

Questers install plaque at historic site



Russell Gates, *The Phoenix Gazette*

A bronze plaque was placed Monday at 105th and Grand Avenues, a historic location. Attending the dedication ceremony are, from left; Vivian Whitehead, Arizona Questers past president; Anthony Troiano, Century Bank branch manager; Col. Paul Morrill, longtime civic leader; and Ferne Kane of the Marinette chapter of Questers.

By Betty Latty
Gazette correspondent

The historic location at 105th and Grand avenues, site of the town of Marinette before the days of Sun City, has been acknowledged with installation of a bronze plaque on a wonderstone boulder by the Arizona State Organization of Questers.

Questers is a national organization devoted to study of antiques and heritage.

The marker was dedicated officially Friday morning at the site, the landscaped area of the parking lot of Century Bank.

The project, one involving all 33 chapters of the state's Questers, was begun and implemented here by Marinette chapter, according to Vivian Whitehead, who chairs its preservation and restoration committee. Whitehead is a former state president of Questers, which has 21 chapters in the Sun Cities.

The Questers' marker is close to the site of what was the center of Marinette and its post office, first recorded in 1912, which served the cotton-growing community.

The marker's inscription reads:

"The unincorporated town of Marinette, Arizona, existed in this area prior to 1920 until 1957 when

the United States Post Office serving the town was moved to Youngtown, Arizona.

"Marinette, owned and operated by the Southwest Cotton Company, symbolized the importance played by the cotton industry in the early development of the state of Arizona.

"Dedicated by The Arizona Questers in 1985."

Membership information is available from Gladys Limbird of Sun City, Questers state organizer, at 974-6744, or Whitehead at 977-6039.

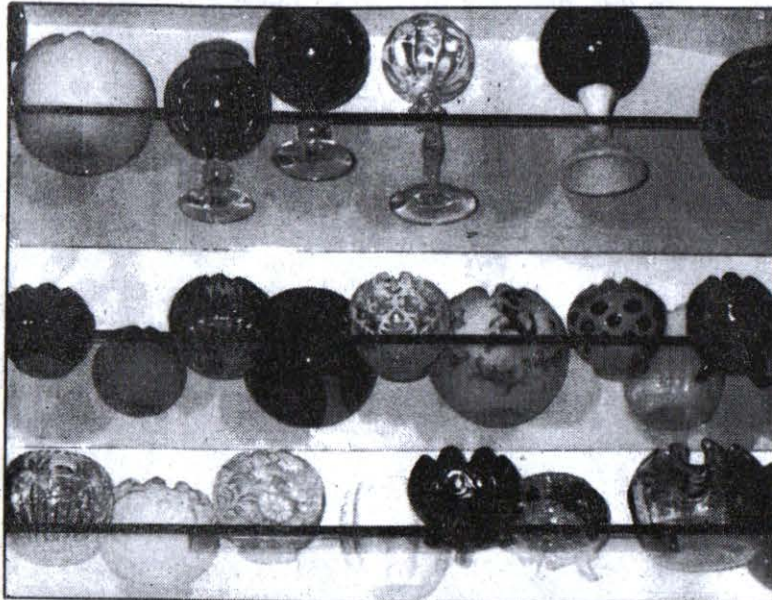
Questers aim to appreciate antiques

By Beth Carlino

It may start out as an interest, progress to a hobby, and even evolve into a passion. Because of

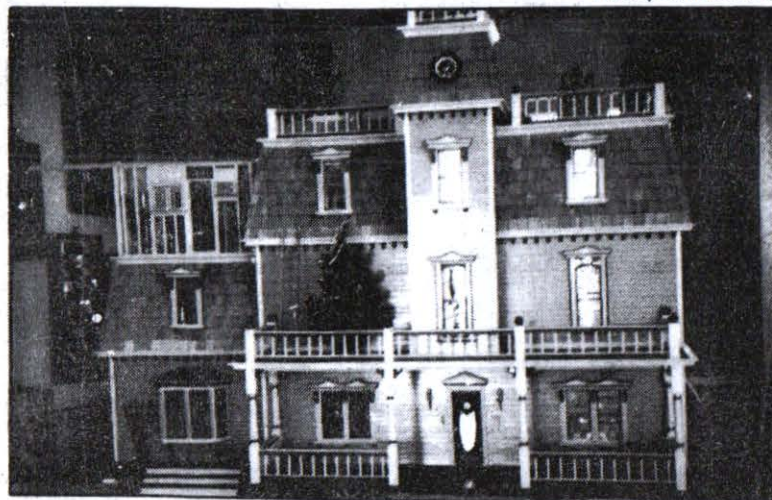
it, laundry may not get done or errands may not be run.

It is the art of antiquing, collecting objects and bits of memo-



Janet MacDowell displays part of her collection of Victorian-era rose bowls (above); others are used in her home to hold potpourri and dried flowers. She and her husband Gordon constructed the dollhouse and interior miniatures.

Photos, Beth Carlino



abilia made in a bygone period of history.

Named "The Questers," the international organization promotes appreciation and study of antiques. Its motto is "It's fun to search and a joy to find."

Several chapters of Questers exist in the Sun Cities area. Each chapter plans its varied program which may include field trips to local historic sites, or speakers and research papers may be presented by members.

Questers believe that antiques are a part of human history, a tangible record of the things which constitute everyday living. Thus, they feel that knowledge of

antiques brings the past to life.

