

Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

While most post offices list their ZIP code on the exterior sign, Sun City has two codes. Community officials gained support from a U.S. Congressman to establish only one ZIP code for Sun City.

## Zippy: Groups still hope for change

### Franks adds support for single Sun City ZIP code

By **Rusty Bradshaw**  
Independent Newspapers

Supporters of a ZIP code change for Sun City got a Congressional ally, but there is no word on whether that will make a difference.

U.S. Dist. 2 Rep. Trent Franks (R-Glendale) embraced the proposal to have one ZIP code for Sun City when he made that request in a letter to Shaun E. Mossman, U.S. Postal Service Western Area operations support manager. In the Feb. 23, 2012, letter, Mr. Franks echoed sup-



**Paul Herrmann**

porters views that sharing the 85373 ZIP code with Peoria creates undue hardship.

"Upon review and my discussions with Sun City and the city of Peoria, I believe a change is needed to correct a situation that already affects citizens of both the community of Sun City and the city of Peoria in a variety of ways," Mr. Franks stated in the letter.

Sun City now shares the 85373 postal routing code with a section of Peoria. That code zone stretches from Bell Road between 99th and 115th avenues, but extends outside the Sun City



**Trent Franks**

boundaries as far north as Jomax Road and west as far as the Litchfield Road alignment. In 2010, groups involved in the research for a single Sun City Zip code include the Sun City Visitors Center, Sun City Home Owners Association, Sun City Condo Owners Association, Recreation Centers of Sun City and the West Maricopa County Association

of Realtors. Those groups continue to work together for the change.

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# Zippy

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"This (shared ZIP code) skews demographics for Sun City," said Paul Herrmann, Sun City Visitors Center director, who continues to lead the effort. So far, supporters efforts have met with a stone wall. They hope Mr. Franks' support changes that, but Mr. Herrmann said March 28 there has been no word from Mr. Franks' office or USPS officials on whether the proposal is even being considered.

"We hope Trent Franks support helps, but right now the Post Office is just trying to keep its head above water," he said.

In his plea, Mr. Franks outlined the differences between the Sun City and Peoria communities that share 85373, the chief of which is that Sun City is a designated age restricted retirement community with no schools. However, Peoria Unified School District's Zuni Hills Elementary School has a Sun City address because it is in the 85373 ZIP code.

"(This) causes constant confusion and concern," Mr. Franks stated.

While ZIP codes are only loosely tied to cities or communities, Mr. Franks believes a change is necessary to avoid some significant issues.

"Folks who own property in Peoria and live within the desirable Peoria (Unified School District) have unfairly less marketable real estate because their property is defined by a ZIP code that states it is in Sun City," Mr. Franks stated.

Those same residents get the impression they are eligible for recreation center privileges in Sun City, but they are unable to use the facilities because they do not live within the defined Sun City community, he added.

Mr. Franks proposes Sun City, in its entirety, be assigned the 85351 ZIP code. That would mean residences and businesses north of Bell Road within Sun City would have to switch. That would create a finan-

cial burden especially for the businesses.

"That would not be good for us," said Tammy Matthews, Colby Management general manager.

If the code were changed, the business, located off Boswell Boulevard just north of Bell Road, would have to change all its printed material to reflect the new code. The hardship would not just be financial, according to Ms. Matthews:

"We would have to go into the database and change everything," she explained.

Small businesses may be hit the hardest, according to Ted Anderson. While he works for New Hope Center for Hearing, a large corporation based in Illinois, he has a small business background having operated small hearing aid centers in the Pacific Northwest.

"That would not be an expense I would want to have to face if I were still running a small business," he said.

The focus of ZIP code change supporters in 2010 was on Census numbers and whether they would be skewed with Peoria 85373 residents counted as living in Sun City. Al Nieto, U.S. Census Bureau Phoenix central office manager, assured residents that would not be the case. He explained in February 2010, the Census counts would specify those homes are in Peoria, not Sun City, based on tracts and blocks.

"Tracts and blocks could have multiple ZIP codes in them," Mr. Nieto said. "There are areas where a street is the dividing line between cities and each side has the same ZIP code."

But in all cases, the individual cities get credit for their population counts, he added.

ed.

Vicki Frye, owner of Frye Realty, agrees this is a problem with prospective homebuyers.

"I have had a number of instances where clients thought they were looking at Sun City homes and I had to correct them," she said.

Ms. Frye said the same problems happen when selling homes in Sun City West because of a multi-age neighborhood north of the community.

"If a client wants to be in a specific area you, as a real estate professional, need to make sure they get there," she said.

There are ways to get around the ZIP code identification of a specific property, according to Ms. Frye. She said she looks up properties by subdivision rather than ZIP code. But this method does have its limitations.

"There are so many different (real estate multiple listing) Web sites out there and they are all different," she explained.

But Ms. Frye believes ZIP codes have no effect on property values.

"I do not see a real estate value in having Sun City with a unique zip code," she said.

Mr. Herrmann said local familiarity is helpful in getting around the ZIP code identification problem, but that is lost on real estate agents outside the area, including across the country. Even local agents are unaware of the distinction between communities, he added.

"We get Realtors coming in (the Visitors Center) and when I show them the map it's like a light coming on," he said.

Supporters of a resolution believe the

best option is for Sun City to have one single ZIP code of its own.

"I don't care if we share a ZIP code, there just needs to be some mechanism to require Peoria homeowners to not use Sun City in their address," Mr. Herrmann said. "The 85373 ZIP code may also be reaching into Surprise."

Mr. Herrmann believes the shared ZIP code got its start when Paradise RV Resort, northwest of Sun City bordering Union Hills Drive, requested to be in the 85373 zone in 1985, then Ventana Lakes also requested to be in the zone in 1986.

"They wanted to be in that ZIP code because the Sun City Post Office was the closest," he said.

Peoria and Sun City are not alone in sharing ZIP codes. A section of Phoenix in the area of Cactus Road and 56th Street shares a ZIP code with Scottsdale and sections of Glendale and Peoria share a ZIP code. Belair neighborhood and other areas north of Pinnacle Peak Road in Phoenix also use a Glendale postal code.

However, Mr. Herrmann said Sun City is unique to those situations because of the federal age overlay.

Mr. Herrmann plans to get letters to federal and state legislators to enlist their effort in the campaign for a ZIP code solution. But while there were a number of groups that supported the change last year, few individuals stepped forward from those group and others to help make the case, according to Mr. Herrmann.

"But this has drag on too long and we need to get it done, one way or the other, he said.

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# Sun City still wants code changes

## Peoria Council forgoes ZIP-code change request

By Rusty Bradshaw  
Independent Newspapers

The Peoria City Council is not interested in pursuing a ZIP code change for the northern area of the city, but Sun City officials remain determined to explore options.

"We don't want this to be a dead issue," said Paul Herrmann, Sun City Visitors Center director. "Every time something negative happens in that

ZIP code but outside Sun City, we take a hit." Sun City has two ZIP codes assigned to it — 85351 south of Bell Road and 85373 north of Bell Road. The latter code is shared with Peoria and some county islands. A few months ago Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies executed a raid on a suspected crack house in a county island northwest of the Sun City boundaries. Because the home's address was in the 85373 ZIP code, it was reported to be in Sun City.

"That made all the TV stations, and they all reported it was in Sun City," Mr. Herrmann said. He and Recreation Centers of Sun City and other community officials have been working

Mr. Mossman stated while there are provisions to alter last line city names in cases where ZIP codes share municipalities. However, since the 85373 code was assigned to Sun City and Peoria later annexed land within that boundary, those provisions cannot be utilized in this instances, he explained.

"A single ZIP code should not be assigned to or delivered out of two separate city post offices, as it may result in delay or mis-sorting of mail," he stated.

Mr. Herrmann believes postal officials are also preoccupied with the organization's ongoing financial problems, and Mr. Kemp alluded to that in his report to the Peoria Council July 3.

Mr. Herrmann was also disappointed Mr. Franks' endorsement of a change did not carry more influence with Postal officials.

"I guess what we'll have to do is talk to (Arizona Dist. 21 Rep.) Rick Gray and go to the state and see if we can get some support there," he said.

In 2010, groups involved in the research for a single Sun City ZIP code included the Sun City Visitors Center, Sun City Home Owners Association, Sun City Condo Owners Association, Recreation Centers of Sun City and the West Maricopa County Association of Realtors.

"This (shared ZIP code) skews demographics for Sun City," Mr. Herrmann said.

In his plea, Mr. Franks outlined the differences between the Sun City and Peoria communities that share 85373, the chief of which is that Sun City is a designated age-restricted retirement community with no schools. However, Peoria Unified School District's Zuni Hills Elementary School has a Sun City address because it is in the 85373 ZIP code.

for at least two years to get a single ZIP code for Sun City, but so far have gained no success. They were hoping to get support from Peoria, but in its July 3 meeting the council voted not to direct staff to make a ZIP code change request of the United States Postal Service.

Peoria City Attorney Steve Kemp advised the council he believed it unlikely USPS officials would reverse its denial of Sun City's request for ZIP code changes. However, he believes the council could revisit the issue at a later date.

"From a practical standpoint, it appears it is

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## Change

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appropriate to wait until the United States Postal Service's financial issues are resolved, and then determine whether to proceed with requesting the ZIP code changes," he stated in a report to council.

Sun City supporters of ZIP code change got support from U.S. Dist. 2 Rep. Trent Franks (R-Glendale) when he sent his own request to Shaun E. Mossman, U.S. Postal Service Western Area operations support manager Feb. 23. In the letter, he echoed supporters views that sharing the 85373 ZIP code with Peoria creates undue hardship.

"Upon review and my discussions with Sun City and the city of Peoria, I believe a change is needed to correct a situation that already affects citizens of both the community of Sun City and the city of Peoria in a variety of ways," Mr. Franks stated in the letter.

In a March 20 response, Mr. Mossman said Postal officials recognize that businesses and municipalities use the ZIP code for various nonpostal purposes.

"We also recognize the problems resulting from this practice where there is not an exact fit of ZIP code and municipal boundaries," he stated.

Mr. Mossman explained the 85351 and 85373 ZIP codes were established in 1986 and 1987, and were assigned to the Sun City Post Office, and have existed intact since that time. He also stressed the general stability of ZIP code boundaries is essential to prompt and accurate mail distribution.

**MEMORIES**  
**OF THE**  
**SUN CITIES**



**POST OFFICE SPRINGS**  
**FROM NEWBORN CENTER**

One of a series on the history of  
Sun City and Sun City West, Arizona

Sun Cities Area Historical Society  
10801 Oakmont Dr. Sun City, Arizona  
602/974-2568

## POST OFFICE SPRINGS FROM NEWBORN CENTER

Del Webb's Sun City became an officially recognized community in the U. S. Postal guide on April 4, 1960. On that date a contract substation was opened in a yet-to-be-used space in the newborn Grand Avenue Shopping Center. The rent was \$1 a year.

The occasion was commemorated by an issuance of a multi-colored special cacheted cover under the sponsorship of the Arizona Society of Topical Philatelists and DEVCO.

The inauguration was rather unusual in that the post office came into being before anyone actually lived in the area. (The first home delivery was made to W. Wendell and Emilie Fraser on April 10, 1960). The "Sun City, Arizona" postmark was the first new postmark in the state in several years. For DEVCO it was a marvelous public relations vehicle as stacks of mail were regularly posted to prospective residents throughout the country.

The new postal station's opening was a philatelic holiday for souvenir hunters. Several hundred collectors were on hand to witness the opening ceremonies. Phoenix Postmaster William J. Mason, representing Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield, delivered the key to the post office to Thomas G. Austin, Webb's activities coordinator and acting postmaster on this special day.

An estimated 3,000 first day covers were serviced, with Arizona Gov. Paul Fannin being sent the first piece of mail to receive the Sun City postmark. A special cachet also went to President Eisenhower. The first day covers contained a greeting card telling briefly the story of a model retirement community which has grown "from meadowland to metropolis in just 92 days."

The ceremonies were concluded at the community center (now Oakmont Recreation Center) where postmasters from neighboring communities and other guests were honored at a luncheon.

Tom Austin held the technical contract for the station but Mrs. Mary Garretson served as chief clerk as a paid full-time employee trained by the post office.

