Welch also teamed with Sandy Ehrlich to win the Arizona state scotch championship in 1998.

"The strength of my game has always been my drives and my distance," Welch said. "It's been when I get around the greens that I get in trouble.

"My friends have always teased me that if I spent more time practicing I would be a better player. I just don't have the time to practice."

Much of that time has been spent making golf a better game in Sun City, time that will be recognized by the recreation centers on Thursday.

GOLF VOLUNTEERS TO BE HONORED

Patricia Doran
Gene Fulks
Bill Gill
Bette Golden
Fran Michael
Dave Miller
Rush Morgan
Ben Roloff

North
North
Riverview
Willowbrook
Quail Run
Lakes West
Quail Run
Willowbrook

Janice Rush
Bill Shipley
Marieda Shipley
Mary Stuckenschneider
Herb Swanson
Mary Walker
Betty Welch
Paul Yopps

Lakes East
Willowcreek
Willowcreek
Riverview
South
Lakes West
South
Lakes East

LOVE OF THE GAME



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Betty Welch has spent a lot of time at South Golf Course over the past 18 years.

Welcome's back on stage

By J.J. McCORMACK
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — After a two-year hiatus, Ruth Welcome and her zither have quietly returned to the Northwest Valley entertainment circuit.

The "first lady of the zither" modestly shared her achievements, but downplayed her return to the spotlight. The 74-year-old Sun City resident is retired, after all, and wants to stay that way.

"I want to relax. It's hard to make up a program," said Welcome, who is performing at 3 p.m. Sunday in the Freedom Plaza auditorium with Scottsdale zitherist Mike Maringer.

Before arthritis prevented her from playing her tabletop, harp-like instrument, Welcome performed solo across the Sun Cities. Churches, auditoriums, retirement communities and anniversary parties were frequent venues.

Before moving to Sun City in 1975, Welcome was a featured entertainer at clubs and theaters from New York to Texas. The only female professional zitherist in the United States, she recorded 18 albums for Capitol Records.

The German-born talent hobnobbed with the rich and famous and appeared with top American bands and orchestras while cultivating fans

of the soft, melodic strumming on the 36-string zither.

In an entertainment world crawling with and controlled by men, a female musician and zither player to boot was an anomaly and Welcome didn't mind the attention or the praise.

Being billed as the first lady of the zither was no compliment, Welcome said, "because there weren't any others."

Not that Welcome minded the moniker. She was earning a good living — her reward for years of practice and study.

Welcome began learning the zither at age 6 in Germany. She continued playing with the help of her teacher-father after moving to the United States in 1929. She studied piano and violin at The Julliard School of Music in New York, but resumed playing the zither after proving she could to fellow American Red Cross volunteer musicians at a New York military hospital.

"They just couldn't believe that a girl could play the zither. It's played by men mostly, because it's very hard on the fingers," she said.

Mastering the zither means starting young and daily practice, Welcome said.

Zither music became somewhat vogue when the motion picture "The Third Man" hit the big screen in the early 1950s. The movie's theme song was performed on the zither. Welcome learned to play it and her personal favorite "Somewhere My Love" to lift the spirits of paraplegics at the hospital.

"From that day on I didn't play the piano anymore," she said. Content to arrange and perform the popular pop tunes of the day on the zither, she also later gave up the violin.

The zither concert Sunday at Freedom Plaza in Peoria will feature a variety of crowd-pleasers, from polka and country-western favorites to such holiday classics as "White Christmas" and "Winter Wonderland."

Among Welcome's recordings for Capitol was a holiday music compilation titled "Christmas in Zitherland." The retiree counts as one of life's thrills the time years ago when she was shopping at Macy's in New York and heard the album track "Silver Bells" over the store's sound system.

"Nothing will ever top that," she said.



J.J. McCormack/Daily News-Sun

Ruth Welcome rehearses on her zither for a forthcoming performance. Arthritis temporarily sidelined the retired musician who, in her show business heyday, was known as the "First Lady of the Zither."

Volunteer Spotlight

Ruby Shares Sun City's History



Ruby Wells, volunteer for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, is an avid history buff with plenty of incoming information to keep her

busy. A Sun City resident for nearly 15 years, Ruby knows a thing or two about the town's history and enjoys sharing it with visitors to the Society. She also enjoys hearing stories from residents who witnessed the historical events first-hand and who provide input to further her knowledge of the history of the Sun Cities.

She says her favorite part of the job is "When older residents come in and tell stories and verify what you've read and inform you of things you don't know and you can then check it out and relay it on to newcomers."

Ruby moved to Sun City with her husband, Albert, after he got transferred to the area through his job as a manager for an aircraft repair company. The couple has two daughters in Denver, Colorado, where they spent many years. Ruby, however, grew up in St. Joseph, Missouri and still has family in the area.

Ruby has been volunteering at the Historical Society for 1 1/2 years on Wednesday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 p.m. She organizes the

information given to the Society and gives tours of the facility. The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is located in the oldest house in Sun City where it has been for 15 years. There's the original four rooms, a living room the Society uses as a lobby area, a kitchen kept in the style of the 1960's, a master bedroom, and a bathroom complete with original tile work. There was an addition to the house built by previous owners the Historical Society uses to showcase several items collected through the years.

There's a section for each of the decades of Sun City's existence; 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, and present day. It shows everything from Del Webb's first housing development to the construction of the Centers' to the Sun City Saints baseball team. The Society even has a room, called the Marinette Room, which showcases the area as it was prior to the 1960s. In addition to the information the Society offers on site, there are books available for purchase including *Jubilee*, a book published in 1985 celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Sun City. The Historical Society also has a collection of the history of Sun City West.

Ruby also volunteers for Meals on Wheels and as a monitor for the Sun City Computer Club. The Historical Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive and is open Tuesday through Friday, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Take a few minutes to look around and discover what made Sun City what it is today.



So Long, Sun City ... It's been a great 40 years!

Max Welter was the youngest resident when he arrived in 1964. At age 49, he moved into Sun City's first phase. "I was the kid on the block, so to speak," he said. "I'm here 40 years now."

He recently celebrated his 90th birthday and sadly, Max and his wife, Bea, are moving across the Valley to Chandler.

He reminisces about how much has changed since his arrival so long ago and tells

how the approximately 4,200 people in Sun City at that time all worked together to share Sun City's many amenities.

"The residents that lived from Grand Avenue to Alabama had to go to the Oakmont Center. That was their center. Then, in Phase II, those from Alabama to Audrey Drive had to go to Town Hall Center (today's Fairway Center). When Mountain View was built, it had a larger pool and a larger dance hall. We bargained to share the arts and crafts rooms to have more room for the other amenities, and that was how we all got together."

He said that much like today, "everybody was a volunteer." The residents served as monitors at the centers and were very active. "Everybody did something," he said. "I could never take credit for anything, it was all of us."

Max deserves credit for many things. He has done much in Sun City through his 40 years. Welter organized the first Jewish Sadre in Sun City. Upwards of 89 people attended and a Sadre has been held in Sun City every year since.

"That was an accomplishment," Welter said excitedly. He had become president of the Sun City Jewish Congregation, over three decades ago, and was one of the founders of the Temple Beth Shalom and Jewish Community Center which is now located in Sun City West.

Many know Welter through his extensive involvement with the Sun City Swim Club. He was president of the club for years, had over 500 members and began several Red Cross programs for club members.

When the Sundial Recreation Center first opened, Welter was asked to be the first to jump in the pool on opening day. He swam 109 laps, then performed a water ballet with other members of his club. When Sundial reopened from renovations in January 2003, he was again the first to jump into the pool.

"One of the directors called me that morning and asked if I'd do it again. I told the rec director 'If you think I'm going to swim 109 laps today, you're crazy!'" He did swim a few laps that day, but kept it closer to his regular 60 laps, "which is over a half-mile," he adds.

Welter also sang with the Sun City Men's Choir and was a soloist for the group. He kept busy through the years with lapidary and woodworking, is an avid painter, and also plays the organ.

"It really amazes me how the time just flew away on me. We've had some beautiful times here. It was yesterday, but it's such a long time ago. I leave it reluctantly."

WELTER, MAX

Love in action

Sun Citian spends retirement years helping destitute

By PEG KEITH
Sun Cities Independent

People feel the need to help their fellow man for a variety of reasons.

For one Sun Citian, helping those less fortunate is a way of not only serving one's fellow man, but serving the Lord, as well.

A volunteer with a group calling themselves "Love In Action," Sun City resident Wayne Wentzel says he is finding more and more people who need help.

"Love in Action" is an outgrowth of the 700 Club, with a nucleus of volunteers who serve the Lord by feeding the hungry and clothing the poor.

"We're doing this for the least of these -- our brothers," says Mr. Wentzel.

He points to young parents, down on their luck. Homeless families. Pregnant, unmarried teen-agers.

Folks who lost their jobs, or lost their cars, or don't have money for gasoline or bus fares.

Children who need clothing and shoes and shoes for school.

Mr. Wentzel is retired, but finds himself with an obligation. He was confined to a wheelchair for a period of time, and experienced a religious healing.

"I promised the Lord that I would serve him," he says.

Service can take many forms. Mr. Wentzel spends one day a week as an interviewer for Love in Action, getting background information, history and Social Security numbers and coordinating lines of communication.

"And no one goes out without being prayed for," he adds.

Because of their strong religious ties, Love in Action volunteers encourage the needy to get in touch with a church, as many religious organizations have programs to help the poor find jobs, or have contacts with other agencies that can help.

Now with a staff of about 46, Love in Action came into existence in 1984. The groups headquarters is in an office building at 51st Avenue and Orangewood, Glendale.

"Everything we have is given to us," says Mr. Wentzel.

Holsum Bakery has contributed thousands of loaves of bread for distribution through the agency. Food is regularly provided from Westside Food Bank, as well. Pounds and pounds of citrus have been donated.

Of the people who cross the

Love in Action's motto seems to be, "what we have, we share."

Love in Action doorway, an estimated 25 percent are living in shelters for the homeless, or have sleeping arrangements with some one else.

Often, two families get together.

"An awful lot of them sleep and live in their cars," says Mr. Wentzel. "Many of them have part-time or seasonal work in the fields.

They're coming in from Nevada, Utah, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico ... just about everywhere. Pretty soon, they'll start showing up from the Northeast, because it's going to be cold up there.

"We pray they will prosper."

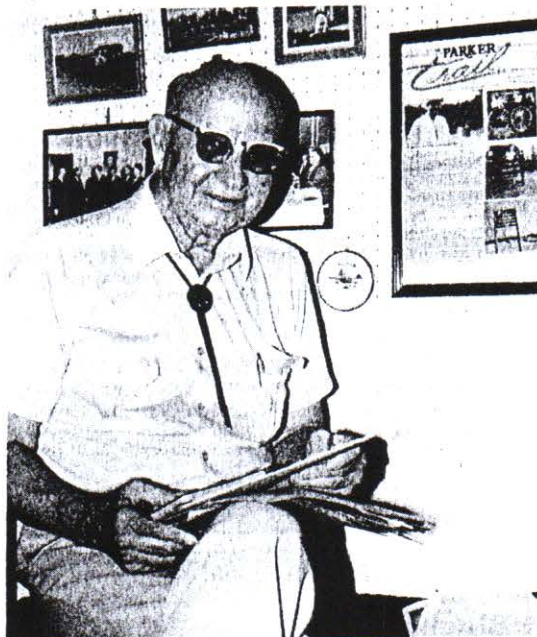
He estimates that 90 percent of the needy, with assistance, eventually will find jobs.

Love in Action's motto seems to be, "What we have, we share."

"Especially food," says Mr. Wentzel explaining that cash donations usually are used to buy grocery staples.

"Once in a while we even have some hamburger patties we can parcel out, one per family member. Whatever — they appreciate something they can take home with them. Bread. Peanut butter."

Some of the young people he meets are going to trade schools, through a federal program. On the way to class, they may stop



SERVING HIS FELLOW MAN. Sun Citian Wayne Wentzel says he has lived a rich and full life and now spends his retirement years "giving some of that back." A volunteer with "Love in Action," Mr. Wentzel finds time to help the poor and destitute find jobs, food and shelter.

by for a pair of shoes.

"One young man was taking a shower at the downtown shelter, and someone stole all his clothes."

Love in Action can always sort volunteers who will help sort clothing. "It takes a crew for this," says the Sun Citian.

The organization has a truck, and drivers also are needed.

Among the Sun Citians who assist in the program with Mr. Wentzel are Jim Michael and Ed Gardner, and the local Full Gospel Businessmen's Club gives aid and support.

Love in Action's Glendale office is open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Call 934-2668.

WENTZEL, WAYNE

Call him 'the rapper'

Royal White keeping beat of the street

By BRITT KENNERLY
Daily News-Sun staff

“His name is Royal, he comes out clappin’ Dancers start swaying and feet get tappin’

The guy’s geriatric,
But smooth and dapper
Ain’t no big deal:

He’s the Senior Rapper.”

Off-stage, he’s 70-year-old Royal White. A retired retailer who moved to Sun City 14 years ago from Chicago, White has taken up the rhythmic, poetic music form as a means of expressing the positive side of senior citizens’ lifestyles.

White, who played trumpet in high school, got the urge last year to take up music again, writing and recording love song ‘You Say You Love Me’ for Irene, his wife of 47 years.

“I had thought about writing a song, but was never serious about how to approach it,” he said. “It was her Valentine’s Day gift — she really seemed to like it.”

That success under his belt, White decided to branch out and try rap, which he found intriguing but confusing.

“Rap has been around for years, and some of it’s pretty good,” he said. “But we seniors can’t understand the lyrics of what’s out there, and some of us can’t identify with them.”

That’s where White can help, with humorous, sometimes touching lyrics that poke gentle fun at a variety of topics.

“Many of my raps are about senior life, with lyrics people my age can relate to,” White said. “It’s hopefully something they enjoy.”

Decked out in a T-shirt and casual slacks, backed up by dancers, he waxes syncopatic about everything from Social Security to the FBI. White has a Jesus Rap, a Devil Rap and a Jungle

Rap, in which he sends Phoenix Suns forward Charles Barkley to tangle with Godzilla in his place.

The laid-back White was a little leery of mentioning sex in his “Senior Rap,” but opted to rap about it anyway.

“It’s a part of senior life, too,” he said. “I try to put a little humor into all of my raps.”

Crowds appear to be getting into the rap mode. White first tested his art in November in Senior Star Search, hosted by The . . . He took first place in the theatre arts competition in a

preliminary and the contest final.

Since then, he’s performed around the Sun Cities for a variety of club functions, with established names such as the Christopher Girls, the Sun City Steppers and the Sun City Poms. He was especially happy to work in “Twin Cities Encore,” a Sun City West-based variety show which “helped me meet so many wonderful people,” he said.

