

HONOR

Memorial bench honors Sun City's Uncle Sam

STAFF REPORT

Ray Mills will always be Sun City's Uncle Sam.

And Mike Lindquist doesn't want anyone to forget it.

Lindquist is seeking to raise enough money to establish the "Ray Mills Memorial Bench," which will sit next to the Liberty Bell at the Bell Recreation Center.

"(Mills) always told me of all the things he did as Uncle Sam, his favorite was to ring the bell," said Lindquist, who has been filling Mills' red, white and blue role ringing the bell for the past two years.

As part of his Fourth of July

tradition, Mills would let others ring the bell after he did so.

"He wouldn't quit until the last person left," Lindquist said Tuesday.

Mills began dressing up as Uncle Sam decades ago as a member of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge Phoenix chapter. He went on to personify Uncle Sam for 18 years, attending programs on Memorial Day and Veterans Day at Sunland Memorial Park in addition to ringing the Liberty Bell.

Mills, an Army veteran who fought in Europe during World War II, "had a terrific feeling for

» See Mills on page A5

Mills

» From page A1
veterans," said Lindquist. "He didn't lose enthusiasm during the entire time. It never got old to him."

The cost of the entire project

is around \$2,000 and about half of that has already been raised, Lindquist said.

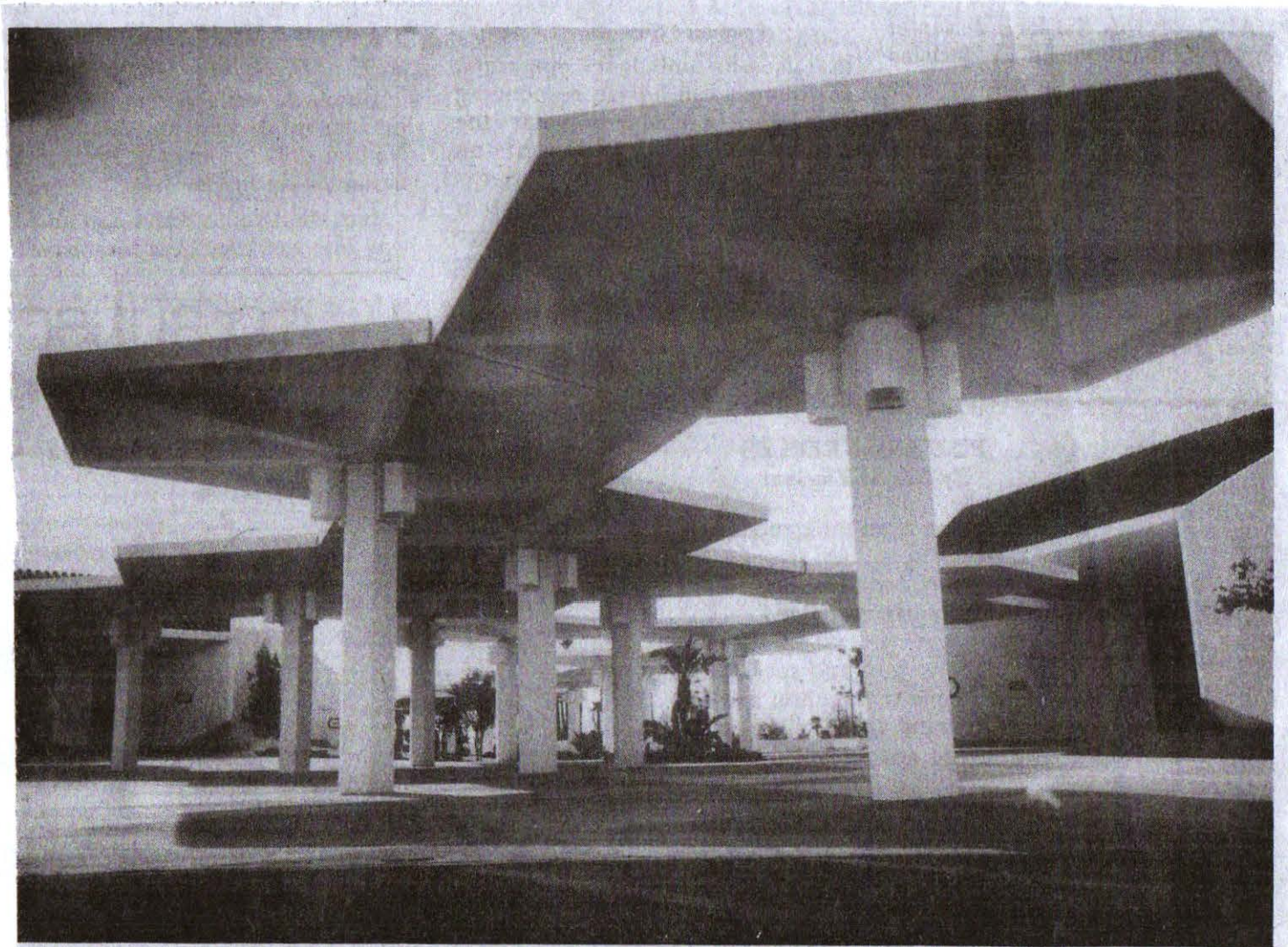
The bench will include a plaque with highlights of Mills' life.

Those who would like to contribute can make a check pay-

able to "Sun City Foundation — Ray Mills Fund" and mail it to Mike Lindquist, 10536 W. Mission Lane, Sun City, AZ, 85351.

"I think people will be excited to see this bench," Lindquist said.

UF SC Rec Center SC Bell() 11/6/1976 No source



Award winner—

Hexagon-shaped canopies of precast concrete provide shelter for pedestrian walkways at Bell Center. The canopies received a Special Merit award from the Arizona Rock Products Association at its Excellence in Concrete awards banquet November 3 for architects

Hawkins and Lindsay, and the Del E. Webb Development Co., builder. ARPA's top award for "Excellence in Concrete" went to The Arizona Bank highrise and Plaza in Tucson.

11/6/76

Memorial Garden about to flower into reality

Work will begin this week on a project that will not only transform the barren Memorial Garden at Bell Recreation Center into a beautiful park, but will also serve as a more fitting tribute to the founder of the Sun Cities.

Organizers of the project say they now have the necessary funds to begin work on the garden, which is expected to be dedicated Sept. 17, the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution.

The garden, located behind Bell Recreation Center, is the current home of the Del E. Webb Memorial Statue and a replica of the Liberty Bell.

Doug Morris, one of the members of an ad-hoc committee planning the garden's renovation, says 50 percent of the funds necessary to complete the project have been raised. He says landscaping will begin this week.

"The present condition of the garden is a wasteland," says Morris. "It is not what we promised Del Webb back in 1974 when we first told him about the statue."

Morris feels the garden would serve as a fitting tribute to Webb, the founder of the Sun Cities, if it were more attractive.

Renovations call for a lush garden with a variety of desert plants and flowers. Surrounding the statue and Liberty Bell will be several ramadas, park benches, tables and gazebos.

"It will be a colorful, sociable kind of a garden," says Morris.

"A place where people will want to be. Not some place they just want to look at."

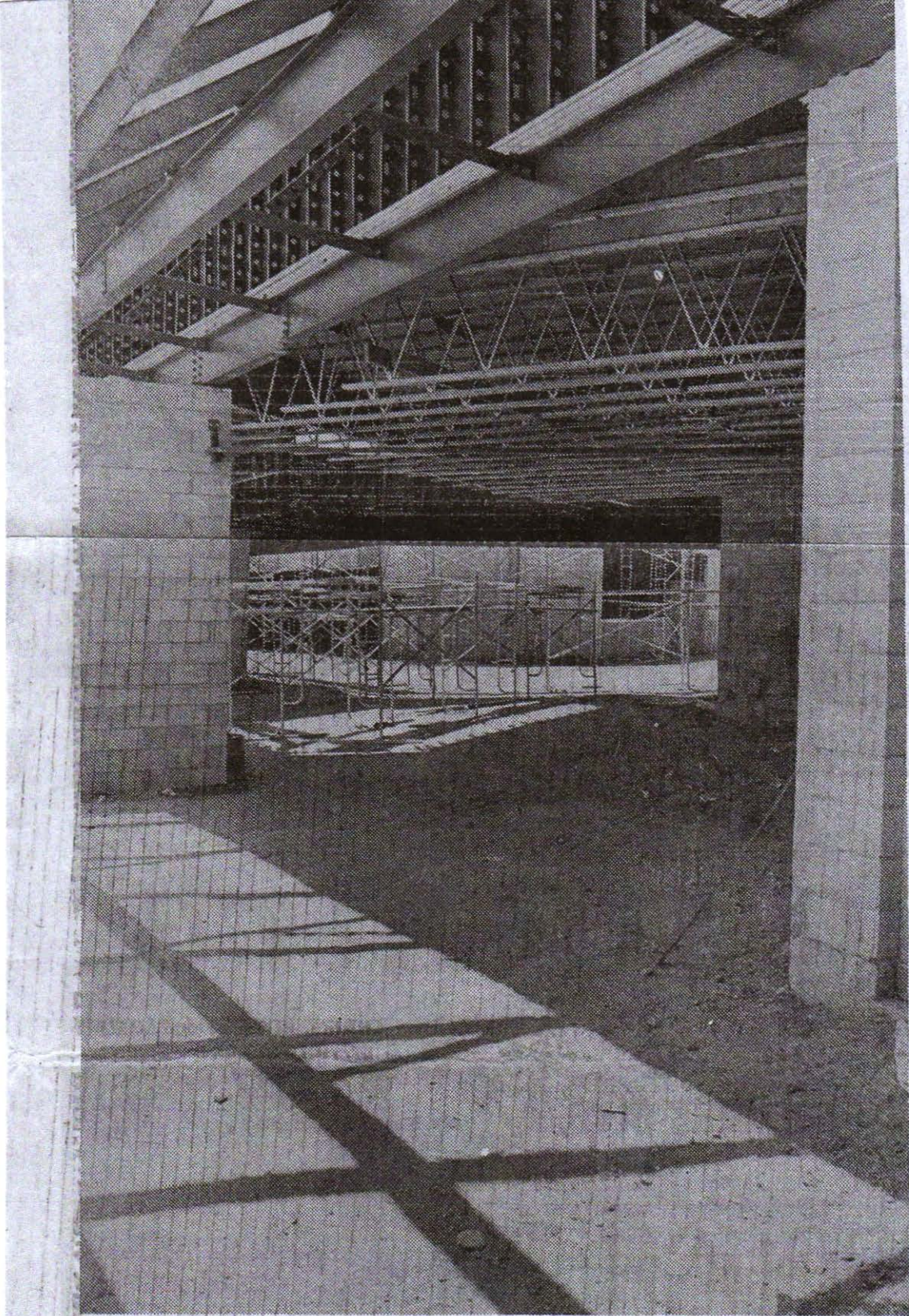
Morris says over \$2,000 has been donated by Sun City residents over the past month. Recently, however, the Del E. Webb Foundation donated \$20,000 toward the project.

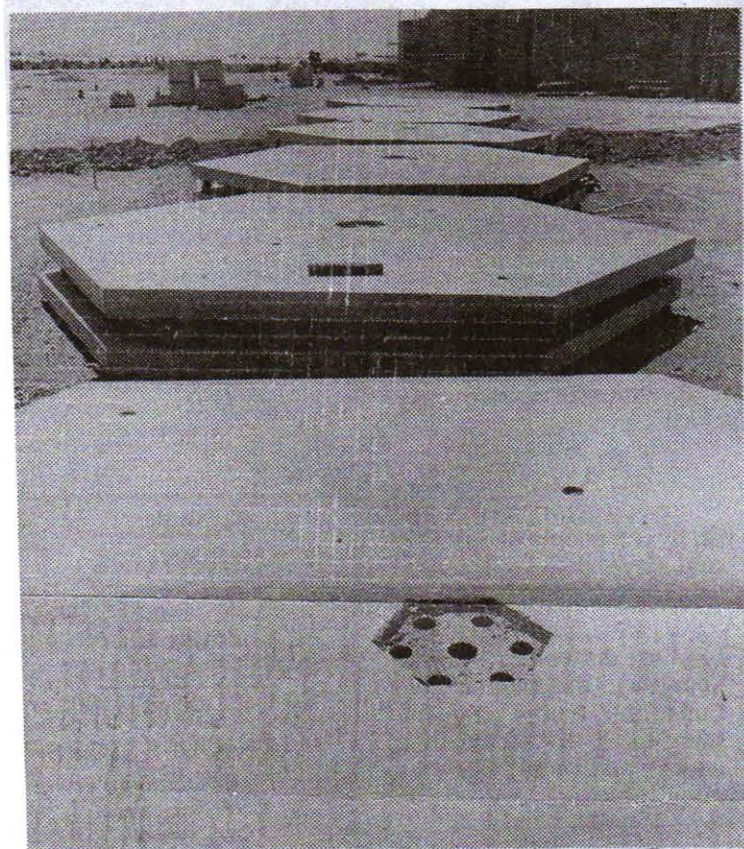
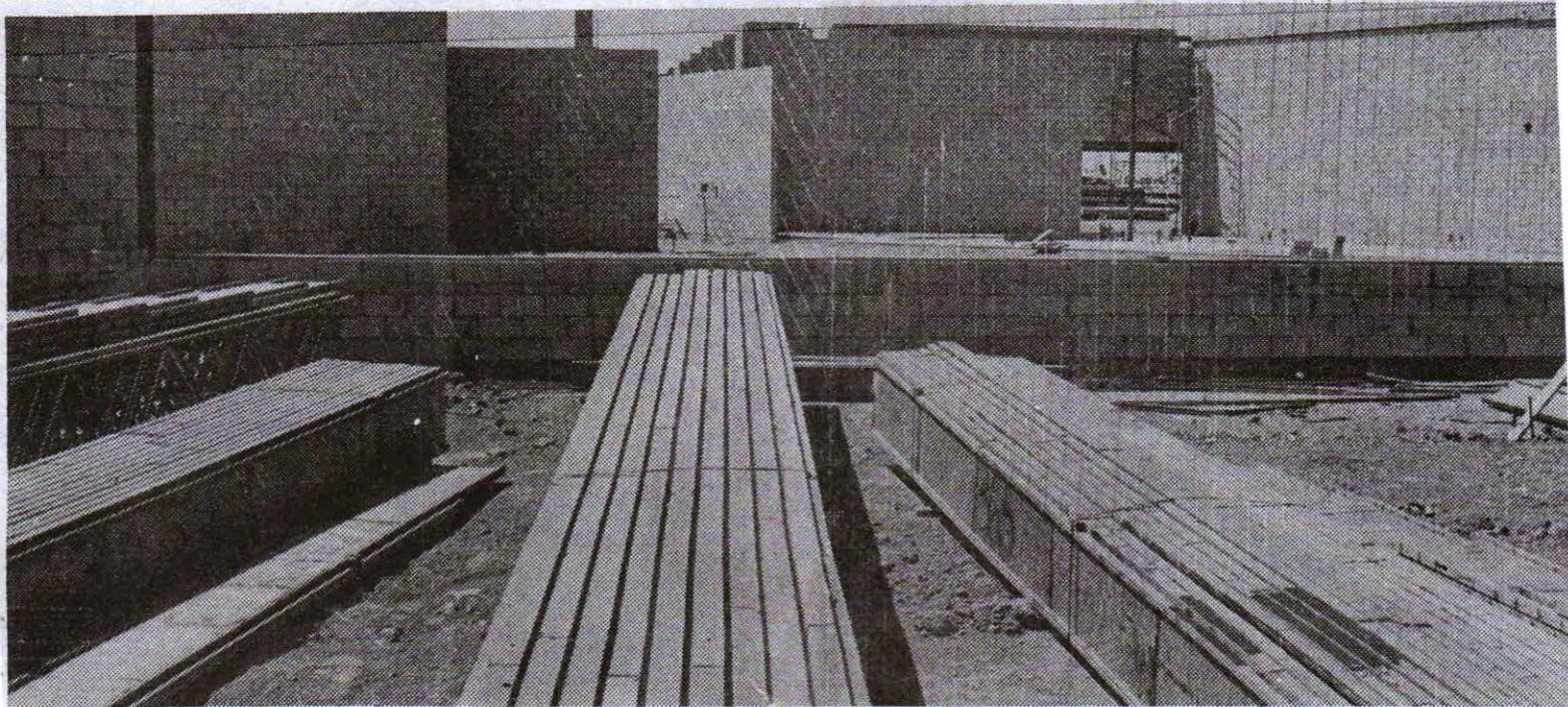
He says the committee still needs an additional \$16-18,000 to complete the project. Residents can contribute funds to the Memorial Garden Committee, Valley National Bank, P.O. Box 690, Sun City, 85372.