"My husband and I came out here the first day Sun City opened on Jan. 1, 1960, to look around and decided to buy a house," Mrs. Garretson said. "The salesmen were so busy handling a line of eager buyers they asked us to come back the next day. When we came back I casually mentioned that I hated to give up my job in Phoenix. The next day Webb called and asked if I would like to work for them. That is how I became the first postal clerk when they opened the station."

Mrs. Garretson and her husband took delivery of the 85th home on May 12, 1960, more than a month after the post office opened.

The station was at first only a general delivery branch where everyone had to step up to the window and ask for the daily mail. Eventually, a few boxes were supplied but not nearly enough. Pressure was put on the postal authorities to begin home delivery, a move that brought about one of Sun City's first community squabbles.

At first it was ruled that delivery would be made to curbside boxes and many people invested in them. Others wanted door-to-door delivery, insisting curbside boxes were unsightly and not safe. Letters by the dozens were sent to postal headquarters in Denver in which residents expressed their preference.

Youngtown residents joined the fight. Door-to-door delivery was approved for those who wanted it and curbside for others. It was up to the residents to make the decision.

On Feb. 2, 1962, groundbreaking ceremonies took place for a permanent post office on the southwest corner of 103rd and Coggins (now the Menke Funeral Home.) The new facility was classified as a branch of the Phoenix post office.

As Sun City expanded northward, the existing post office was no longer large enough to handle the increased volume of mail and parking was limited. On Memorial Day, May 30, 1976, the present day postal center was opened at Bell Road and 98th Avenue. It was no longer a classified branch of the Phoenix post office but a recognized full-service, first-class office on its own right with 25-30 routes.

# Envelope marks birthday

The canvas may just be an envelope but the artwork portrays Sun City's prismatic spirit.

This spirit will be shared with people throughout the world thanks to the work of the Sun City Stamp Club.

The club is celebrating the 25th anniversary by issuing a tri-colored limited edition envelope with a special cachet and cancellation cover.

"We have people asking us

where they can buy one or if we will save one for them," says Frederick Swanson, president of the Stamp Club.

"There will be plenty for everyone, but there is a limited edition of them available."

Mail orders can be placed by sending \$1 per envelope to Swanson at 9342 Glen Oaks Circle North, S.C., 85331.

The project became a reality after a year of work by the club.

The one-of-a-kind envelope also had to be approved by the Sun City, Phoenix and Los Angeles postmasters, before being sent to Washington D.C. for a final okay, he says.

Swanson says the club is not saying how many envelopes are available. And he can't predict whether or not they will increase in value. But it's not being sold with the idea that the cachet owners will profit from it.

"It's not so much a money-making venture, but it is a good souvenir."

"We'll make a profit but an awful lot of work went into it. There will be 12 people at the post office working on this project," he says.

The souvenir will not be for Sun Citizens exclusively. The cachet covers will be seen all over the United States.

"Some people collect cachets from all over the world, because cachets are a picture of a special event," he says.

"The 25th anniversary is an event that is important to a lot of people and they can commemorate it with this cachet," Swanson says.

A cachet was also used to mark the official recognition of the community in the U.S. Postal Guide in April of 1960.

A multi-colored envelope with the slogan "Where retirement means active living," was used to frame a picture of a sunny palm tree setting. Back then, a 4-cent-stamp was needed to send the envelope on its way.

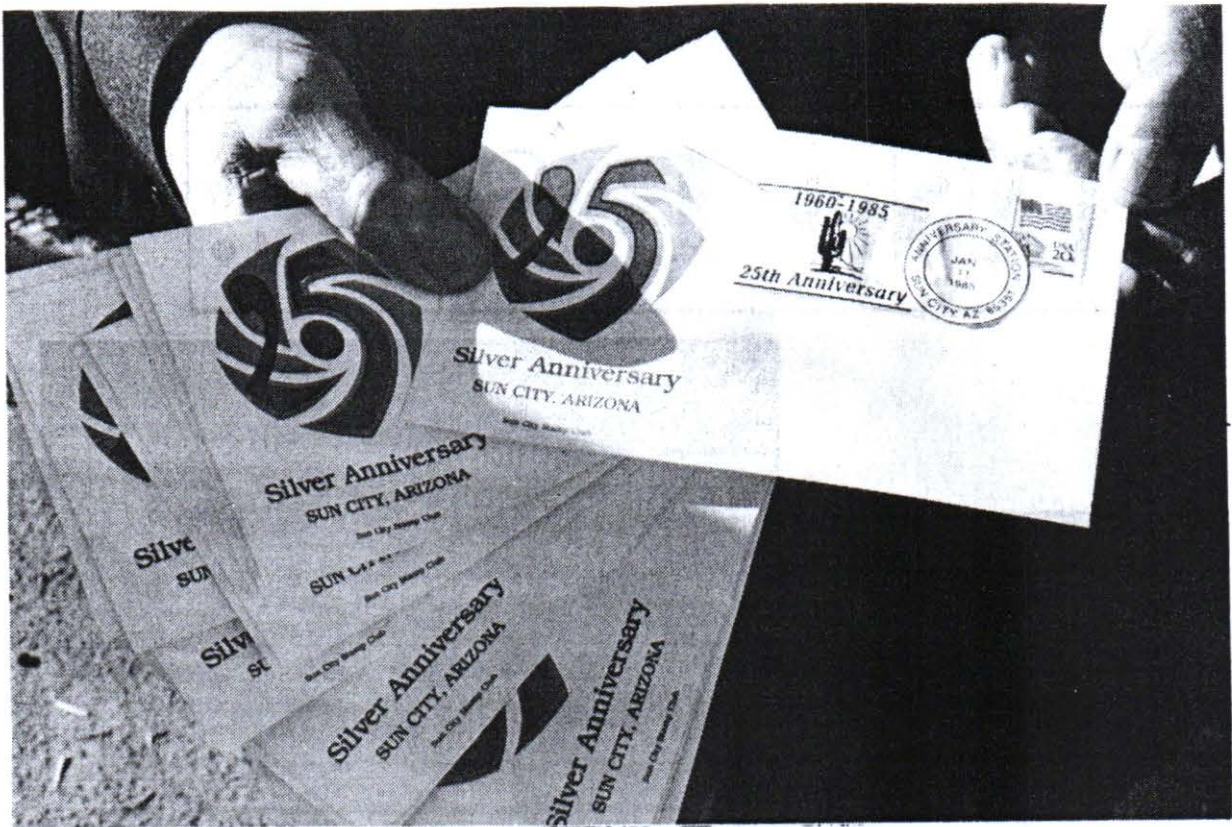
The first cachet cover was sponsored by the Arizona Society of Topical Philatelist and Del E. Webb Development Company, according to "Jubilee."



photos by Laurie Hurd



**GETTING INTO THE ANNIVERSARY SPIRIT**, the Sun City Stamp Club spent a lot of time and money to bring Sun Citians a tri-colored cachet envelope bearing the logo developed by Sun Citian Max Gimpel. Some of the creators of this project are from left to right: Frederick Swanson, president in 1984; Robert M. Reed, Chairman and John Fotheringham, president.



**A CLOSE-UP VIEW** of the tri-colored limited edition envelope. The Sun City Stamp Club is commemorating the 25th anniversary by issuing the special envelopes.

# Postal carriers test drive electric vehicles

MITCHELL VANTREASE

DAILY NEWS-SUN

David Gonzales is a familiar face in the neighborhoods he serves, whether he's sitting in his delivery truck or riding on a bicycle.

This week, however, he and other U.S. Postal Service letter carriers in the Sun Cities are test driving a new mode of transportation.

Post offices in both Sun City and Sun City West are trying out electric T3 delivery vehicles to determine its environmental friendliness and viability with employees.

"It's something to get used to, but it's better for the environment in the end," Gonzales said.

The T3s come with compartments attached to the vehicle for mail storage, and a trailer can be attached as well. It has a range of 40 miles with a maximum speed of 12 miles per hour and maximum load of 450 pounds.

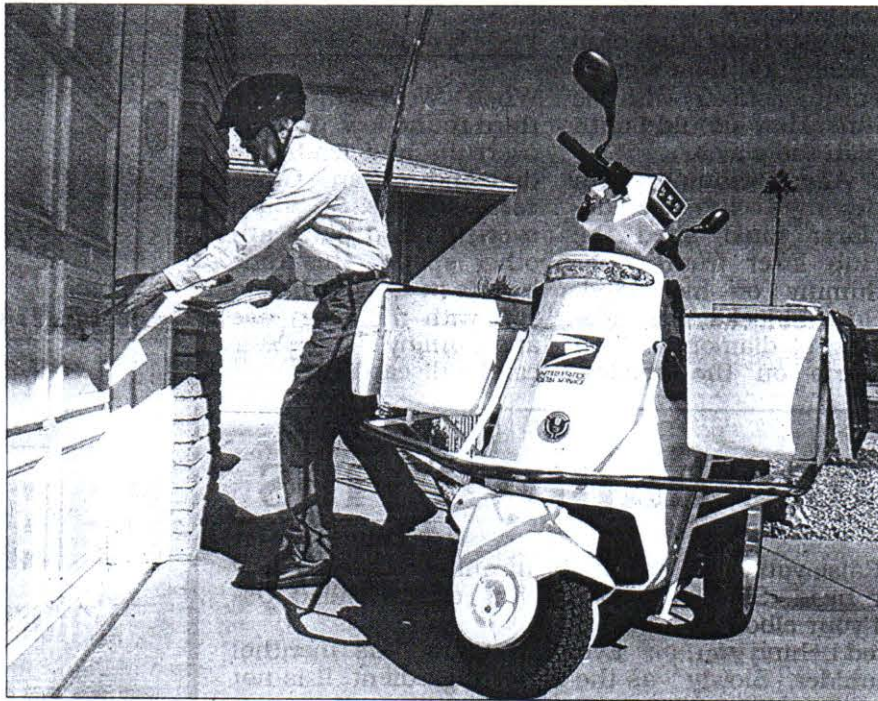
Mark Strong, Sun City postmaster, said the test drives in the retirement communities are two of four sites in Arizona where the T3s will be driven.

Strong said there are a number of advantages to the T3 versus a bicycle or regular postal truck.

"Usually you have to start and stop, and for a gas vehicle that's too much," he said. "You don't even have to do that with this vehicle — it's electric."

Peter Hass, a spokesman for the U.S. Post Office, said they'll determine in the next few months whether they'll use T3s as part of the official vehicle fleet.

"We're always looking for more



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City letter carrier Don Whetten delivers mail south of Hutton Drive on the T3, a three-wheeled electric vehicle, on Thursday.

environmentally friendly ways to do business," Hass said. "Every time the price of gas goes up, that's millions of dollars more we have to spend."

The T3s cost less than 4 cents per mile to operate.

In addition to cost effectiveness and environmental friendliness, Harper said the T3 helps with ergonomics for some postal workers as well.

Gonzales has trouble with his knees sometimes as he gets in and out of a regular postal truck.

"It's a lot easier with the T3

because it's not that high off the ground," he said.

Since he's test driven the vehicle for the last few days, Gonzales said he's been asked a lot of questions by residents as he's delivered their mail.

"They want to know what is it and then I tell them," he said. "They all love the fact that it's environmentally safe, but as long as I get the mail to them on time, I'm sure they won't care."

Mitchell Vantrease may be reached at 623-876-2526 or [mvantrease@yourwestvalley.com](mailto:mvantrease@yourwestvalley.com).

# Plugged in



**MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN**  
Letter carrier David Gonzales rides an electric-powered T3 in the parking lot before heading to his Sun City West route Thursday.

## Local veterans help debut new Purple Heart Commemorative stamp

By Randy Altenhoff

The oldest military decoration in the world still in use, and the first award available to the common soldier created in 1782 by General George Washington, was recognized by the United States Postal Service last Friday.

Prior to its creation, it was common practice to award medals only to officers. On Aug. 7, 1782, General Washington awarded three soldiers in New York State the new medal which carries his image.

The Purple Heart is awarded to members of the armed forces of the United States who are wounded by an instrument of war in the hands of the enemy and posthumously to the next of kind in the name of those who

are killed in action or die of wounds received in action.

Military Order of the Purple Heart, Sun Cities Chapter 691, Jerry Houston, commander, and members of the organization have prevailed upon the USPS to issue a commemorative stamp which, when used in the mails, will remind all who see the stamp of the veterans who "Some gave all, all gave some."