On St. Patrick’s Day, he’ll perform for members of his church, Sun City Christian Church.

White hosts no illusions of dethroning popular young rappers such as Ice-T, Ice Cube or Marky Mark.

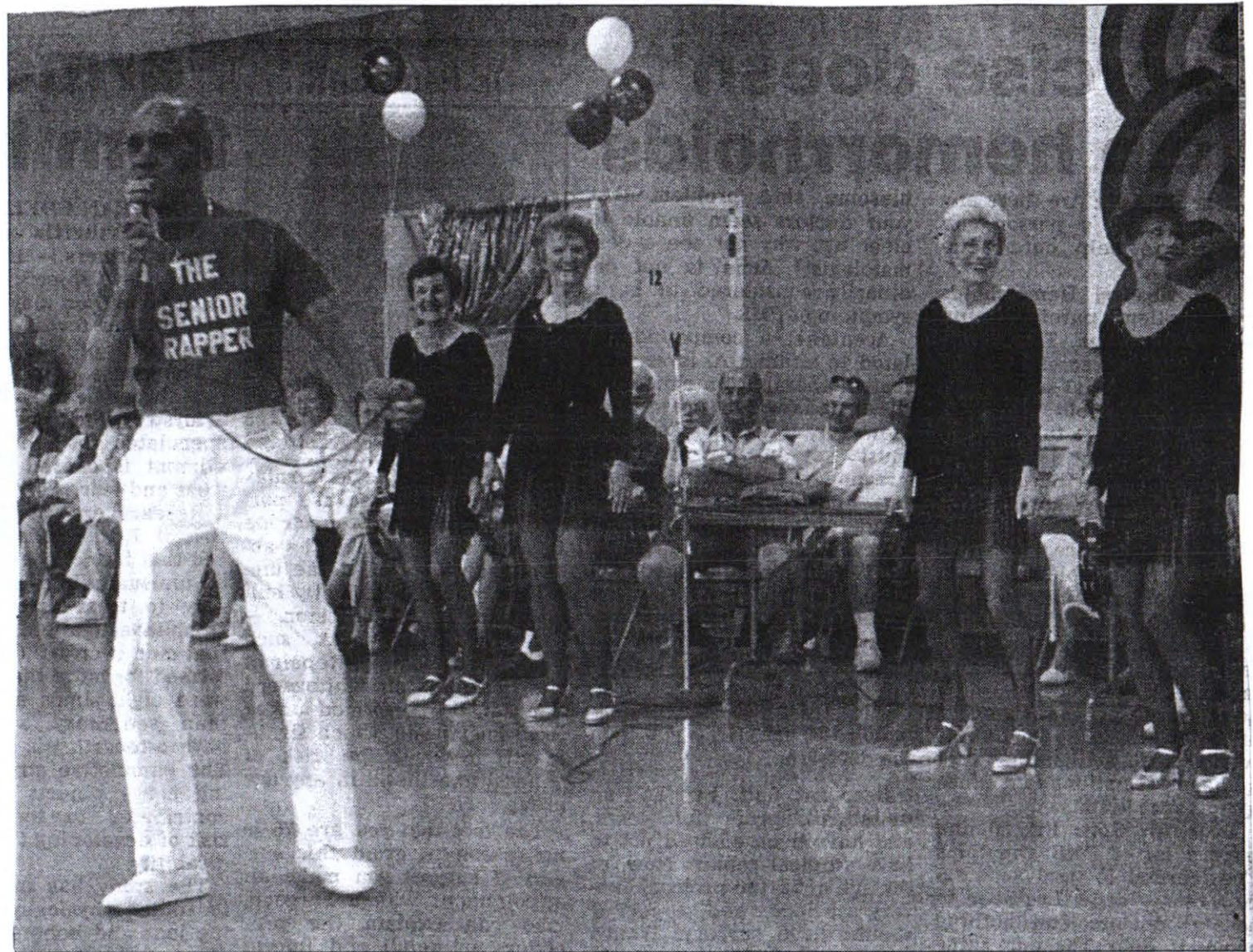
“My rap’s by no means an alternative to that music,” he said. “But I would tell young kids who want to get into rap to try to use it as a vehicle to send positive messages. Choose interesting subjects, and do your rap in good taste. You don’t have to use profanity to make it interesting.”

White’s own grandchildren — he’s also a great-grandfather — are big fans of Grandpa’s brand of rap, he said.

“They think it’s terrific that at 70, I have so much energy, and that I’m having all this fun,” he said.

OVER

WHITE, ROYAL



Stephen Chemek/Daily News-Sun

Royal White, Sun City's "Senior Rapper," entertains at the Marinette Recreation Center Fun Fair. White's rhythm section for the performance was members of the Sun City Steppers.

DOERS PROFILE

Monday, June 15, 1998 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.



Bea Whitney

Family: Husband, Floyd; two children; one grandchild.

Hometown: Silvertown, Texas

Philosophy: "I like to be with people and help people and try to be available."

Key to longevity: "Good genes."

Volunteer to keep center well-funded

By TINA SCHADE
Staff writer

Bea Whitney of Sun City has a penchant for adventure.

"I have always been willing to take chances, whether it was riding a horse or getting mauled by my brother playing football or whatever else was a challenge," Whitney said.

So when members of the Northwest Valley Regional Community Council approached Whitney nearly eight years ago, asking her to manage Almost Antique thrift store, it was an offer Whitney couldn't refuse.

"The challenge was really something since I had never even walked in the store," she said.

But the Texas-native ended up spending plenty of time in the store after taking on the responsibility of manager. Some weeks, Whitney logged in nearly 60 hours and even helped with the move to a larger store.

After about four years, Whitney called it quitting time and applied her sales knowledge to working in estate sales. Two years later, however, Whitney turned to the activity she considered most rewarding, volunteering.

In November 1997, the 72-year-old opened a small boutique next to Olive Branch Senior Center. The store, Holiday Boutique, sold hand-crafted items which were donated or put on consignment. Money made by the store benefits the center.

Whitney is so passionate about painting that while living in Washington state several years ago, she started a painting club in her garage.

She puts her skills to work for Olive Branch in other ways. A talented painter, Whitney displays some of her oil and acrylic works in the hallways of the center and sells them with part of the profits benefiting the center.

Volunteering at the center was actually a return to Whitney's past. She had worked in the Olive Branch's kitchen nearly 10 years earlier. Today, Whitney tries to do those little things for people that make them comfortable.

"I have one little lady who comes to me so I can change the batteries on her hearing aids," Whitney said.

She is almost like a volunteer recruiter for the center and roped her husband of 53 years, Floyd, into volunteering at Olive Branch.

This past spring, he received recognition from the Area Agency on Aging for 7,000 volunteer hours.

"We sincerely hope that we have brought some help and joy to others. We have received so much ourselves," she said.

When there's time left over, the Whitneys attend St. Anne and Joachim church.

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

WHITNEY, BEA

DOERS PROFILE



Floyd Whitney

- Hometown:** Houma, Louisiana
- Family:** Wife, Bea of 53 years; two children, one grandchild
- Inspiration:** "I'm just grateful when I get up in the morning that I can walk around."
- Key to Longevity:** "Working and keeping busy."
- Philosophy:** "Be an honest person."

He's a man you can count on

By TINA SCHADE
Staff writer

Whether it is replacing a dimming bulb, lending a hand in the kitchen or caulking a few time-worn squares of tile, Floyd Whitney can be counted on to get the job done.

For nearly nine years, the 72-year-old Peoria resident has worked part time in maintenance at the Olive Branch Senior Center at 10765 W. Peoria Ave., in Sun City, earning him a reputation among center employees and visitors as a reliable and caring person who is always willing to go that extra mile to keep the center stay in tip-top shape.

But Whitney's commitment to the center doesn't end when he puts in his four hours and punches a time card. Long after his regular shift has ended, Whitney can still be found at the center, fulfilling his job duties like he's still on the clock. Whitney prefers to think of the extra time he puts in as a donation.

"Volunteering helps everything and compensates for the lack of funds that the senior center can't afford to pay everyone," Whitney said.

It's this commitment to the center that earned him his good standing among the people who visit the center and it's this kind of commitment that earned Whitney the Alice Drought Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Area Agency on Aging last year.

After putting in nearly 8,000 hours of volunteer service, Whitney was nominated for the award by the Olive Branch Senior Center's executive director. He is one of only about two dozen winners of the award since 1982.

And Whitney plans to log in as many more hours as he can. When he retired from a furniture manufacturing company after 40 years of work, Whitney decided that in retirement he wanted to have just as big an impact and wanted to spend his time wisely.

Whitney's wife, Bea, actually led the volunteer crusade and began working at the center soon after the couple retired to the area from California and Washington.

"My wife was one of the first volunteers at the center, so it was kind of natural for me to volunteer where she was. In any case, I just wanted to give back to the community," he said.

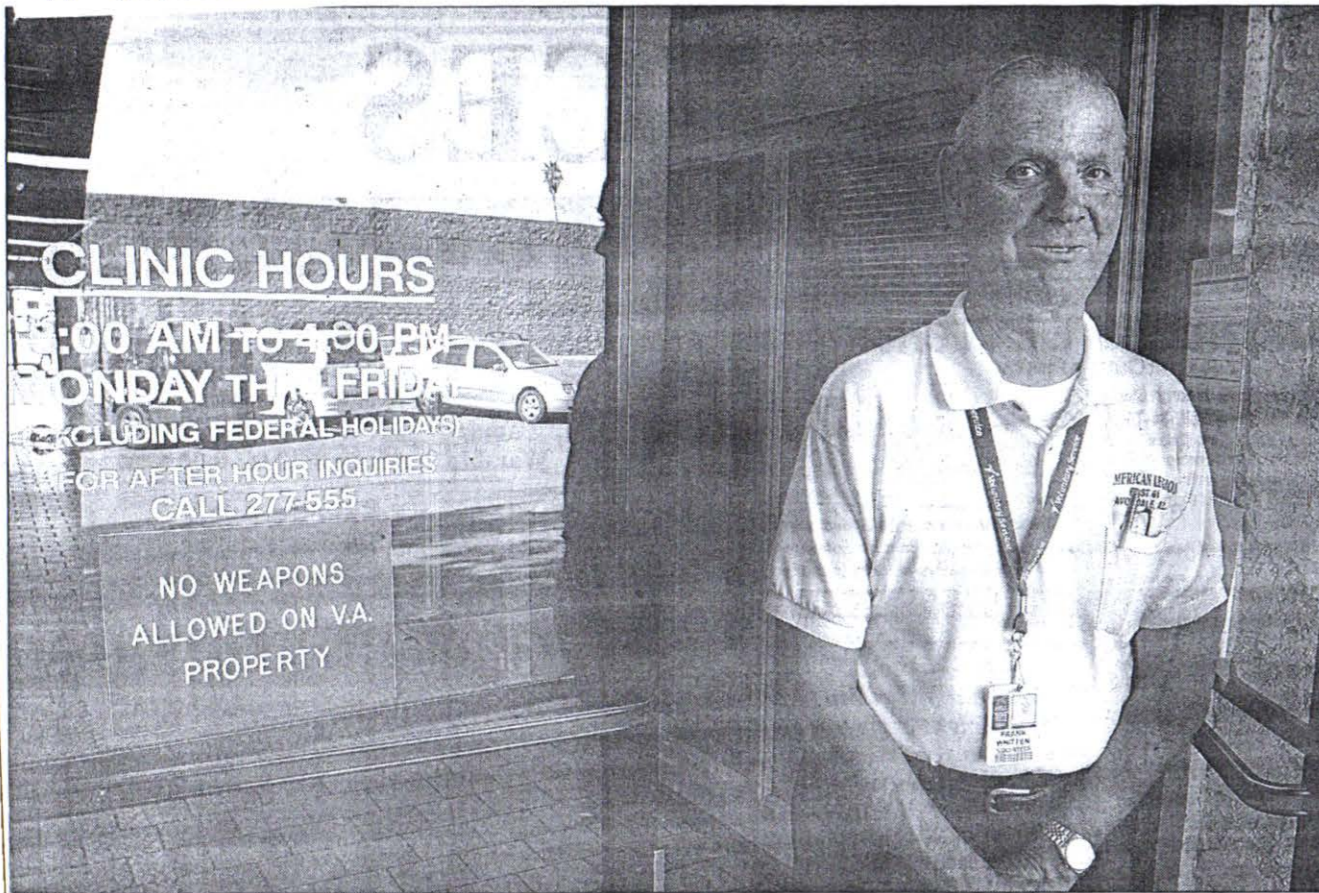
But when he's not perfecting every corner or sealing even the slightest crack in the senior center's interior, Whitney gives of himself in other ways and attends St. Joachim and St. Anne's Catholic Church in Sun City.

Also mindful of the importance of exercise, the former Navy man is an avid walker.

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

Whitney, Floyd

OVER



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Frank Whitten of Sun City volunteers at the VA Clinic as a courier. He drives between the Sun City Clinic and the downtown clinic.

A MAN OF PASSION

Volunteer takes pride in service at VA clinic

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Frank Whitten doesn't mind all of his responsibilities as a volunteer at the Veteran Affairs Northwest Extension Clinic.

"It's my biggest volunteer occupation right now to really serve other veterans," he said. "I have a great feeling each and every time I go home."

Whitten, a U.S. Army veteran and Sun Citian, has been a volunteer courier for several years at the clinic, 103rd and Grand avenues. He's transported a number of medical records and blood to the main veteran's hospital in Phoenix.

"I just want to do my part to help out in anyway possible that I can," he said.

Paula Pedene, a spokeswoman for the Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center and Clinics, said there are always plenty of volunteer opportunities, especially at the downtown Phoenix hospital as well as the extensions in Sun City, Mesa and Show Low.

"We welcome anyone that wants to get involved and help us," she said.

Besides couriers, other jobs at the clinics include data input, assisting with the coffee program, shuttle drivers, file room assistants and dispatcher. There are at least 60 volunteer opportunities at the hospital ranging from clinical to special events.

"It's endless and limitless as long as we match the right interest," she said.

Pedene said a number of the volunteers have been veterans. They've got non-military participants,

however, in the program as well.

"Some aren't veterans, but just want to be patriotic and serve others," she said.

In 2003, Whitten got involved in the program because of his wife. She's the volunteer coordinator at the Northwest Extension Clinic.

"I got hooked from there and have enjoyed my time ever since I've worked here," he said.

In addition to the VA clinic work, he's also spent some time at the Arizona State Veteran's Home in downtown Phoenix.

"I've tried to bring a little cheer to them whenever I can," he said.

Whitten is a member of American Legion Post 62 and the vice commander for the state.

"I'm very passionate about serving my fellow veterans who've helped this country," he said. "It makes me proud to do this volunteer job."

Mitchell Vantrease can be reached at 876-2526 or e-mail mvantrease@aztrib.com.