Local Quester members share their expertise by presenting informal lessons once a month in their homes. Topics have included such varied collectibles as luster ware, Victorian china, hats, handbags, Chinese ivory and cast iron cooking utensils.

SCW resident Janet MacDowell, a member of the Yucca chapter, has traveled in the States and abroad in search of her treasures. While MacDowell collects china, crystal, and art objects, two of her most extensive collections consist of glass rose

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bowls and dollhouse miniature furniture.

Rose bowls were intended to serve as a container for potpourri and were most popular in the Victorian era. According to MacDowell, the Victorians were lavish. One of anything was never enough, and glass makers were happy to produce the bowls to fill endless nooks and crannies.

The endless variety of rose bowls produced meant there was a bowl to fit every budget, and a woman was not considered to be properly setup for housekeeping without one. Because those living in the Victorian Age did not bathe often, rose bowls served the useful purpose of emitting various fragrances into the small rooms. explained the collector.

Dollhouses allow a glimpse into the social customs and interests of another age. These very detailed houses were intended to teach young girls how to manage a household and were not considered just a toy. Displayed in the MacDowell household is an intricate dollhouse constructed by the collector and her husband, Gordon.

Many collectors not only display but also utilize their antiques. For example, MacDowell uses her red glass collection on Valentine's Day and the 4th of July. "It's a good way to be forced to clean it," she asserts.

Questers invite those who are enthusiastic about pursuing an interest to call Janet MacDowell at 623-584-5293.



Submitted Photo

From left are Carolyn Click, Doris Palmer and Essie Mae Allbritton.

Sun City women on Questers board

Essie Mae Allbritton was elected state president of the Arizona Questers Organization. Her two-year term will begin June 1. She previously served as First Vice President and Ways and Means Chairman for the state group.

She is a member of Yucca Chapter No. 0826, having held several positions within that chapter. Doris Palmer, president of Phoenix Firebird Chapter No. 0639, is recording secretary of the AZ Questers Organization. Prior to that she served as state second vice president. Carolyn Click, former president of Yucca Chapter No. 0826, served as state historian for four years. She will continue in this position for at least the next two years. The Questers, an international study organization, was founded in 1944.

There are more than 13,000 members. Their goals and purposes are to educate by research and the study of antiques, collectibles and history. They donate funds for the preservation and restoration of artifacts, existing memorials, historic buildings, landmarks and educational purposes.

Yucca Chapter has as its P&R project the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum. Phoenix Firebird Chapter has adopted as its P&R project George Washington Carver Museum and Cultural Center, Phoenix.



Submitted Photo

Questers donate plaque to museum

To help the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum celebrate its recent inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, the Yucca Chapter of Arizona Questers donated a bronze plaque for the building. Attending the presentation were Sandy Jordan, Chapter President Kenlyn Boyd, and Pat Forsythe. The museum is located in one of the five original model homes, which opened in Sun City on Jan. 1, 1960, and is the first Sun City building to be placed on the national register. The museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive, will be open 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, May 11 and Friday, May 13. Groups of six or more may arrange private tours during the summer when the museum is closed.

VF SC Questers Org

TREASURES

Questers schedule local meetings

Group searches for treasure

By Daphne Davis
SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT
NEWSMEDIA

"It's Fun to Search and a Joy to Find" is the motto of The Questers.

The group will conduct two informational meeting in the West Valley. The first will be 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21 at the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum, 10801 Oakmont Drive. The second will be noon Tuesday, March 6 at the main library in Glendale, 5959 W Brown Street. Those attending are encouraged to bring their lunch. A third meeting is scheduled 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 6 at the main Glendale library.

During the meetings, attendees will hear more about the mission of The Questers and will have an opportunity to meet the state president and 1st vice president and ask questions. A mini program on a few unusual antiques will be presented.

Members of The Questers embody the excitement of searching for that perfect treasure, the love of learning about their collections,

an interest in history, the joy of contributing to preservation and restoration projects and they take special pride in aiding in the education of preservationists and conservationists.

The Questers, which began in 1944 in Philadelphia, now has chapters in forty two states and several Canadian provinces. There are 29 Quester chapters in Arizona, including Prescott, Sedona, Tucson, Mesa, Wickenburg, Greer/Pinetop, Tempe, Scottsdale, Fountain Hills, Sun Lakes/Queen Creek, Camp Verde/Clarkdale, the Sun Cities and greater Phoenix. There are five chapters in the greater Sun Cities — Katchina No. 1502, Octillo No. 582, Road Runners No. 1572, Turquoise No. 623 and Yucca No. 826. Chapters are assigned a number when they charter. The lower the number the older the chapter. They also must submit an article on how and why they named their chapter to the international file "What's in a Name."

While The Questers, as an international organization, has a broader mission than state and local historical societies and Daughters

of the American Revolution, many of the local chapters find their purposes are essentially aligned — to study and research things of historical value (often antiques) and to preserve historically significant places and objects.

Local chapters conduct monthly meetings to learn about antiques and collections or to take trips to museums and antique shops.

The philanthropic arm of the organization raises money, either locally or from grants awarded by the state or international chapters, to restore locally significant historical places or objects. The goal is preservation of history for the education of the future generations.

Some of the projects that Questers are currently supporting are the Superstition Mountain Museum, The Cornville post office, The Henry Wickenburg House, Tempe's Peterson House, the Pioneer Cemetery and the Del Webb Sun Cities Museum.

Call First Vice President Vicki Metcalf at 928-707-3643.

Editor's Note: Ms. Davis is Arizona Questers state president.

NF SC Questers Organization