Citizens are reminded that many wounds do not go away. Most of the wounded suffer disabilities throughout their lives and deserve more than just a fleeting "thank you" from those who enjoy the freedom which they won.

The first day sale took place at the Sun City Library where Sun

City Postmaster Mark Strong and Past Cmdr. Michael E. Mahoney unveiled posters of the stamp while volunteers sold first day issue envelopes and cards as collectibles.

The ceremony began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Donald Loomis; the Invocation by Chaplain William Brandel and a speech by guest speaker Col. (soon to be Brig. Gen.) Phillip Breedlove, commander of Luke Air Force Base.

Although highly decorated, Breedlove indicated his reverence for those who have received the Purple Heart but never personally coveted earning one.

Other guests included members of other veterans organizations, wives and friends. Sen. John

McCain, himself a recipient of the medal, was not able to attend and had a member of his staff participate. County and state representatives were on hand filling the room to capacity and forcing many to stand in the foyer.

In his speech, Col. Breedlove reminded the group that Lori Piestewa, Frank Luke, for whom Luke AFB is named, and Sr. Airman Jason Cunningham, who saved 10 others but died in Afghanistan, are among the 1.9 million veterans to receive the medal. It is estimated that approximately 600,000 are alive today.

"When you use the stamp, I hope you are reminded of the men and women who have earned it," said Breedlove.



After unveiling the new commemorative Purple Heart stamp issued by the United States Post Office, Brig. Gen. (Designate) Phillip Breedlove of Luke AFB applauds the men in the audience who received the award commissioned by General George Washington in 1782.

## New Postal Service stamp called 'way overdue'



Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

Unveiling the U.S. Postal Service's new Purple Heart stamp at Bell Center Library in Sun City are Luke Air Force Base's commander, Col. Philip Breedlove, (left) and Surprise resident Michael Maloney.

# Purple Heart recognized

By David Madrid  
The Arizona Republic

Stanley Lomayesva was shot four times through the thighs in an ambush while serving in the Vietnam War as a radioman and a "tunnel rat" on the Reconnaissance Patrol.

The 56-year-old commander of the Department of Arizona Military Order of the Purple Heart said he would crawl into tunnels in search of the enemy. A Phoenix resident from the Hopi Nation, Lomayesva was 19 when he was wounded.

He said he placed plenty of his fellow soldiers in body bags during that war,

and plenty more were wounded.

So naturally Lomayesva was ecstatic to see the U.S. Postal Service unveil its new Purple Heart stamp on Friday at the Bell Center Library in Sun City.

"It was way overdue," he said of the postage stamp that features the medal: a profile of George Washington inside a purple heart. The award was first established by Washington on Aug. 7, 1782, during the Revolutionary War as the Badge of Military Merit.

It was the first medal awarded to the common soldier, and it is awarded to those who have died or been wounded in action.

Lomayesva said the postage stamp

shows that finally Americans realize that freedom is not free, but is bought with blood. It took six years to persuade the U.S. Postal Service to issue the stamp.

The room at the Sun City Library was packed with about 150 people, many of them veterans of World War II, as well as the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Col. Philip Breedlove, commander of Luke Air Force Base, was the keynote speaker at the unveiling event.

"You were always there when we needed you, and you have never let us down," he said to the veterans and Purple Heart recipients. "This is a great day for our veterans."

Monday, Oct. 28, 1996 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Postal officials say the new post office for Surprise is really in Surprise, not Sun City as the sign indicates.

## Office cancels error

By **BOB BUSHNER**  
Staff writer

**SURPRISE** — The sign reads "Sun City, AZ," but the new building really is in Surprise.

Local postal officials hope the doors of the city's new temporary post office will open by Dec. 1, but some remodeling of the newly-constructed modular building has to be completed before the public can begin using the site.

Sun City Postmaster Mark Strong chuckled when asked about the sign accompanying the two parts of the 5,000-square foot modular post office building that's being readied for customers on the northwest corner of Dysart Road and Grand Avenue just south of Bell Road in Surprise.

"Yes, it is the Surprise Post Office, but for technical reasons, it's actually considered a branch of the Sun City Post Office, much like the Sun City West Post Office is," Strong said.

"You wouldn't believe the number of telephone calls we've been getting about that.

"Yes, Surprise, it is your very own post office, and that (Sun City) sign will come down."

The sign aside, why would Strong have to order remodeling work on a brand new structure that was delivered from Colorado earlier this month?

"I had requested two service windows and there's only one, but these buildings are modular and are stamped out exactly the same," Strong said.

The new post office will offer window service and box rentals, but actual mail delivery for Surprise residents will continue to come through the Sun City West post office, Strong said.

# Just part of the job

## Sun City letter carriers honored for actions

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Paul Lawlor and John Mendez say they don't know what all the fuss is about.

As letter carriers, they are supposed to do more than deliver the mail, they say.

Watching out for their customers is an important part of their job, especially in an area like Sun City where there are elderly residents, they say.

Their supervisors believe that Lawlor, a 10-year veteran, and Mendez, a 15-year veteran, went above the call of duty, though, and deserve special recognition. On Wednesday, they received certificates of appreciation and passes for a day off work.

Lawlor saved a Sun City couple from a fire, and Mendez alerted law enforcement officials when customers' mail piled up for days at their house. The elderly customers were found dead of natural causes.

"We have a Carriers Alert program nationally so carriers notice if someone's mail is piling up, but what these two employees did went beyond that," said David Baake, district manager of the U.S. Postal Service for Arizona.

Lawlor saved William Lewis, 95, and Olive Lewis, 93, and their caregiver, Sylvia Steffy, from a house fire on March 12.

While delivering parcels on his route on a Saturday afternoon, Lawlor noticed smoke billowing from the Lewises' carport on Roundelay Circle. A stack of newspapers was on fire.

"I rang the doorbell and told the caregiver that the carport was on fire," said Lawlor, a Phoenix resident. "I saw the wall of the carport was in flames, so I went and hooked up the hose and started putting out the fire."

Steffy got the Lewises out of the house and called

**"We have a Carriers Alert program nationally so carriers notice if someone's mail is piling up, but what these two employees did went beyond that."**

**David Baake**  
District manager  
U.S. Postal Service

911. She then moved her car, which was parked near the fire.

Lawlor said he was relieved that all three people made it outside safely. After the firefighters arrived, he resumed delivering the mail.

"It took only about 10 or 15 minutes to alert them about the fire and make sure they got out," Lawlor said.

Later that day, he went back to the Lewises' house to give them their letters.

"I saw Mrs. Lewis sitting outside, and when I handed her the mail, it helped return normalcy in her life," Lawlor said.

Ethel Burgeson, who is the legal guardian for the Lewises, said Lawlor is a hero in her eyes.

"All of us neighbors, friends and family can not praise Mr. Lawlor enough and will always remember that this near-tragedy was prevented by his quick thinking and actions," Burgeson wrote in a letter to Sun City Postmaster Mark Strong.

"The Lewises have been married for 70 years, and this could have been a devastating end to two beautiful lives."

Sun City Fire Department Capt. Greg Peterson also wrote a letter to Strong, praising Lawlor's actions. See CARRIERS, Page 5



**Peter Schwepker / Staff photographer**  
Postal carriers in Sun City don't take their duties sitting down. John Mendez (left) was honored for checking up on a couple who hadn't taken in their mail for a few days, and Paul Lawlor alerted another couple to a fire.

# CARRIERS

From Page 1

actions.

"If it were not for the rapid intervention provided by this service-minded man, there could have been a loss of life and there would have been a far greater loss of property," Peterson said. "The community at large owes a debt of gratitude for this unselfish action."

Lawlor said, "It gives me a good feeling to know that I helped, but mail people do things every day that are beyond their jobs and they don't get recognized for it."

A couple weeks before the Lewises' house fire, Mendez was worried about a couple living on Desert Rock Drive.

They hadn't taken in their mail or newspapers in a couple of days. Mendez asked neighbors if they knew where they were. He later called hospitals to see if they were patients.

After five days had passed, Mendez called the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office. Deputies found the bodies of Frank Cernik, 86, and Florence Cernik, 88, on the

floor.

County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Lisa Allen said apparently Florence Cernik became ill and her husband, who was in a wheelchair, fell down trying to help her. They died of natural causes.

"I used to see the gentleman sitting in his wheelchair through the living room window and he'd wave at me and I'd wave back," said Mendez, a Peoria resident. "I get personally attached to the people on my route."



# Postmaster committed to service

## Sun City post office seen as challenge

By MIKE GARRETT  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — A lot of people asked new Sun City Postmaster Mark Strong why he would want to come to the Sun Cities by way of Prescott Valley and Glendale with all the previous problems inherent in the job.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed it so far," said Strong, who assumed the position April 20. "If there is one place that's going to let you know how you're doing, I think this is it. There's an opportunity here if we're really serious about improving our service. I'll get more feedback here than I will anywhere else."

With Price-Waterhouse now monitoring the U.S. Postal Service's customer service index, Strong said it's imperative that the post office become serious about improving service.

"I think the post office in general realizes now how important service is," he said. "That has been my message to employees — that I won't compromise service for anything."

"This (Sun Cities) is a good challenge and an opportunity to see what we can do with service," Strong said. "I'll be ready for another job if I can make it work here."

and meeting with the two homeowners groups to see what the needs are.

"I'm taking phone calls, listening to complaints, talking to customers in the lobby and going to the Olive Garden (restaurant), whenever I need to go to find out what's good and what's bad in Sun City and Sun City West," Strong said.

The feedback he has been getting has usually been small things like an extra collection box or changing a carrier route, he said.

Strong said he has also been working toward improving relations with the local postal unions. "I think we're starting to reap some benefits that can change the way we do business. There has been some hard feelings inside this building in the past and we're going to fix that."

He said his office will monitor the Sun City West post office situation and make improvements as needed.

The latest improvement is marked crosswalks from the rear alley leading to the contract station at Camino del Sol shopping center (13576 Camino del Sol). The crosswalk was being finished last week, said contract station manager Margie Curran.

Strong follows interim Postmaster George Lasica and former longtime Sun City Postmaster Helen Kennedy, who retired to northern California in January.

All had to deal with the furor over improving post office service in Sun City West and the long lines and inadequate parking at the Sun City post office at 984th Avenue and Bell Road.

"I firmly believe, and the message I've been telling employees, is that if we do it right the first time, there will be no added cost to the post office," Strong said. "We can provide better service without missed deliveries and without the long lines in the lobby."

Strong feels he has a good handle on what the problems are serving the Sun Cities and what can be done to alleviate some of the concerns.

"I don't want to dwell on the past. It seems like the past has always been brought to my attention around here. The past is over with and I'm looking at the future," he said.

Strong has also been touring the two retirement communities

Strong has also established a dialogue with Property Owners and Residents Association directors.

"They were very up front with me and good at getting back to me on problems," he said. "They told me they're going to continue their efforts to get a full-service post office. I told them I would continue to monitor the situation in Sun City West."

Director Howie Wilson said at last week's meeting that PORA remains in touch with the offices of Sen. John McCain, R-Phoenix and Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Tucson, about eventually getting a full-service post office for the community.

"But the feedback I've been getting from them (PORA) is that the new contract station has been doing very well except for a recent Saturday (when only one employee was available to run the station)," Strong said. "It has been very quiet. I had called out there last week because I had heard nothing."

Strong said he won't wait another five years for another

5,000 people move into Sun City West before addressing the community's growing pains. "As soon as I don't think that station is meeting the needs out there, I'll do something about it."