6A News-Sun - Tuesday, August 19, 1975

Construction at Bell Center takes art form

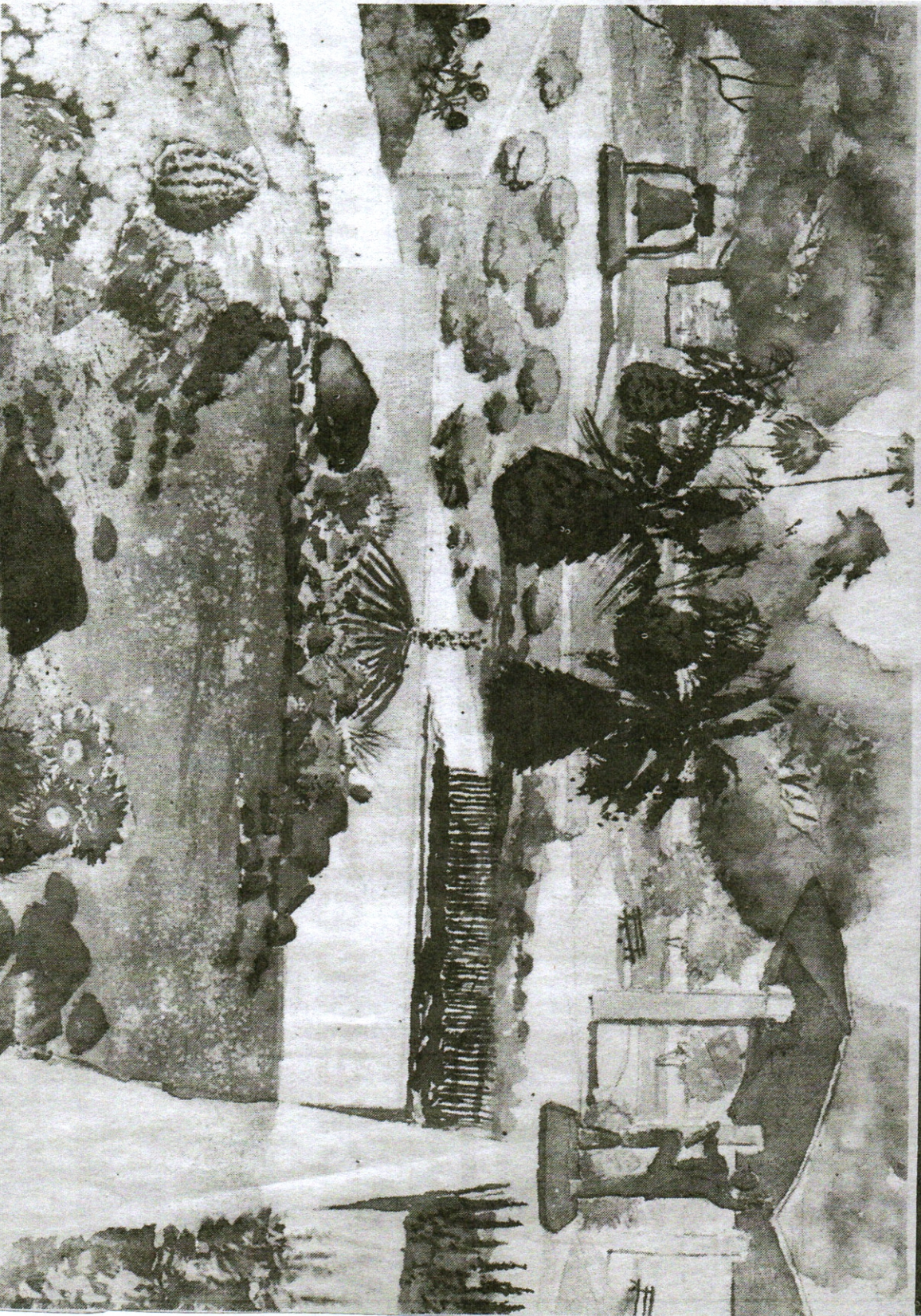
VF SC Rec Centers (Bell)





AT TOP: Roof support beams in foreground lead to partially finished library at Bell Center. New facility will quadruple 15,000-volume capacity of present library.

ABOVE: Stepping stones for giant? Not really. Huge hexagonal concrete slabs will serve as covers for walkways connecting center buildings.



MEMORIAL GARDEN at Bell Recreation Center is currently undergoing a facelift. When completed, the garden

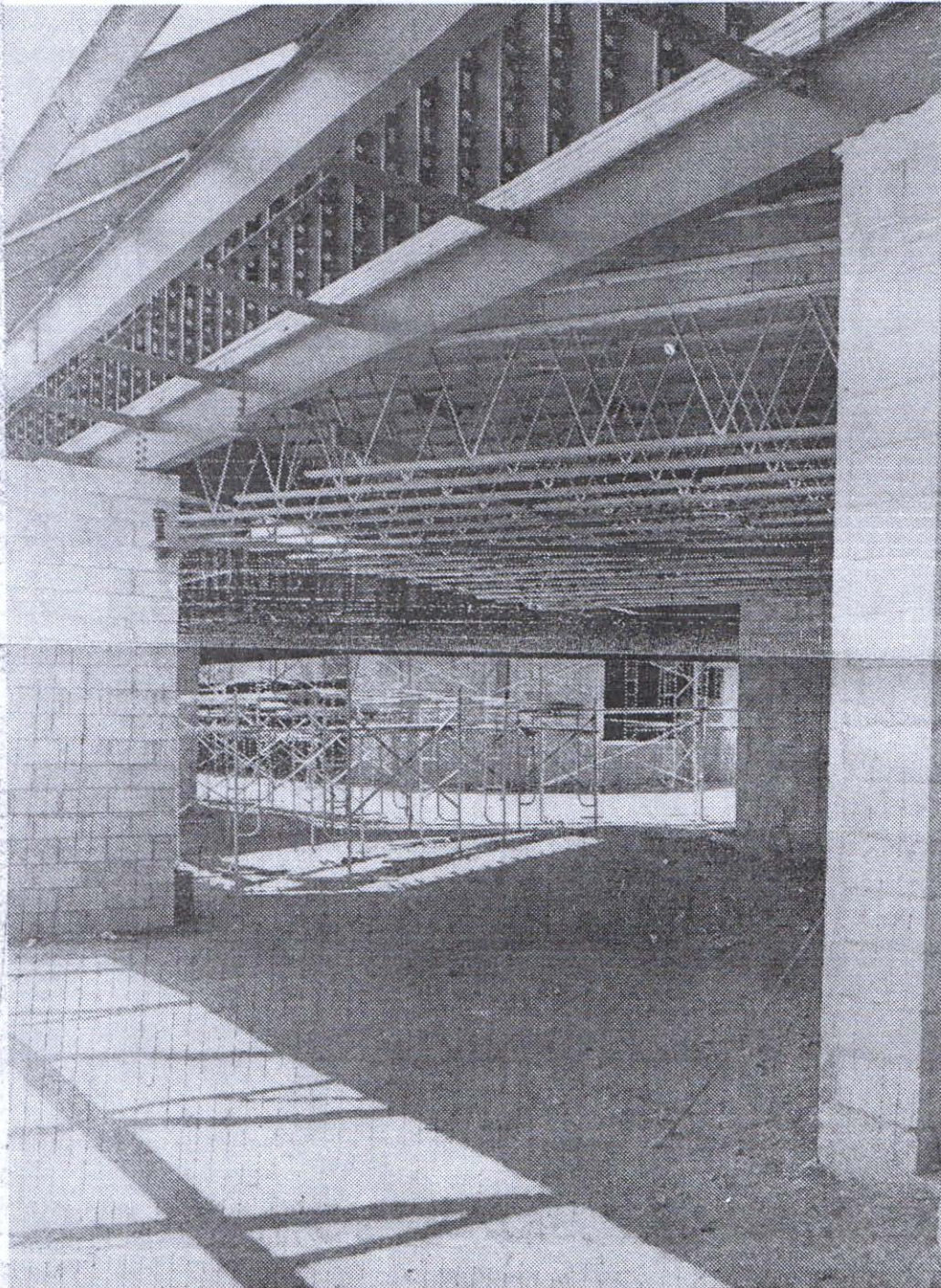
will consist of a variety of flowers and trees, ramaddas, benches and picnic tables.

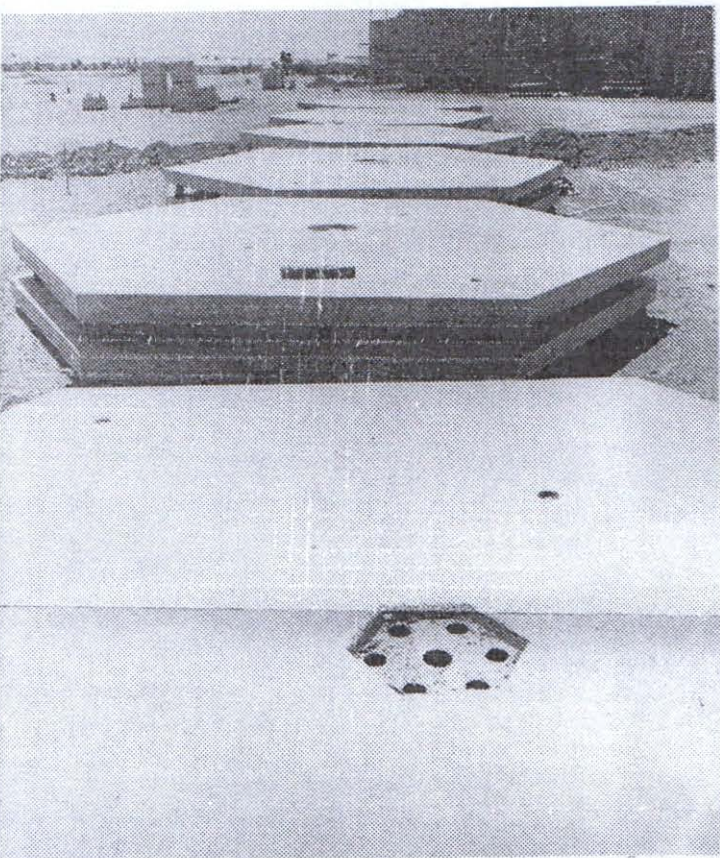
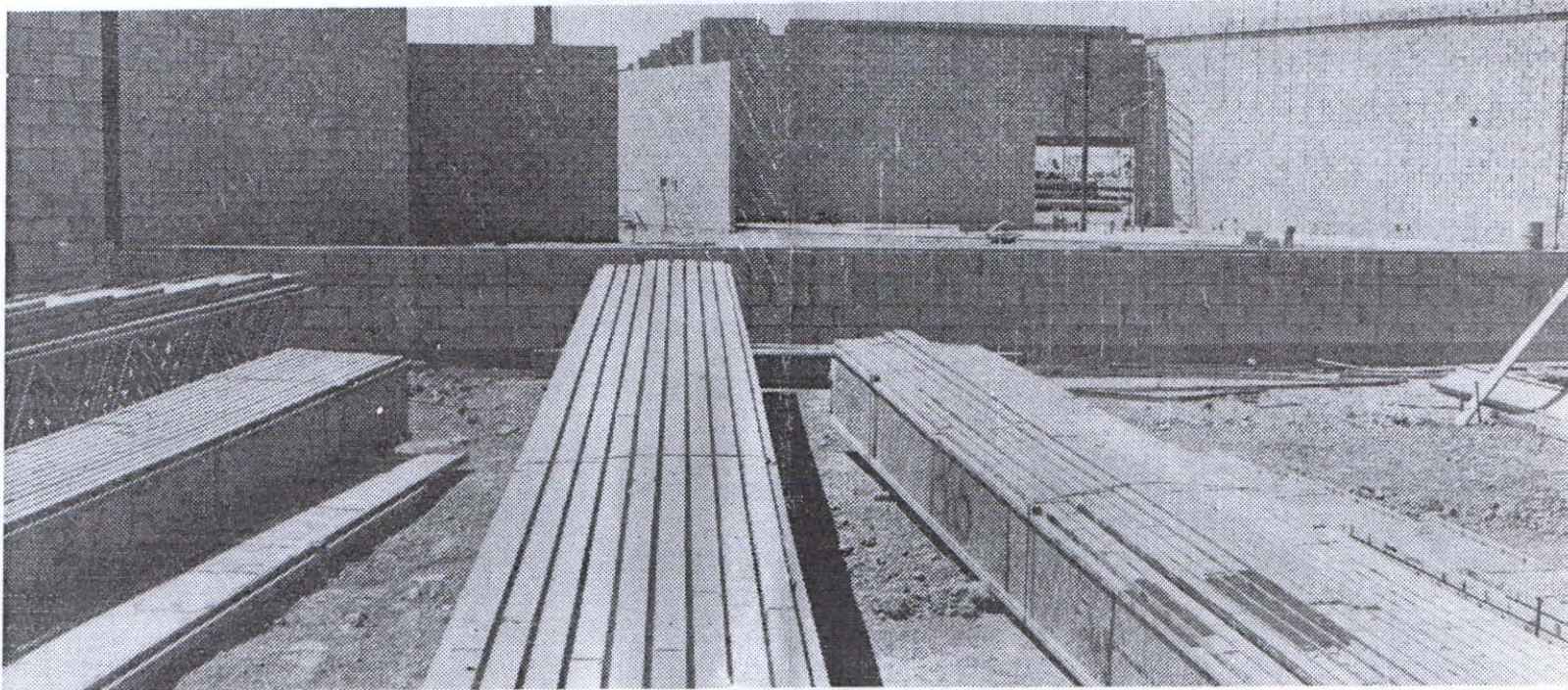
Construction at Bell Center takes art form

AT LEFT: Patterns and shadows cast by structural steel ribwork at rec center entrance on 99th Avenue reflect effect of infinite perspective.

(Sun Photo by Steve Welch)

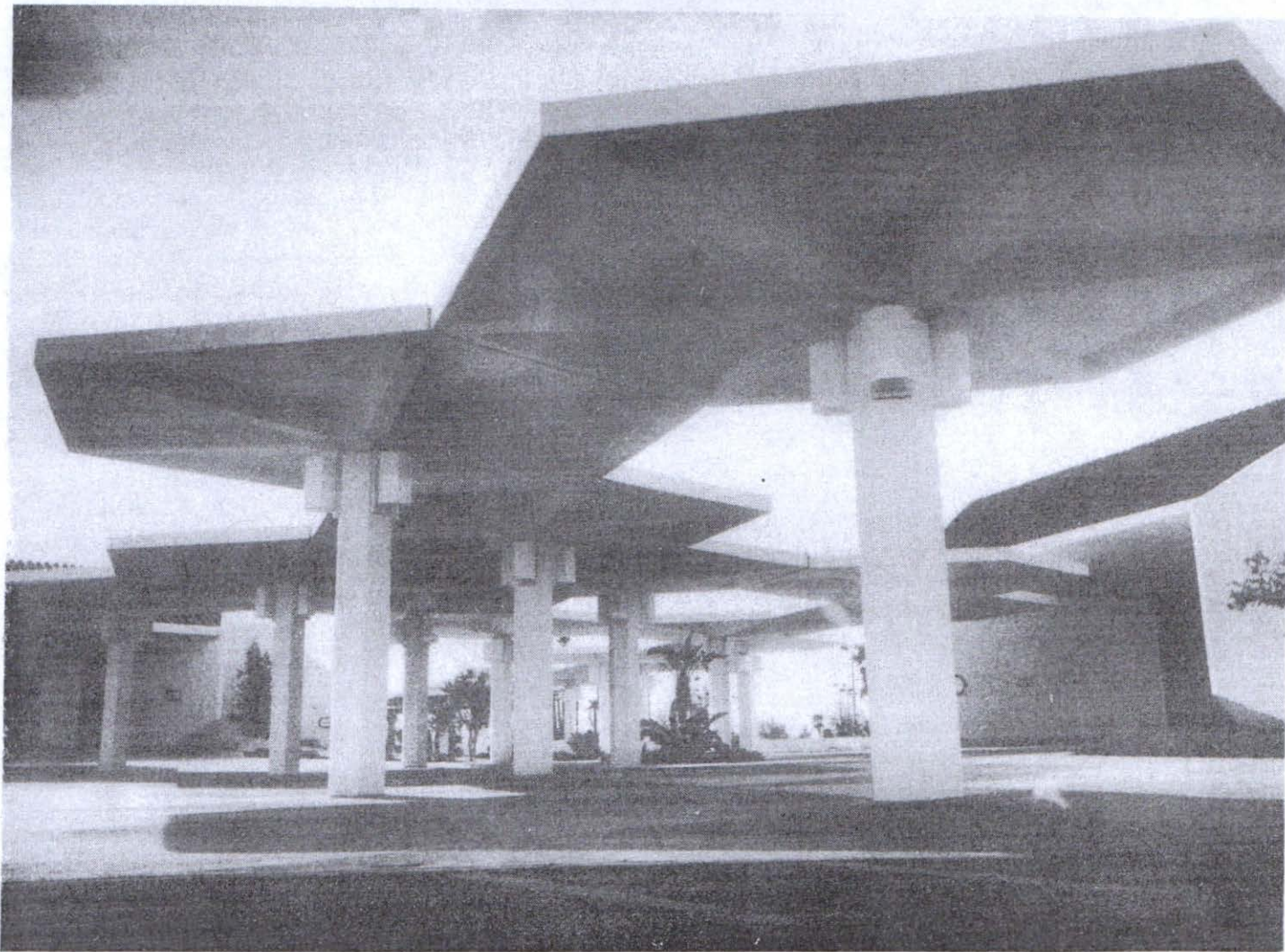
VF VF SC BELL REC. CENTER





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Hexagon-shaped canopies of precast concrete provide shelter for pedestrian walkways at Bell Center. The canopies received a Special Merit award from the Arizona Rock Products Association at its Excellence in Concrete awards banquet November 3 for architects

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M. G. H.

BELL RECREATION CENTER PREVIEW PARTY

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1976

The Del E. Webb Development Co. is delighted that you are here to join in celebrating the opening of Sun City's sixth center for recreational, creative and cultural activities.

THE NUMBERS ON THIS PROGRAM CORRESPOND TO THOSE PRINTED ON THE FLOOR PLAN IN THE BELL RECREATION CENTER BROCHURE WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN.

COCKTAILS:

2	 Arts & Crafts Promenade
3	 Sports Pavilion Coffee Shop
5	 Swimming Complex Monitor's Booth
6	 Activity Center
8	 Social Hall

BUFFET:

8	 Social Hall
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ENTERTAINMENT:

1	Musical Strings	Library
2	Little Italy Band	Arts & Crafts Promenade
3	Bowling & Billiards Exhibitions	Sports Pavilion
5	The Surfers Four - music and hulas	Poolside
6	The Jeff Woodhouse Fire House Five	Activity Center
8	The Al Skully Trio	Social Hall
9	The Desert City Six Dixie Band ..	Del E. Webb Memorial Garden

You are invited to enjoy the following recreational facilities:

3 Bowling, Billiards and Shuffleboard

Note: Bowling Shoes are available
for those wishing to bowl.