Aiding youth puts volunteer in top gear

By MICHAEL P. HEGARTY
Daily News-Sun staff

Dixon Wightman loves how many volunteers there are in Sun City and how they keep it going.

"What makes Sun City tick is the volunteers," he said. "Your lifestyle in Sun City would not be anywhere near as great as it is today without volunteers."

It also keeps Wightman going.

He is the president of the Youth Assistance Foundation, an assigned commissioned division of the Maricopa County Sheriff's office.

The foundation's goals are to provide better interaction between the sheriff's department and the youth of Maricopa County.

It raises money — more than \$300,000 since it began in 1985 — through charity events and donations, which are given to needy children.

On Saturday, the foundation is sponsoring a golf tournament with a goal of \$25,000.

The group's biggest benefactor is a boxing team that is supported 100 percent by the foundation.

"It gets a lot of boys off the street and active in a gym on a daily basis," Wightman said.

Each month the board of seven directors, three of whom are Sun Citians, reviews applications.

"We take a look at requests for money," Wightman said. "They go to areas that are depressed."

Besides money, the foundation also provides the youths with bicycles, which are being collected for Christmas. The group also accepts donations of sporting goods, such as tennis rackets and golf clubs.

So far this year, the foundation has received more than 350 bicycles from Sun Citians.

"At Christmastime, the deputies will dress up as Santas and distribute them to needy kids," Wightman said.

Wightman is physically involved with the sixth annual drive for bicycles by picking them up and delivering them. It's just one way he stays active.

"I welcome challenges and enjoy getting involved in community and political activities," said.

Wightman is a former president of the Sun City Home Owners Association and stays involved with the group by serving as a representative of the HOA on its intergovernmental committee.

He is used to working with governmental agencies.

Wightman traveled around the world as a consultant to foreign governments in the field of agriculture trying to improve Third World countries' crop systems.

"We tried to increase their productivity of crops," he said.

After Wightman retired, he and his wife, Elizabeth, moved to Sun City in 1975 and he became known as Dixon "The Fan Man."

For 15 years, he installed more than 7,000 fans in 5,000 homes, giving him the opportunity to meet the people of Sun City.

"I never met a person I didn't like," he said.

His involvement with the community, whether gathering bicycles or installing fans, has given Wightman an appreciation of Sun City and its people.

He is proud of the volunteer work from the Sun Citians — which he estimates at 10,000 people — and continues to donate his time and energy because "what we do now to help the community is the most important thing."

■■■

If you know potential "Doers," people who have made significant contributions to their community or have been honored for their noteworthy accomplishments, I'd like to know about them.

Send their names to Michael P. Hegarty, Daily News-Sun, P.O. Box 1779, Sun City, 85372.

Or call: 977-8351, Ext. 240.

THURSDAY, JAN. 1, 2004

Former HOA president dies

STAFF REPORT

Dixon Bryed Wightman, a former Sun City Home Owners Association president, died Sunday in Sun City.

Wightman was born Oct. 12, 1915, in Sioux Falls, S.D., and graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minn., in 1938.

"He was a businessman, a politician and an agricultural consultant to foreign nations," said Cindy Phillips, a family friend.

After retiring to Sun City, Wightman was called to do agricultural consulting in Korea, Bangladesh and Tanzania.

From 1977 to 1992, Wightman ran a business called THE FAN MAN, becoming known around the community by that moniker.

He was an active volunteer in the community, serving as HOA president in 1992. He was president and lieutenant governor of two Kiwanis Clubs and a member of the Sun City Golf Association, the Sun City Sheriff's Posse, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Youth Assistance Foundation, the Sun City Ambassadors and the Visitors Center. He won a service award from Westmarc.

A Daily News-Sun columnist wrote of Wightman years ago: "He has brought something special to this community — an enthusiastic belief that Sun City must play an active role in the weaving of the social, economic and political fabric of our society."

Wightman was a pilot for many years.

"When he was a young man, he had a broken arm, and when they fixed it, they put a pin in it, so he had a partially immobile arm," Phillips said.

As a result, he saw limited combat during World War II, serving with the Air Transport Command.

In South Dakota, Wightman ran unsuccessfully for the Senate in 1952. He received the State Distinguished Service Award from the South Dakota Chamber of Commerce.

Wightman is survived by his wife of 63 years, Betty; a son, Dixon (Konnies) of Bismarck, N.D.; a daughter, Jan Jorgensen (Cindy) of Fargo, N.D.; three grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; three great-grandchildren and four step-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, Thomas, in 1985.

The service is at 10 a.m. Friday in All Saints of the Desert Episcopal Church, 9502 Hutton Drive in Sun City.



Wightman

DOERS PROFILE

**Dixon
Wightman**

Vita: Graduated from college in Minn.; agricultural consultant.

Hometown: Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Marital status: Married.



Self-portrait: I welcome challenges and enjoy getting involved.

Motto: Treat people right and firm and honest. The Golden Rule.

Greatest Feat: What I've done since retirement. My contributions to Sun City.

Fantasy: To fly a jet aircraft.

Inspiration: The people I've worked with overseas the past 15 years.

Key to Longevity: Being continually mentally and physically active.

Last Words: I'm grateful for our family and our accomplishments.

Aiding youth puts volunteer in top gear

By MICHAEL P. HEGARTY
Daily News-Sun staff

Dixon Wightman loves how many volunteers there are in Sun City and how they keep it going.

"What makes Sun City tick is the volunteers," he said. "Your lifestyle in Sun City would not be anywhere near as great as it is today without volunteers."

It also keeps Wightman going.

He is the president of the Youth Assistance Foundation, an assigned commissioned division of the Maricopa County Sheriff's office.

The foundation's goals are to provide better interaction between the sheriff's department and the youth of Maricopa County.

It raises money — more than \$300,000 since it began in 1985 — through charity events and donations, which are given to needy children.

On Saturday, the foundation is sponsoring a golf tournament with a goal of \$25,000.

The group's biggest benefactor is a boxing team that is supported 100 percent by the foundation.

"It gets a lot of boys off the street and active in a gym on a daily basis," Wightman said.

Each month the board of seven directors, three of whom are Sun Citians, reviews applications.

"We take a look at requests for money," Wightman said. "They go to areas that are depressed."

Besides money, the foundation also provides the youths with bicycles, which are being collected for Christmas. The group also accepts donations of sporting goods, such as tennis rackets and golf clubs.

So far this year, the foundation has received more than 350 bicycles from Sun Citians.

"At Christmastime, the deputies will dress up as Santas and distribute them to needy kids," Wightman said.

Wightman is physically involved with the sixth annual drive for bicycles by picking them up and delivering them. It's just one way he stays active.

"I welcome challenges and enjoy getting involved in community and political activities," he said.

Wightman is a former president of the Sun City Home Owners Association and stays involved with the group by serving as a representative for HOA on its intergovernmental committee.

He is used to working with governmental agencies.

Wightman traveled around the world as a consultant to foreign governments in the field of agriculture trying to improve Third World countries crop systems.

"We tried to increase their productivity of crops," he said.

After Wightman retired, he and his wife, Elizabeth, moved to Sun City in 1975 and he became known as Dixon "The Fan Man."

For 15 years, he installed more than 7,000 fans in 5,000 homes, giving him the opportunity to meet the people of Sun City.

"I never met a person I didn't like," he said.

His involvement with the community, whether gathering bicycles or installing fans, has given Wightman an appreciation of Sun City and its people.

He is proud of the volunteer work from the Sun Citians — which he estimates at 10,000 people — and continues to donate his time and energy because "what we do now to help the community is the most important thing."

DOERS PROFILE



Arlene Wilcox

Hometown: River Grove, Ill.

Family: Husband, John
two children,
two step-children and four
grandchildren

Inspiration: "I just want to help people."

Philosophy: "Be nice to people."

Greatest accomplishment: "Two successful daughters with happy marriages."

She rounds up volunteers across Valley

Twenty years ago, Arlene Wilcox of Sun City was needed into being a volunteer.

As an officer at Valley National Bank, Wilcox was encouraged by the bank's upper management to join a service organization. But as a woman in the then male-dominated world of banking, Wilcox knew she wouldn't feel at home among the women's auxiliaries or high tea fundraisers.

She was looking for something with a little more teeth. It was about this time that a co-worker at the bank introduced Wilcox to the Civitan Club, an organization similar to Rotary or Kiwanis. Unlike the two other clubs, however, Civitan was known specifically for championing the causes of the developmentally disabled. This struck a chord with Wilcox, a former volunteer with the Valley of the Sun home, where Wilcox frequently witnessed parents abandoning their developmentally disabled children.

"I just thought to myself that I've got a lot to be thankful for and many don't," Wilcox said. Civitan, whose name means citizenship in Latin, also appealed to Wilcox on another level.

Even in 1978, Civitan's membership was largely male, although the club began accepting women in 1974.

"It was the only club open to women at the time," Wilcox said. Today, the number of women has grown in the club and so has their importance, as Wilcox demonstrates. Today, the 68-year-old is president of the Sun City chapter that meets at 11:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Nancy's Restaurant.

But her title didn't come without hard work and commitment. For nearly five years, Wilcox, along with her husband John, coordinated the volunteers for the Arizona Special Olympics. They reached into all corners of the community, from military bases to junior high schools, recruiting volunteers willing to cheer on Special Olympic athletes.

As president, Wilcox also extends her knowledge and experience to SCYSAC, the Sun Cities Youngtown Special Activities Club, an extension club of Civitan and a support group for the parents of developmentally disabled adults. Wilcox, who hails from Illinois, is on SCYSAC's board and helped establish a home for developmentally disabled adults in Peoria. The home, a Sun Health project, is slated to open in early February.

"It is such an experience to know that these children were loved and cared for all their lives by their parents, but now their parents are in their 80s and maybe sick. It's a little frightening," Wilcox said.

In addition to time, members of SCYSAC also donated money for the home. Projects like these, Wilcox said, are reasons to become volunteers, especially with service clubs, which have suffered fading popularity in the last 30 years.

"A lot of people are afraid to get involved in a club. They walk into a group and feel like an outsider," she said. "Also, the people who first moved into Sun City are too old to help now and the younger ones are just so busy ... but it's still important to get involved."

To nominate a doer, call Tina Schade, 876-2514.

Wilcox, Arlene

Nov. 29-Dec. 5, 1989, THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT-Page 3

Overdue attention

Sun Citian earns national award for work with S.D. senior center

By YOLANDA MUHAMMAD
Sun Cities Independent

Along the road of life there are those who trumpet their personal achievements with a brass band attendant to their every move.

Others, like Les Wilcox of Sun City, bang the drum softly or do not like to bang it at all.

But Mr. Wilcox has a great deal to be proud of — he has earned the 1989 Community Achievement Award, given annually by the U.S. Office on Aging. This year the award was given to only 10 communities throughout the United States.

The award recognizes Mr. Wilcox's efforts to establish a senior center in his former hometown.

The honor was not won overnight. Mr. Wilcox began working to establish the center in Huron, S. D., in 1971.

A modest man, he worked quietly behind the scenes at first; but his community recognized his efforts and he was made president of their first senior center in 1972.

Mr. Wilcox and his wife, Norma, moved to Sun City 12 years ago, but they travel back to Huron each year to visit family and friends and to keep an eye on the senior center.

"Even though a lot of the people who first started out at

the center have passed away, I can compare the difference in attitude with those who have stayed with the program.

"They are more contented, satisfied and altogether different each year as we go back," Mr. Wilcox says.

"We have made some good friends."

He says he believes the program was a success because they were able to help

the program took off.

The Huron senior center staff struggled to bring the usual benefits to its residents — nutritious meals, transportation, adult day care and hospice services.

Mr. Wilcox says that 50 to 60 people used the center when it first opened in 1972.

Sun Citian

Profile

Portraits Of Our Residents

elderly people stay in their homes, rather than go to nursing homes.

He had just retired from the Department of Agriculture and was president of his local chapter of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees (NARFE), when he organized a group of about 20 people to begin work on the center.

"I suggested that for a project, we try to organize a senior center, and NARFE sponsored us."

Once the county and state got involved and they hired a director, who turned out to be a "whiz," Mr. Wilcox says,

Now, there are over 1,000 people who utilize the center.

At 93, his organizing days are over and Mr. Wilcox has not been active in the senior centers in the Sun Cities area.

He and his wife are content relaxing, playing a little mini-golf, using the facilities at the recreation centers and attending programs at the Sun Bowl.

He has two daughters and a granddaughter.

He enjoys looking back over his days as a boy in South Dakota.

His father came down from New York in 1883 as a homesteader.

Wilcox, Les

OVER

"He used to carry the groceries in on his back from 23 miles away in Aberdeen, until he got a horse," Mr. Wilcox says.

His family raised cattle and horses and some related crops.

Growing up with his two brothers and a sister, he "remembers the Christmases better than anything else.

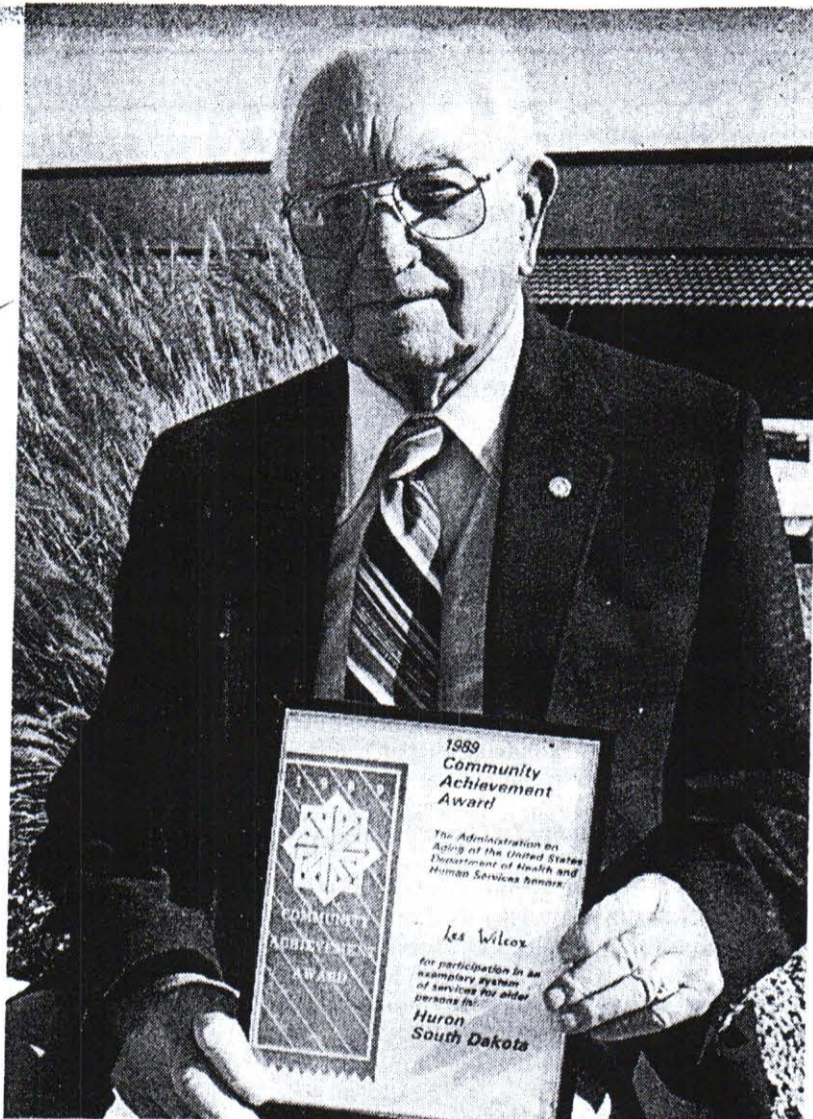
"We generally got snowed in on Christmas and we couldn't get anyplace, so we would concoct a Christmas tree out of old scraps of lumber and decorate it up," Mr. Wilcox says.