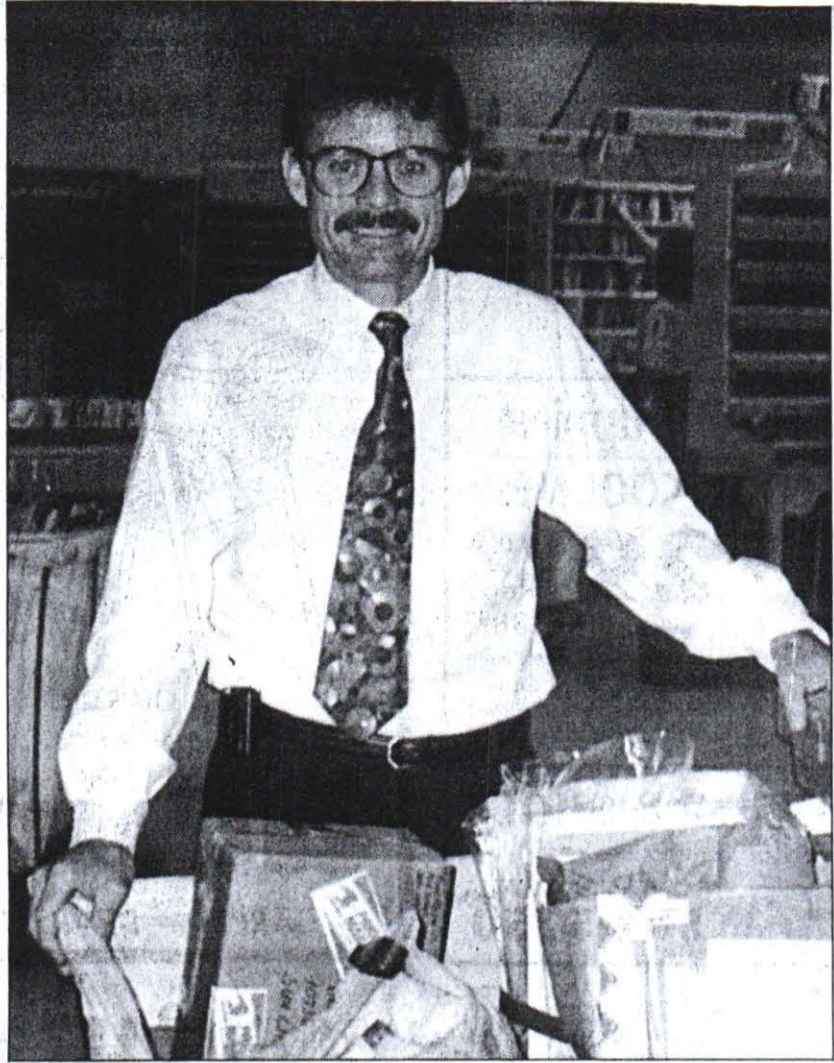
He said it's much more efficient to house all mail carriers under one roof at the Sun City post office. "As long as I can give them (Sun City West) the retail services that they deserve and should have, then the con-

tract station may meet those needs."

Strong acknowledges that he likes the idea of housing a full-service post office in a free-standing empty Sun City West bank building.

"It's not that they're never going to have one (their own post office)," Strong said. "When it (contract station) doesn't meet the needs of the people out there, then we'll make that change."

OVER



Mike Garrett/Daily News-Sun

Sun City Postmaster Mark Strong said he is committed to improving service at the Sun City post office.

# Postmaster picked for Sun Cities

By MIKE GARRETT  
Daily News-Sun staff

PHOENIX — The U.S. Postal Service's Phoenix Division has named Phoenix resident Mark Strong as the Sun Cities' postmaster, replacing interim postmaster George Lasica.

Strong previously was acting postmaster and manager of customer services at the Glendale post office, acting postmaster of Prescott Valley and was the 20th Street and Camelback station manager in Phoenix.

"He has a lot of delivery experience working with carriers," Lasica said.

Strong said this morning that he also has experience dealing with post office controversies, having gone through in Prescott Valley similar to Sun City West.

"We opened up a controversial contract station in Prescott Valley while I was there," Strong said. "Their customer base and problems were very similar to what Sun City West was having with their post office."

More than 11,000 Sun City West residents signed petitions to try and get the U.S. Post Office to build a full-service post office in the community. The post office's answer was to move the community's lone contract station several doors down in the Mercado del Sol shopping center into a more modern, twice as large facility.

Strong said Prescott Valley's projected growth of around 12 percent is also similar to Sun City West's but with some differences. They have a lot of big businesses going in there," he said. "Demographically, because it was so far away from the main post office in Prescott, there were some real strong arguments there. But they got a contract station and not a full-service post office."

Strong said he has followed the Sun City West post office controversy and knew former

postmaster Helen Kennedy.

"I was curious how they were going to handle it because the Postal Service just doesn't open new post offices anymore, just two in the United States since our reorganization several years ago."

One of Strong's first duties when he takes over as postmaster Monday will be to meet with Property Owners and Residents Association President Dick Egan and other PORA officials to be updated on the Sun City West post office situation.

Strong has been with the U.S. Postal Service since 1973, getting his start in Montana.

He was selected from a final list of four candidates by Charles Davis, Phoenix Division director of field operations and Phoenix Postmaster David Bakke.

Other candidates were Candy Green, a Phoenix post office station manager; John Toaspern, a Flagstaff superintendent of postal operations; and Ed Pluma, a postmaster in Victorville, Calif.

Lasica said he will return to his job as engineering manager at the main Phoenix post office at 49th Street and Van Buren. "It has been a good experience here for me," Lasica said.

Lasica replaced the retiring Kennedy in February and oversaw the opening of the new Sun City West contract station in the Mercado del Sol shopping center in March.

One of his goals when he returns to the Phoenix office, he said, will be to initiate a program to help people learn how to better use the new post office vending machines and scales so they won't have to wait long in line.

"I want to take on a project on how to increase our message on how to mail packages, possibly through a video lobby presentation," Lasica said.

## Sun City Post Office sponsors open house

Open house at the Sun City Post Office will give the public a chance to see how the Postal Service works — from summer-hold mail to the vehicles that serve the routes in the retirement communities.

Postmaster Helen M. Kennedy invites the public to visit the post office between 1 and 4 p.m. Sept. 22.

The open house is a yearly event, says Mrs. Kennedy. "We try to set it up when more of the people are here."

Tours will show how mail is sorted and, generally, how mail moves through the delivery process.

There are nearly 200 employees in the Sun City Post Office. They handle 380,000 hours of work a

year through the local facility. At the end of the postal department year, Sept. 20, 1990, the Sun City department had handled 96 million pieces of mail.

Distribution volume is another point of interest. Much of the local delivery is mail that is processed by machine from Phoenix. But an additional amount is processed in Sun City: magazines, periodicals, the so-called "flat pieces."

This accounts for another 10.5 million pieces of mail, "where we separate it for the routes."

There are 117 city routes and four rural routes, says Mrs. Kennedy. In addition, there are 11 post office contract stations located in shopping centers throughout the

community.

The department also has set up a 24-hour telephone line to facilitate mail delivery. "So many people go away; they can call and get mail delivered if they call before 7 a.m. The telephone number is 972-9604.

Mrs. Kennedy maintains close personal ties to the community where she has served as postmaster since 1983.

"I live in Sun City, and enjoy it," she says.

The Sun City Post Office has 40,733 points of community delivery and another 1,977 rural routes.

There are about 4,446 mail boxes between the main post office and the contract stations.

For the open house, Mrs. Kennedy says the carriers will come to the office complex in the morning and will set up a facsimile sorting station. "They'll let the patrons see how 'easy' it is," she says.

There also will be stamp displays by the Sun City and Sun City West stamp clubs at the open house. Philatelic and commemorative stamp items will be for sale, as will a limited number of stamp pins and T-shirts. The book of 20 stamps for \$5.80 will also be available for purchase.

There will be refreshments, and balloons for the children.

The post office is located at 9802 W. Bell Road, Sun City.

*Daily News Sun**Jan. 29, 1986**25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Supplement  
A-14*

## SC post office grows with area

By **KAREN S. LEONARD**  
Staff Writer

Memorial Day has an extra special meaning to the Sun City Post Office—it's the post office's anniversary.

On May 30, 1976, the office at 9802 Bell Road was opened and there were 25-30 routes compared with today's 91.

Those 91 routes are within the post office's delivery area which includes the Sun Cities, Youngtown, Surprise and the rural area west to 170th Avenue.

To assist patrons, Postmaster Ivan Langford from 1974 until Jan. 1, 1983, oversaw the opening of several new postal contract stations in area stores.

Under the direction of Postmaster Helen Kennedy, since February 1983 the Sun City post office has steadily increased its delivery to keep up with the growing population.

For the 1984 fiscal year 136 postal carriers delivered 63,059,880 pieces of mail with an average of 6.1 pieces of mail per delivery.

Mrs. Kennedy reports there

has been a 20 percent increase since this time last year in the number of pieces delivered and the number of lock box mail pieces.

The Sun City post office serves 62,000 people and has 34,395 possible deliveries, she added.

Other than mail delivery the post office deals with such things as Mailgrams, Express mail, registered mail and special products like padded envelopes and boxes and philatelic products.

### Fire district formed in 1966

Sun City's new volunteer fire company district was approved by a 1,375-80 vote on June 6, 1966.

Two weeks later the district was formally organized, with election of officers, including Fire Chief George Meade. Others were John Prather as secretary-treasurer and Howard Reynolds, H. Kendall Mulcahy and Walter Isekeit as board members.

# Neither snow nor

## Sun City postmaster enjoying detour from work as teacher

By THELMA HEATWOLE  
Special for The Republic

SUN CITY — As postmaster of the Sun City post office, Helen M. Kennedy is responsible for delivering more than 52 million pieces of mail a year and managing 165 postal workers.

Kennedy, 52, said it's a job that she enjoys "tremendously."

"I'm really happy in this job," she said. "To me, it is exciting to know you can make things run well."

Actually, Kennedy, who became postmaster here in January 1983, rates another title.

According to LeRoy Brewer, Phoenix postmaster and manager of the Phoenix Management Center, Kennedy is highest-ranking woman working for the U.S. Postal Service in Arizona.

Despite her position, she said she is vehement about calling herself postmaster, not postmistress.

"You can go to school and get a master's degree — it doesn't matter what sex you are," she said.

"So, why can't someone who masters the art of running a post office be a postmaster? Women have been postmasters for years but mostly in small offices."

Actually, Kennedy said she had planned to be a teacher.

But fate intervened.

"I had a friend who was taking a test for Postal Service work," she said.

"In 1967, I signed up to take the test, too. My friend failed the test. I passed."

It was not until June 1969 that she was called to work one day a week in the Ivanhoe, Calif., post office.

Kennedy, the mother of two children then in junior and high school, said she decided to accept the postal job to help pay for her continuing education to be a teacher.

"It was my goal to be a teacher at that time," she said.

"But what happened was that the one day a week lead to about six days a week work. I kept going to night school."

However, Kennedy said the postal work became "more and more interesting."

She said she learned different facets of postal work, including delivery of mail, and when the regular clerk died, she got the regular job.

Later, she became postmaster at the Ivanhoe post office in competition with 250 others.

She was sent, in time, to serve on special details and in the process gained wider experience.

In 1979, she became postmaster in Cot Grove, Ore.

Then, along came announcement about postmaster job opening in Sun City.

Kennedy said she bid for the postmaster job and after interviews was "fortunate to be accepted."

In Sun City, she is responsible for approximately 165 employees — carrier clerks, supervisors, custodial.

In addition, there are six contract stations — one in Surprise.

"In total, the post office delivers to a population of 70,000, including delivery to Youngtown," she said. "Right now, there are 91 delivery routes."

According to Kennedy, there were 52,397,000 pieces of mail delivered during the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30.

By the end of August of the current fiscal year, she is estimating more than 52,500,000 will have been delivered.

The lobby at the post office at 9402 W. Road is carpeted, and walls boast paint by local artists.

The building includes a mammoth work room where a stream of mail is received and dispatched.

There are about 70 postal vehicles and additional bicycles for some routes.

"I am very proud of my job — of being manager of such a large-scale facility," she said.

Kennedy's husband, William, is a real estate agent, the same work he practices in California and Oregon.

"He likes the change. It doesn't bother him to move," she said.

"He likes moving around and learning about real estate in different states. He is now working on a book about real-estate laws."

The couple have a married son, Dan, a professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and a married daughter, Glen, who lives in California.

There are two granddaughters.

Kennedy said "every day is different," that makes her job "very exciting."

"You never know from one day to the next who you will encounter."

"People are interesting to work with. Customers here, because of their varied backgrounds, are extremely interesting to talk to," she said.

"More people here ask to see the postmaster than at other places. I believe, that's because they are used to talking to the person in charge of facilities," the postmaster added.

# rain . . .



Roy Cosway/Republic

Helen Kennedy calls herself postmaster, not postmistress, at the Sun City post office. "You can go to school and get a master's

degree — it doesn't matter what sex you are. Why can't someone who masters the art of running a post office be a postmaster?"