6 Table Tennis and Miniature Golf

Centers renovates,

repairs Bell

8-31-95

By JEANNIE JOHNSON
Staff writer

SUN CITY — Age brings repairs and improvements.

This certainly is the case with Bell Recreation Center, which will be celebrating its 20th anniversary in April. Several unexpected repairs cropped up this year resulting in thousands of dollars in unbudgeted expenses.

At Thursday's monthly meeting of the board of directors for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, the board unanimously approved \$14,500 to repair the showers by Bell's pool. Tiles have fallen from the walls and a significant amount of rotting was found.

"The tiles are falling off the wall because there was no water-proofing material placed behind the walls at the time the showers were built," said Director Don Pritchett. "We want to get this fixed because things should be kept in good shape."

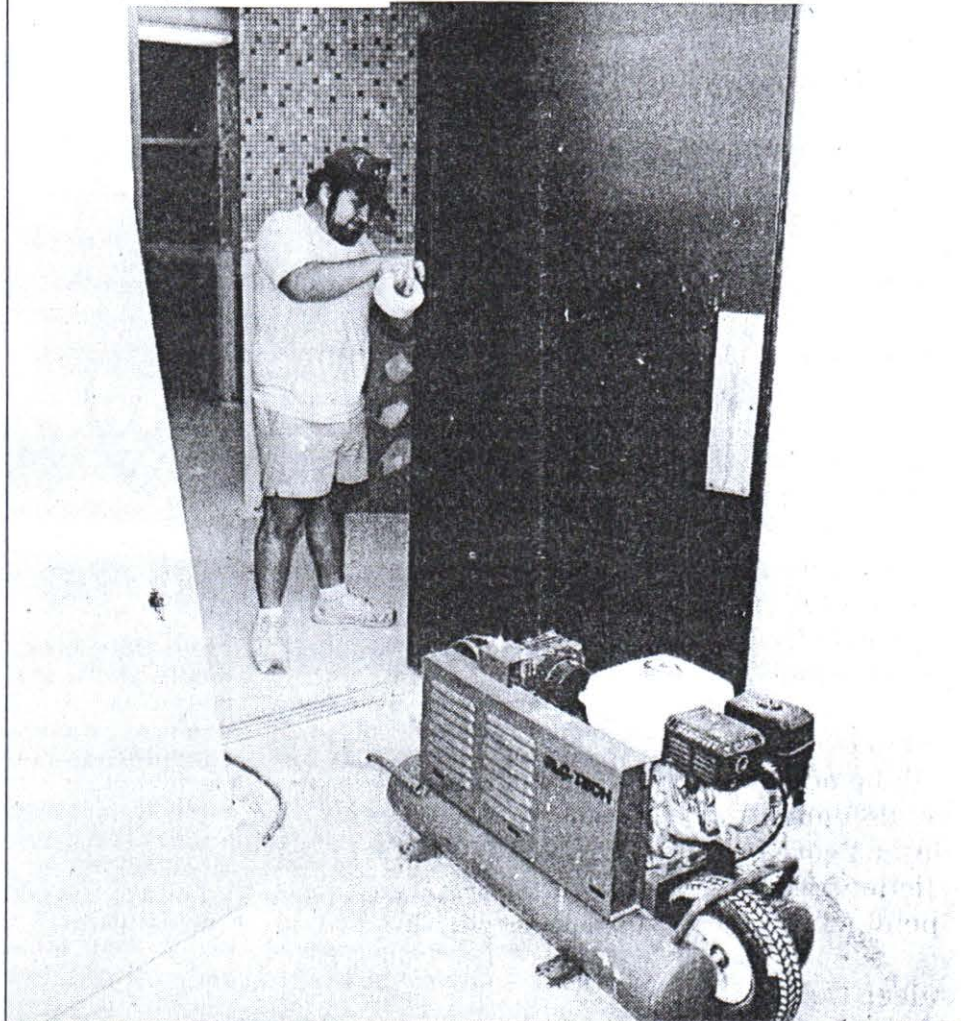
Another unexpected expense came when the air-conditioning units on the roof of the social halls needed to be replaced. Two 25-ton units were replaced in April. A total of \$43,000 was spent on that project.

"Whenever you have a deterioration of a building, it's necessary to spend money to upgrade," said Chuck O'Day, project manager for the recreation centers. "When we replaced the two units, we found the roof of the social hall had deteriorated, and we had to rebuild the framing. It was a non-budgeted emergency project. We were lucky to catch it before it did some serious damage."

A heavy crane had to be brought in to install the two units. This resulted in another surprise.

"The crane we brought in to put the new units on the roof was really big," said Jim Warfield, general manager. "The driveway had some problems holding the weight of the crane and it broke through twice."

While some of the projects have been unexpected, several renovation projects have been planned at Bell to update the center. During 1994, the following projects were completed: a new roof for the social hall/pump room, paving of the service yard and driveway, new wood floors for the social halls, recarpeting of the mini-golf, a new dishwasher and sink for the coffee shop, new carpeting in the pool area, air conditioning



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-S

George Coronel tapes the walls of the men's locker room near the Bell Recreation Center pool. Workers are refurbishing the walls and floors of the men's and women's locker rooms and expect the project to be completed by Wednesday.

for the racquetball courts and a fire alarm system.

Several projects also have been completed or on the books for 1995 including: a new tennis court, new flooring in the dressing rooms of the pool and spa, repainting of all exterior entryways, new cabana benches for the tennis courts, new picnic tables for the lawn bowling area, new handicapped-accessible stalls in the restrooms, a new heater for the spa, a new water heater for the lapidary shop, new sidewalks at the wood and metal shop entrance and rebuilding of the outside enclosure at the wood and metal shop.

Two large renovation projects have improved the sports area of the rec-

reation center. A complete remodeling of the coffee shop was completed this summer.

Thursday the board also unanimously approved an amended budget for the expansion of the exercise room in Bell. The original estimate was for \$25,000 and the board approved an increase to \$41,250.

"The reason for this increase was the original estimate was low, there was an increase from 700 square feet to 800 square feet and the bids from the contractors came in six months ago and have gone up," said Don Gregory, board member.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2004

RCSC unveils proposed Bell renovation plans

Multimillion-dollar project could start in spring 2005

ANNIE KARSTENS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Conceptual line drawings of the major renovation project proposed for the Bell Recreation Center were released Monday at the Recreation Centers of Sun City informational exchange meeting. When the line drawings were displayed near the fitness room at Bell for the public to review, residents expressed mixed reactions

IF YOU GO

■ **WHAT:** Meetings regarding Bell Recreation Center renovation proposals where residents may submit comments.

■ **WHEN:** 1 p.m. Friday, and 7 p.m. March 11.

■ **WHERE:** Social Hall at Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave.

Residents may also submit their comments at the regularly scheduled director/member exchange meeting at 9 a.m. March 15 at Lakeview Center, Del Webb and Thunderbird boulevards, and at the monthly board meeting at 9 a.m. March 25 at Sundial Auditorium, 103rd and Boswell.

to the renovations.

Jim Kuchler, president of the RCSC board, said the project is in the best interests of current Sun Citizens and newcomers.

"It will provide new functionality to what's already there," Kuchler said. "This will increase the value and attractiveness of the area for our members and future members who will buy into this retirement community."

The proposed plans include new locker room facilities, doubling the space of the fitness area, renovation of the existing pool and deck, a new floor exercise room, upgraded air conditioning and a new walking pool, according to a statement released by the board, which also cited the reasons for the project.

"The major renovation project is needed because of deteriorating conditions of the existing locker

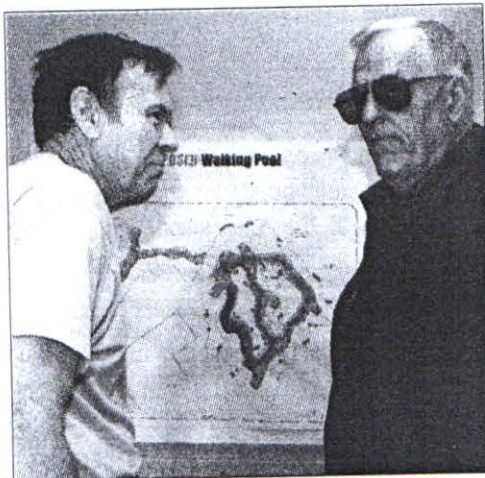
rooms, pool and pool deck area, a lack of space for the existing fitness room requirements, and a desire to provide a new functional and attractive aquatic area for the many members who currently use the pool for walking."

Sun City resident Diane Lewis is excited about the project — especially about what it will offer to the pools. A member of the Sun City Starrs Swim Team, Lewis looks forward to the proposed aquatic upgrades, as they would include lowering the temperature in the main pool, while allowing the walking pool to remain at a higher temperature.

"As a swimmer, the possibility of cooling the lanes down is absolutely exciting," Lewis said, adding that traditionally, competitive pools are between 78 and 80 degrees. "If the water's too hot, it's like swimming in soup."

As a fairly new resident

See BELL, A1



Tom Sullivan, left, and John Wiebe peruse the architectural drawings for the proposed walking pool at Bell Recreation Center in Sun City. They said they won't be happy if their fitness center is closed during renovations.

MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

DYER

From A1

of Sun City and a retired Realtor and appraiser, Lewis agreed with the board that renovations are necessary to keep up with the times.

"My experience as a newcomer is an appreciation of the aesthetics of our facilities," she said. "An attractive community that's well maintained maintains its property value. It will keep us competitive with other retirement communities."

The conceptual drawings will be displayed at Bell until March 14. During that time, residents are encouraged to view the drawings and express their opinions to the RCSC board of directors at two scheduled meetings: 1 p.m. Friday and 7 p.m. March 11, both in the Bell Recreation Center Social Hall.

The proposed renovations could cost between \$2.75 million and \$3.75 million, Kuchler said, adding that those costs are within the budget and would be covered by the Capital Preservation Fund. None of the work would incur any debt, he said. After public comments and the acceptance of line drawings, a bidding process will proceed with architects and contractors.

"The money is currently there, but as it moves along, we'll be acquiring more funds, so we're well within our financial wherewithal to fund the project," Kuchler said.

John Wiebe of Sun City viewed the line drawings at Bell Center and is disappointed. His philosophy on the matter: If it's not broken, don't fix it.

"It's a waste of money the way they're going to change everything around," Wiebe said, noting the waterfalls and walkways included in the drawings. "Why do we have to look like Sun City Grand?"

He uses the pool at Bell Center daily and said there's nothing wrong with it, though he agrees the locker rooms should undergo some improvements and the fitness center could use some expansion. However, anything beyond that is unnecessary, he said.

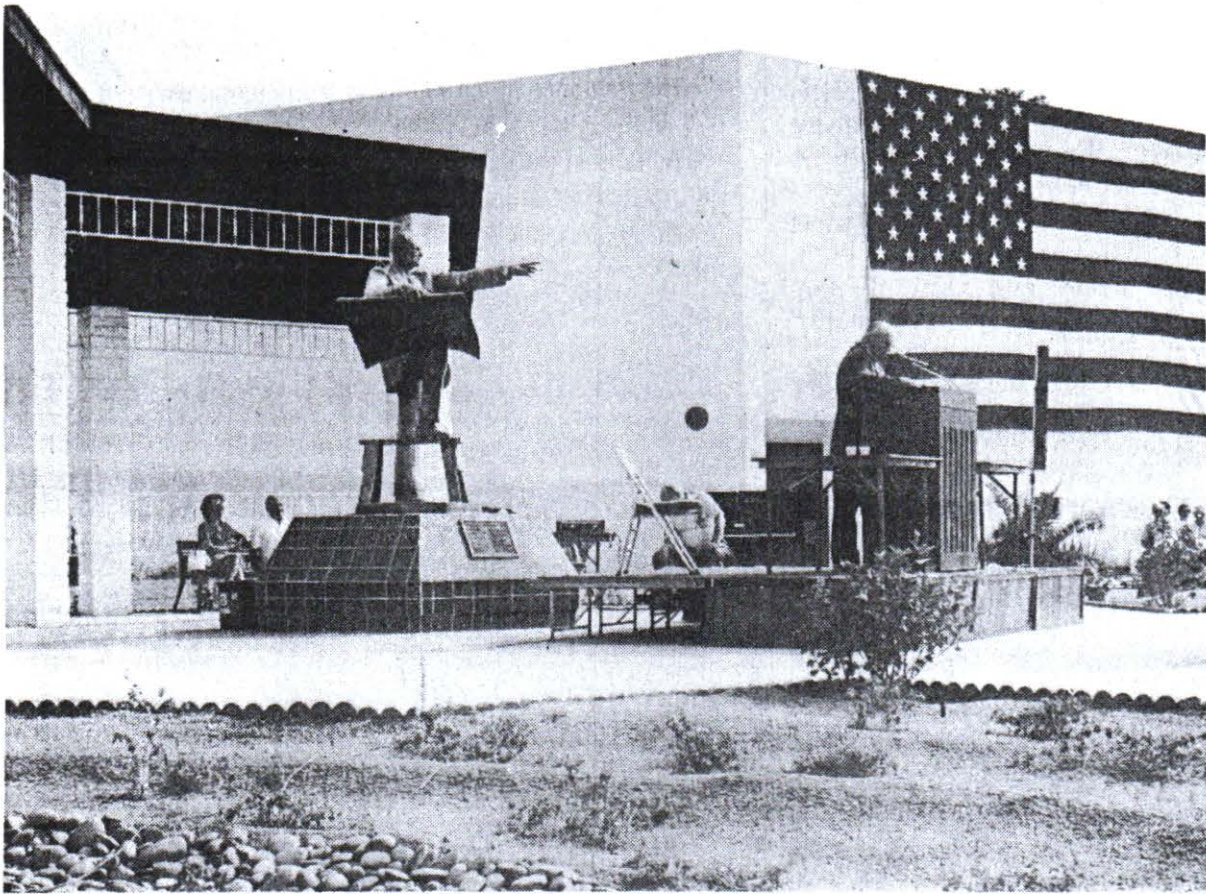
"The amenities we've got for what we pay are wonderful as is," Wiebe said, adding that he's not encouraged by the RCSC board's efforts to communicate with residents. "What can you say at a meeting? You can say what you

want, but they're just going to do what they want to do."

Realistically, construction would begin in spring 2005, Kuchler said. The renovations could cause closures at Bell Recreation Center during the approximately 12 to 18 months of construction, he said, adding that Bell's fitness equipment will be moved to another location that has yet to be determined. Kuchler hopes that the renovations will have the same effect as those done at Sundial Recreation Center, where usage has risen substantially since the facility improvements.

For information about the Recreation Centers of Sun City, call 876-3000.

Annie Karstens can be reached at 876-2532 or akarstens@aztrib.com



MEMORIAL GARDEN DEDICATION. Residents of Sun City celebrate the 200th anniversary of U.S. Constitution, Sept. 17, by officially opening the renovated Memorial Garden at Bell Center. Guest speakers for the event were Sun City Mayor Doug Morris, Jane F. Morris and Col. Paul Morris. The garden is the permanent home of the DeWitt Webb Memorial Statue.

Photos By Bret McKay



Bell Snack Cafe opens with rough customer reviews

RECREATION CENTERS OF SUN CITY: Despite foam controversy, officials say reorganization will benefit Lakeview restaurant while cutting coffee shop losses

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Tempers flared Wednesday morning during the conversion of the Bell Coffee Shop into a self-service eatery.

The Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors, however, insists time will prove the conversion benefits the community.

The board last week voted to convert the shop in an effort to cut costs and boost marketing of the Lakeview restaurant, but many residents who frequent the Bell shop said it was a poor decision.

"It was a very rough start this morning," food-and-beverage Manager Joanne Pallas said. "We had a lot of irate people here, and they have to understand that their anger doesn't need to be taken out on us. A lot of people were yelling, and we were just doing our jobs."

According to Pallas, the menu at the coffee shop will remain the same for the time being, but an expanded menu with several specials is planned for the future. The shop's hours, however, have been cut. The shop now closes at 5 p.m.

"I have great plans for this place, but it takes more than a day to do," Pallas said. "And one of our reasons for (converting) is because this shop was making only as much money as the ones on the golf courses. We get a lot of coffee drinkers, but not much in terms of meals."

Residents who were at the shop Wednesday disagreed.

"By this time, there are usually 50 people in here — right now there are only 10," Vincent Fragapane said. "People aren't happy now. There usually are



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Phyllis Johnson, right, talks to Joanne Pallas, Bell Snack Cafe manager, about the controversy over food now being served on Styrofoam plates Wednesday. Johnson said she's not a regular customer, but came in to see what all the fuss was about.

a lot of clubs coming in here for dinner, but where are they going to go now?"

Sipping her coffee from a foam cup, Lois Roscoe said she considered the new service insulting.

"For this price, we should get a real mug — nobody wants to eat from foam plates," she said. "And people didn't retire to this community to serve themselves."

Despite some complaints about the shop's changing, RCSC board President Bob Briscoe said most Sun City residents should embrace it.

"Basically, what we hope we are doing is making Lakeview into a real classy restaurant with affordable prices," he said. "The decision was made in a reorganizing effort, which is a change. And people resist change."

Briscoe said Lakeview is in the process of upgrading its facilities, which will mean better food and service at that restaurant.

"This is a good thing for the people of

Sun City; we are trying our best to make them happy — all of them," he said.

But Sun City Sheriff's Posse Cmdr. Will Box said the board wasn't making residents in the northern part of the community happy at all.