His work, when he was with the Farmer's Home Administration division of the Department of Agriculture, was to help families at poverty level get started in farming.

"You could see the results and there was a lot of satisfaction in helping them to get a better life," Mr. Wilcox says.

His Community Achievement Award reads, "For participation in an exemplary system of service for older persons."

Enough to make anyone want to toot his own horn, but Mr. Wilcox smiles gently and tucks the award away in his briefcase ... then it's off to play a round of mini-golf with the wife.



Laurie Hurd-Moore/Independent

LES WILCOX holds the Community Achievement Award he received from the U.S. Department on Aging for his work on developing a senior center program in Huron, S.D.

On the road to salvation

Sun Citian shares Christian values with down-and-out bikers

By ANNE RYMAN
Sun Cities Independent

Sun City resident John Willett spends his Saturdays hanging out with men who wear tatoos, carry guns and drink booze.

And he wouldn't have it any other way.

As a member of the Christian Motorcyclists Association, he travels around the state with a group of 30 other motorcycle riders, all sharing the same hobby and mission — getting bikers onto the right path in life.

"We're quite active in reaching out to bikers. These are the guys with tatoos who wear leather, ride Harleys, have a pistol on the hip and booze in the trunk," he says.

"They are human beings who've got to get on the right road. We try and convert them to good citizens."

Although Mr. Willet wears a



Photo by TYSON KUHRT/Sun Cities Independent

With his trusty dog, Bandy, by his side, John Willett travels the highways and byways with members of the Christian Motorcyclists Association, offering Christian support to fellow bikers who may be heading down the wrong path in life.

leather vest and rides a motorcycle, that's where his resemblance to a "biker" ends. Instead of tatoos, he displays pins of an angel, a cross, and those with simple messages such as "Try God" and "Jesus First." Instead of carrying booze, he often takes along his 9-year-old dog, Bandy, on short road trips.

CMA takes a non-confrontational approach with bikers, he says.

"We don't pressure people. We talk about motorcycles because that's what we're all interested in. We've got something in common and that usually leads to something spiritual."

The bikers' response to CMA is mixed, he says.

"Some of them are very enthusiastic and others say, 'Don't give us that junk.' Sometimes we take (verbal) abuse, but we try to love them all."

CMA members attend motorcycle rallies and work at gettings their message of faith across to bikers. Mr. Willet says he has had many good experiences as a CMA member.

"I see some down-and-outer living a dirty life get up out of his seat at one of the rallies and come forward and say he is tired and wants to accept Jesus. It's a real thrill, whether you led him or the evangelist," he says.

"You'll see them with tatoos and alcohol on their breath and a year later they'll be a changed person. It's a miracle. Only God can change a person like that."

In Arizona, CMA has chapters in Phoenix, Tucson, Mesa and Cottonwood. While Mr. Willet, 71, is the only Sun City resident who belongs to the Phoenix chapter, he

See ■ BIKER, Page 11

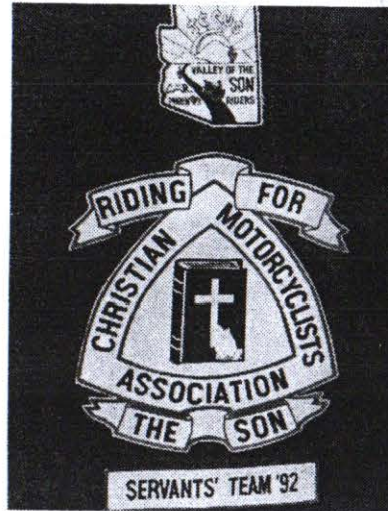
■ BIKER

is not the only retiree. At least two other riders are in their 70s.

CMA was formed in 1978 by Herb Shreve, a baptist minister who wanted to develop a closer relationship with his son. He bought two motorcycles and they began traveling together.

But along the way Mr. Shreve discovered many bikers who he felt were on the "wrong road" spiritually and psychologically. So he began working at spreading a message emphasizing faith in Jesus Christ. •

Today, the organization includes 35,000 members in the United States, Canada and Central America. CMA has paid evangelists who travel throughout the countries, spreading the message of faith.



Instead of tatoos and traditional biker symbols, John Willett's leather jacket contains the Christian Motorcyclists Association insignia.

Individual members of the organization pay dues to the national organization and pay their own riding expenses.

CMA's activities extend beyond getting bikers on the right road. Members collect toys for poor

children and raise money for missions in Central America.

"Another part of our ministry is helping motorists who have flat tires or need another assistance while we're out on our rides," Mr. Willett says.

Volunteer helps preserve past, plan for future

By **TINA SCHADE**
Staff writer

As a building contractor in New Jersey for more than 30 years, Art Williams helped raise thousands of buildings. Now, in his retirement, Williams is using his construction expertise to keep the Sun Cities flourishing.

Right now he works on the long range planning committee for the Home Owners Association, and plans to pick up a second post on the Recreation Board's long range planning committee, he said.

In addition to using his foresight, Williams has used his hindsight as an 18-year resident of Sun City to serve on the board of the Historic Association.

In this position, he has traveled to numerous Sun Cities venues speaking on the background of the area.

Williams said he has noticed significant changes in the areas over the years. These changes include an increase in development and a decrease in voluntarism, but he gives those who donate their time due credit.

'Those who do volunteer, I think, are very progressive thinking and supporting and their goals are great.'

Art Williams

"Those who do volunteer, I think, are very progressive thinking and supporting and their goals are great," he said.

For the past two years, Williams has also served on one of Sun Cities most recognizable community organizations — the Sun City Community Fund.

The Community Fund, which merged with the United Way last year, has a number of committees which assess the needs of the community.

Williams sits on the fund's grants and personal needs committees.

The grants committee reviews requests for monies from local agencies and allocates funds according to need.

The personal needs committee serves a similar function, but instead of allocating funds for agencies, they distribute funds to individuals who may find themselves down on their luck.

Williams serves as the chairman for the properties committee at Faith Presbyterian Church, where he takes care of maintenance. He is also a 12-year member of the church.

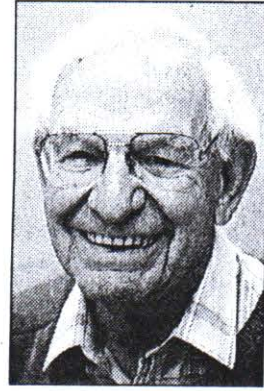
In his spare time, Williams liked to golf and travel. Last year, he visited the Caribbean with a group of almost 20 other people.

He also belongs to the travel trailer club.

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

DOERS PROFILE

Art
Williams



- Hometown:** Linden, N.J.
- Inspiration:** I'm just interested in the community.
- Philosophy:** Live and let live.
- Key to longevity:** Acitivity is what keeps me alive and gives me a good outlook.
- Family:** Wife of 50 years, Maria, two children, two grandchildren and two step-great grandchildren

WILLIAMS, ART

Spreading the word

Couple provide church services to care center

By ANNE RYMAN
Sun Cities Independent

Harold and Florence Williams conduct church services in a lounge in the Sun Health Care Center in Sun City.

There are no religious icons, no stained-glass windows and no pulpits, but the message remains the same as if it were delivered in a sanctuary.

Two years ago, the volunteer couple spearheaded the idea of a non-denominational worship service on Sunday for patients of the long-term and managed care facility.

"We discovered there was nothing on Sunday," Mrs. Williams says.

A Catholic mass and a non-denominational service took place Tuesdays but no religious services were offered on the traditional day of worship.

"Normally in care centers, church services are another day of the week because ministers can't come on Sunday," says Dianne Herschelman, director of volunteer services for the 128-bed Sun Health Care Center.

With the blessing of the center's activities director, the couple organized a half-hour service with prayer, hymns and a brief message delivered by Sun City resident Wayne Fisher. His wife, Evelyn, provides musical accompaniment.

Approximately 25 to 30 people attend the twice monthly services, Mr. Williams says. "Even if a patient doesn't participate, his visitor often will," Mrs. Williams adds.



Residents at the Sun Health Care Center in Sun City have an opportunity to enjoy religious services on Sunday thanks to the efforts of local volunteers Harold and Florence Williams.

A majority of the center's residents are there for rehabilitation purposes and have suffered fractured hips or knees or strokes. Although some may not fully comprehend the service, often they will recognize the Lord's Prayer or a familiar hymn, Mrs. Williams says.

In addition to directing the Sunday service, the Williamses volunteer one day a week as drivers for the Sun Health Care Center van, taking residents to the hospital for tests, to doctors, dentists and home for short periods of time.

This is not the first time they have volunteered to spread God's word. For six years, they belonged to the Roving Volunteers in Christ's Service, a Phoenix-based group that travels the country and visits

missions and campgrounds.

"We traveled the whole country as well as Nova Scotia. We got to see the country as well as serve the Lord," Mrs. Williams says.

They have been involved in the church all their lives and, in fact, met for the first time at a church 45 years ago.

"We thank the Lord for our health. If we can serve by helping others, we feel blessed," Mrs. Williams says about the couple's volunteer efforts.

WILLIAMS, HAROLD - FLORENCE

DOERS PROFILE

Sara
Witzel

Hometown: Dodgeville, Wis.

Family: Husband, Tom; two daughters.

Motto: "I'm a Christian."

Self Portrait: "I have a lot of interests. I like to do things with my hands; crafts, sports, and I'm a registered nurse."

Weaver likes spinning her days away

By RUTHANN HOGUE
Staff writer

Sara Witzel can watch golf cars tootle across the green from her parlor as her naked foot pumps a spinning wheel, creating skeins of homespun thread or yarn.

Nearby, an undressed loom stands ready. It will be threaded with a combination of brightly colored yarns. Wooden boat shuttles carry the yarn in and out through warp thread already on the loom, fashioning a colonial overshot coverlet. Witzel's feet deftly guide the motion of the treadle pedals.

Colonial overshot is a style of weaving which was popular in colonial times. The nap is thicker on the patterned areas, contrasted by a thinner, solid background.

"If I've threaded it right and pedal it right, the pattern will be there," Witzel said. "If not, it's a mess. It's kind of like a computer, how you program it. But I type with my feet."

The contrast is stark between the Sun City lifestyle Witzel enjoys and the colonial traditions she keeps alive. But for the minister's wife, swimming in a recreation center pool and later dyeing yarn seems to mesh more than it clashes. She enjoys making yarn whether it's spun from rabbit fur, llama hair or clippings from her dog, Winnie.

Witzel's son-in-law recently sent hair from the tail of his horse with a request for her to give spinning it a whirl.

"We're horrible," Witzel said. "We're always looking around for something to spin."

Witzel learned to spin in New Jersey. When she spied a spinning wheel in the room while taking one of her daughters to music lessons, Witzel seized the opportunity.

"I said, 'Is that just for looks, or do you really spin?'" Witzel recalled.

The music teacher referred Witzel to someone who mentored her in the art of spinning.

Because wool is naturally laced with lanolin, spinning is easy on the hands. It actually softens them. But it isn't as easy as it appears.

"It was hard to learn," Witzel said. "I had always done things with my hands and thought it would be a piece of cake."

Witzel's fingers eventually learned how to guide wool — or another form of animal hair — as the spinning of the bobbin and fly wheel convert it into one-ply yarn. To create two-ply or four-ply, she reloads another bobbin and drives the wheel backwards.

"That's how they built up their yarn," Witzel said, explaining that colonial weavers rarely used one-ply thread.

Witzel became familiar with colonial traditions while working at Waterloo Village in New Jersey. There, in full costume, Witzel spent seven years spinning, weaving, and creating homecrafts using 10 variations of needle arts. She dried flowers and blended them with silks to form arrangements, too.

"I couldn't believe I was getting paid to create all this beauty," she said.

Candle snuffs, a collection of china powdered milk containers and other antiques throughout her home remind Witzel of her days at Waterloo. She was responsible for running the spinning and weaving barn. Part of her job was to make sure 22 projects remained in progress at any given time.

Although Witzel loves to spin, she plans to do more. She wants to work on oil and watercolor painting skills. In addition, the two-year Sun City resident is determined to learn china painting and wood working.

"I've always wanted to make my own furniture," she said. "It's not that I'm going to give up spinning or weaving, but I want to learn to do other things, too."

Witzel, Sara

Top Rotarian fulfills lifelong dream

Good works yield high returns

By MONICA ALONZO-DUNSMOOR
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Tom Winfree was four years old in 1917 when his father took him to a Rotary club meeting in Richmond, Va. Although just a young boy at the time, Winfree told his father he liked the club.

"Maybe you can be president one day," his father said.

So when Winfree was invited to be president of the First Rotary Club in Sun City — more than 80 years after his first visit to the Richmond club — he told club members the story of how "it took me 82 years to get here."

As president, the Sun City resident is responsible for the programs the club participates in, such as giving scholarships to students, sending them to leadership conferences and, one of their biggest projects, sponsoring an orphanage for Mexican children in Rocky Point.

"I know some people don't like to take on responsibility, someone has to do these things," he said. "I am very pleased to be president."

Although he may not be able to physically see the results of the club activities since a genetic vision problem has gradually robbed him of his sight since 1964, you can hear the pride in his voice.

"The club has been down to Rocky Point about 12 or 13 times," he said. "We take the kids on picnics and spend the weekend working, painting and doing all sorts of things to make it better."

The club also bought a bus for the children and built a ramada for them so they could play



Tom Winfree is the president of the First Rotary Club of Sun City.

Lisa Goettsche/Daily News-Sun

in the shade.

The club also gave more than \$18,000 to organizations around the Valley "within reasonable distance of Sun City" that need help, such as organizations that help migrant workers and the Westside Food Bank.

As president, he'd like to have the club

sponsor a student to study abroad.