# RECREATION CENTERS NEWS

10626 Thunderbird Blvd.

Sun City, Arizona 85351

Tel. 933-1321



PAUL CALLE of Stamford, Conn., portrayed these individuals as composite images from photographs. The inter-generational portrait

depicts "a truly warm and meaningful design, communicating love and caring and dignity between the generations."

## New 'Aging Together' Stamp Will Honor SC and Seniors

America's new 20-cent "Aging Together" stamp is a commemoration that recognizes the millions of older people in our society.

Sun City, including West, is our "capital" of these millions of parents and grandparents in the U. S. of A.

It is therefore appropriate that a lot of local, state, and national celebrities will gather here May 21 at 11 a.m. in the Sundial Recreation Center, at 103rd Ave. where it crosses Boswell Blvd., in this attractive community of seniors that Del E. Webb conceived and founded for the active retired.

The U. S. Post Office will have a special booth for the sale of the new stamp and the "first day" special cancellation on the cachet envelopes. Stamp collectors go big for these "covers," so that at least 200 thousand are expected to be cancelled here and in Washington, D. C., the first day.

The first-day cachet covers will be available after the ceremonies and for several weeks from the Sun City Stamp Club.

Each person attending will receive a 5 x 7" souvenir program now being printed in Washington, as are the stamps.

Although the doors will open at 10 a.m. and close at 2:30, the program beginning at 11 o'clock in the auditorium will be of general interest and fast moving. Sun City Postmaster Ike Langford will preside, and Bill Close of TV Channel 10's news staff will help make introductions.

Among the local persons on the program will be the SC pom-pom girls who will serve as ushers, and more than 250 dignitaries have received invitations to attend.

The Luke Air Force Base will furnish the color guard, and the Sun City Desert-aire will entertain and include the national anthem.

## Bylaw Vote Opens Board Meetings

The Board of Directors April 22 changed a bylaw to open its regular meetings.

Previously in January, February, and March the board already had been voting to open each next meeting by separate motion.

The board voted to amend Article IV of the bylaws by adding Section 3, part (b): "The regular monthly meetings of the Board of Directors, with a prepared agenda, shall be open to the members and the press. At the close of each of these monthly meetings, a specified time shall be allotted for the members and the press to ask questions on topics of concern to be answered by the directors and/or operating personnel."

Six members of the nine, all present, voted yes on Len Haynes' motion; two abstained, and one voted no.

Several members at the end of the meeting congratulated the board on the quiet conduct of the session and said they were pleased by the peaceful and courteous atmosphere, the lack of which had kept the meetings closed last year.

The board approved the concept of providing Marinette Center with total fitness facilities for residents near there.

The general manager was directed to consider hiring a fulltime professional supervisor to make full use of the Sun Bowl and develop it toward its highest potential.

The Board of Directors approved these cost-saving projects:

(1) Seal coating machine, for use on cart paths and parking lots, \$12,183, annual savings \$7,900.

(2) Evaporative cooling equipment, Bell therapy, \$40,850, annual savings \$3,750.

(Cont'd on page 5)



SUN CITY POST OFFICE

Postal Year Oct., 1982 to Sept. 30, 1983

Employees - 140

Population: Approx. 75,000  
Delivery Area: 20 square miles  
Deliver to: Sun City  
Sun City West  
Youngtown  
Surprise  
Rural carrier takes  
the mail to Wittmann  
area.

	<u>Reg.</u>	<u>PTF</u>
P.M.	1	
S.P.O.	1	
Supv.	5	
Carriers	95	10
Clerks	17	1
Adm. Clerk	1	
Cleaning	2	
Rural Carr.	2	2

Contract Stations:

1. Sun City Florist - 10743 W. Peoria
2. Grand Ave. Merch.- 10763½ Grand Ave.

All except

- |             |    |  |
|-------------|----|--|
| Retail Env. | 3. | Al Mart Cards - 15477 N. 99th Ave.             |
| Full        | 4. | Today's Swim & Patio - 13583<br>Camino Del Sol |

All except

- |              |    |  |
|--------------|----|--|
| Retail Prod. | 5. | Margie's Cards - 10730 W. Bell Road                |
| Full         | 6. | Williams Market - 16015 Grand Ave.<br>Surprise, AZ |

Delivery Information:

Routes City - Reg. 76, Auxiliary 2, Households, 33,397

Rural 2 1

Delivered 52,397,000 pieces - up 6.1% over SPLY

Averaged 5.2 pieces per delivery

Deliveries per hour - 53 - Almost 1 per minute - up .2% SPLY

69 Postal Vehicles, 3 Contract Vehicles

Distributed 5,320,000 pieces of mail locally - +7.4% SPLY *same period last yr.*

Lock Boxes 952

Lock Bx mail volume - 1,841,000 pieces

Collection Boxes, 33 - Picked up every day of the week (Certain Boxes labeled. Not the one the carriers pick up on their route).

Three runs on Special Delivery & Express Mail. Early morning, around 1 p.m. and after 6 p.m.

Collection Box - South -  
North -

IN YOUNGTOWN P. O. - FIRST CHRISTMAS

CARRIERS (2) SCOTT, ROUTE NO. 1-1-60, NORMAN, Route No. 1-3-60 -  
In 1961, added Routes 3 and 4  
Rented space across the street - a vacant building.

1New P. O. 7-5-62 (Had 5-6 routes)

Bob Scott and Harold McInturf, filled out forms and sent to Phoenix for Carrier positions in Sun City.

Keith Brown was the Postmaster in Phoenix.

Mrs. Monreal was the Postmaster in Youngtown then.

Carrier Cook came to Youngtown in October, 1960,

In part of 1961 and 1962, the Greenway Gift Shop (now) was rented for \$1.00 a year space.

Moved into new building at 103rd and Coggins on 7-5-62 where the Funeral Home is now located.

Harry Block was the acting Postmaster from 1962 to 1967.

Carriers Scott, Norman, Talley, Lutes and Bernard were all given awards for keeping Sun City residents happy.

When the office at 103rd and Coggins became overcrowded, most of the carriers were in the Shine Building, located in back of the Post Office. Edward G. Flint was postmaster in Sun City from 1971 to 6-25-74 and Mr. I. A. Langford from 1974 till 1-1-83.

On Memorial Day, 05-30-76, the Sun City Office at 9802 W. Bell Road was opened and had 25-30 routes at that time.

78 total

Mrs. Helen M. Kennedy became the Sun City Postmaster in February, 1983.

In the town of Marinett, Mrs. Monreal was the Postmaster or Clerk In Charge at the Grocery Store. It was part of the old Boswell Ranch.

Mrs. Mary Garretson was Clerk In Charge of Contract Station in January of 1960.

In November, 1960, carrier service started.

Mr. McInturf had the same route for 17 years.

12'-13' of first class mail.

# Sun City Postal Facility To Be Eliminated

THE PHOENIX GAZETTE March 1976

Despite objections from Sun City and Youngtown residents, postal authorities will hold firm to their decision to close the Sun City Post Office at 103rd Avenue and Coggins Drive when a new post office is opened this spring at 99th Avenue and Bell Road.

In addition, four Youngtown carriers and mail processing operations will be consolidated into the new \$1.9 million facility.

YOUNGTOWN post office will become a branch of the Sun City operation and will have a stationmaster rather than its own postmaster.

Charles K. Kernan, district manager and Arizona postmaster, said regional postal officials decided Sun City needs larger facilities and funds were allocated in 1972. He considers the closing and consolidating the best answers for efficient operation.

Both Sun City and

Youngtown post marks will be used in the branch, depending on which box a person uses to deposit mail. Residents will keep the same post office box number and ZIP code.

KERNAN NOTED the Sun City postmaster has received approval to get bids for a contract postal station in the area of 103rd Avenue and Coggins Drive. A station in that location was mentioned by Mrs. May Whyte Huber, president of the Sun City Home Owners Association.

She noted that some residents have drivers licenses restricted to Sun City. Crossing 111th Avenue into Youngtown is a technical violation.

The new post office, designed by Phoenix architects Schoneberger, Straub and Florence, has 32,000 square feet. Kernan said the facility should be large enough to serve Sun City at least through 1980.



Exterior of Sun City's old Post Office at 103rd Avenue and Coggins Drive.

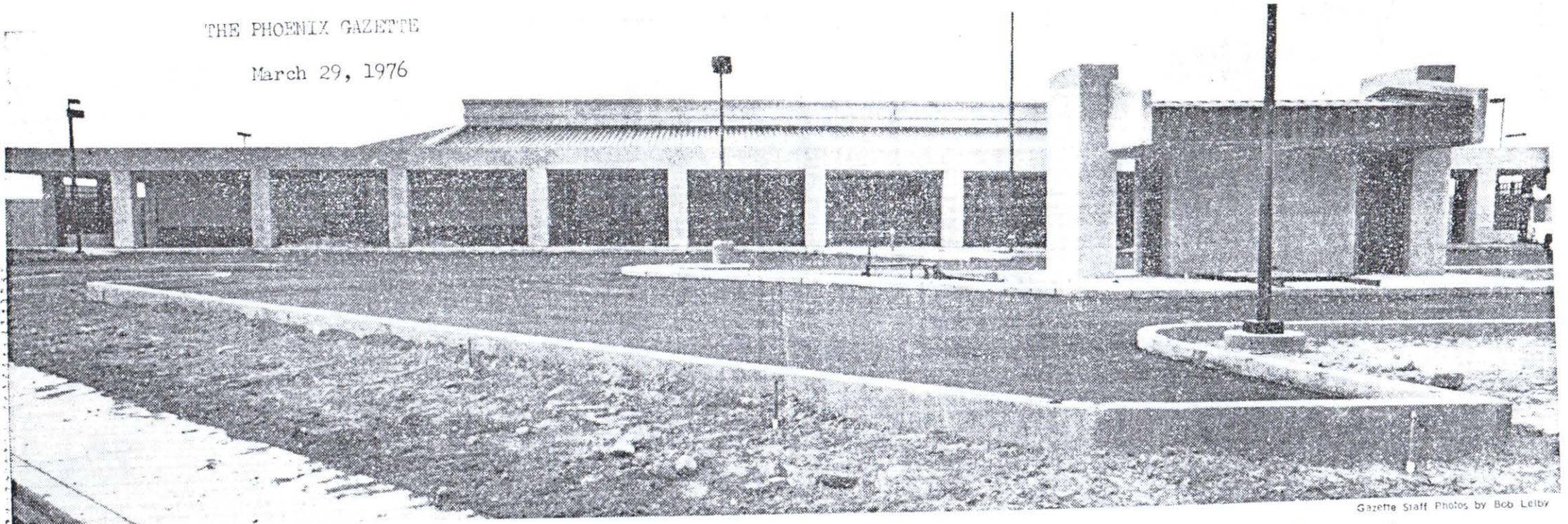
OVER

POST OFFICE

VF

THE PHOENIX GAZETTE

March 29, 1976



Gazette Staff Photos by Bob Leiby

Getting ready for a spring opening is Sun City's new \$1.9 million Post Office at 99th Avenue and West Bell Road.

AN ARTICLE in last Friday's News-Sun brought back memories of Sun City's early days. It said that mail deliveries to new addresses in Sun City and other Western towns have been frozen—at least until a legal interpretation of a new federal law has been handed down. Postmaster I. A. Langford said residents in this new area could pick up their mail at the post office general delivery—"until the ruling is straightened out."

Well, back in the very earliest days of Sun City, a contract postal station—Sun City's only post office at the time—was operated by the Webb company in the Grand Shopping Center. Tom Austin, activities coordinator, was the individual who signed the contract and he, therefore, was the unofficial postmaster.

*S.C. news 11/23/76* ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**THERE WAS** no mail delivery anywhere in Sun City. Pioneer residents rented mail boxes, and the post office became a great social center because everyone in town had to go there. Periodically, the post office would run out of boxes to rent and, until more were added, newcomers had to get their mail via general delivery.

The charge for the boxes was less at the Sun City contract station than at the Youngtown Post Office, and the News-Sun reported this finding in a Page 1 article. I was somewhat surprised to hear a Youngtown resident rise at the Youngtown Town Council meeting and denounce the News-Sun for recommending Youngtowners rent boxes in Sun City. We didn't recommend that anyone do anything, but I did feel we were imparting information that should be of value to many of our readers.