"Our biggest complaint is that we don't understand why the board is ripping off people in the north," he said. "We're all unhappy at this end of town."

Box said he questions the accuracy of the board's assertion that the shop is more than \$100,000 in debt. He said he believes recent freezer upgrades and new carpeting in the shop — rather than a lack of business — account for most of the debt.

"The decision was made to close the shop long before the vote was taken," Box said. "And it's a shame for the people who come in here in wheelchairs and carrying oxygen. How are they going to stand in line for service? I want the board to bring the old shop back."

But Jerry Swintek, board director and food-service committee member, said the shop will remain a self-service shop for at least the next year.

"We are asking residents to be patient, to try it out and see how they like it," he said. "We are going to continue providing just about the same menu and service as the past, except that there won't be a waitress."

Swintek said the shop ran a deficit total of close to \$300,000 over the last three years, and it was time to cut costs and losses.

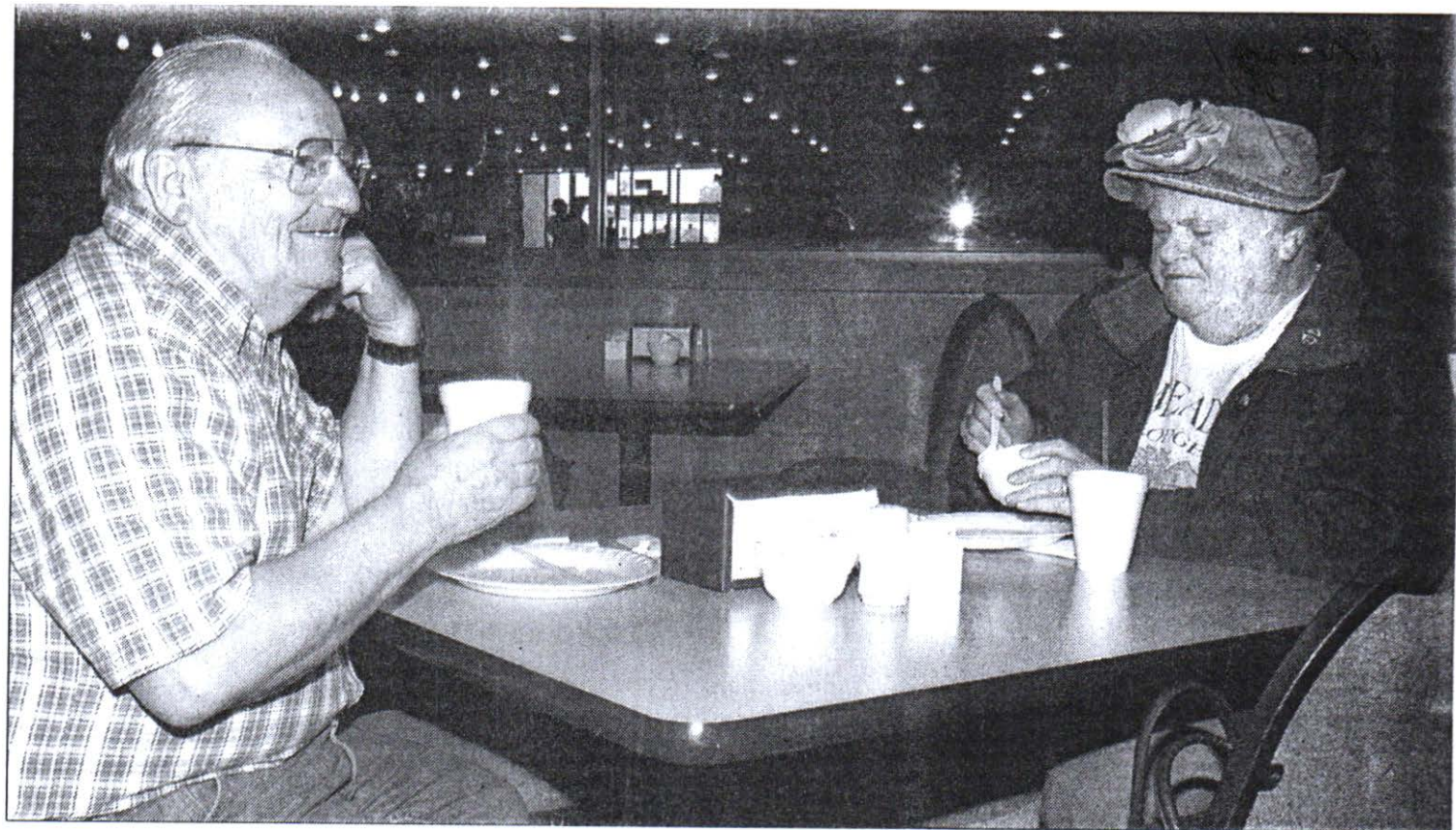
"We are not trying to make money, but there were many inefficiencies in food service that we are trying to do away with to diminish our losses," he said.

Although many residents said they would be willing to pay higher prices if the shop remained full service, Swintek said increased meal prices were taken into consideration before the board decided to convert it.

"We looked at the competition, and if we raised the prices more than them, people would stop coming anyway," Swintek said. "But we are trying to accommodate the residents and we are considering keeping the shop open through bowling hours."

John Sokolich can be reached at jsokolich@aztrib.com or at 623-876-2526.

(over)



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Charles and Joan Sedgwick of Sun City finish lunch, now served on Styrofoam plates, at the Bell Snack Cafe Wednesday.

Rec board pulls plug on coffee shop

(BELL)

Facility to be replaced with snack bar

By JULI NESSETT
Independent Newspapers

Despite audience protestations, the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors voted Oct. 26 to convert Bell Recreation Centers' coffee shop into a snack bar. The vote was 5-1 in favor with Dick Ohnstad casting the no vote, Marge Murphy abstained.

Board President Bob Briscoe

explained that basically nothing would be lost to customers. New items will be added to the menu and the only difference will be no dinner service and no wait staff. He also spoke about the renovations the board is planning for Lakeview's restaurant.

"There will be major renovations coming up at Lakeview, hopefully (making it) a first-class restaurant with an expanded menu. We have plans in the future, if it works out, to maybe have an outdoor patio service, but the whole thing looks like a benefit to people in Sun City," Mr. Briscoe said.

Former board President Ed Anderson was one of two people who spoke to the board about the issue.

"We've had many, many meetings of the food committee. So, it has not been a secret thing, it's been in the paper and it's not like we're not really looking at it," he added.

Mr. Anderson countered the response, saying the decision had been made before the meeting, that the employees had already been informed of the decision and "that's not the way it's supposed to work."

Treasurer Harold Boudrie explained how the figures actually broke down. If only 400 people were using the shop and there were losses of over \$100,000, it meant that the 42,000 residents of Sun City were subsidizing the coffee shop \$250 each.

Mr. Boudrie further explain the board will be checking into things to make sure that the same services are maintained. He also said the shop may begin having extended hours for bowlers in the future.

Both Mr. Briscoe and Mr. Boudrie asked the members to give the new plan a try. They both believe it will be more of an improvement rather than a loss.

Director Ted Haupt also apologized for the fact that a sign had been posted at Bell, which was to inform people of the impending change, without noting the matter was up for a vote on Oct. 26

He explained that the board had just wanted people to know that it was not closing down as the petition that was circulated stated.

Member Richard Davis also spoke about the issue and said it should have been addressed three

He felt the decision had been made behind closed doors and he asked the board to table the vote, to study it some more and wait until spring to make the final decision. He also said, according to Sept. 30 reports, Lakeview's coffee shop was losing more money than Bell's coffee shop.

Mr. Briscoe responded the figures were misleading because the warehouse operations are included in the figures. He also said it was his understanding that Lakeview was not losing money and Bell was.

"As far as studying and tabling it, we've been working on this for eight or nine months and we've gone through three food managers who have all looked at this and

See ■ COFFEE SHOP, Page 5

“

We've studied this thing to death and (we are) not making excuses. You're right, it should have been handled three years ago.

Bob Briscoe
Recreation Centers
board president

years ago when Bell lost \$32,000. He said this community was an example for other similar communities and that the decision should be put on hold temporarily and surveys should be taken. He also said the food business is a very competitive one which calls for promotion, adding that the monthly "Spotlight" newsletter would be a good tool for advertisement.

After all arguments had been presented, Mr. Briscoe said, "You had some outstanding points and we have really had a lot of input from the community. We've studied this thing to death and (we are) not making excuses. You're right, it should have been handled three years ago. There are things that have happened in our corporation that were not handled properly three, four or five years ago, and that's why you're looking at a group up here that has been neck deep in problems ... but we want to keep food service at a reasonable cost for the people of Sun City," he explained.

Bell center to get new pool

Problems discovered during renovation

By Cecilia Chan

Independent Newspapers

The Recreation Centers of Sun City will spend an estimated \$300,000 for a new pool, in addition to the \$3.5 million already allotted for the Bell Recreation Center renovation.

Work crew discovered the pool's reinforcement iron rods were heavily rusted and its construction failed to meet today's code, RCSC officials said.

After reviewing several options, including a Band-aid repair or eliminating the pool entirely, the RCSC Board opted for a new pool, which mean no maintenance cost for some time to come and a larger pool — 75 feet by 62 feet — for competitive swimming.

"The project is on sched-

ule," said Jim Wellman, senior manager of Centers Operations. "We are still anticipating an early opening."

The project includes constructing a serpentine walking pool, doubling the size of the exercise room, replacing the spas and remodeling the dressing rooms at the 29-year-old center.

Officials say renovating the aging building is needed to attract new homeowners and expands activities for its current members.

Although Mr. Wellman said residents should like the improvements, not everyone was happy with the project.

"It's the biggest waste of money," said Norman Wood, who has been coming to the Bell Center for 23 years. "These

people can say anything to justify their position."

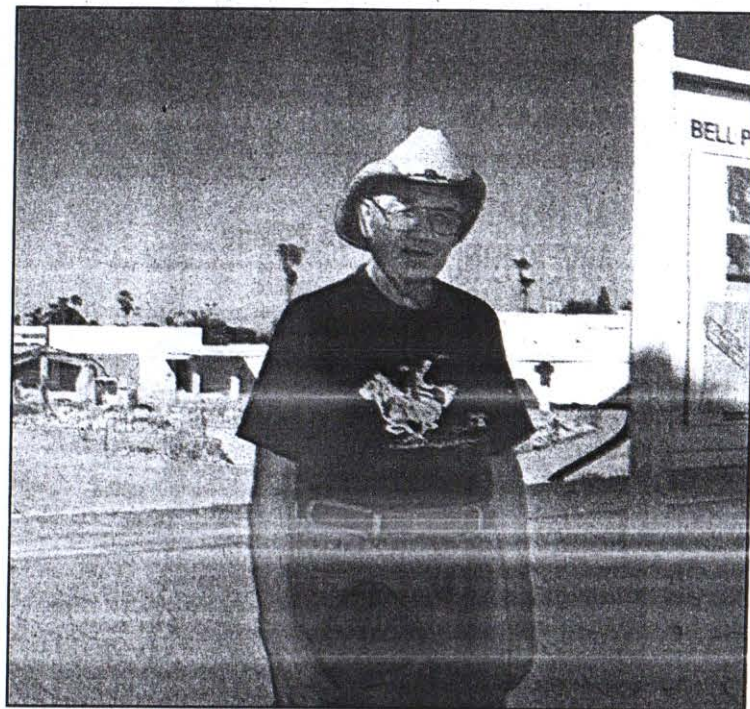
Mr. Wood shoots pool at the center and his wife, a swimmer, now has to trek farther to the Marinette Center or Mountain View Center.

Although the project means an updated and better facility, Mr. Wood, who grew up during the Depression, remained unconvinced it was necessary.

Joe Zweben said the facility needed some touchup to the lockers, the flooring and hallways but not to the scale of the current project that he called "grandiose and too expensive."

"The gym was very satisfactory and never crowded," said Mr. Zweben, who has enjoyed coming to Bell for 25 years.

See Bell — Page 3



Independent Newspapers/Cecilia Chan
Resident Norman Wood calls the Bell Recreation project unnecessary. Mr. Wood stands in front of the construction site, where the old pool already is demolished.

Bell

Continued From Page 1

"We had new equipment and decor about five years ago in the gym. There was no need to make a bigger gym to accommodate some wishful thinking that we got to keep up with what's new in Sun City Grand or the latest

retirement community. We did not need so much expensive renovation."

He also thinks the pool could have been repaired instead of replaced.

"I have to go to Sundial to go swimming," he said. "I live closer to Bell Center and it was perfect, little was wrong with it."

Mr. Zweben expressed concern the Fairway Center will be

another "huge cost."

Construction on Fairway was expected for mid-2006.

The renovations are funded by the RCSC Capital Preservation Fund, a one-time fee of \$1,600 imposed on new homebuyers

Post your comments on this issue at newsblog.info/0302

News editor Cecilia Chan can be reached at 972-6101 or cchan@newszap.com

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2005

DAILY NEWS-SUN

Restaurateur signs lease for Liberty

JiMichael's coming to Bell Cafe

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Say goodbye to Liberty Bell Cafe and hello to JiMichael's Restaurant.

JiMichael's owner Michael Tsitirides will be handed the keys to the cafe on Friday and will immediately begin to transform the floundering cafe into a full-service restaurant.

"We're going to be a success there. We're going to bring it back to life," said Tsitirides, a Litchfield Park resident. "We're going to do big changes, really give it a face lift."

Tuesday, Tsitirides signed a 5-year lease to operate the Recreation Centers of Sun City's restaurant space at Bell Center. Jim Wellman, senior manager of RCSC

centers operations, and Norm Dickson, RCSC president, also signed the lease agreement.

JiMichael's will be closed for renovations in July and will debut in a grand opening celebration in early August. The public will be invited to the grand opening where they will be served complimentary food and drinks to kick off the restaurant's new era.

Dickson said that leasing Liberty Bell's space to JiMichael's will enable the eatery to return to being the full-service restaurant it was intended to be, and not a downsized cafe.

"This is a step in the right direction," Dickson said. "JiMichael's has a nice following and a good history in the Sun Cities. Everything is looking positive."

"I think it's a good move for the Recreation Centers," Wellman said. "We're excited about it."

See LIBERTY, A5

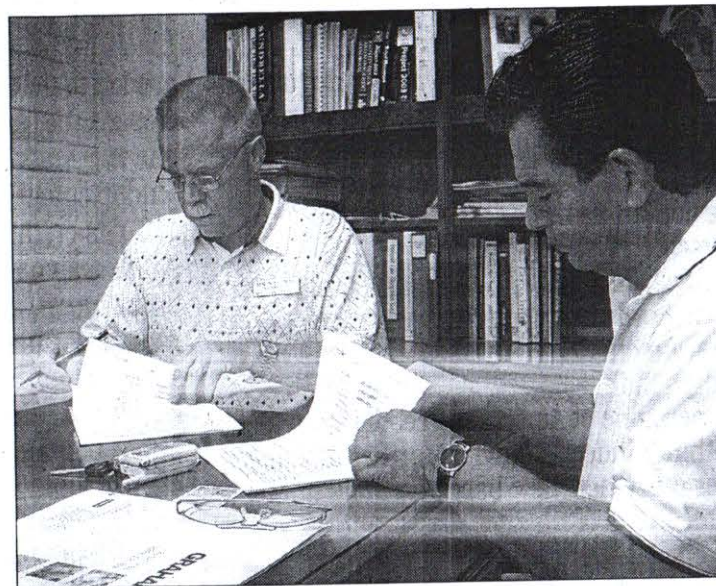
From A1

Liberty Bell Cafe is responsible for a year-to-date loss of about \$29,000, Dickson said. The rental proceeds from JiMichael's is expected to stop the financial bleeding and allow the RCSC to at least break even, he added. Dickson declined to reveal the monthly rental fee at Tsitirides' request.

The menu will feature a variety of American, Greek and Italian cuisine with something for everyone, Tsitirides said. There also are plans for a breakfast buffet and salad bar. Tsitirides is responsible for paying for all the improvements, as well as the restaurant equipment and inventory.

Tsitirides has operated JiMichael's Strike Zone Eatery at the R.H. Johnson Recreation Center in Sun City West for about three years. He said the highly successful restaurant originated through the exact same process that the RCSC is following to convert Liberty Bell Cafe.

About eight years ago, the RCSC board approached Tsitirides and offered him the opportunity to rent and operate Liberty Bell Cafe. Tsitirides turned down the offer at the time, saying it was too close to his JiMichael's Diner



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jim Wellman, left, senior operations manager for the Recreation Centers of Sun City, and Michael Tsitirides, owner of JiMichael's Restaurant, sign documents for Tsitirides to lease the Liberty Bell Cafe at Bell Center.

on 103rd Avenue, just north of Grand Avenue. Tsitirides has since sold that JiMichael's Diner and now has no affiliation with it.

He said he'd be interested in renting and operating Viewpoint Cafe at Lakeview Recreation Center in the future if the opportunity arises, but Dickson said Viewpoint is doing well.

Tsitirides said he enjoys being a part of the Sun Cities

and doesn't believe the string of chain restaurants on Bell Road will affect his business.

During its closure in July, the restaurant will be given a makeover. Dinnerware, flatware and the restaurant's interior will be updated and improved, Tsitirides said.

"It's going to be very nice," Tsitirides promised. "It's going to sparkle."

Annie Boon may be reached at 876-2532 or aboone@aztrib.com.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2005

Food debt forces RCSC to consider cafe sale

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The RCSC board is fed up with food services falling deeper into debt, so directors may vote to place Liberty Bell Cafe under new ownership.

Since the cafe is a primary source of debt, it may be in the best interest of the RCSC to sell the cafe and rent its space to an outside company, said Jim Kuchler, Recreation Centers of Sun City treasurer.