"It would broaden a young person, give them an opportunity to see how education is conducted in foreign countries," he said.

Doing for others seems to be a natural way of life for Winfree.

"I have become a volunteer ... for just about

everything," he said.

The American Association of Retired Persons, helping New York teenagers with drug rehabilitation and serving as an elder at Faith Presbyterian church are among the ways Winfree has spent his time.

In 1964, he quit his job because he could no longer drive but knew he had to find something to do.

"I could do volunteer work," he said. "I'm very happy doing so many things. I've enjoyed doing them. I think I've helped some people in my lifetime."

And, as the saying goes, what goes around comes around.

Just as he's lent a hand, others have done the same for him when he's run into a jam because of his blindness.

"People help me every day. I try to be as independent as I can be, but sometimes I find myself in a corner and people try to help me out of my predicament when I'm walking," he said.

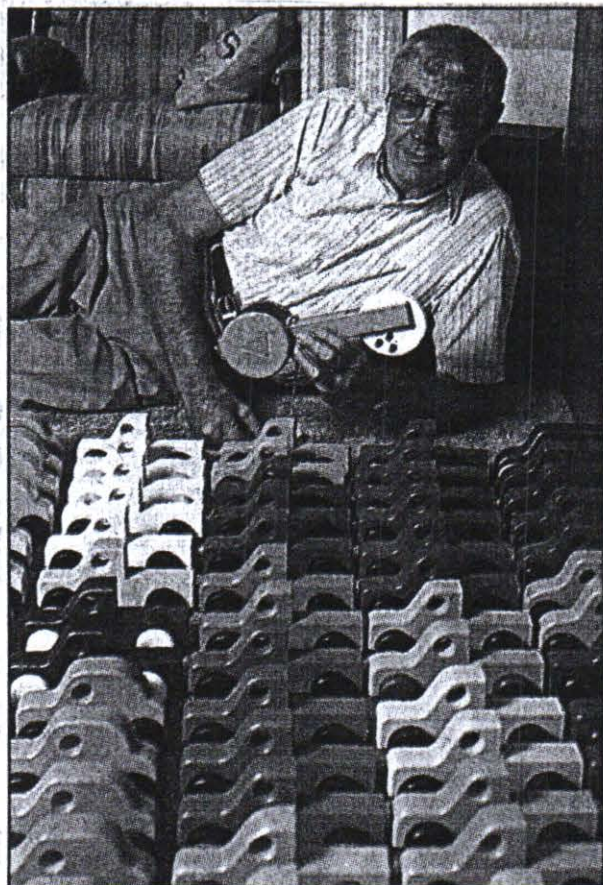
He recalls once standing on a corner, white cane in hand, waiting to cross the street. He stood for half an hour listening to the cars fly past him, but no one would stop for him to cross.

Then a different sound.

"I was trying to get to the Lake's Club ... the traffic was bad and then I heard a car stop in the middle of the street. A woman got out of the car and guided me across," he said. "Once in a while I'll find a person with enough kindness and consideration to help a blind person cross the street. By far, motorists help the least ... they don't pay attention to the white cane."

However, he doesn't let it bother him, he simply continues doing his best for his club and for Rotary knowing that the good he does will come back to him.

Monica Alonzo-Dunsmoor can be reached at malonzo@aztrib.com or by calling 623-876-2531.



Russell Gates / Staff photographer

Arvin Woeste of Sun City, displays the 272 wooden toys that he has made in his home workshop. He intends to donate them to the Wesley Community Center, the Westside Food Bank and the Salvation Army for distribution to needy children for Christmas.

Santa's workshop

Toymaker puts joy under the tree

By Lori Baker
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Wooden cars, vans, trucks and puzzles are neatly lined up in Arvin Woeste's living room.

Woeste, 72, beams with pride as he looks over his 272 creations, painted in a cheery rainbow of colors.

Woeste, a modern-day Santa of sorts, wants to make the holidays brighter for needy children.

The Sun City resident has just finished this year's batch of toys. They will be delivered to the Wesley Community Center, the Westside Food Bank and the Salvation Army for distribution.

Although he'd made a few items like candleholders over the years, he never before had taken on a massive project like toy-making.

Two years ago, Woeste saw women at his church, Willowbrook United Methodist, sewing clothes and stuffed animals.

"I thought these were mostly for girls," Woeste said. "Boys ought to have something."

So Woeste decided to make wooden toys.

He crafted cars, trucks, vans and school buses. There also are tick-tack-toe games, building blocks and pull toys. Animal puzzles include a lamb, bunny, elephant and squirrel.

"They are sturdy, well made and brightly colored, so they are perfect for young boys," said Debbi Ennis, Westside Food Bank community relations director. "It's nice to have toys for boys because we tend to get a lot of dolls and things for girls."

See TOYS, Page 4

From Page 1

TOYS

Woeste experimented before arriving at the patterns he uses to make the toys. Now, he has the production end of things down to a science.

"It takes me 3½ minutes to make a wheel, cutting, grinding and sanding it," Woeste said.

With this year's toy donations taken care of, Woeste is getting started on next year's batch.

"I like to do the dirty, dusty work myself and another — the

cutting and sanding," Woeste said. During warmer months when he has to use the air conditioner, Woeste paints and puts on the finishing touches.

Woeste, a retired camp manager from Iowa, said he has been working with wood since he could get his hands on tools.

"My father and grandfather enjoyed working with wood, too," Woeste said. "I can't remember when I started."

New - Sun Thurs. 2-22-90

Interfaith leader dies, leaves caring legacy

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

SUN CITY — A Sun City man who helped shape this community leaves a living legacy following his death Tuesday of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

William T. Wolfrey, 78, died early Tuesday at the Sun Ridge Kiva Care Center in Surprise.

One of the founders of the Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services, Wolfrey served four years as the independent human services agency's first president, from 1981 to 1985.

"It's hard to talk about one without talking about the other," a friend and associate, Eugene Jensen, said of Wolfrey and Interfaith.

"We wouldn't want to leave out anyone else who worked to put Interfaith together but Bill was the prime mover and shaker," said Robert Pangburn, executive director of Interfaith Services.

While serving as president of the Sun Cities Area Community Council, Wolfrey realized a need existed for an agency such as Interfaith, Pangburn said. About the time Interfaith was being formed the University of Arizona began a study of long-term care in the Sun Cities. The study confirmed the need for an organization such as Interfaith.

When developing Interfaith Services, Wolfrey called upon the Sun Cities Ministerial Association for help, said David Rathjen, a retired associate pastor of Bellevue Heights Baptist Church.

"He was a deeply committed, genuinely compassionate and very, very caring man," Rathjen said of Wolfrey.

Although not a religious organization, Interfaith Services

combines efforts of the churches and the service clubs, which worked together to form the social service agency, Jensen said.

Pangburn credited Wolfrey's spirituality with his involvement.

"That was very much a part of his involvement. He was very spiritually motivated."

"Bill was president when I first came in the fall of 1983. I worked with him for 6½ years," Pangburn said. "I admired his talents, I admired his abilities and I admired him as a man."

A member of Bellevue Heights American Baptist Church, Wolfrey served as the presiding officer of the congregation and took a leadership roll in his church, said the Rev. Stan Brown, senior pastor.

Brown ministered to Wolfrey during the past 2½ years while Wolfrey fought the degenerative and progressive disease better known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

"He was one of the most dedicated men to the welfare of others I've ever known," said Brown. "He was totally unselfish, thoughtful of others, putting their needs before his own; a genuinely caring man."

Wolfrey served 20 years on the board of the Baptist Home for the Aged in Washington, D.C., and was board president for seven years.

In 1971 he represented the governor of Maryland at the White House Conference on Aging and in 1981 he represented the governor of Arizona.

Wolfrey last year wrote in a Daily News-Sun article about his thoughts before moving from Silver Springs, Md., in 1976 to Sun City.

"Part of the reason my wife and I decided to move to Sun

City was the very strong feeling I had that the Lord had something he wanted me to do here."

Wolfrey is survived by his wife, Sylvia; two sons, W. Thomas of Ocean City, Md., and Stuart D. of Annapolis, Md.; one daughter, Kathleen of Gaithersburg, Md., and five grandchildren.

Besides spearheading Interfaith Services, Wolfrey served from 1979 to 1984 on the board of directors of Sunshine Service, a medical-equipment lending service in Sun City.

For 34 years Wolfrey worked for the U.S. government, often helping to form special programs. He served on the task force to establish the United Nations in 1946, on the original staff of the Atomic Energy Commission, and on the task force to organize the poverty program in 1964. He retired as director of budget and finance from the Office of Economic Opportunity in December 1966.

Jensen, who knew Wolfrey when both men worked in Washington, believes Wolfrey drew on his expertise to form Interfaith Services.

"The growth of Interfaith is nothing short of remarkable."

"Information, on the organization and services they've been able to deliver, has gone all over the world."

Jensen said Wolfrey has built an organization that survived his illness and now will survive his death.

Memorial service will be 11 a.m. Tuesday at Bellevue Heights American Baptist Church, 9440 Hutton Drive. Memorials may be sent to the Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services, P.O. Box 1795, Sun City, 85372.

WOLFREY, William T.

Trading places

Sun City minister recounts events of month-long trade with British counterpart

ERIN REEP
DAILY NEWS-SUN

For six weeks last summer, the Rev. Jim Wood traded sweltering Arizona heat and cactus-dotted landscapes for the cool weather and green rolling hills of Stoke-on-Trent, England.

In the course of swapping pulpits with the Rev. Alan Coustick last July and August, Wood performed a wedding, a funeral and two baptisms, and made visits to ill parishioners of Longton and Lightwood United Methodist Churches in England. Coustick assumed Wood's responsibilities as senior pastor of Willowbrook United Methodist Church in Sun City.

Wood shared stories and photos of his journey at "A Travelogue of a Pastor in England," the topic of the Willowbrook United Methodist Men's Breakfast Thursday morning.

Wood and his wife,



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ruth Coustick, 13, shows off her Arizona dreamcatcher necklace in this photo taken last year when her family was living in Peoria while her father served as Willowbrook's pastor.

Martha, lived in the Cousticks' English "manse" (parsonage) while Coustick and his family — his wife Heather and children Hannah, Ruth and Jonathan — squeezed into the Woods' Peoria home.

The Woods were accepted into the Ministerial Exchange Program through the World Methodist Council. Jim applied to the program in August 2001, but was alerted that the exchange might not take place in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

He received a phone call from Coustick on a Sunday in December 2001, informing him he was selected to participate in the exchange. The two began e-mailing to learn more about the other's family, culture and parishes.

Wood recalled his biggest culture shock in England was learning to drive on the left



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Rev. Jim Wood shows a piece of Wedgewood pottery Thursday at the Men's Breakfast, where he told of his experiences serving as pastor of a congregation in England. Wedgewood pottery is made in Stoke-on-Trent, the town where Wood served.

side of the road.

"I had driving lessons," he joked. "After the first week, Martha stopped screaming."

The Woods were greeted with a Welcome Pudding Party. A parishioner informed them what a pudding party was: "She said, 'That's dessert to you Americans,'" Jim said. The parishioners hosted a dessert potluck for the couple.

Stoke-on-Trent is a city composed of six towns, situated between Manchester and Birmingham. The city is known for its pottery-making, especially Wedgewood China.

Wood showed photos of the Cousticks' manse, nearby parks, English streets and shops, and the churches in which he served.

Wood assumed pastoral duties at Lightwood UMC, with 100 members, and Longton UMC, with 250 members. He described working with the various church fellowship groups — including Boys Brigade and Girls Guides, scouting groups for youth; Sisterhood, a women's fellowship similar to United Methodist Women; a Men's Club much like United Methodist Men; and a Pensioner's Club for retired folks.

"While I was there, I was asked to conduct a wedding," he recalled, officiating at the union of Ian and Andrea Davis. Wood said Ian was part of a motorcycle club, whose members all attended and got a taste of Wood's pastoral humor.

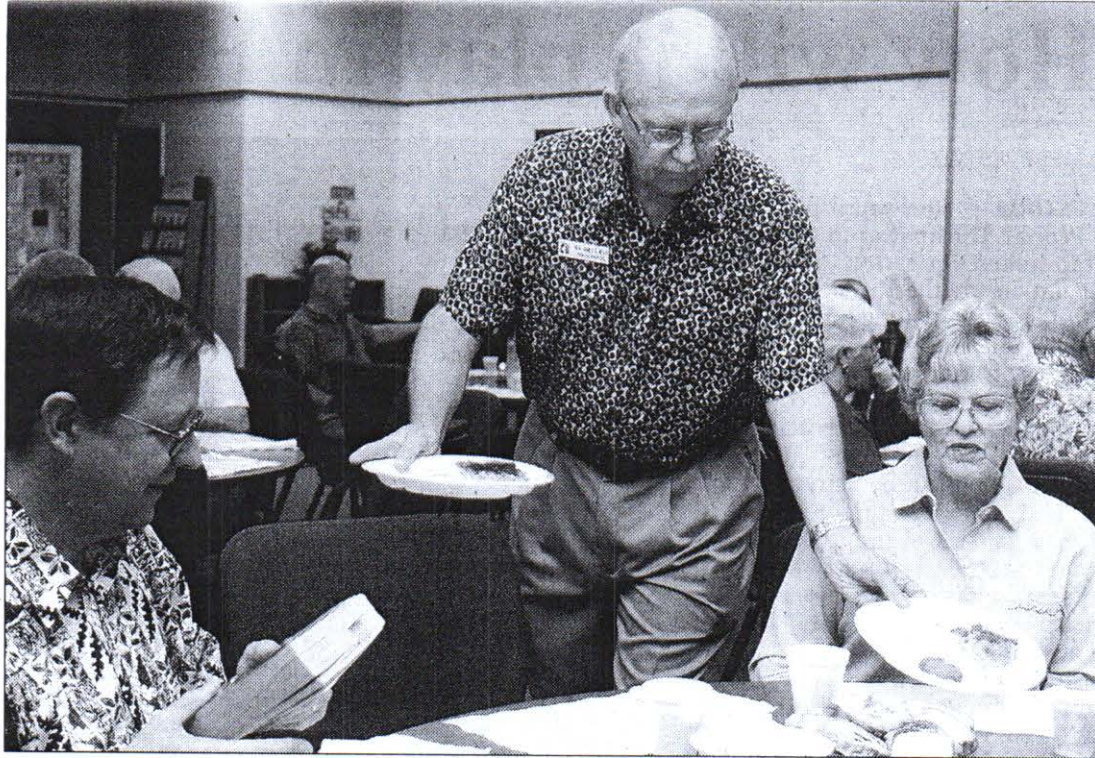
The Woods also went to a garden party, Jim said.

"It was kind of a combination rummage sale and bazaar," he said.

Jim also filled in as chaplain of the Stoke-on-Trent City Council meeting, and socialized with the Lord Mayor, Ellis Bevan.