But that's how people can read into an article something that isn't there, and it's a problem which plagues newspapers everywhere.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

**WHAT HAPPENED** to that contract station? It was abandoned when the post office at 103rd and Coggins went into operation. Greenway Drugs knocked out a wall and incorporated that space into the drugstore; it became the gift department, and that's what it still is—but Greenway Drugs since has had a name change to Sun City Drugs because of the ownership change several years back.

At any rate, the current postal delivery situation means that Sun City has come full circle since I became associated with the News-Sun in mid-1960. At that time, however, the community had only about 300 actual residents.

NEWS-SUN 6-25-74

## SC postmaster to retire

Sun City Postmaster Edward Flint will end 32 years of federal service when he officially retires Sunday and I.M. "Ike" Langford, assistant postmaster, will serve as temporary chief until a new one is appointed.

An official from the main Phoenix office said three

local postal supervisors are being considered for the position. A new person will be chosen within 120 days by the regional board in San Francisco after evaluation and character investigations have been completed.

Flint, who started his postal career in 1947 as a

clerk at the Phoenix post office, was assigned to Sun City when the office opened in 1962. He served as assistant until his appointment as postmaster in 1971. His federal service included four years with the Army Medical Corps.

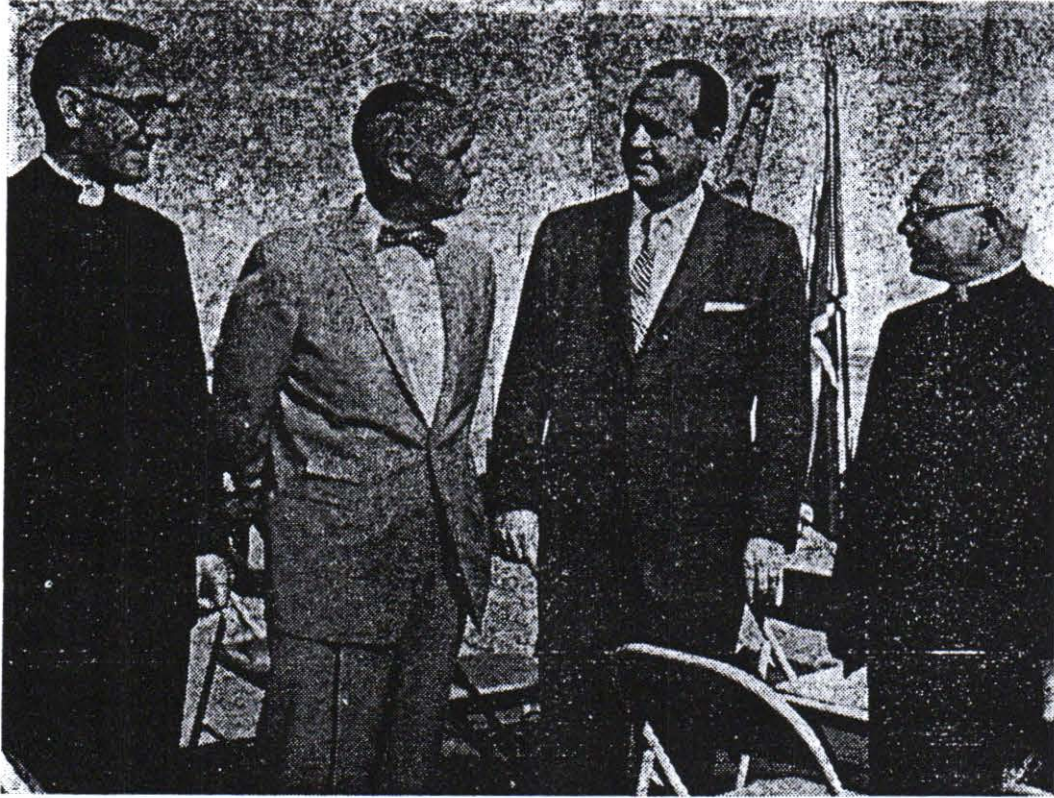
Since he began his Sun City career, Flint said the biggest change in the post office has been size. With the increasing population, "they're gonna have to expand—that's all there is to it," he asserted.

Flint and his wife, who plan to "take life easy now," have a married daughter and two other children one in college and one in high school.

In addition to taking it easy, the Flints will farm in the Glendale area and travel.

SUN CITY—YOUNGTOWN NEWS-SUN

MARCH 1, 1962



FOLLOWING GROUNDBREAKING ceremony for new Sun City post office Feb. 21 informal chat was had by (l to r) Rev. H. Maxwell Walton, pastor of Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran church; Tom Austin, Del E. Webb Corp. activities director; Tom Breen, Del E. Webb Corp. vice president; and Fr. Palmer Plaurde, pastor of St. Joachim Catholic church. All four took part in groundbreaking ceremonies, of which Austin served as emcee. News-Sun Photo

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1967

## New Sun City Postmaster

Our congratulations go to Col. Paul Strain upon his installation as postmaster of Sun City. The Sun Citian assumed this post last Friday.

Strain was selected after Civil Service examinations which, we are confident, indicate he is well qualified to handle a job which is growing in its demands and complexities every day because of the community's rapid expansion.

We wish the new postmaster well.

And we wish to add the com-

munity's well wishes to Harry Block, who has served as acting postmaster during the past several years of tremendous growth also — from the time the local service was removed from the "pip-squeak" operation of a small contract station through its stages of metamorphosis to a first-class post office.

Now, if we could just get a reduction back to the penny postcard — But we've already checked on that with Strain; he says it won't happen.

OCTOBER - 1961

PAGE 8

YOU

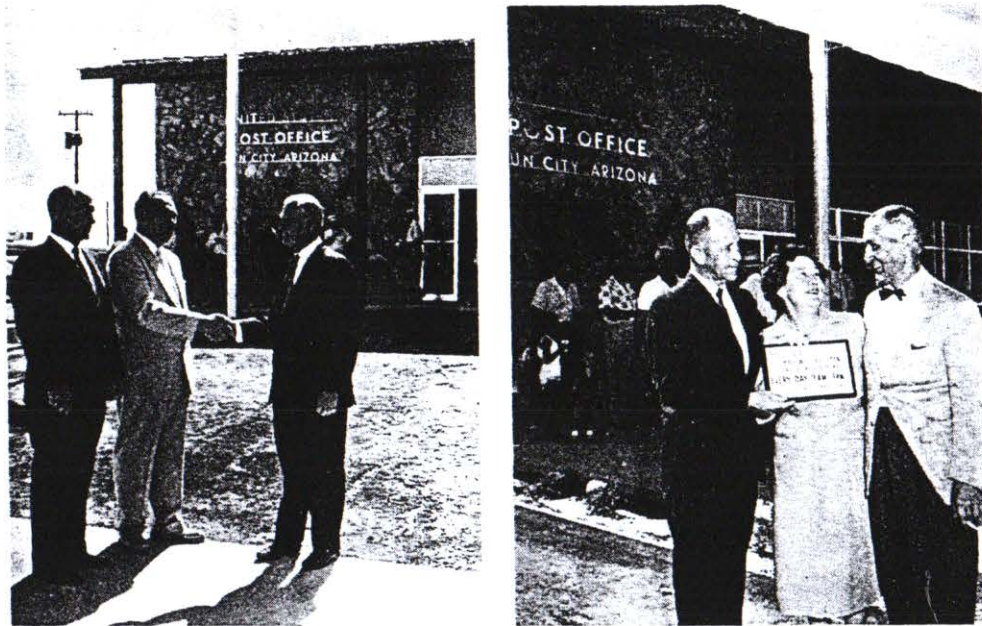


DR. JOHN AUSTIN and assistant-receptionist Mrs. Mary W. Garretson have formed a team which last Monday inaugurated dental service at Sun City Medical Center. Dr. Austin has practiced dentistry for 35 years, the last 30 in Phoenix.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## NEW POST OFFICE DEDICATED



FOLLOWING DEDICATION CEREMONIES for Sun City's new post office on July 1, and installation of Postmaster Harry Block, center, congratulations were given by Frank Anderson, assistant director for the Denver region Post Office Department, and W. J. Mason, Phoenix Postmaster. At right, above, Mr. Mason talks with Mary Garretson, the first clerk of Sun City's original facility, and with T. G. Austin, Del Webb Corporation activities director.

The Phoenix Gazette

1962

# Sun City To Open Own Post Office July 2

By C. M. McMILLEN  
Gazette Staff Writer

Sun City will be established as an independent post office, Monday, July 2, and the rural contract service under Phoenix Post Office discontinued on that date.

Harry Block, a resident of Sun City since January, 1961, will be the postmaster.

THE NEW post office building now under construction is expected to be ready for occupancy when Sun City is established as an independent office.

Postal officials of the Denver regional office are expected to take part in the opening of the new office and installation of Sun City's first postmaster.

A separate and independent post office has been a goal of the Sun City Merchants since businesses opened there.

DEL E. WEBB Co., developers of the retirement city, said today that population now is near 6,000, with some 2,300 homes occupied, the original Sun City site No. 1 and No. 2 completely occupied,

No. 3 near completion and full occupancy, and No. 4 slated to begin in early August.

The new post office building, toward the east edge of the present development, will be near the center when Sun City development is completed. Of native stone and Roman brick, the new Sun City Post Office Building is being

built by Rae Construction Co. on lease-contract.

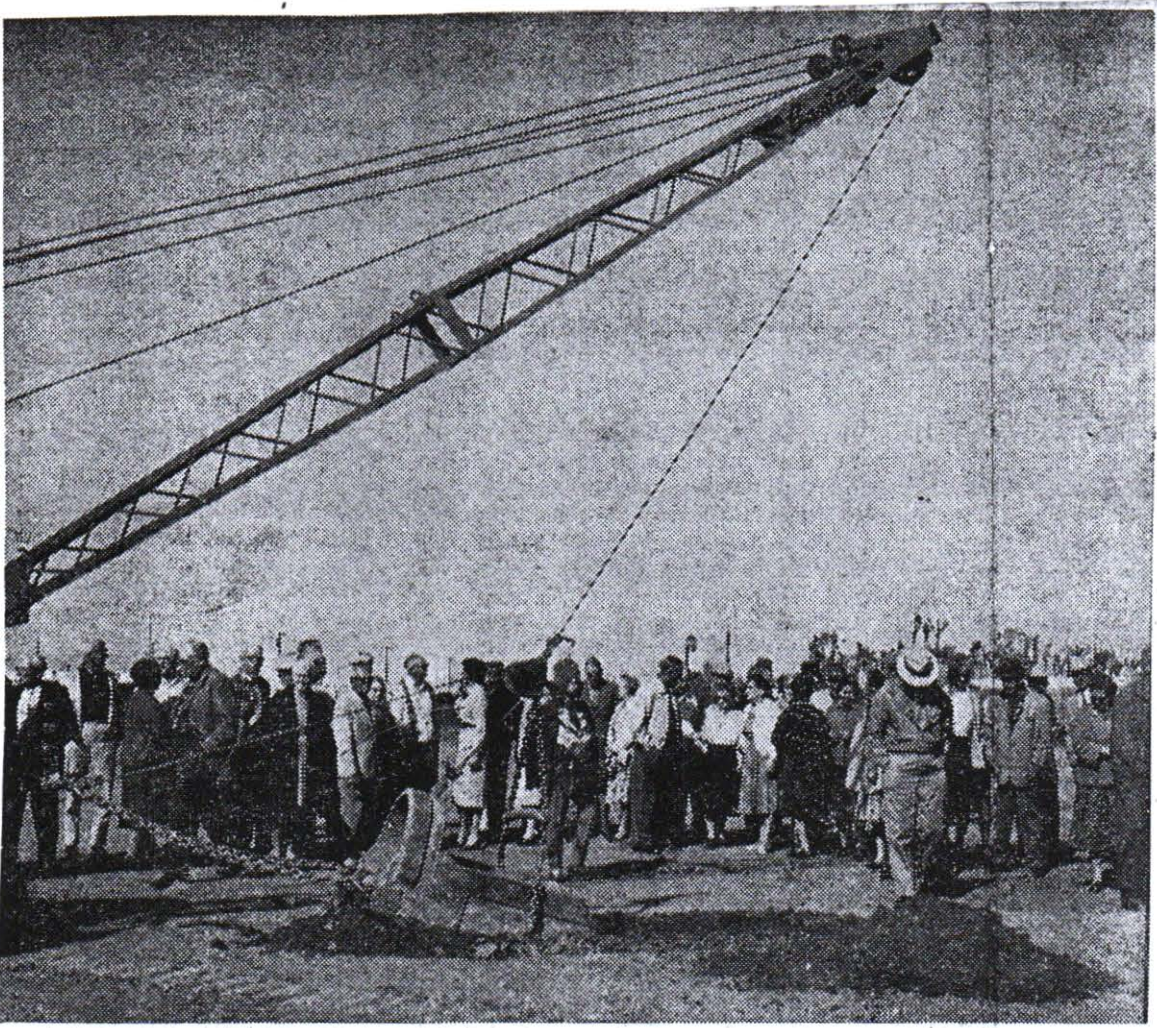
Appointment of Harry Block as Sun City's first postmaster was recommended by Senator Hayden, (D-Ariz.)