The cafe, located in the Bell Recreation Center, would remain a food service entity, but would be owned and operated by an outside business, he said.

Norm Dickson, RCSC president, said that if approved, the transition would occur sometime in July. Since May, the board has been negotiating with a prospective buyer who approached the board about obtaining the cafe, Dickson said. He wouldn't disclose the name of the party.

"He sees it as an opportunity to expand his business," Dickson said. "I think it's a good move. We'd get rent income and it allows us to continue amenities and services for our members."

So far this year, the RCSC has lost \$29,000 in food services, which includes catering and seven RCSC cafes or snack shops, including Liberty Bell, Viewpoint Cafe at Lakeview Recreation Center and five snack shops at Lakes East/West, North,

From A1

Riverview, South and Willowbrook/Creek golf courses. That figure is \$19,000 over what losses were for the same time last year. Kuchler declined to say how much of those losses can be attributed to Liberty Bell Cafe.

Food Service debt mounted in 2004, bringing the 2004 year-to-date deficit to \$177,884. In an effort to decrease the debt, Liberty Bell Cafe was downsized to a snack shop in February. With

fewer employees and fewer food costs, Kuchler expected the change to improve food service's financial standing. Selling the cafe is expected to decrease losses more significantly, Dickson said.

In an earlier interview, Kuchler blamed the losses at Liberty Bell Cafe on its location near Bell Road. With dozens of family and fast food restaurants within a few blocks, the small cafe couldn't compete.

Annie Boon may be reached at 876-2532 or aboone@aztrib.com.

See RCSC, A5

Groundbreaking set for new Bell Center

Robert Johnson, president of the Del E. Webb Corporation, will be a special guest at the Bell Recreation Center groundbreaking at 9 a.m. Thursday. Myron Waggoner, Recreation Centers president, announced at yesterday's board meeting.

Executives from the Webb Development Company and members of the Rec Centers board of directors also will participate at the 99th Avenue and Boswell Boulevard site.

Contemporary Spanish in design, the new center will feature a 10,250 square-foot library building with reading areas and shelving for 40,000 volumes, the Webb Company has announced.

AN INDOOR sports center will include a 16-lane bowling alley with snack bar and coffee shop, space for 19 billiard and pool tables, eight shuffleboard courts, table tennis, exercise room, and therapy pool building.

Scheduled for completion in the spring of 1976, the center also will include an olympic-size swimming pool, seven tennis courts, two grassed-lawn bowling greens, a bocci court, and an 18-hole miniature golf course.

The community's first volleyball and handball courts will be included, and lapidary, silvercraft, art, ceramics, sewing, weaving, metal, and woodworking studios have been planned.

A 650-SEAT social hall will include kitchen facilities and food storage areas, and internal room dividers will enable several clubs to meet simultaneously. (See drawing on 2A.)

"We're getting down to the nitty gritty," said Bill Lloyd, center planning committee chairman, referring to club equipment requests and specific layout for the wood and metal working areas.

Phil Bear, newly elected board member, was welcomed at the meeting, and incumbents Lloyd and Mike Snider were congratulated on their victories.

IN OTHER business, board member Ed Brooks said plans already are under consideration for next year's club carnival. Nov. 15 and 16 or 29 and 30 have been set as tentative dates. However, the club organization committee is studying the possibility of a three-day event.

Revised bylaws for the Lakeview Center Clay Club, Koffee Klatchers, and Oakmont Needle Arts and Crafts Club were approved.

The board also voted to revoke the Fins Club charter (since members

have incorporated into the Swim Club) and to fulfill the Beth Emeth Jewish Conservative Congregation's request for continued use of the Lakeview craft room as a place of worship.

JAY TITUS, Rec Centers general manager, reminded board members that the Sundial Ceramics Club again has donated \$1,500 to the centers to help defray expenses, and a check for \$1,000 was presented to Waggoner last week from the Sundial Rock and Gem Club.

Snider, properties committee chairman, recommended a louvered vent be placed in the men's dressing room at Mountain View Center while the area is being remodeled now.

Lastly, Dallas Marshall, treasurer, reported Rec Centers in Phase I will end the year "in the black," while prospects for such luck in Phase II are unlikely.

"We have no way of knowing what will happen (expense-wise) in the next 30 days," he said.

WEATHER

U.S. Weather Service
Youngtown Station

	High	Low	Precip.
Thursday	68	41	.01
Friday	63	47	.86
Saturday	66	42	—
Sunday	63	37	—

Construction to start on Bell Center

By PAUL SCHAFFER
Staff Writer

Construction on the Bell Road Recreation Center is expected to start next month after rough grading is completed, member Bill Lloyd reported at yesterday's board

meeting of Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc.

The board also authorized expansion of facilities used by the lapidary and silvercraft clubs at Fairway Center, approved use of the Mountain View Center auditorium by the Sun City Sheriff's Posse for a crash course in first aid, and discussed possible changes in the guide to Sun City recreation centers which now is "out of print."

Lloyd, chairman of the Bell Road Center planning committee, said he was "pretty frustrated" after receiving a letter from the Del E. Webb Development Co. saying the deadline was passed last month for further design changes in the new center.

THE LETTER, signed by architectural coordinator Dick Qvale, apparently leaves unchanged certain requests made by the center planning committee. Lloyd also said that some changes were made without consulting the committee.

Pete Peterson and Charlie Simmers, representing the Fairway silvercraft and lapidary clubs, each requested design modifications at Fairway to accommodate growth by the two clubs. The clubs agreed to add wiring, tile, and other materials if Rec Centers agreed to construct the building shell.

Specifically, the requests were for a 12-foot addition to the silvercraft shop; a 12-foot addition to the woodworking shop which could be used by the Town Hall Lawn Bowling Club for equipment storage, and connection of a doorway between the lapidary shop and the present lawn bowl storage area, thereby increasing the lapidary shop's space.

GENERAL manager Jay Titus had received a bid of \$5,000 on the work,

of \$10 per square foot, which he called "pretty reasonable." The board approved the construction.

The Sheriff's Posse is expected to use Mountain View Center sometime in March for a first aid course supervised by paramedics from the Maricopa County Sheriff's Department.

Bill Kent, chairman of the public relations committee, said revisions were needed in the yellow "Guide to Recreation Centers of Sun City," now that the original printing has been distributed completely.

KENT suggested a few changes which might be considered, but most discussion centered on reestablishment of a requirement that in order to be considered a guest, persons must live a certain distance from Sun City.

Board members noted residents often improperly sign a spouse through as a "guest" if the spouse has forgotten a Rec Centers membership card.

Kent favored the change but Titus was against it, saying establishment of a distance provision would be bad for public relations. Myron Waggoner, president, suggested a suitable alternative might be to state that no Sun City resident can use facilities as a guest.

None of the changes discussed were actually enacted; Kent merely

wished to hear from board members about changes which might be considered before the new guide is printed.

TREASURER Phil Bear reported the board is in "good shape financially," but expressed some concern over the country's economic condition and thereby the status of insurance protection on funds the board now has invested in certificates of deposit.

He enlisted the aid of board member Allegra Saunders, who is president of a Colorado bank, in checking into the situation, particularly regarding protection provided corporations by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, as opposed to individual accounts.

Dorothy Jones reported that the Phase I satellite of the Sun City Library won't be developed until the main facility at the Bell Road Center is set up.

BELL RECREATION CENTER PREVIEW PARTY

FRIDAY, APRIL 9, 1976

The Del E. Webb Development Co. is delighted that you are here to join in celebrating the opening of Sun City's sixth center for recreational, creative and cultural activities.

THE NUMBERS ON THIS PROGRAM CORRESPOND TO THOSE PRINTED ON THE FLOOR PLAN IN THE BELL RECREATION CENTER BROCHURE WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN.

COCKTAILS:

2 Arts & Crafts Promenade
3 Sports Pavilion Coffee Shop
5	. Swimming Complex Monitor's Booth
6 Activity Center
8 Social Hall

BUFFET:

8 Social Hall
---	-------------------

ENTERTAINMENT:

1	Musical Strings	Library
2	Little Italy Band	Arts & Crafts Promenade
3	Bowling & Billiards Exhibitions.....	Sports Pavilion
5	The Surfers Four - music and hulas.....	Poolside
6	The Jeff Woodhouse Fire House Five	Activity Center
8	The Al Skully Trio	Social Hall
9	The Desert City Six Dixie Band ..	Del E. Webb Memorial Garden

You are invited to enjoy the following recreational facilities:

3 Bowling, Billiards and Shuffleboard

Note: Bowling Shoes are available
for those wishing to bowl.

6 Table Tennis and Miniature Golf

Bell Recreation Center: 16 months later...

By LYNN PYNE
Staff Writer

Bell Recreation Center, Sun City's newest sports and crafts oasis, will be unveiled this weekend.

Sixteen months ago, the first shovels crunched into Bell Center earth, beginning the transformation of architects' blueprints into a gleaming, Southwestern-style complex.

At first glance, the center is unusual. It is built almost entirely on 30 and 60 degree angles, said Curtis Copeland, Del E. Webb Development Co. vice president and manager of commercial and residential architecture.

Buildings are arranged in an angular oval which surrounds the swimming pool and volley ball area. When concrete was poured, a maze of measurement

strings guided workers. Accuracy paid off, since the complex oval was joined within a quarter-inch when concrete pouring was completed.

BELL CENTER'S design provides easy access to various areas from the outside. Various activities, such as sports, therapy, arts and crafts, and the library, are segregated, rather than placed in one large building.

This allows residents to avoid the activities melting pot and go directly to their particular interest areas. However, persons who are involved in many activities may find they have a long hike between areas.

Bell Center's library is plush. It has a potential for 45,000 volumes, more than double the number of books already owned.

Miniature-louved sun screening on the windows cuts down on the heat and allows persons to see out, but not into the library. Octagonal fluorescent lights arranged in a snowflake pattern light the center of the reading room.

THE LIBRARY features a work room, employees' lounge, librarian's office, Libraries of Sun City, Inc., meeting room, and a pay phone and restroom area.

The large reading room has a spot for everyone, from shelved study corners to a comfortable lounge area. It even has love seats. A long control desk and return chute should facilitate check-outs and returns.

The centralized public address system is located in the manager's offices. The center also has private

line phones for communication between buildings.

Interior decor is done in earthy Southwestern colors throughout the center, matching its exterior flavor.

THE ARTS and crafts village features rooms for lapidary, art, sewing, weaving, silvercraft, ceramics, and crafts. Display windows, from six to 12 feet long, seem to be everywhere. The village is arranged around a spacious mall, with desert landscaping and benches for relaxing.

From the bench area, persons can get a good view of the volley ball and pool area, since the arts and crafts village is built on a higher level.

The ceramics rooms are complete with three kilns, a

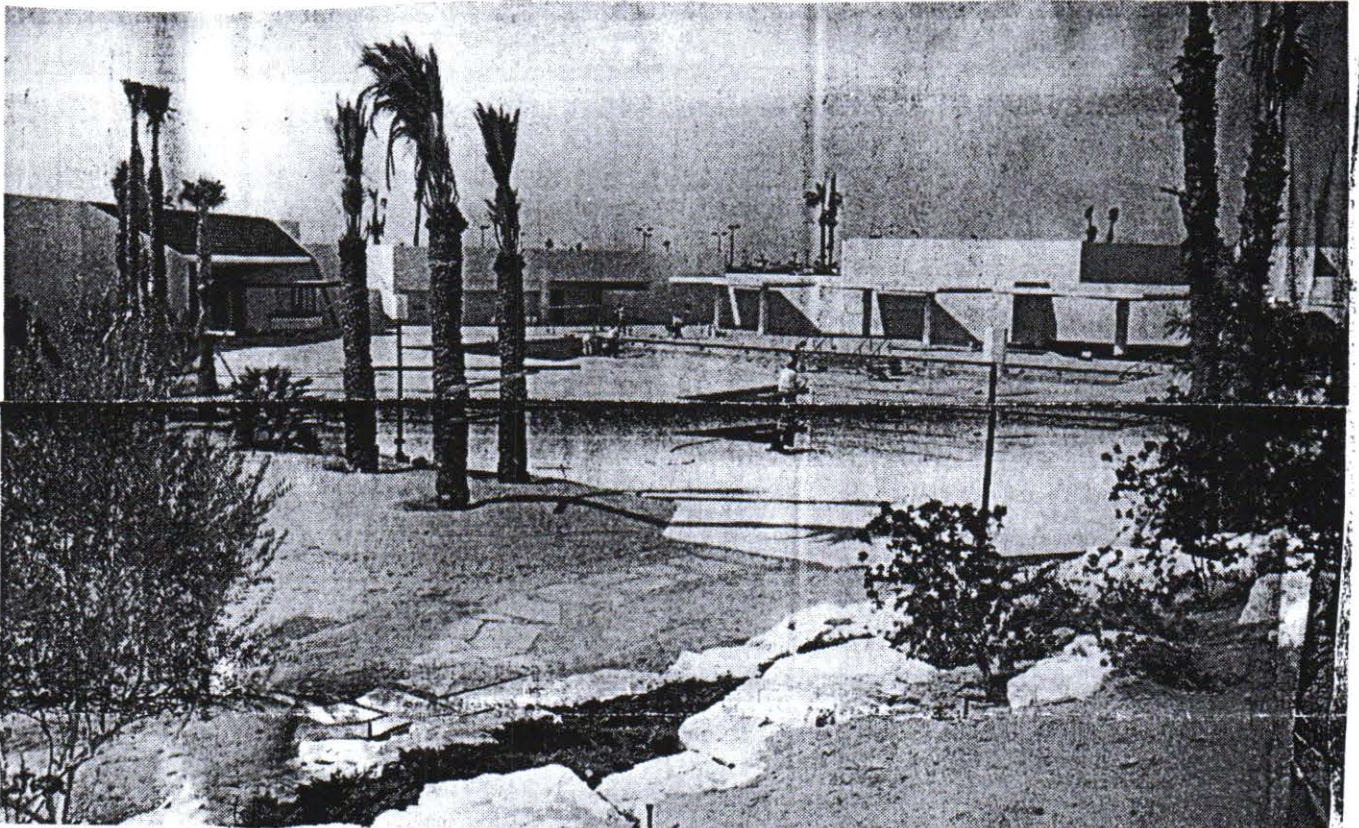
sink with hand sprayer, and plenty of storage space. Lockable cabinets line the walls.

The abundance of storage space is one of the most impressive features in the arts and crafts village. Silvercraft and lapidary clubs should enjoy the carpeted sales rooms provided. Prospective buyers can enter these rooms, containing long show cases, without disturbing the workrooms.

A VAULT room is included for silvercrafters. Just outside the vault is a dutch door so a controller can pass out silver to crafters.

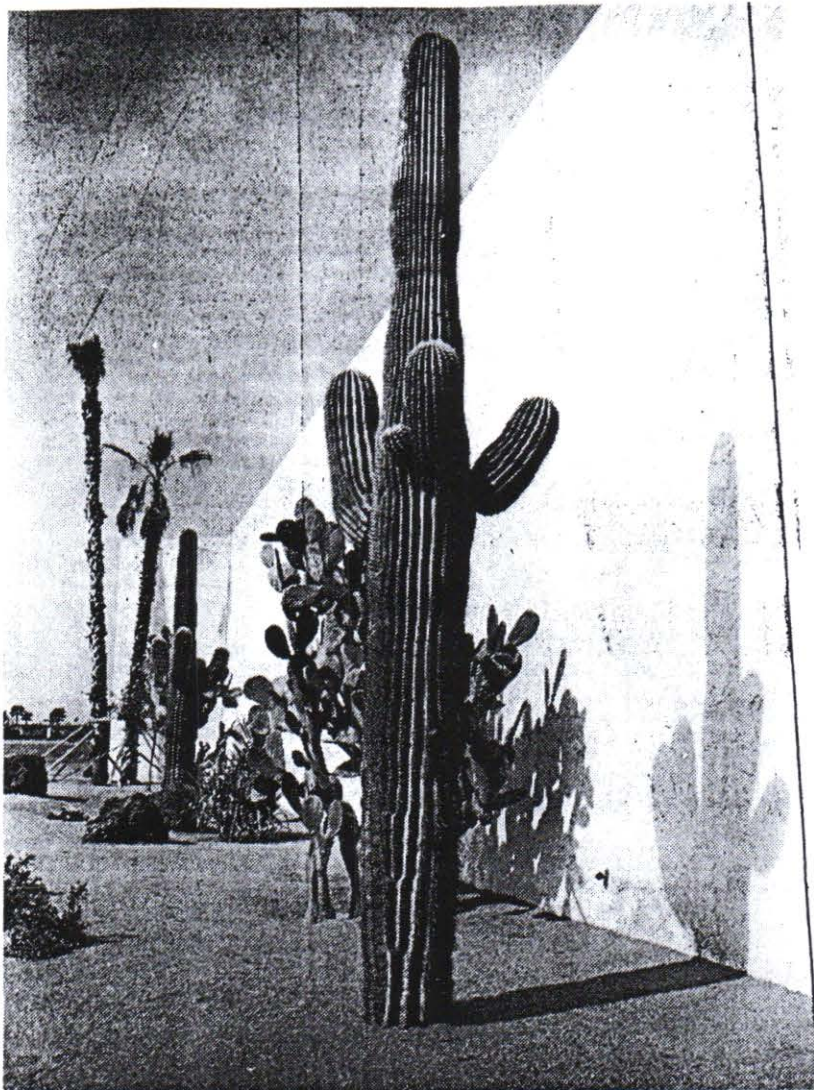
The lapidary workroom is equipped with 40 machines. Six slab saws are located in a separate room to cut down on noise.