"We had some problems with the language," Wood

DVER



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Rev. Jim Wood of Willowbrook United Methodist Church in Sun City serves food during the Men's Breakfast Thursday. Wood was the keynote speaker at the breakfast, sharing his experience in swapping pulpits with a British minister.

recalled.

He displayed a list of British English words with their translations, including: "biscuit," which is a cookie; "taster," which is a movie preview; "barmy," which means bad; "sleeping policeman," which is a speed bump; and "crisps," which are potato chips.

Cricket and soccer

matches were also on the Woods' agenda, in addition to bus tours with the Pensioner's Club.

Wood showed photos of excursions with the Pensioner's Club, asking breakfast attendees, "Don't they look like Sun Citizens?"

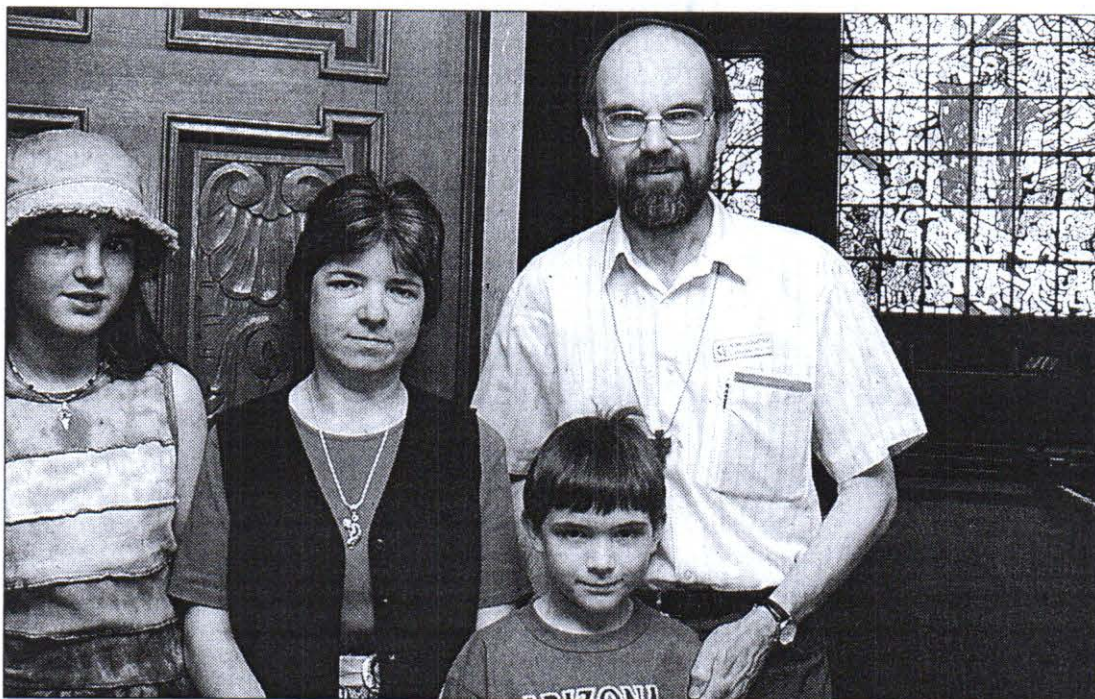
"The idea of a retirement community like Sun City is so foreign to them," he said.

Wood said it took parishioners a little time to adjust to American humor.

"I don't think Alan used much humor, and it took them a Sunday or two to get used to me," he joked.

"All in all — lovely people, lovely churches," he said.

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



JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Rev. Alan Coustick, right, and his family lived in Peoria while Coustick served as pastor to Willowbrook United Methodist Church last year. From left are Coustick's daughter, Ruth; wife, Heather;

Women fight for equality

VF PERSONALITIES (Vivian Wood)

ERA

By TINA SCHADE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Daily News-Sun

Sept. 10, 1999



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Claire Randall of Sun City joined Bella Abzug and Gloria Steinem in championing the rights of women.

The images are etched in Americans' minds as the defining moments in the women's movement — burning bras, the shaved heads, the masses of women marching in Washington, D.C.

But behind the emotion and the frenzy that captured media attention was the methodical and often draining struggle that some women plodded through for years.

Vivian Wood of Sun City, one of the first members of the National Organization for Women, had a direct hand in the women's movement of the 1960s.

As a professor at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Wood worked to secure women in teaching spots, pushed for women's scholarship opportunities and angled for slots on university governing committees, the college's true power epicenter.

"I think the university historically had been a mostly male university. They weren't so happy about anyone trying to change it," Wood said of her 15-year fight to achieve women's equality on the college campus.

Wood, who earned a doctor of philosophy degree in human development from the University of Chicago, said she bided two or three years longer for a promotion than her male counterparts.

Despite her wait, Wood would eventually become the first woman in the Department of Social Work to earn tenure.

In addition to waging her own battles, Wood fought for mentors for female students who often lost out on professional and educational expertise to male students.

In spite of her successes and

those she achieved for others, Wood admits women still have a long way to go.

"Universities are one of the hardest institutions to change," said Wood, a former Marine.

But rather than work from the inside as Wood did nearly 30 years ago, Wood said that women's advances today could stem from the outside.

"The best move for women right now is getting into politics," she said.

Wood said that women offer a unique outlook because of their experience with families and introduce an element to humanity into politics.

Another Sun Citian and self-proclaimed feminist, Claire Randall, agrees.

"You need people to represent all the parts to make good decisions," she said.

During the '60s and '70s, Randall championed women's professional advancement in religion and worked directly with women's rights greats like Bella Abzug and Gloria Steinem.

"I was happy to be revved up and right in there," Randall said.

Randall jockeyed for women's position in the church.

"The biblical pattern was patriarchal ... but that doesn't mean we can't understand what our Scrip-

ture is about in our world and bring it to our time," Randall said.

One of Randall's greatest victories during the movement came when a retired Episcopalian minister agreed to ordain 11 women, an extraordinary event for the times.

Outside women's acceptance in the work world, however, integral to achieving women's rights is prodding men to own up to their share at home.

"Women are carrying the burden in both worlds and doing double duty. But it's beginning to change more and more," Randall said.

Joyce Barrett, a former educa-

The Equal Rights Amendment was written by a suffragist Alice Paul in 1921. It stated that all men and women should be treated equally under law. The amendment says: "Equality of rights under law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States Constitution or any state on the count of sex."

Paul was born in Morristown, N.J., on Jan. 11, 1885. She was a graduate of Swarthmore College in 1905. Paul received her master's degree in 1907 and a doctor of philosophy in social work in 1912 from the University of Pennsylvania. She also started the National Woman's Party and the World Woman's Party. She died July 9, 1977.

After many years, Congress passed the ERA in 1972. The amendment had been introduced every session since 1923. Opposition to the amendment blocked its ratification by the necessary 38 states.

tor, said that women beyond careers and families should also plan on making some adjustments.

Barrett said that one of the major transitions for women is from college into the male-dominated work force and widowhood.

"We have a lot of ladies here in Sun City who still rely solely on their husbands and that is a transition they really need to make. They need to make the move from sole dependence to independence," Barrett said.

She said one of the best ways to do this is to keep active and keep up with new technology.

Gayle and Warren Woodcock pass 65th

By Vera Petrovic
Staff Writer

When they first came to Sun City, it was just a small village with about 150 people, surrounded by thousands of acres of rose bushes and cotton fields.

"We watched the city grow," said the Sun City pioneers Gayle and Warren Woodcock.

They have been witnessing Sun City's rapid growth for the past 20 years.

Typical "snowbirds," the Woodcocks spend winters in Sun City and the rest of the year in Minnesota.

"Each fall when we come back here, we see new blocks of homes," Gayle said.

And, every time there would be more privileges. But, the personal contact among people is diminishing, more and more, they noticed.

Yet, the Woodcocks say, living in Sun City highlights their life. They have many fine friends here and both enjoy the Arizona climate.

Gayle and Warren have celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary last June.

How does it feel to be married to the same person for such a long time?

"I always thought I couldn't do better, but I might do worse," Warren said.

Gayle thinks that young couples today have different views and values. Like every married couple, the Woodcocks occasionally have disagreements, but they work them out.

"You have to have a lot of understanding for each other and be able to put yourself in other person's shoes. Every marriage requires some adjustments and a little give and take," she said.

They both have a good sense of humor and that might have been one of the reasons that kept them going.

"I gave up arguing 40 years ago. She has always had it her way," Warren said.

Although married for so long, the Woodcocks still doubt they know each other well. Gayle says she does not feel she knows what to expect from



Gayle and Warren Woodcock of Sun City have been married for 65 years.

her husband every time, and Warren can never tell what she is thinking about.

They met at Hamlin University in St. Paul, Minn.

"She had a darn good voice. I like music, but I cannot sing, so I said to myself -- I'd better get someone who can," Warren recalled.

The next day after he graduated in 1915, they were married.

The Woodcocks have been active all their lives. Even today, Warren likes to play golf, and Gayle still sings in the church choir. She also walks five to six blocks regularly.

They are both in a good physical condition.

"You have to keep exercising in order to keep in shape," they pointed out.

The Woodcocks also like to travel, and that is still their favorite hobby.

They have seen Europe, Canada, Mexico and all American states.

"The most memorable was our 50th anniversary trip to the Orient," they said. "We went there with our friends Rose and Charles Tackels of Sun City. They celebrated exactly identical anniversary as we did."

Sun City resident earns conservationist award

By RICK GONZALEZ
Sun Cities Independent

Sun City is often referred to as "The Volunteer Capital of the World," and one local resident was recently recognized for his volunteer efforts.

James Wormley, a member of the Sun City Sportsmen's Club, has been named "Outstanding Conservationist of the Year" by the

Arizona Wildlife Federation.

Mr. Wormley received the Thomas E. McCullough Memorial Award in the non-professional category for his volunteer work in the conservation of wildlife and natural resources. His contributions in time, effort and projects were also noted.

"I'm very, very happy to receive the award," he says.

Competition for the award was

statewide and the winner was chosen by the AWF board of directors.

Mr. Wormley was nominated by Sun City club because of his involvement in various conservation projects.

Mr. Wormley says he's been a member of the Sun City club, which has about 130 members, since he moved to Sun City 15 years ago.

"I think it (the club) is a very

good organization. The people are interested and care about our natural resources and the conservation and care of them.

As citizens, Mr. Wormley says, the natural resources belong to all of us. Therefore, we should do everything to care of them.

The purpose of the Sun City Sportsmen's Club is to save and protect the natural resources, air, forests, water and wildlife.

OVER

WORMLEY, JAMES



Photo by BRET McKEAND/Sun Cities Independent

James Worley, a member of the Sun City Sportsmen's Club, proudly displays the conservation award he received from the Arizona Wildlife Federation. Ken Vaichinger, past president of the Sportsmen's Club, stands next to Mr. Worley.

Tennis machine serves inventor well

By LLOYD D. BROWN
Sun Cities Independent

Doris Wright is resigned to the fact that her husband of 53 years has another passion.

"This is the love of his life," says Mrs. Wright with a sigh, nodding toward a large machine with a bull's eye hanging above it.

Donald Wright, who has battled a handful of ailments during the past several years and now putters around in a wheelchair, has never been unfaithful to his tennis machine, invented in 1977 to help teach people better tennis form.

Mr. Wright has a patent for the invention, dubbed the "Wright-Way Tennis System," which was installed at the Marinette Recreation Center in 1985.

The machine serves balls from an oscillating arm on one side to allow players to work on their forehand and backhand swings.

A stationary arm on the other side serves balls to within an 18-inch area for people with limited mobility.

The machine collects the balls through a unique trough system, saving the hassle of chasing tennis balls associated with other ball servers.

Mr. Wright, who has worked as an engineer, machinist, tennis coach and salesman, has built eight of his tennis systems, although the Sun City machine is the only one still in operation.

The others fell into neglect as tennis clubs where they were installed changed hands, Mr. Wright says.

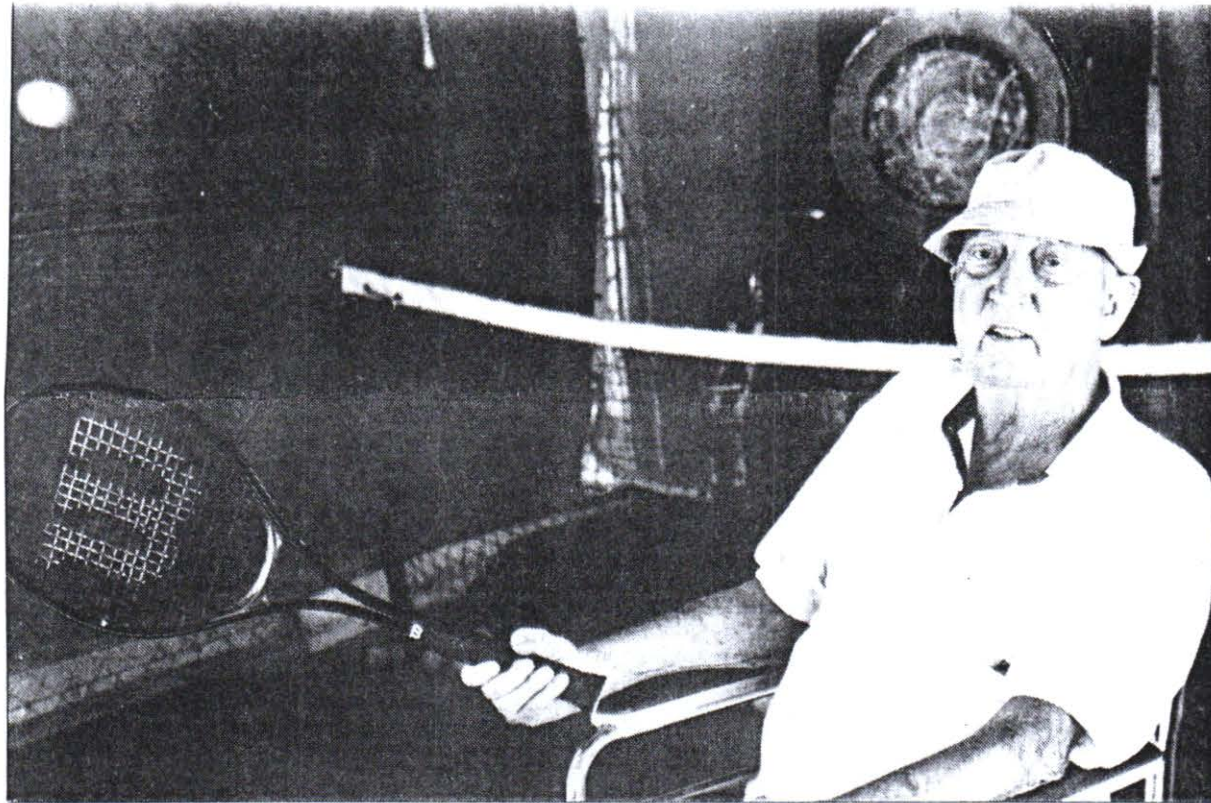
Bettie Dodd of Sun City says she uses the machine most week-

For the less active, or for someone who really is a novice, this machine is really great.