Mr. and Mrs. Block purchased their home in Sun City in May of 1960.

Sun City now has city carrier

mail delivery service with Phoenix Post Office carriers working the mail in the present rural contract station which is located in the original Sun City Shopping Center. The contract operator of the station is Thomas G. Austin.

The location of the new post-office facility is 103rd Avenue and Oakmont, off Grand Avenue.



SHUNNING CONVENTIONAL shovel used at groundbreaking ceremonies, boom and dragline shovel broke ground Feb. 21 for new Sun City post office to be erected at 103rd Ave. and Oakmont Dr. Large crowd turned out for ceremonies marking the start of construction for new postal facility. News-Sun Photo

## ANOTHER SUN CITY MILESTONE

# Post Office Start Hailed

A long-awaited milestone, a new building for the Sun City post office, was reached Feb. 21 when groundbreaking ceremonies were held at the site on 103rd Ave. near Oakmont.

To be constructed of native stone, brick and shake shingles, and containing 8,100 square feet, the building will be completed in 90 days, according to James Rae, contractor.

More than 100 attended the event and heard the prediction of J. P. Johnson, assistant Phoenix postmaster, that eventually the present station will be an independent post office for Sun City.

"It's in the works," he said, adding that such things take time, but with continued growth of Sun City, it appears inevitable.

**TOM AUSTIN**, Webb company activities director, served as master of ceremonies, and in addition to introducing guests, gave a history of the postal station from the day of its opening, April 4, 1960, to the present.

Invocation was given by the Rev. H. Maxwell Walton, pastor of the Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran church, who prayed:

*Oh God, on this day of ground breaking for this public building, grant us a vision of our city, fair as she might be; a city of justice, where none shall prey on others; a city of plenty, where vice and poverty shall cease to fester; a city of brotherhood, where all success shall be founded on service, and honor shall be given to noble-*

*ness alone; a city of peace, where order shall not rest on force, but on the love of all for the city, the great mother of the common life. Hear Thou, Oh Lord, the silent prayer of all our hearts as we pledge our time and strength and thought to speed the day of her coming beauty and righteousness. Amen.*

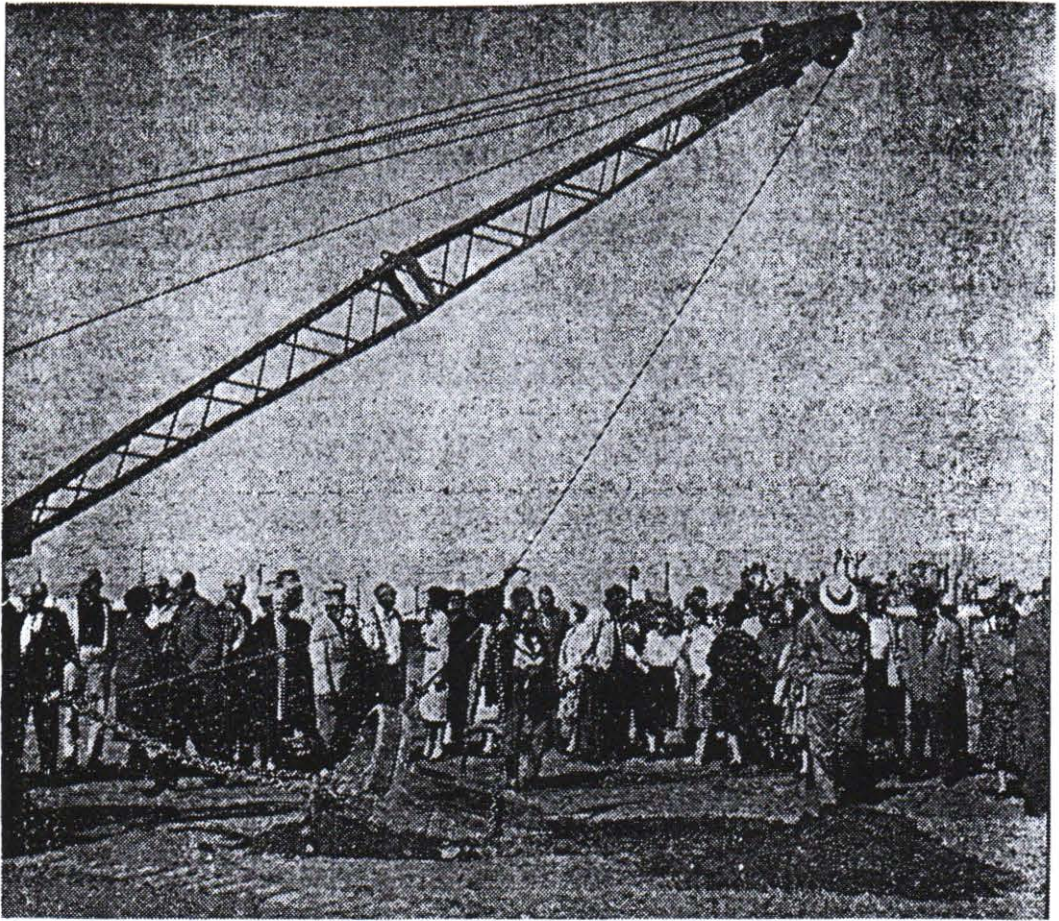
Austin introduced Mrs. Mary Garretson, 12217 Pebble Beach Drive, as the first and only clerk when the station was opened. Receipts that first day totalled \$168 he said.

Johnson filled in a detail in the history overlooked by Austin. He said that Austin was the first clerk, until Mrs. Garretson took over, serving for a salary of \$1 per year. Even though first day receipts were only \$168 "the post office made a profit," he added.

**SEATED ON** the platform and introduced by Austin were other guests of honor, including: Rae, the contractor; Richard O. H. Nelson, architect; Walter Kally, representing the Phoenix district post office; Mrs. Oswald Monreal, Youngtown postmistress; Mrs. Wilcie G. Stone, Peoria postmistress; Mayor George Thomas and Councilman William Burmeister, of Youngtown; Clarence Lehr, representing the Sun City Civic Association; Louis R. Inwood, of the Town Hall Center Association; Tom Breen, vice president of the Del E. Webb Development company, and the Rev. Palmer Plourde, pastor of the St. Joachim Church, who pronounced the benediction.

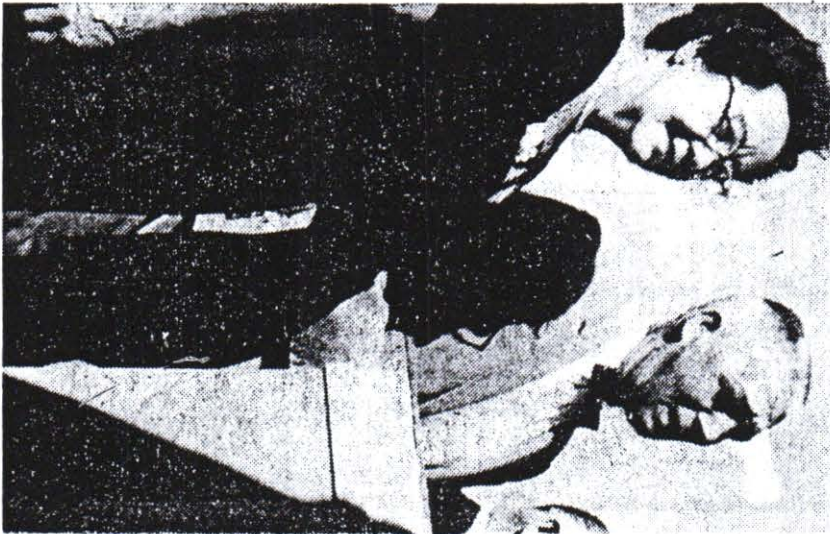
Following the speech-making, the crowd assembled in a semi-circle around the drag-shovel and watched while it scooped up the first shovelful of earth. The process was repeated several times for the benefit of the "shut-terbugs."

Music was furnished by the Sun City Merry Makers. *OVER*



SHULING CONVENTIONAL shovel used at groundbreaking ceremonies, boom and dragline shovel broke ground Feb. 21 for new Sun City post office to be erected at 103rd Ave. and Oakmont Dr. Large crowd turned out for ceremonies marking the start of construction for new postal facility.

News-Sun Photo



MRS. MARY GARRETTSON, first official clerk City post office, was honored guest at groundbreaking ceremonies for new Sun City post office, to be erected at 103rd Ave. and Oakmont Dr. Tom Austin (center), Del E activities director, who served as emcee at ground breaking, was "31 a year" clerk who opened first post office. Phil Compton (right) took charge. At right is Phil Compton, in charge of the Sun City post office.

New

MARCH 1, 1962

# Post Office Groundbreaking Feb. 21

Groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Sun City post office are scheduled for 10 a.m. next Wednesday on the west side of 103rd Ave. and Oakmont Dr.

Participating will be Mrs. John Garretson, 12217 Pebble Beach Dr., who was the first and only clerk at the time the original Sun City contract station opened April 4, 1960.

Arrangements are being made for representatives from the Del E. Webb Development Co. and the regional office of the U. S.

**MRS. OSWALD** Monreal, Youngtown acting postmaster, and Mrs. Wilcie G. Stone, Peoria postmaster, are scheduled to take part. The Sun City Merry Makers will make an appearance.

Tom Austin, Webb Co. activities coordinator, will review the history of the Sun City postal facility.

James Rae of the construction company building the structure and Richard O. H. Nelson, architect, are to appear on the program. Newton Gordon, regional

real estate representative of the U.S. Post Office, also has been named as a participant.

**INSTEAD OF** the conventional shovel used at ground-breaking ceremonies, earthmoving equipment will be utilized.

According to the construction company the building is to be finished in approximately 90 days. It will consist of 8100 square feet with an adequate parking area.

Native stone, brick, and shake shingles will be featured. In gen-

eral the structure will conform to the existing architecture.

The Rae company recently finished construction of a post office on East Highland St., Phoenix, which will be dedicated tomorrow and one in Florence, to be dedicated today.

**W. J. MASON** Phoenix postmaster, explained that the new Sun City facility would be a classified branch of the Phoenix post office. Definite plans on personnel have not been made, though Mason noted that there

"might be two or three clerks and a superintendent."

Figures released by the Del E. Webb Development Co. showed that the existing contract station has done \$104,996.22 business from April 1, 1960 to Jan. 1, 1962.

During the Christmas season the following amount of mail was handled: 54 first class letter pouches dispatched (1500 letters per pouch); 335 parcel post sacks dispatched; and 734 parcel post sacks received.

# Home Delivery In Sun City Set

Home delivery of mail in Sun City is scheduled to begin Oct. 29.

P. H. Menefee, superintendent of city delivery in Phoenix, said a route like the one established in Youngtown last Saturday would be set up to serve Sun Citizens. The route will be covered by a carrier mounted on a three-wheel cart, bringing mail to a streetside box and also picking up outgoing mail from the box.

Youngtowners were slow in erecting boxes. Reportedly there were nine receiving home delivery Saturday and 35 Monday.

The improved service is expected to get a more enthusiastic reception in Sun City, where for weeks new arrivals have had only general delivery service available to them at the small Sun City postal station. The Youngtown post office has had an adequate number of rental boxes to meet the demand.

As a convenience to Sun City residents, the Del E. Webb De-

velopment Co. has allowed an outside firm to use an area adjacent to the service department to make available several types of rural delivery boxes. Any type which meets postal requirements may be used, however, Webb officials pointed out.

# Home Mail Delivery Starts This Weekend

Home delivery of mail in Youngtown is scheduled to start Saturday, it was announced by P. H. Menefee, superintendent of city delivery in Phoenix.