(Continued on 7B)

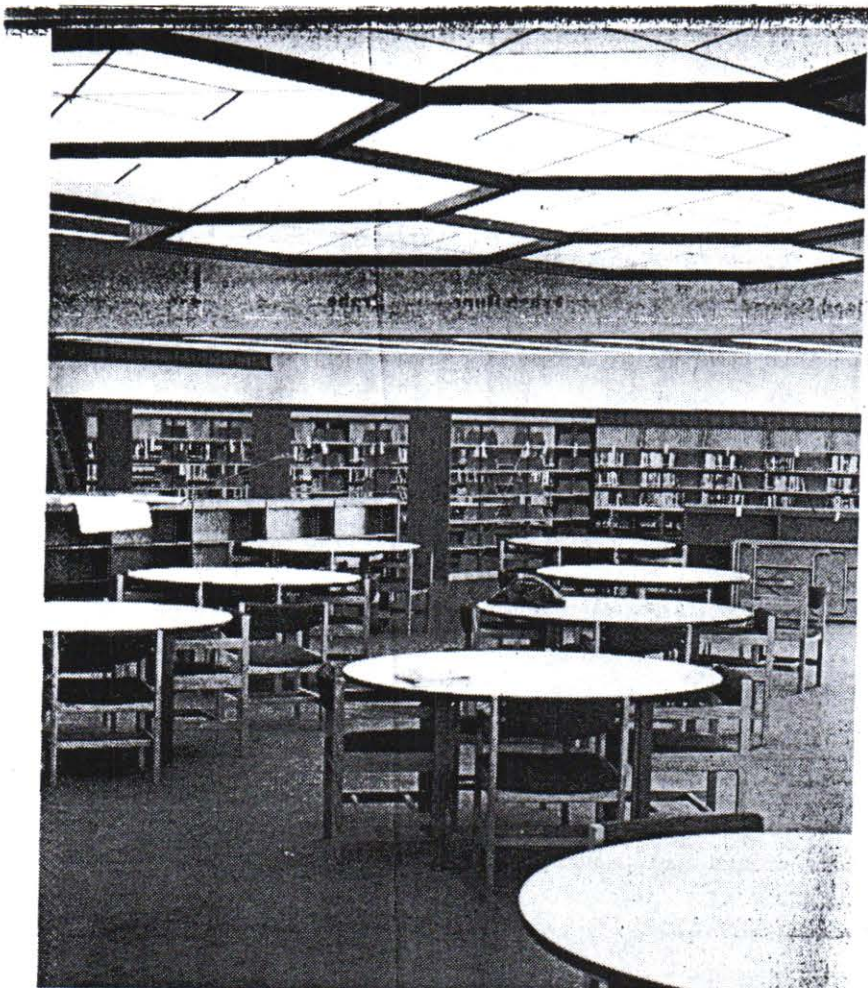


View of interior courtyard shows spacious area for swimming, volleyball. Design of complex makes full use of terraced landscapes to mold various activity levels into harmonious setting. Central area will also include

cabanas for residents to relax, enjoy music and soak up sunshine on astro-turfed deck.

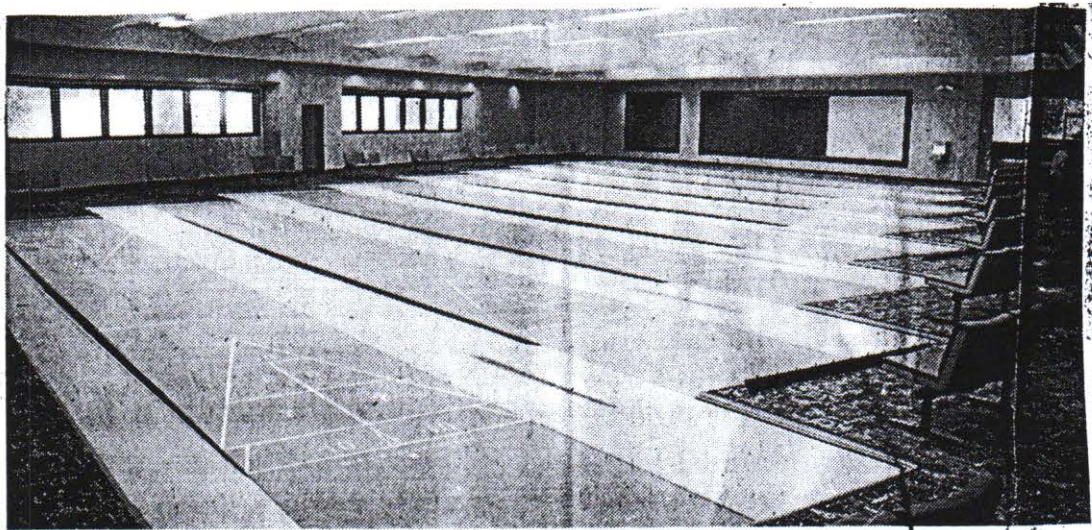


Southwestern architectural style of Bell Center is complemented by desert landscaping which boasts several mature specimens of native Arizona cacti.

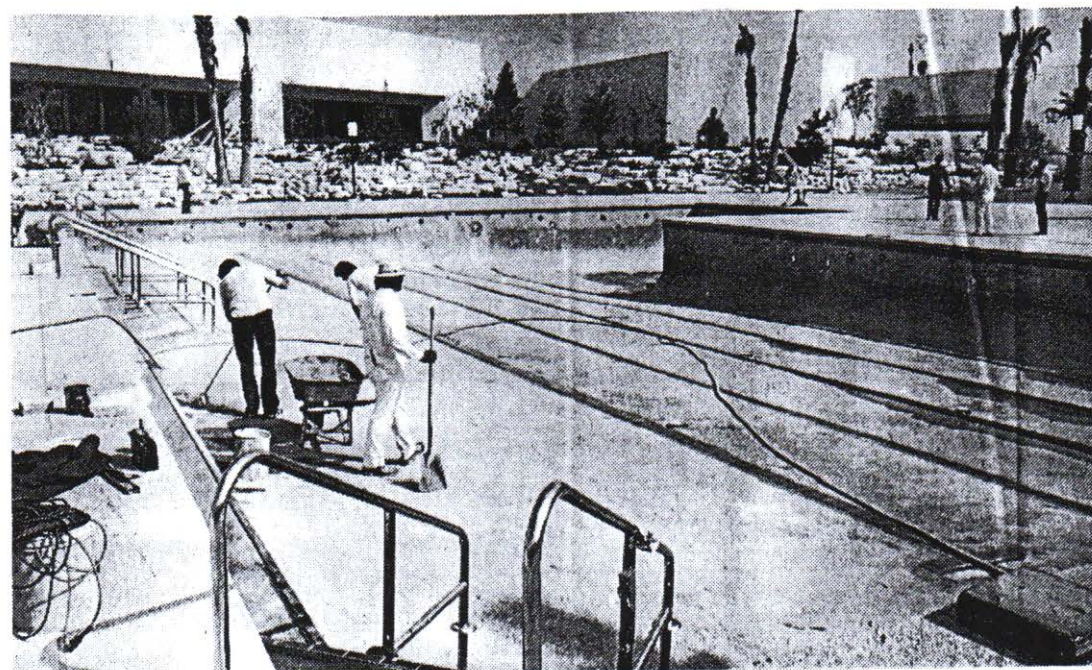


AT LEFT: Library will be eye opener for most Sun Citians. Spacious facility will offer comfortable setting for readers, browsers, or those seeking moment of rest before resuming day's activities.

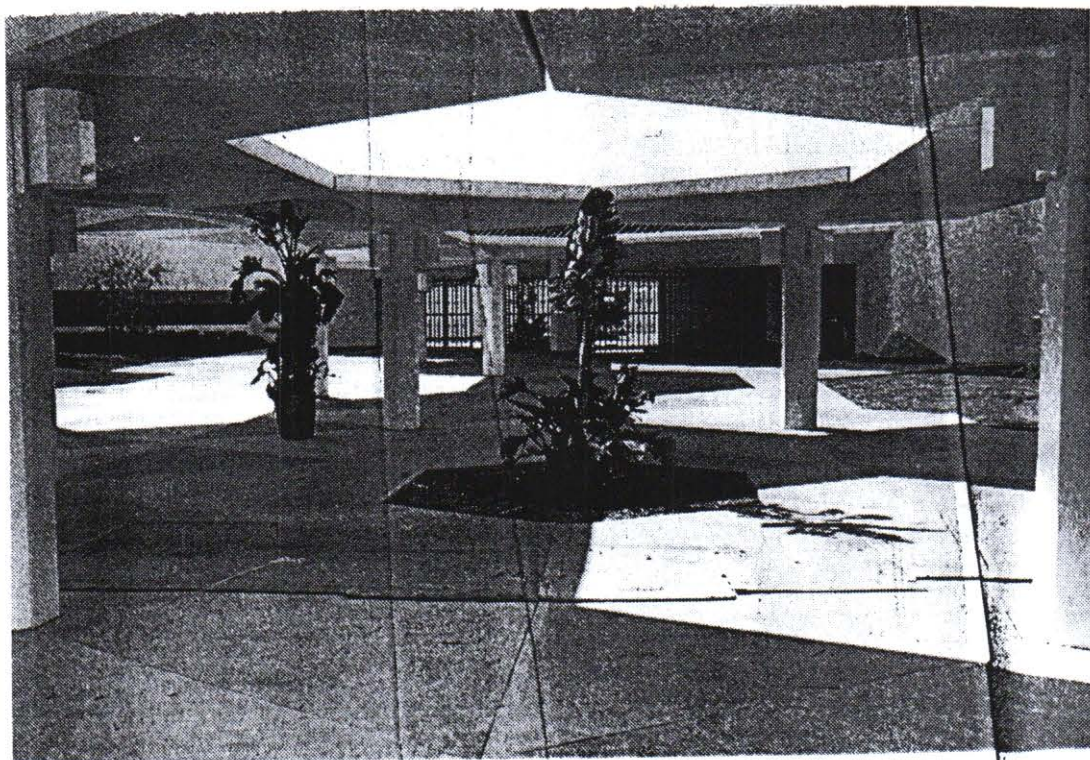
News-Sun Photos
by
Deve Welch



Shuffleboard courts are indoors and share common roof design, however, all interior areas seem separate and private.



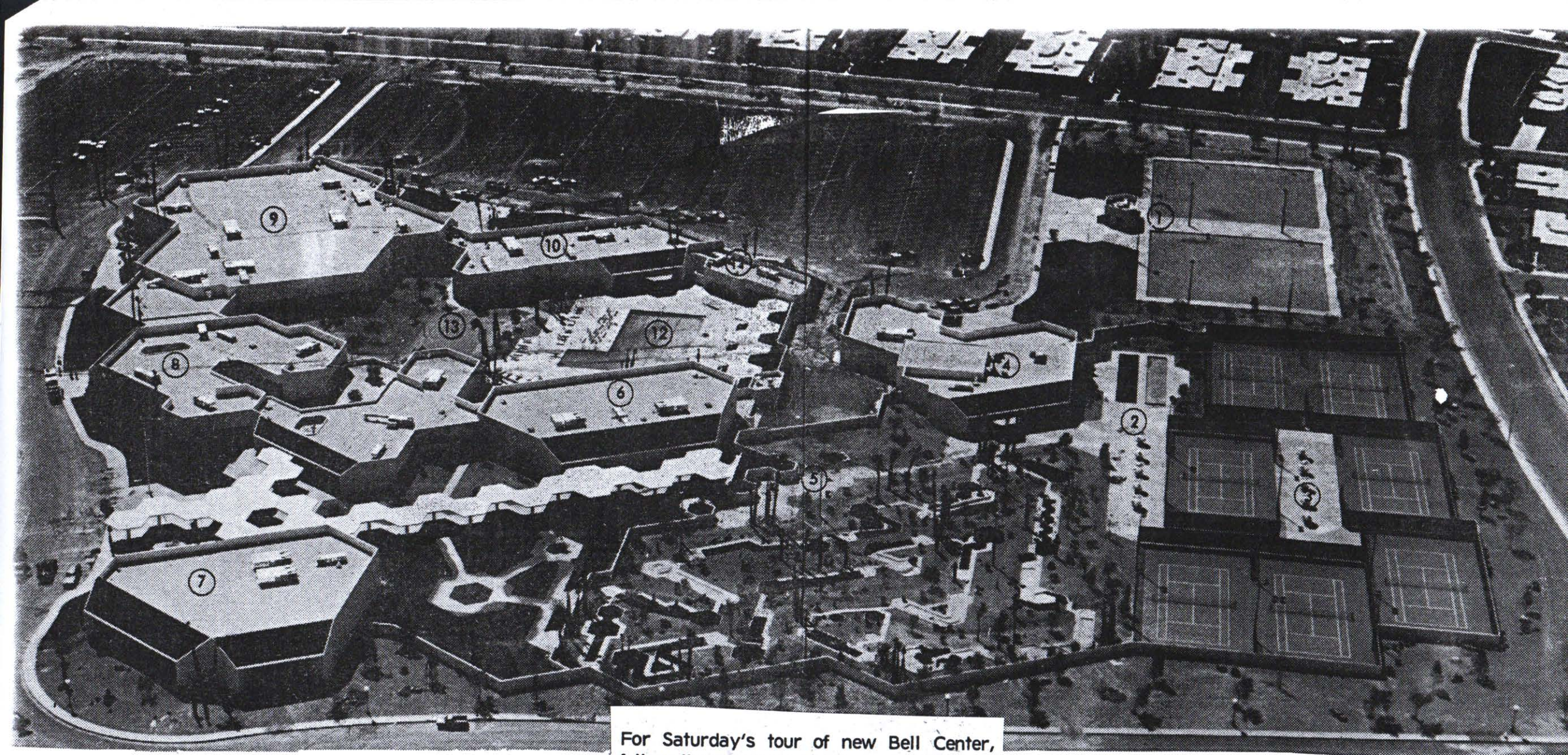
Workmen clean bottom of olympic-sized pool in preparation for filling. Swimming pool, similar in design to facility at Sundial, will also have diving area out of swimmer's path. Cabanas, astro-turf and deck furniture will complement setting.



Breezy covered walkway features hexagonal concrete library, social hall areas. Canopies, poured at site, each weigh 13 tons.



A BRONZE STATUE of Del E. Webb, reflecting the character of "a planner, builder, man of vision," stands at Bell Recreation Center. The life-size memorial was created in 1981 by sculptor James O. Farley, shown here with the monument during the beginning stages.



For Saturday's tour of new Bell Center, follow the numbers: 1. Lawn bowling; 2. Bocci; 3. Tennis; 4. Table tennis and handball; 5. Miniature golf; 6. Social hall; 7. Library; 8. Arts and crafts; 9. Billiards, shuffleboard, and bowling; 10. Therapy pools and exercise room; 11. Pool lockers; 12. Olympic size swimming pool, and 13. Volleyball.

Bell Center dedication set Saturday

Ribbon-cutting and dedication of the new Bell Recreation Center will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, with officials of Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc., and the Del E. Webb Development Co. participating.

The program will be opened by Rev. J. Davis Illingworth, Faith United Presbyterian Church pastor and president of the Sun City-Youngtown Ministerial Association, with the invocation.

Speaking briefly will be Bill Kent, Rec. Centers president; Robert Johnson, Webb Corporation president and board chairman, and John Meeker, Webb Development Co. president.

THE LUKE Air Force Base Band, directed by Capt. Charles Pettijohn, will play patriotic music from 9:30 until the dedication ceremony begins a half hour later.

Following the dedication, the new

center will be open for resident inspection until 5 p.m. A variety of entertainment will be offered at several locations in the recreation complex.

From 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the schedule includes:

A BILLIARDS exhibition and show organist Ron Rhode in the sports pavilion; Bobby Lee and his Lee Men in the activities center; the German Polka Band in the social hall; Singing

Strings in the library; Little Italy Band in the arts and crafts promenade; Desert City Six Dixie Band in the memorial garden, and Surfers Four in the swimming pool.

From 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., the following events are scheduled:

Billiards champ exhibition and organist Ron Rhode in the sports pavilion; Al Skully Trio in the activities center; German Polka Band in the social hall; Singing Strings in the library; Carl Watson Trio in the arts and crafts promenade; Desert City Six in the memorial garden, and Surfers Four in the swimming pool.

THE NEW center also will be open to the general public from 1-5 p.m. Sunday. Hawaiian, Western, Dixieland, German, and Italian bands will be featured, plus bowling and billiards exhibitions.