JIM WARFIELD
General Manager
Recreation Centers of Sun City



Sun City resident Donald Wright is inventor of a tennis machine which was installed at the Marinette Recreation Center in 1985. The machine collects the balls through a unique trough system, saving the hassle of chasing tennis balls associated with other ball servers.



Although Donald Wright is confined to a wheelchair, he is still able to take advantage of his 1977 invention called the "Wright-Way Tennis System," which serves balls from an oscillating arm on one side to allow players to work on their forehand and backhand swings.

day mornings.

"It gives you an opportunity to practice strokes," Mrs. Dodd says. "I just love it, I love to go."

Mrs. Dodd says the machine helped her gain confidence as a novice tennis player.

Most older people either already know how to play tennis and play above beginning level, or they don't play at all, says Mrs. Dodd. That leaves few options for older beginners.

But Jim Warfield, general manager of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc., says the tennis invention has not seen much use during the years.

"The machine is a headache," Mr. Warfield says.

Because it is a prototype built by hand, the Rec Centers employees

prefer not to work on the machine and claim parts are hard to find.

Mr. Wright has been a constant advocate for the tennis machine, sometimes inflaming the tempers of Rec Centers staff.

But after all the years of battling for his machine, Mr. Wright says he is completely frustrated.

There is no sign to tell people where and how to sign up to use the contraption.

And sometimes people think because the gate is locked the machine is broken.

Sometimes it is simply not plugged into an electrical outlet.

"He's smart, he invents things, but diplomacy is not his best thing," says Hal Nappan of Sun City, Mr. Wright's best friend.

Mr. Nappan says that at least

once a week Mr. Wright proclaims he is through battling for his invention's upkeep.

But those who know him say Mr. Wright will never give up on his machine.

Mr. Warfield, who says Mr. Wright should be commended for his devotion to the tennis machine, concedes the invention does have a positive side.

"He's spent a number of years keeping the machine operating," says Mr. Warfield.

"For the less active, or for someone who really is a novice, this machine is really great. It's unique and the Rec Centers are appreciative of that."

Reflections on baseball

Sun Citian instrumental in Sun Bowl being built

By Kenn Gorr
Independent Newspapers

Doug Wright loves baseball. The Libertyville, Ill., native can still name many of the players who played for the Chicago Cubs during the 1930s.

The names Hack Wilson, Gabby Hartnett, Kiki Cuyler, Billy Herman and Charlie Root roll off his tongue like saliva off the tongues of Pavlov's dogs.

This Cubs fan and retired Presbyterian minister even believes its time to put to rest the recent ejection of current Cubs outfielder Sammy Sosa from a game for using an illegally corked bat.

"The media has done a lot on the incident," Wright said. "Who is to say whether he was lying? Those things happen."

Bats also were a big deal this past year in the Sun Cities Senior Softball League.

And as the president of the Sun City Chapter of the SCSSL, Wright was right in the middle of the fracas.

Wright and the other members of the Sun City League Board desperately wanted the composite bats that were flooding the market banned from the league. So did most of the members of the Sun City West league. Eventually, they got their way.

"Those composite bats were scary," Wright said. "They're dangerous. We've had some people injured even before those bats came along."

Wright and the other members of the Sun City Softball League Board wanted the bats banned not only because of the danger they posed to players, but because the bats were driving a competitive wedge

between players, teams and leagues.

"We're trying to maintain the idea that softball is fun," Wright said. "We don't need all those home runs."

Wright's desire to rid the leagues of dangerous bats is evidence he loves softball almost as much as he enjoys watching baseball.

He played sandlot ball as a kid and participated in a softball league in Milwaukee during the 1950s. Hank Aaron was patrolling the outfield for the Braves in those days. Ernie Banks was a Cub.

The week after he retired from the First Presbyterian Church, Sun City, he joined the Sun City softball league, and he quickly got involved as more than just a player.

Since 1980, he has served several terms as the Sun City league president and several terms on the Sun Cities league board.

It was as a member of the league board that Wright made his permanent mark on Sun City softball.

Ralph Snyder's name rolls off Wright's tongue as easily as those of the former Cubs. It was Snyder, now deceased, who approached Wright with the idea to have a softball stadium built in Sun City.

Wright remembers exactly how difficult it was to get the field built.

"The man who was the president of the Sun City recreation (centers) board at the time we brought the idea to him, was all for it," Wright said. "But he resigned. I don't remember why. And it was a tough sell after that."

Wright said he walked the neighborhood around 107th

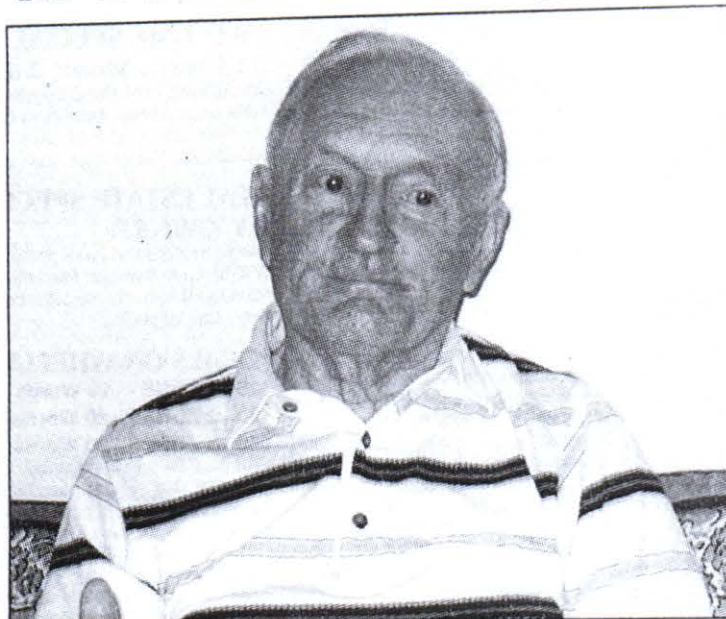


Photo by Kenn Gorr/Independent Newspapers

Doug Wright chats about the Sun Cities Senior Softball League. Wright, who is currently the Sun City Senior Softball League president, was instrumental in getting the Sun Bowl built several years ago in Sun City.

Street and Clair Drive collecting signatures — in August.

"It was five acres of weeds. They were delighted for something to be done with that property," Wright said.

Zoning and budget issues cropped up, turning the project into a five-year contest of wills. Wright and his supporters eventually won.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City Governing Board allocated \$200,000 for the project. The low bid came in at \$270,000.

Another battle.

The Sun Bowl opened for business in the mid-90s. Joe Garigiola Jr. threw out the first pitch. Ever since then, the Sun Cities Senior Softball League has grown like the weeds that populated the property prior to the Sun

Bowl's development, expanding from 14 teams to 28.

"I knew it was going to grow, but I had no idea how much," Wright said. "It's come a long way from the six teams we had when the league first started."

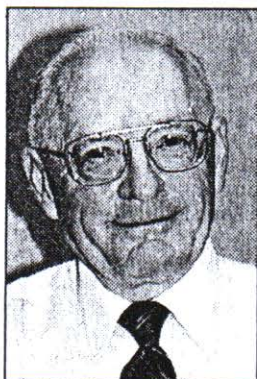
Wright is quietly working on another project. He wants to have a cover erected over the stands at the Sun Bowl, to protect the fans from the Arizona sun.

"We really haven't done anything other than ask the recreation board for the money," Wright said. "We have a good relationship with the board. When they get the money, I'm sure we'll get something done."

And, what about summer softball?

"It's too darn hot," Wright said.

DOERS PROFILE

***Doug
Wright***

Vita: Retired
Presbyterian
minister

Hometown: Libertyville, Ill.

Family: Three children, four grandchildren

Self-portrait: The thrust of my life simply has been to try to make life better for other people.

Motto: Smile.

Inspiration: All the good people and unsung doers I've been privileged to know.

Key to longevity: Just be active.

Senior pastor scores hits, day in, day out

By J.J. McCORMACK
Senior staff writer

The Rev. Douglas Wright's name is well-known throughout the Sun Cities for a variety of reasons.

All of the reasons have a common thread: time.

For nine years, Wright invested six days a week of his time as senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Sun City.

On the seventh day — Monday — he recorded a weekly religious message for a Valley radio station. The broadcast was a popular substitute for Sun Cities residents of all denominations who, for whatever reasons, couldn't make their regular Sunday service.

After retiring from the ministry, Wright didn't go into hiding. He jumped into secular service with both feet.

"I feel I haven't retired on occasion," said Wright who was called to the ministry while serving in the U.S. Army during World War II.

"The thrust of my entire life has been that," he said. "I've always wanted to do something to make life a little more pleasant for someone else. That's what we're here for. That's been my ministry."

The first community-service organization to win a retired Wright's time and attention was the Sun City Ambassadors. He served as president of the volunteer community marketing organization and served on the board when it opened the Sun City Visitors Center.

Wright continues to represent the Ambassadors for public-speaking engagements across the Northwest Valley.

Next on Wright's list of volunteer pursuits was Recorded Recreational Reading for the Blind. The all-volunteer organization provides free recorded textbooks and magazines for blind and disabled people at all educational levels.

Wright said he was drawn to the organization as a place to put his 40 years of public-speaking experience to work helping others. He said he considers the taped books and magazines produced by the agency an extension of the lives of the people who use them. "That's really what it amounts to," he said.

Wright has been a member of the recording organization's board of directors for seven years and the regular, cover-to-cover recorder of Modern Maturity magazine. He now is president of the Recorded Recreational Reading for the Blind and still finds time to do some recording.

Wright is a former member of the Beware of Elder Exploitation Program board of directors.

In recent years, Wright has been the spokesman for the Sun City Community Fund. He chairs the community relations committee for the fund, a non-profit organization that raises money for 16 local social-service agencies. The community fund also awards cash grants to Sun City residents in need.

For awhile, Wright was serving on four non-profit boards simultaneously and delivering Sunday sermons on a substitute basis as Presbyterian churches across the Valley.

Wright's favorite pastime since retiring has been softball. He plays the game, serves on the board of the Senior Softball League and was instrumental in getting the Recreation Centers of Sun City to develop Sun Bowl Park, a softball complex adjacent to the Sun Bowl amphitheater.

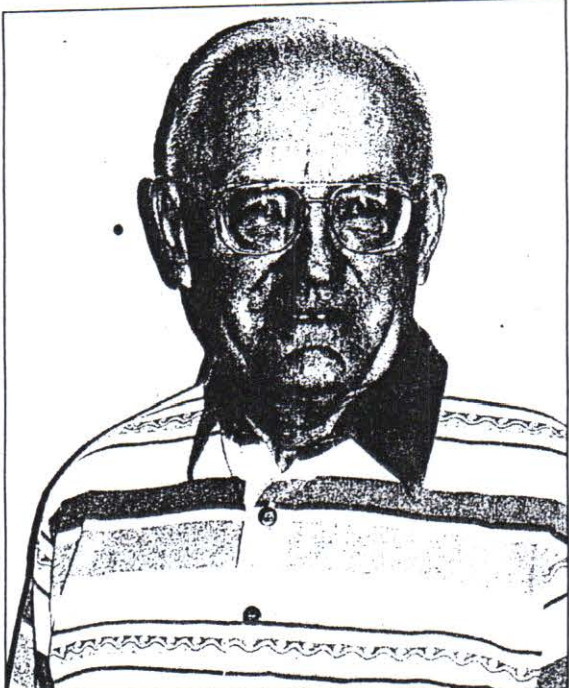
A shoulder injury is keeping Wright out of the game. For the time being, he's managing a team of seventvsomethings.

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

August 16, 1999

The Daily News-Sun

DOERS PROFILE



Douglas Wright

Family: Wife, Grace; three children; four grandchildren.

Inspiration: "You get from life what you give. What else is there in life other than giving to people?"

Philosophy: The Golden Rule.

Greatest accomplishment: "I am happy that I have been given the opportunity and ability to be of service to other people."

Former preacher has a ball in retirement

By TINA SCHADE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Douglas Wright of Sun City remembers the exact time and place where he said he received his calling to serve in the ministry.

And under the circumstances — Wright was stationed in Europe during World War II — the message doesn't seem that uncommon for a twenty-something man seeking a peaceful delivery from the chaos of war.

What is remarkable, though, is that Wright's moment of truth would lead to his spending nearly 50 years behind the pulpit preaching to congregations from Pennsylvania to Arizona.

Even in retirement, Wright occasionally fills in for pastors in churches around the Valley. But in between, Wright is also heeding to another, probably more familiar call — "Play ball!"

"I told everyone when I'm retired, I'm going to play softball," Wright said.

After receiving a softball glove as a gift from a local funeral home director, Wright hit the field and has made a regular appearance playing first and second base for the Sun Cities Softball Club.

Wright has sat at the club's helm and was one of the point men in establishing the softball field near Kuentz Recreation Center. Wright said he has watched the senior league grow from six teams 10 years ago to 24 teams today.

In addition to knocking a few over the fence, Wright is also in his sixth year with the Sun City Community Fund, a local organization that raises money for individuals and social service agencies, like Sun Cities Area Transit and Interfaith Services.

He is president of the board for Recorded Recreational Reading for the Blind, which serves 200 blind people living in the Northwest Valley. As part of his presidential duties, Wright makes presentations to local agencies about the importance of the program which is in its 27th year.

Recorded Recreational Reading for the Blind is also the means for blind people living around the country who want to find out about the world through Modern Maturity magazine.

Wright said that after Recorded volunteers read Modern Maturity from cover to cover and produce more than 200 tapes those tapes are passed on to libraries around the country, which in turn record their own tapes. Those recordings are then heard by nearly 11,000 blind people nationwide.

When not volunteering, Wright enjoys working out in the Sun City Recreation Centers, lifting weights and running.

"I do it to stay young," Wright said.

Wright is also past president of the Sun Cities Area Transit board and likes traveling.

To nominate a Doer, call Tina Schade at 876-2514.

DEVON L. WRIGHT

Life's lessons learned well make work pure joy

By PEG KEITH
Sun Cities Independent

As a sergeant major, Douglas P. Wright discovered if you don't work things out ahead of time, you're lost.

The early lessons bore fruit in later life. As the Rev. Douglas Wright, Presbyterian minister, he managed local church services and functions, served as moderator for the Presbytery of Albany, N.Y., as well as undertaking a variety of other management tasks for the Presbytery.