Although no official announcement has been received from the Post Office Department, a similar improved service is expected to be launched for Sun City residents by Nov. 1.

Menefee said an investigation of Youngtown would be made this week to determine whether one or two mounted servicemen would be required at the outset; two carriers will be used soon if not immediately.

**THE DECIDING FACTOR** is how many mailboxes have been set out in front of Youngtown homes, he declared. "I'd be surprised if we don't start with about 25 per cent of home delivery. Right now we're setting up two routes in Youngtown; we're planning to start soon in Sun City but it's not scheduled yet.

Menefee described the arrangement as "a complete service." The carrier will ride in a scooter vehicle — "we have 85 scooters operating now in Phoenix. They will pick up and deliver mail for each box.

**WE'LL UTILIZE** Youngtown post office services as long as facilities there are adequate — at least, that's our plan now."

Official announcement came Tuesday of the conversion of the Youngtown Post Office to an independent branch of the Phoenix post office. It was learned unofficially that the change in status would affect only accounting and organizational procedures; operation of the office will remain the same.

Under such a change the title of Mrs. Isabel Monreal would be altered from postmaster to branch superintendent but with the same status and duties otherwise.

**VEHICLES FOR** the delivery of mail to both Youngtown and Sun City would be stationed at the Youngtown office. The Sun City station is only on a contract basis, and the department does not run deliveries out of a contract station, which does not have civil service employees.

One advantage to Youngtown of becoming a branch of the Phoenix post office, an official said, is that mail arriving from the West will be delivered a day earlier. Instead of serving Youngtown and Sun City from a star route, which goes through Litchfield Park and other towns, the Youngtown dispatch would leave Phoenix later and contain mail arriving on the 5:15 a. m. train from the Coast.

"We have no idea of making the service poorer," the official said. "This is no way of making friends."

# NEWS SUN

The Combined YOUNGTOWN NEWS & SUN CITY SUN

16 PAGES  
THIS ISSUE

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VOL. IV—NO. 8

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1960

YOUNGTOWN, ARIZONA



# Sun City Gets Post Office As First Residents Occupy Homes



**IT'S OFFICIAL.** Phoenix Postmaster William J. Mason (left, in photo at left), delivers to T. G. Austin, activities coordinator and postmaster at Sun City, the key to symbolize opening of new postal facility for retirement community. Beside Austin stands James Chemi, president of Arizona Society of Topical Philatelists. ABOVE — Mrs. Mary W. Garretson, mail clerk, cancels first-day covers in Sun City postoffice.

**CEREMONIES** surrounding opening of Sun City's post office saw the group of ladies pictured at right participate in canceling first-day covers. Phoenix philatelists, they are Mildred Berenschot, Jeannette Mills, Dorothy Fowler, and Anne Thornton. **BELOW, RIGHT** — Crowd around the new postal facility. **BELOW** — Presentation by Jim Chemi to Tom Breen, manager of Del E. Webb Development Co., of a permanent display for Sun City, a framed first-day cover and announcement of opening of the new post office.



## Arizona's Newest

Postal Facility  
Opens April 4

Sun City's postal facility will be officially opened April 4, according to word received by the Del E. Webb Development Co. from the post office department. The Arizona Society of Topical Philatelists is joining with the Webb company in preparing a post office inaugural ceremony, capped by the issuance of a special first-day cachet.

The Sun City postmark (illustrated on this page) with the April 4 date on cover (envel-



ope) will become a collector's item. It is the first new community mark to attract widespread philatelic interest since the opening of Page, Ariz., several years ago.

**AFTER THE** inaugural ceremonies, the ladies of the topical stamp society will serve a buffet luncheon with officials from both the post office department, the Webb organization, and the state's philatelic groups being sent invitations.

Collectors desiring the special cachet cover bearing the Sun City first-day postmark can send their requests and remittances to Sun City Cachets, 2926 E. Mariposa, Phoenix. Completely serviced covers are priced at 15 cents each. All orders must be postmarked no later than March 31 to be filled.

A. H. Mignery of Kansas City, Mo., has been named to serve on the panel of judges for the Arizona State Topical Stamp Exhibition (ARITOPLEX), which is slated for April 2-3 at Osborn School's cafeteria building, North Central and Osborn Road. Two more judges will be named to the judging and awards committee, headed by Anne Thornton.

Miss Thornton said that attractively bound topical stamp albums suitable for senior collectors will be awarded to the four exhibits judged the most outstanding. In topical shows

there is seldom a grand champion crowned since it's a matter of taste as to which topic is the most popular.

**THE JUDGES** will base their decisions on a percentage basis with a maximum of 100 points, split as follows: philatelic knowledge, 50 per cent; neatness and originality, 40 per cent, and condition, 10 per cent. Certificates will be awarded to four second and four third-place winners.

The exhibition will be open to the public free of charge, and a special children's tour is planned for the final day of the show. The Phoenix post office will open a special exhibition station to sell commemorative stamps direct from the philatelic agency's stocks. A special ARITOPLEX postmark will be applied to all mail posted at the exhibition station.

Bob Mills, general show chairman, has called for a meeting of the exhibition's full executive committee at the home of Mrs. Emma F. O'Brien, 314 W. Granada, on Wednesday night at 7:30.

*4/3/60 - Phoenix Republic - Please save & return*

# New Arizona Post Office Opens At Noon Tomorrow

At noon tomorrow Arizona will officially have a new community—at least postally speaking.

Sun City, opened to the public Jan. 1, 1960, now will have its own post office, and to the satisfaction of all Arizona stamp collectors, its own identifying postmark. Del E. Webb Development Co., which is developing this new community for ac-

tively retired couples, and the Arizona Society of Topical Philatelists are jointly sponsoring the post office inaugural ceremonies.

Key officials of the Webb organization, the topical society, and the postmasters of Phoenix, Glendale, Youngtown, El Mirage, and Peoria have been invited to the postal opening.

The first cacheted cover bearing the Sun City postmark will be given to Governor Fannin. The ceremonies will start at 11:45 a.m. tomorrow and the public is invited to witness the post office opening.

R. E. Ditzler, ceremonies chairman for the topical society, will introduce the invited postal dignitaries and officials of the Webb company. W. D. Brewer, regional operations director, and Willard C. Patrick, director of field services, will be among the post office department officials expected to participate in the ceremonies. James M. Chemi, president of the Arizona topical society, will extend a philatelic tribute to Sun City and its developers.

The official cachet cover (envelope) shows the entrance way to Sun City with the colorful fountain. The covers will be franked with the 49-star flag commemorative stamp.

**Official Guest List for Sun City Post Office  
Inaugural Ceremonies - April 4, 1960**

**For State of Arizona:**

His Excellency Paul Fannin, Governor of the State of Arizona  
His Honor Samuel Mardian, Mayor of the City of Phoenix

✻ ✻

**For Del E. Webb Development Company:**

Del E. Webb, President  
L. C. Jacobson, Executive Vice-President  
J. R. Ashton, Vice President  
R. E. Becker, Secretary  
W. J. Miller, Treasurer  
T. E. Breen, Housing Director  
Owen Childress  
Bob Furnier  
Harry Gelles  
T. G. Austin  
John Meeker  
Jerry McLain  
Jack Miller

✻ ✻

**For Post Office Department:**

W. D. Brewer, Regional Director  
Willard C. Patrick, Director of Field Services  
William J. Mason, Postmaster, Phoenix  
Joseph Johnson, Ass't. Postmaster, Phoenix

Mrs. Esabel G. Monreal, Postmaster, Youngtown  
Clayton F. Glaser, Postmaster, El Mirage  
Mrs. Wilcie C. Stone, Postmaster, Peoria  
Ralph H. Trueblood, Postmaster, Glendale

✻ ✻

**For Arizona Society of Topical Philatelists:**

James M. Chemi, President  
Paul Krcina, Vice-President  
Robert Ditzler, Secretary  
Miss Vera Campbell, Board Member  
Mrs. Mildred Berenschot, Membership Chairman  
Bob Mills, ARITOPLEX General Chairman  
Mrs. Emma O'Brien, ARITOPLEX Secretary

☺☺☺

**OFFICIAL PROGRAM**

**Ceremonies To Open  
Post Office  
At Sun City, Arizona**

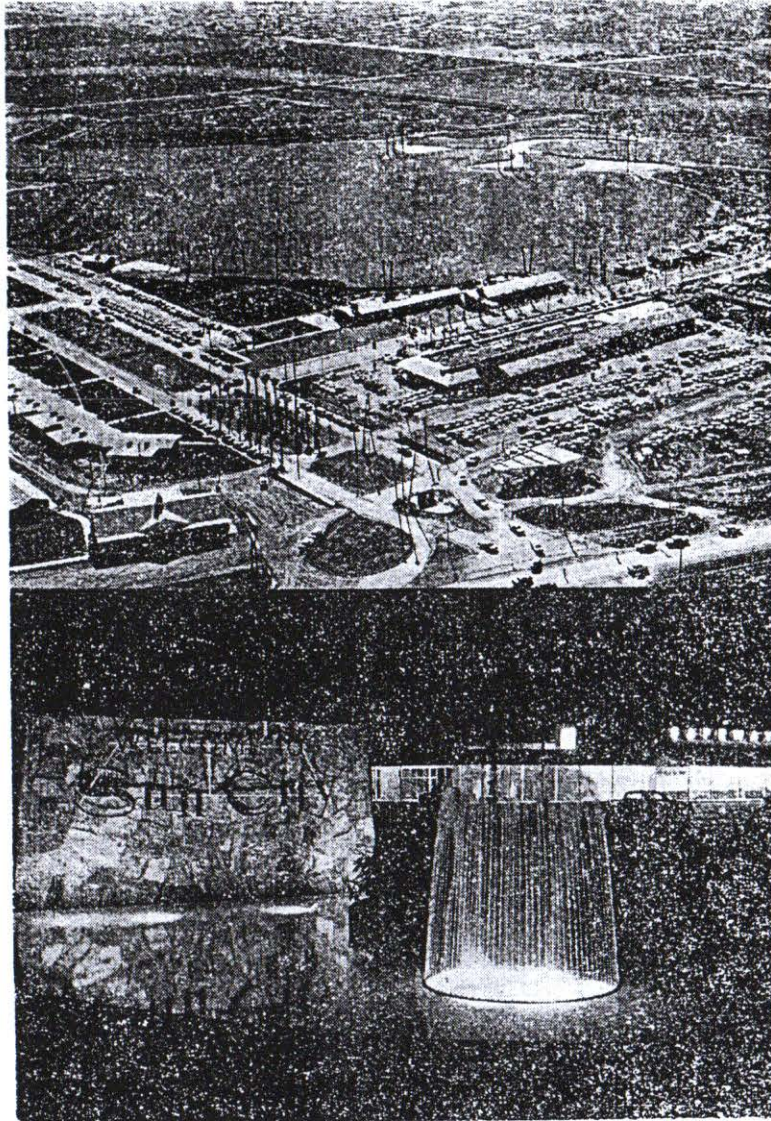
**NOON, APRIL 4, 1960**



Inaugural Program Jointly Sponsored By

**ARIZONA SOCIETY OF TOPICAL PHILATELISTS**

**DEL E. WEBB DEVELOPMENT COMPANY**



TOP PHOTO: Aerial View of Sun City, Arizona.

BOTTOM PHOTO: Entrance way to Sun City at night with lighted Multi-Colored Fountain.

... A New City Is Born to Arizona—the Grand Canyon State—  
and May America's Senior Citizens Dwelling Therein Enjoy Their  
Best Years of Active Retirement. . . .

**-:- Inaugural Program -:-**

11:45 A.M.—Welcome to Sun City, Arizona

. . . Del E. Webb, president of Del E. Webb  
Development Company.

Noon— Official Ceremony for the Sun City  
Post Office

. . . W. D. Brewer, Regional Operations Director  
(Denver), Post Office Dept.

12:10 P.M.—Introduction of Guests

. . . R. E. Ditzler, Ceremonies Chairman, Arizona  
Society of Topical Philatelists

12:15 P.M.—A Philatelic Tribute to Sun City's New  
Postal Facility

. . . James M. Chemi, president, Arizona Society  
of Topical Philatelists

12:20 P.M.—Buffet Luncheon

Floral arrangement by Kathleen