The \$5.5 million center, built on 27

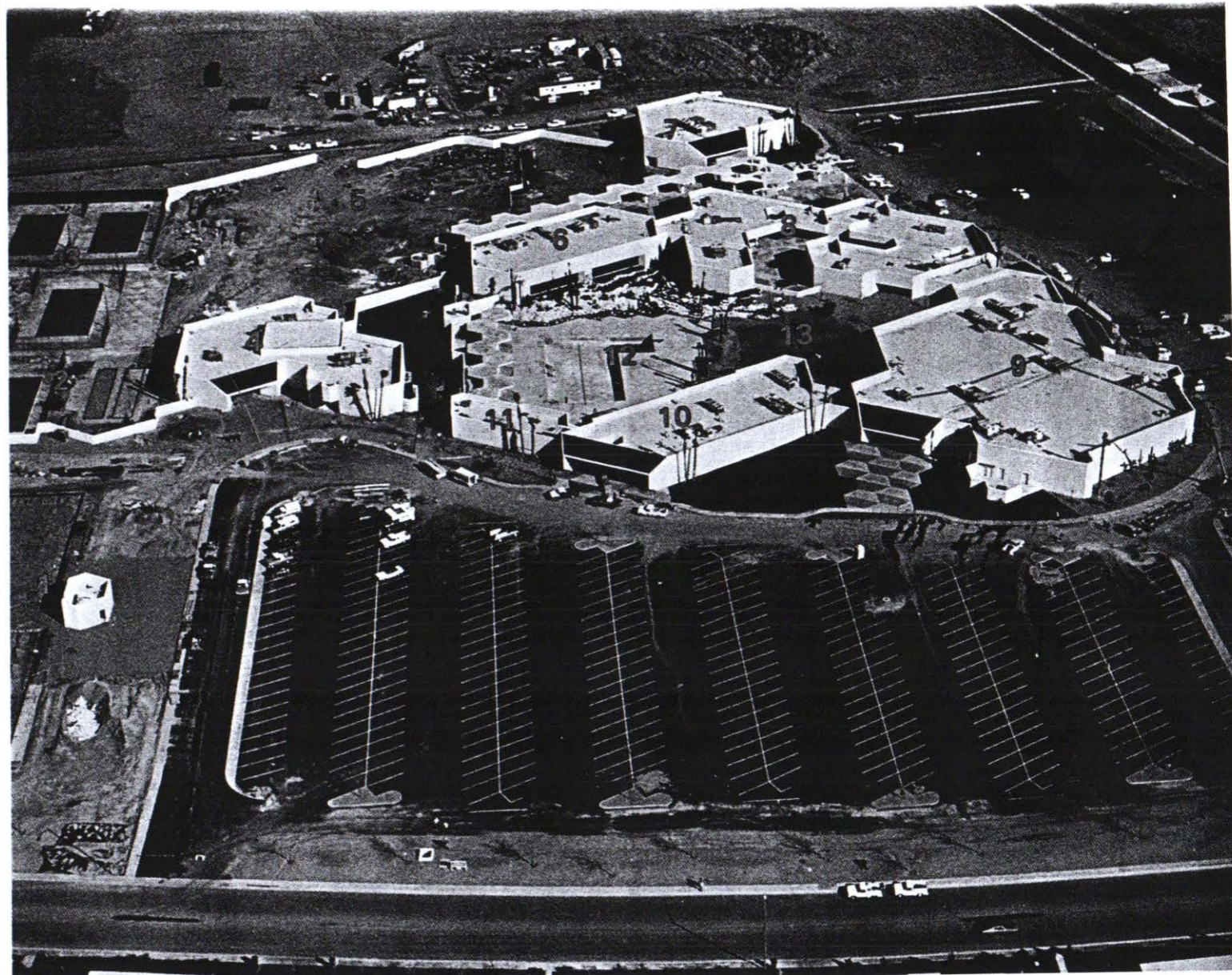
acres at 99th Avenue and Bell Road, includes a 40,000 volume library, indoor and outdoor sports, and arts and crafts studios.

For pictures and a detailed description of the center, see pages 6-7B.

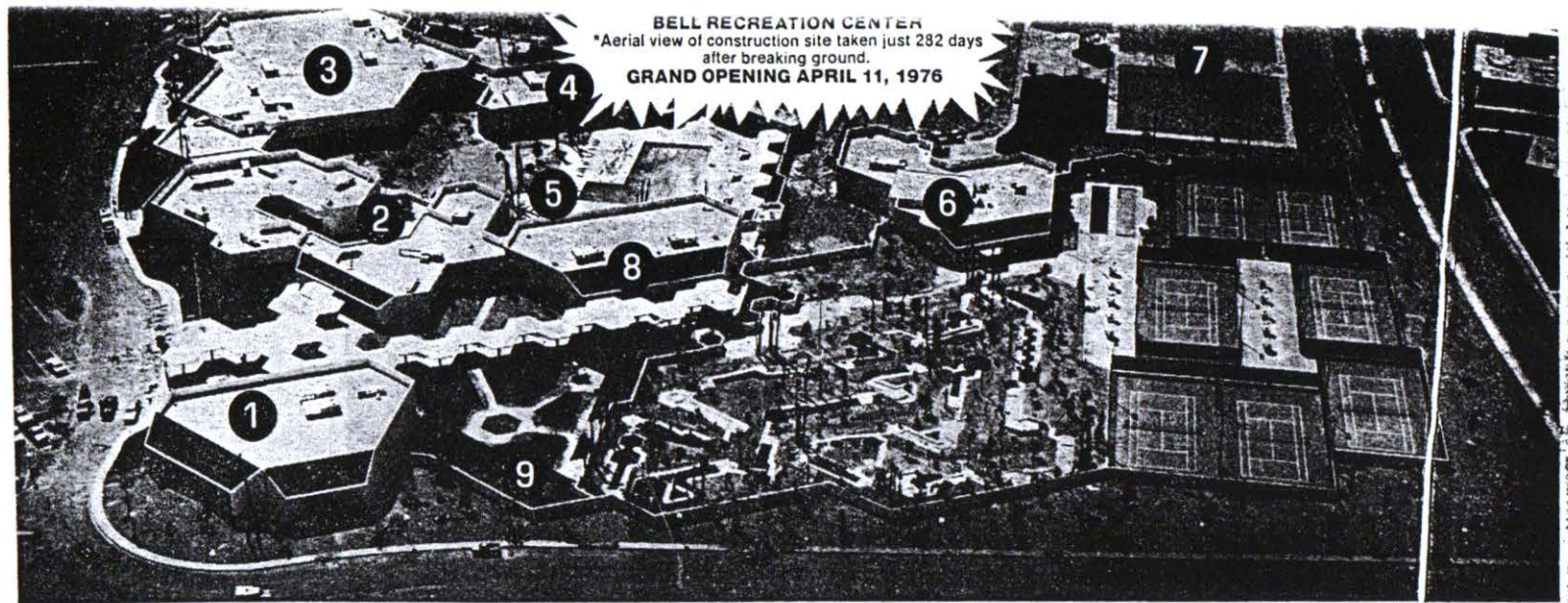


'76 pins like this will be awarded to paper savers by Lions clubs.

MARCH 1976



BELL RECREATION CENTER IS SUN CITY'S SIXTH AND LARGEST ACTIVITY COMPLEX. Spanning 27 acres, the cultural and sports center will serve the pleasures of Sun City's active and energetic populace. The spacious facilities are scheduled for dedication and opening April 3. For an early tour, follow the numbers in this February aerial view: 1. LAWN BOWLING; 2. BOCCI; 3. TENNIS; 4. TABLE TENNIS & HANDBALL; 5. MINIATURE GOLF; 6. SOCIAL HALL; 7. LIBRARY; 8. ARTS AND CRAFTS; 9. BILLIARDS, SHUFFLEBOARD AND BOWLING; 10. THERAPY POOLS & EXERCISE ROOM; 11. POOL LOCKERS; 12. OLYMPIC SIZE SWIMMING POOL; 13. VOLLEYBALL.



YOU'RE INVITED TO TOUR SUN CITY'S SIXTH GREAT COMPLEX FOR RECREATIONAL, CREATIVE, CULTURAL AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES...

BELL RECREATION CENTER TOUR GUIDE

1 Sun City Library Building...

This handsome edifice provides shelf space for 40,000 volumes and seating for 110 readers.

2 Arts & Crafts Village...

Ceramics, silvercraft, lapidary work, painting, sewing, weaving ... a village of studios and workshops equipped to professional standards for practically every imaginable creative activity.

3 Sports Pavilion...

Bowling - 16 lanes with electronic scoring
Pool & Billiards - 19 tables
Shuffleboard - 8 courts
Coffee Shop, Team Room & Lockers

4 Therapy Building...

2 Therapy Pools
Exercise Apparatus Room
Showers & Lockers

5 Swimming Complex...

Olympic-size Outdoor Pool
Sun Deck with Cabanas
Volley Ball Court
Swimmers' Shower & Locker Building

6 Activity Center...

Indoor Facilities

Machine shops for wood and metal working

Table Tennis Hall with 5 tables

2 Handball Courts

Showers & Lockers

Outdoor Facilities

7 Tennis Courts (3 illuminated)

18-hole Miniature Golf Course (illuminated)

2 Boccie Courts

7 Lawn Bowling Park...

2 Grass Bowling Greens (illuminated)

Greens Maintenance Building

8 Social Hall...

Assembly Hall

Serving Kitchen

9 Del E. Webb Memorial Garden...

THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE OUT FOR A DRIVE

... take Bell Road west to 99th Avenue

SEE BELL RECREATION CENTER

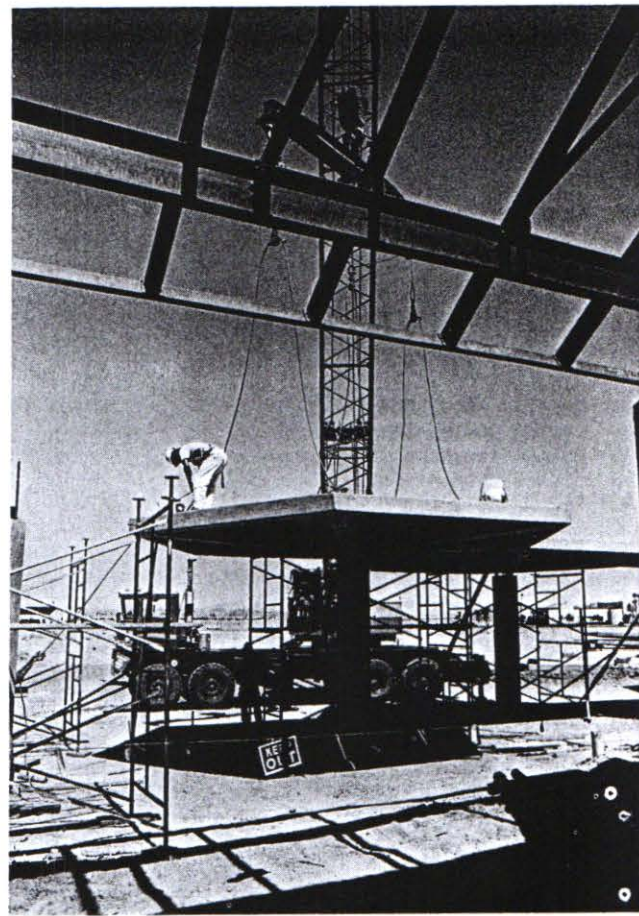
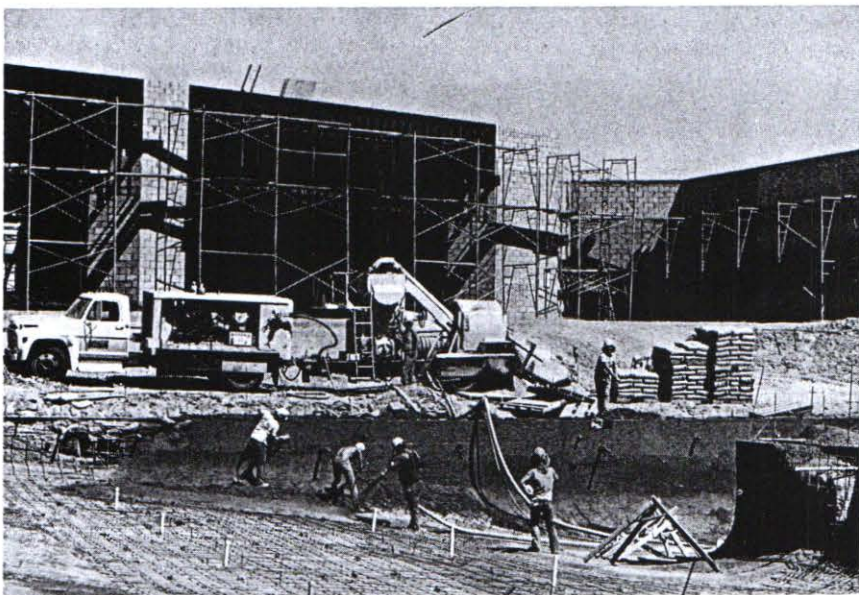
... the ultimate realization of Del E. Webb's wish to create a superior environment for people who have attained the goal of retirement.



OCTOBER 1975

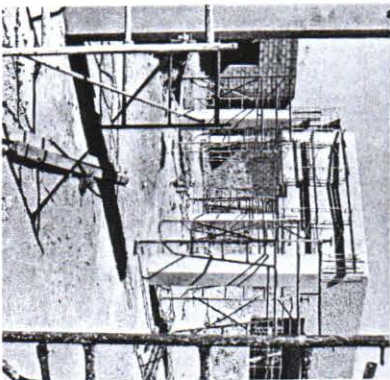
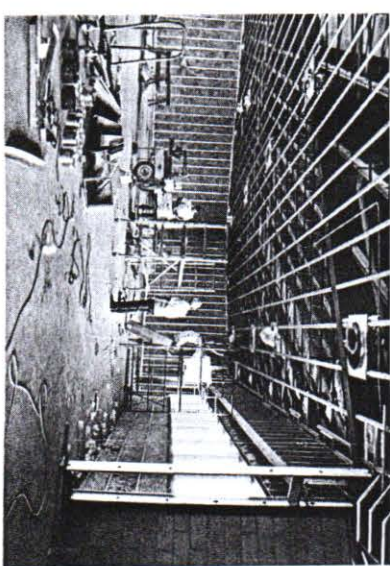
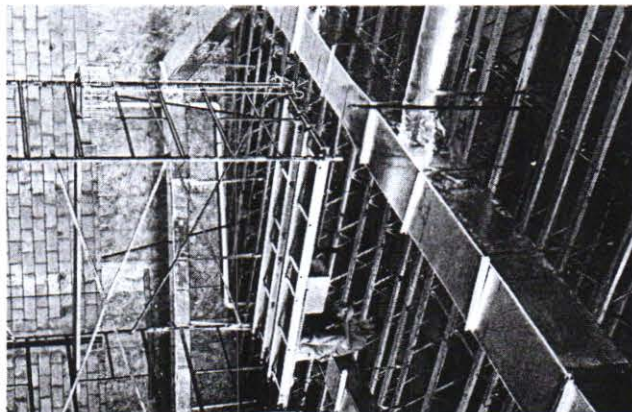
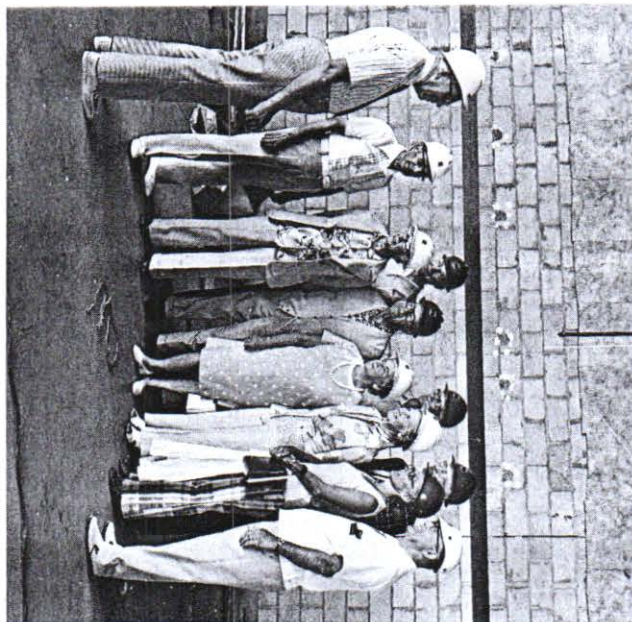
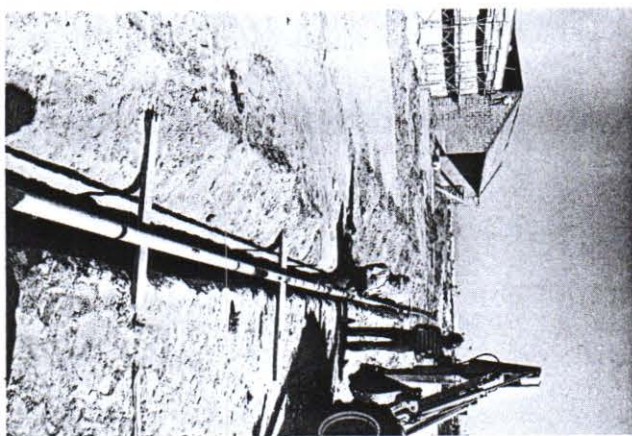
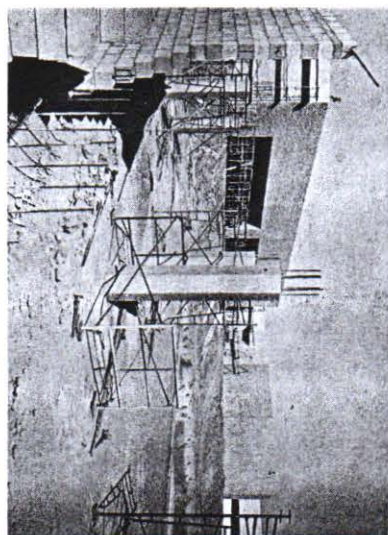
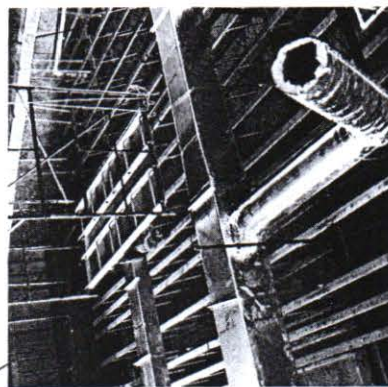
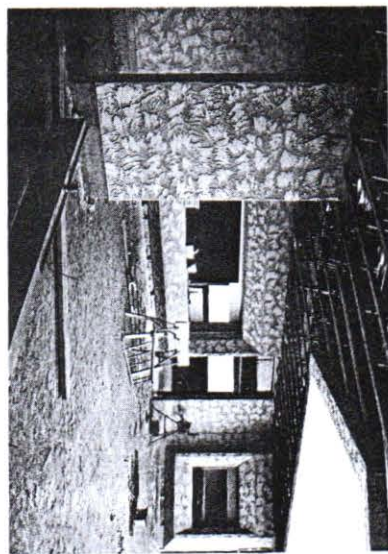


Construction activity in Sun City centers around the community's sixth recreation complex at 99th Avenue and Bell Road. Named Bell Center, the facility will feature a 40,000 volume library, indoor and outdoor sports, and arts and crafts studios. Pictures depict guniting of swimming pool and construction on covered walkways.