Such tasks included managing construction and renovation of church facilities, organizing councils of churches, developing a hospital chaplains' program, arbitrating disputes, heading charitable and service club projects, helping to organize a Headstart program, raising money and supervising expenditures.

All this for a start.

In addition, he participated in dozens of programs, projects, boards, chairmanships; pioneered a radio show and worked on advisory committees in five different states.

Along the way, he received a variety of awards, recognitions

and commendations.

Meanwhile, not neglecting his education; his doctor of ministry degree was conferred by San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1985, after more than three years of study and completion of his thesis.

All accomplished somehow, while reserving quality time for his wife and three children.

Dr. Wright, senior pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Sun City, hasn't had a day off since he hardly remembers when. But he's retiring.

The bookcases and desk in his church office have been cleared, but he's working right down to the line.

He can look back over an eventful ministry. Drawing on the lessons he learned with the Army in Europe, he developed organizational and administrative skills. He plans his sermon schedule six months in advance.

His family knew that work came first, but they did reserve vacation time, to be spent together as a family.

"We have a very close family. My wife (Grace) played a supportive role."

Their children are grown and involved with their own families and careers.

Dr. Wright's father was in the banking business for 70 years and hoped to see his son follow in his footsteps.

"He never questioned my decision," says Dr. Wright. "I was raised a Presbyterian ... I was called to the ministry. I literally heard the call; a voice spoke to me. I made my decision



RETIRING IN STYLE. Rev. Douglas Wright, First Presbyterian Church of Sun City, will officially retire Jan. 25.

at that moment."

After his discharge from the Army, Dr. Wright went into the four years of college and three years of seminary.

Looking back at his career, he says simply, "I have enjoyed it. I would never do anything else."

Admittedly, it was difficult at times, with administrative pressures from the Presbytery added to his work with local churches, burnout, and physical exhaustion.

In Sun City, he faced one of the most difficult aspects of his ministry: the funerals that numbered 50 to 60 a year.

"Any time you deal with the emotional problems of people, you become emotionally involved

yourself. And this is exhausting."

There were changes, as well, through the years, that brought forces to bear on religion.

"During the 1950s, the churches simply grew, and we came into the 60s and early 70s, with a thrust in a different direction," Dr. Wright says.

"In the latter part of the 70s and '80s, there was the fantastic growth of the evangelical and fundamental churches, and the televangelist programs."

Since Christianity has been with us from the time of Christ, Rev. Wright is confident that people will continue to turn to it over and over again.

"Many times it has been violated, misrepresented and corrupted, but it will always be, in my mind, the greatest force for good in the world."

Without Christianity, he says, the world would have none of the great art and music that we have today. "Plus the fact that it gives us our base for living."

Has his penchant for detail and planning carried over from work to the leisure that lies ahead?

Dr. Wright is enthusiastic. "We're going to remain here (in Sun City)," he says. He sees time for travel, reading, sports, all enjoyable activities that have been given short shrift throughout his working years.

"I like good classical music," he says. "And I have a great library. I hope to play one good selection a day."

Who knows? There may be a six-month schedule, from Bach "Air for the G-String" to Strauss "Zarathustra" already in place.

Sun Citian Profile

Portraits Of Our Residents

S-2

More Honors for Dr. Dr. Leona Yeager

Story & Photo, Ruth Borchardt

"Is there a doctor in the house?" If you were one of the fortunate students at Northwestern University during Dr. Leona Yeager's tenure, your call for help might have been answered by this highly respected professor of clinical medicine and director of student health services. Now retired, and living in Sun City, she was honored recently by Northwestern with its Service Award in Evanston, Illinois.

Joining the medical school first as a laboratory technician (1930-36) and laboratory technician-bacteriologist of experimental medicine (1936-46), she was the former director of the College Health Nurse Practitioner Program (1975-79). A former alumni regent from the Arizona area, she was a past president of the Northwestern Club during the 1970's.

Awards have been heaped on her since the 1960's. She helped develop the first standards for the American College Health Services. In 1960 Dr. Yeager represented the medical school on the Preventive Medicine Train on tour, sponsored by the Communicable Disease Center.



Dr. Leona Yeager

Life was never dull on campus! One episode: A fraternity sent a military smoke bomb to another fraternity! Horrible fumes erupted, making members violently ill. Fortunately there were no permanent effects from the inhalation and in appreciation for her help in relieving the painful reactions, Dr. Yeager was honored at a dinner where she was presented with a bouquet of red roses and serenaded by the houses' members.

On another occasion there was an urgent call from a women's dormitory to Dr. Yeager's office reporting that its members were experiencing frightening symptoms...flushed red faces and other distressing reactions. Dr. Yeager hastened over to see what was happening and the conclusion was reached that the girls were sick from ingesting too much sodium nicotinate, a preservative in hamburger. Later on, some fraternity members experienced much the same symptoms, proving that this was a harmful ingredient if not carefully monitored. As a result, we can thank Dr. Yeager for persuading the FDA to regulate the amount of preservatives in hamburger meat.

With her background of being a diplomat of the American Board of Internal Medicine (1951-74-81), an American College Health Association fellow and President (1964-65) and a fellow of the Chicago Institute of Medicine, she has continued to be very active, including being a member of the Arizona Society of Geriatrics and the second President of Interfaith Services.

In view of the fact there were very few women doctors years ago, just gaining entrance to a medical school was an achievement. Dr. Yeager's accomplishments are doubly impressive. We salute her record!

YEAGER, LEONA

MEMORIES FOLLOW HAPPY TRAILS

By **TRACY CHARUHAS**
Daily News-Sun staff

In the mid-1950s, Bruce Young of Sun City had a chance to book Elvis Presley for a show at one of his theaters in Pine Bluff, Ark. Young turned down the entertainer because his agent wanted 60 percent of the shows profits, a percentage Young could not afford.

"We never paid that kind of money for an entertainer," Young said. "Besides, I had never heard of him. Elvis ended up playing at a theater across town for \$50. That place didn't even have air conditioning. I didn't have many people in my place that night."

Once word spread that Elvis was in town, the highway from Little Rock to Pine Bluff was packed with cars. The state police were called out and had to set up riot ropes to control the crowds. After that day, Young said the name Elvis Presley would forever stay in his memory.

Young didn't meet Elvis that weekend, but several years later he met the King in Hollywood, Calif., at the screening of the movie "GI Blues." Young was invited as a guest of Presley and Paramount Studios. A photographer captures Young and Elvis together and when Young returned to Arkansas, he saw the picture on the front page of the local newspaper.

Among his many accomplishments in the entertainment business, Young has met more than 100 stars from motion pictures, television and the music world.

Young was president of the Arkansas Theater Owners and manager of the Saenger, Malco and Zebra theaters in Pine Bluff from the late 1950s to the late 1960s. Three major motion picture studios invited him to screenings of all their latest movies.

The Saenger Theater, which will be declared a historic landmark on Oct. 8, was the largest theater in Arkansas before it closed in 1974. There were 900 seats in the theater, which was five stories high in the back.

"In those days you could fill the theater with no problem," Young said. "There was no television in the early 1950s, so people came to the movies for entertainment."

His career in show business began in 1934 at the age of 10. He ushered, took tickets and served as doorman at the Ritz Theater in Pine Bluff.

Young has several photo albums filled with pictures of him standing next to stars such as Jimmy Stewart, Jack Lemmon, Angie Dickinson, Don Knotts, Alan Alda and many more. Young even had the honor of playing a game of pool with Minnesota Fats.

"I met him at the premiere of his movie 'The Players,'" Young said. "He let me get a few shots, but you can guess who won that game. He bragged about himself the whole time. He

meant to be funny, but after a while, it really got on my nerves."

One of the closest friendships Young made was with Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. Young was responsible for starting the first Roy Rogers Fan Club in the South. The club had more than 2,000 members. One night, Rogers and Evans came to Pine Bluff to show Young their appreciation.

"When I heard they were coming, I got in my car and announced over the loud speaker that every kid under 12 could come to my theater for free and see Roy Rogers," Young said. "The place was packed. There were two kids to every seat."

Young knew most of the kids in town because he saw them at one of his theaters almost every week. When

Rogers and Evans came out on stage, the kids sang the pair a popular song.

"They sang 'If I knew you were coming, I'd have baked a cake,'" Young said. "Roy and Dale were so delighted. Roy said he had entertained many audiences but that this was the first time an audience had entertained him."

Before Young married his wife Helen, he entered a contest to win a date with Debbie Reynolds. By the time his name was drawn as the winner, Young had been married for two weeks.

"I talked to Debbie's manager and explained the situation to him," Young said. "They sent me a giant autographed picture of Debbie, \$500 cash and two plane tickets to Hollywood. We

had a wonderful time."

Helen died last December, and Young has decided to get more involved in local movie clubs and organizations.

"When we first came out here, we decided to leave all of that show business stuff behind us. But now that I'm alone, I realize how much I miss the theater business. I've been in theater for 60 years. I really miss it."

Young's two grandchildren are both aspiring movie stars, and his grandson Dana will be starring in a movie with Johnny Depp ("Edward Scissorhands") this fall.

"I'm proud of those kids," Young said. "It seems only natural that they are in the movie business."

YOUNG, BRUCE



Rick D'Elia/Daily News-Sun

Bruce Young of Sun City sits on his living room floor with his movie star memorabilia. Young has met more than 100 celebrities.

Sun City poet takes to verse whenever anything bugs him

MAR 28 1971

By THELMA HEATWOLE

SUN CITY — Nat Zausner, his full mustache meeting his lamb-chop sideburns, looks like a poet. And he is.

He writes poetry at the drop of an idea. Especially when he is elated or frustrated.

He carries a pad and pencil because he never knows when a poetic notion may strike. They do strike often.

"I write three or four poems a week," said Zausner, a golfer and abstract painter, "depending on how much happens to me.

"Mostly I write about things that bug me or other people," he said.

"I can sit down and write four or five stanzas in 10 minutes. If it doesn't come out spontaneously, it does not turn out too well."

Zausner was prompted to write a poem the other day when he had to wait 90 minutes in the doctor's office for an appointment.

"Although we pay for private care," he wrote in part, "You'd think it was a clinic. We've been done this way so often, I'm becoming a medical cynic."

Zausner, retired executive vice president of the Zausner Foods Corp., in New Holland, Pa., said he is more concerned with content than form in his poetry, although he does follow traditional rules, rhythm and meter.

"My primary concern," he said, "is to make my point, often with a touch of humor, not preachy, nor heavy."

Zausner, whose poems are frequently published in the Sun City newspaper, is readily recognized by his long hair that nearly reaches his shirt collar.

"I hated to go to the barber," explained Zausner, "almost from the beginning of the time I had to go. Being in business, I had to have my hair cut, but I always resented it."

Zausner said his dislike deepened in New York City when his barber proved "garrulous and bigoted toward minorities."

"I stopped cutting my hair at that point," he said. "I discovered it was quite easy for



Republic photo by Thelma Heatwole

Nat Zausner, lively Sun City poet, looks the part

me to use my razor not only on my beard but my scalp. In 1967, I decided to let my hair grow and just shave my chin."

He said he gets frequent comments from young people on his hair and has encountered a few adults who are "bigoted about long hair."

Zausner's been writing poetry since he was 12.

"I wrote flowery verse about things connected with nature," he said. "As I got older and came in contact with the hardships people face, my poetry began to reflect the conditions and social problems."

"And," said Zausner, "I write poetry like I do a 10-word telegram, eliminating

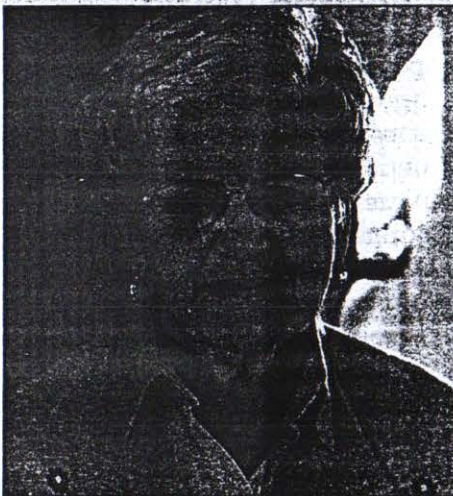
all unnecessary verbage."

When California had an earthquake, Zausner took to his pen for a poem, "California Has Everything." And, glancing out of the window of his home at 10444 Saratoga Circle, he spied a frost-bitten lemon tree and was inspired to write, "A Tree's Lament." Television cigarette commercials brought on "Smoke Signals," and the return of the swallows, "Capistrano."

In his "Parent's Prayer," which has received considerable recognition, he ends the petition for his children, "We pray the friends you will meet will have standards just like ours, For the influence of your peers will determine your future careers far beyond our parental powers."

Z A U S N E R , N A T

Volunteer Spotlight



Many Sun Citians who devote time to volunteering choose one particular group and dedicate the majority of their time to that organization. Not Elfriede Zawicki, who is a regular and dedicated volunteer with several community organizations. When she first came to Sun City in 1985, she "couldn't stand to be retired," and started working at Faith Presbyterian Church as a social and outreach worker. She spent 15 years at Faith, where she started a group called the Light Beams for individuals with macular degeneration. That was just the beginning of her volunteer "career" in Sun City.

Sun City Meals on Wheels is another of the many organizations with which Elfriede is deeply involved. She has served on the board for five years and also works as the

organization's case manager. Her background in social work makes her perfectly qualified to fulfill this role, where she counsels meal recipients who need financial assistance, refers them to other agencies for help and provides general advice. She has recently been working with six individuals who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina and are currently living in senior housing in Youngtown.

Elfriede joined another service organization, Altrusa International, three years ago and has just accepted a position on its board. The group supports literacy and volunteers at local schools, reading to Head Start children and throwing them a holiday party, distributing dictionaries to grade school graduates and helping support the cause of literacy in general. The group also provides scholarships for nursing students at Sun Health's nursing school. Elfriede says her education background and love of children led her to work with Altrusa, but also notes that the group's literacy work "needs to be done."

One of Elfriede's favorite organizations combines service with a hobby that she loves. She is very active in the Questers, a worldwide organization for antique lovers. The group has an annual convention and an antique show, but each local chapter also sponsors renova-

tion and service projects in its area. Elfriede's chapter has worked to renovate a Phoenix puppet theatre and an early 1800s barn in Tempe, and has also donated funds to preserve other historic homes and buildings.

And, as if all this isn't enough, Elfriede also volunteers in the Museum Store at the West Valley Art Museum on Saturdays, is a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma ed-

ucational sorority and a Hummel Club, and still finds time to join a group of her neighbors for three-mile walks on the outdoor track at Marinette! "You can't stay home," she says. "I find it all rewarding."

To contact Sun City Meals on Wheels, call (623) 974-5489. If you are interested in volunteering with Altrusa, call (623) 972-6155. If you would like information about the Questers, call (480) 657-9786.