November 1975

LIBRARY COMMITTEE TOURS BELL CENTER



Monday, Sept. 1, 1975

The Arizona Republic A-17

Sun City building recreation center

SEP 1 1975

By THELMA HEATWOLE

SUN CITY—Bell Recreation Center, which will be this retirement community's biggest activity hub is taking shape at Bell Road and 99th Avenue.

It is designed to provide residents with a variety of recreational activities from swimming and handball to arts and crafts and quiet reading.

Officials of the Del E. Webb Development Co., builders of this community, said the complex will cost more than \$5 million. It is slated for completion in early 1976.

The complex, in contemporary Spanish design and irregular shapes, will feature several buildings in a village setting linked by covered walkways.

The center includes a 35,035 square-foot sports building that will house a 16-lane bowling alley with snack bar and coffee shop, 19 billiards tables and eight indoor shuffleboard courts.

The arts and crafts building will contain facilities for silvercraft, weaving, sewing, ceramics, art and multicrafts.

A 10,250-square-foot library to house 40,000 volumes is considered a major attraction of the facility. It will feature a panoramic north window, reading nooks, a ceiling of light, and customized shelving.

A satellite library will also be built.

The center will include a separate 650-seat social hall that can be divided for two smaller areas, complete with kitchen facilities.

Other facets are a woodwork and metal work building, an Olympic-size swimming pool, an exercise room and therapy building, seven tennis courts, a lighted 18-hole miniature golf course, and the community's first volleyball and handball courts.

The complex is on a 27-acre site.

JANUARY 1975



Nearby residents joined officials at Bell Rec. Center site. New facility will feature two Sun City "firsts" - Handball and Volleyball Courts.



Groundbreaking for the new Bell Recreation Center-Pictured from left: Curtis Copeland, Webb V.P. and architect; Owen Childress, Webb executive V.P.; John Meeker, Development Co. pres.; Tom Lindsey, architect; Robert H. Johnson, Del E. Webb Corp. president and board chairman; Myron Waggoner, Rec. Centers president; Bill Lloyd and Bill Kent, Rec. Board members.

Del E. Webb Memorial Garden Dedication Combines With Constitution Day

by Nancy L. Brandt
News Editor

Doug Morris, one of the leading promoters for the new, beautifully renovated, Del E. Webb Memorial Garden in Sun City, welcomed more than 200 area residents in the Bell Recreation Center last Thursday.

September 17 marked the 200th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution. This momentous occasion in American history was celebrated by a program at the Memorial behind the library at the western end of the Bell Recreation Center in Sun City, corner of 99th Avenue and Bell Road. The ceremony included comments by Colonel Paul Morrill on "The U.S. Constitution . . . The Common Sense of Uncommon Men." Jane Freeman paid tribute to "Del E. Webb . . . A Man Worth Remembering" and Doug Morris, M.C. and chief organizer of the ceremony, spoke on "The Garden . . . The Day . . . The Reason."

Colonel Morrill reminded all of the sacrifices made by the signers of the Constitution. It had taken 115 days of absolute secrecy . . . days filled with debates and deliberations to produce the document that would guide the fledgling nation through the course of

history.

"When the states appointed their delegates, they totalled 74. When the delegates showed up at Philadelphia, there were only 55. When the draft constitution was submitted for approval and ratification, it was signed by only 39. The names of those appointed who didn't even show up are lost in the mists of history. Those who came and debated but refused to sign are known and they, too, were uncommon men," Morrill told the audience from a platform in the shadow of another uncommon man . . . Sun Cities founder Del E. Webb.

"Two hundred years later, this living document has indeed proven its uniqueness. Two-thirds of the world's national constitutions are less than 20 years old. Only 15 predate World War II. None predate our own. In its 200th year since its birth, it is well to rededicate ourselves to it," said Morrill.

In addition to the statue of Del Webb, which was dedicated on November 21, 1981, the Memorial Garden is home to a replica of the Liberty Bell. The bell was created as a part of the nation's bicentennial celebration in 1976. It was officially dedicated and the time capsule in its base, which contains memorabilia and messages of love to a future generation, was

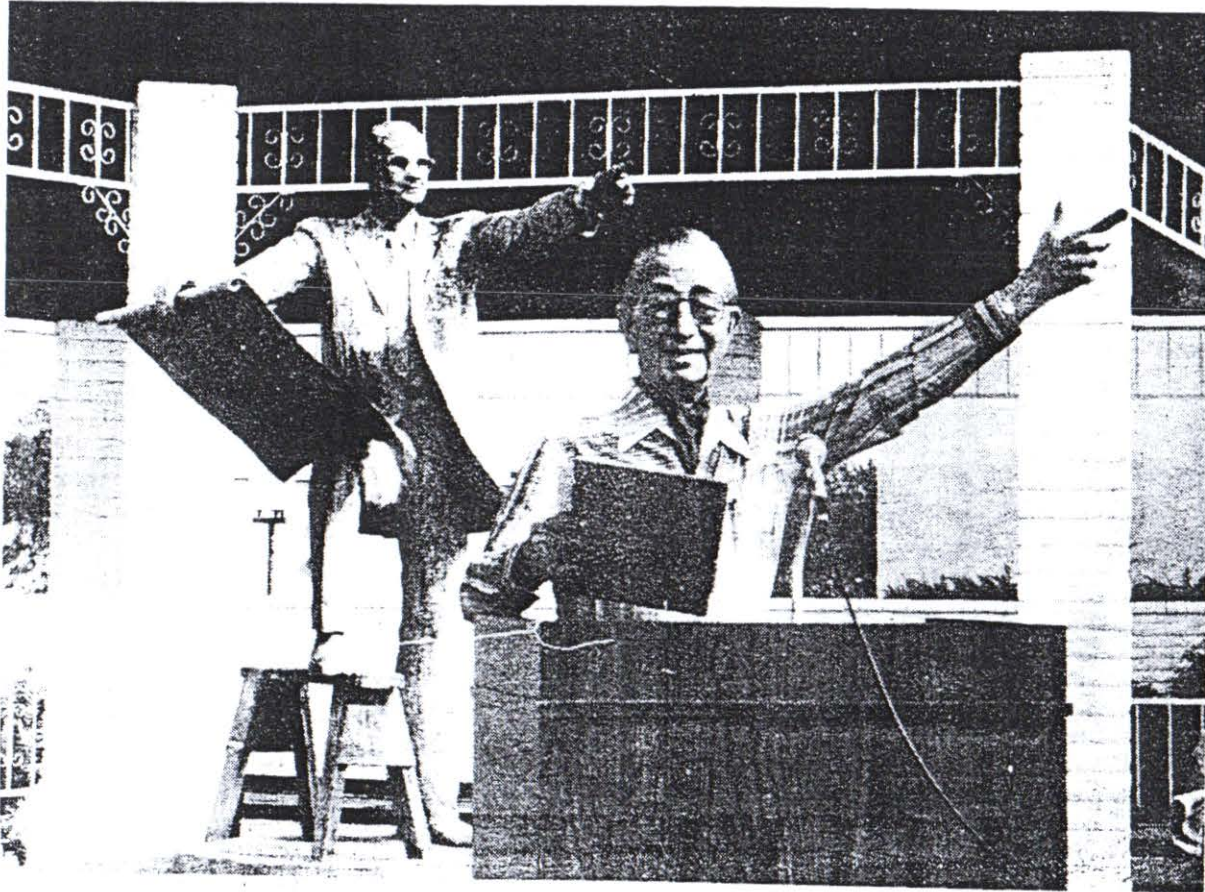
sealed on November 15, 1976.

With its shaded areas and colorful plantings, which will include a rose garden to be planted in December, the Memorial Garden is a restful place for residents to gather. It is hoped that a rose from the White House Rose Garden will be secured for the Constitution Rose Garden, according to Doug Morris.

President of the Sun City Historical Society, Jane Freeman, reminded listeners of the life and foresight of the man who created the Sun Cities from a nine thousand acre cotton ranch owned by the J.G. Boswell Company. From a tiny village called Marinette, Webb built a lifestyle that has become the epitome of retirement living around the world and the pattern for numerous retirement communities across the country.

Doug Morris said, "We are really celebrating two inventions. Our forefathers invented a new kind of nation, a kind that no one has ever invented before. The same thing happened with Del Webb. He invented a new kind of city, a new kind of life style, one that had never been invented before.

"We all know that both inventions have been an astounding and outstanding success."



Doug Morris, MC and a leading advocate for the Memorial Garden, strikes a pose unknown-

ingly, imitating the Del Webb Statue behind him.

Memorial Garden about to flower into reality

Work will begin this week on a project that will not only transform the barren Memorial Garden at Bell Recreation Center into a beautiful park, but will also serve as a more fitting tribute to the founder of the Sun Cities.

Organizers of the project say they now have the necessary funds to begin work on the garden, which is expected to be dedicated Sept. 17, the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution.

The garden, located behind Bell Recreation Center, is the current home of the Del E. Webb Memorial Statue and a replica of the Liberty Bell.

Doug Morris, one of the members of an ad-hoc committee planning the garden's renovation, says 50 percent of the funds necessary to complete the project have been raised. He says landscaping will begin this week.

"The present condition of the garden is a wasteland," says Morris. "It is not what we promised Del Webb back in 1974 when we first told him about the statue."

Morris feels the garden would serve as a fitting tribute to Webb, the founder of the Sun Cities, if it were more attractive.

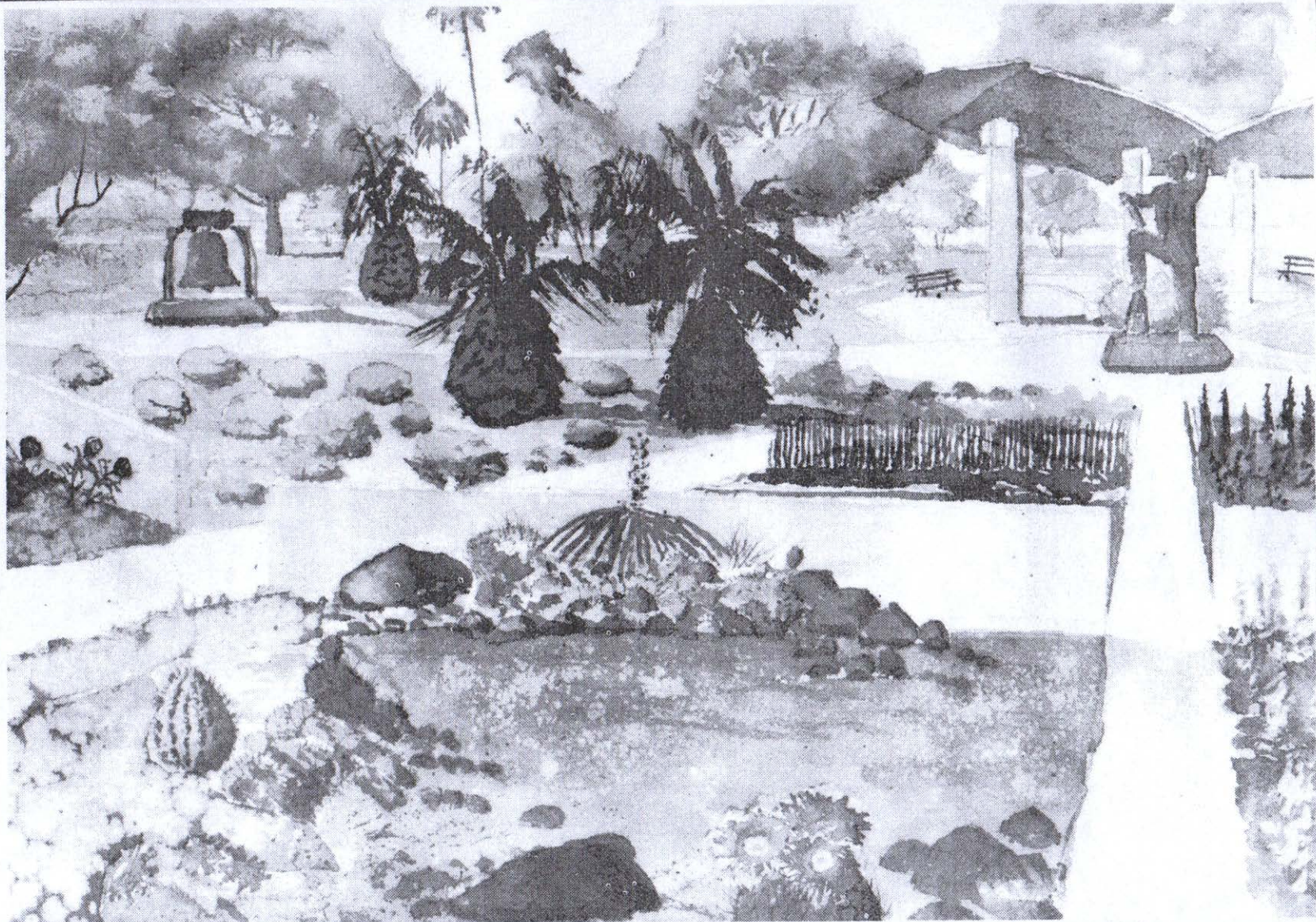
Renovations call for a lush garden with a variety of desert plants and flowers. Surrounding the statue and Liberty Bell will be several ramadas, park benches, tables and gazebos.

"It will be a colorful, sociable kind of a garden," says Morris.

"A place where people will want to be. Not some place they just want to look at."

Morris says over \$2,000 has been donated by Sun City residents over the past month. Recently, however, the Del E. Webb Foundation donated \$20,000 toward the project.

He says the committee still needs an additional \$16-18,000 to complete the project. Residents can contribute funds to the Memorial Garden Committee, Valley National Bank, P.O. Box 690, Sun City, 85372.



MEMORIAL GARDEN at Bell Recreation Center is currently undergoing a facelift. When completed, the garden

will consist of a variety of flowers and trees, ramadas, benches and picnic tables.



THE SUN CITIES

INDEPENDENT

Your
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• September 16-22, 1987 •

Rec Centers dedicate Memorial Garden to city

By BRET McKEAND

Sun Citians will gather at Bell Recreation Center Sept. 17 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution and to honor the founder of the Sun Cities.

A ceremony has been scheduled for 9 a.m. Thursday in the center's Memorial Garden to mark the completion of renovations recently made to the garden. The garden is the home of the Del E. Webb Memorial Statue and a replica of the Liberty Bell.

According to Doug Morris, one of the organizers of the project, "the garden will be finished and ready for dedication" by Constitution Day.

Renovations call for the addition of lush landscaping, park benches, picnic tables and several ramadas and gazebos. Later this year, a rose garden will be added.

"Constitution Garden (the rose garden) is not in evidence right now," says Morris, "because you don't plant roses until December."

Morris says organizers of the project are attempting to obtain

a rose from the White House Rose Garden and to have the garden designated as an "official" Constitution Garden.

The dedication ceremony will be held between the board meeting and quarterly membership meeting of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc.

The monthly board meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. at Bell Center. The dedication ceremony will take place at 9 a.m., followed by the quarterly membership meeting at 10:30 a.m.

All Sun City Rec Centers members are invited.

Guest speakers for the dedication ceremony will be Col. Paul Morrill and Jane Freeman. Col. Morrill will present a talk on the U.S. Constitution and Freeman will present "Del E. Webb: A Man Worth Remembering."

According to Morris, the renovation of Memorial Garden will not only provide a more fitting tribute to Webb, but will also provide residents with a place to relax and meet with friends.

"It will be a colorful, sociable kind of a garden," says Morris.

See GARDEN, page two
OVER



JANE FREEMAN, of Sun City, will present a talk on "Del Webb: A Man Worth Remembering" during the Constitution Day ceremony planned for 9 a.m. Sept. 17 at Bell Center.

COVER!

• GARDEN

From page one

"A place where people will want to be. Not some place they just want to look at."

Most of the funds to renovate the garden were raised through donations from local residents. The Del E. Webb Foundation donated \$20,000 toward the project.

Morris says organizers are still \$5,000 short of their original goal. He says donations are still being accepted and may be sent to the Memorial Garden Committee, Valley National Bank, P.O. Box 690, Sun City, 85372.



DOUG MORRIS, one of the organizers of the Memorial Garden setting and dedication.



DEL E. WEBB

12-9-81

Sculpture of Webb planned

Plans are under way to raise funds for a sculpture of Del E. Webb, founder of Sun City.

An ad hoc committee that met last weekend for the first time hopes to have the monument ready for dedication July 4, 1981, the fifth anniversary of Webb's death.

The group's primary goals are to seek donations totaling \$25,000 from various clubs, organizations and individuals and to search for a suitable artist for the statue.

THE COMMITTEE plans to have the statue erected in the garden of Bell Center near the replica of the Liberty Bell.

Specific fund-raising efforts will be announced later.

Webb is well-known in the area as a Texas carpenter who came to Arizona by way of California and developed Sun City as the country's largest retirement community.

SAM HIGGINBOTHAM is chairman of the Webb statue committee.

Other members are Tom Clewes, Bob Scott, Burt Freireich, Doug Morris, Joe Davisson, Gertrude Taylor, Nell Wilkinson, Bob Hird, Bill Kulakowski, Ben Birrell, Kenneth Lipp, Helen Vallee, Arlene Gray, Morris Beldon and Milton Jacobsen.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

OCTOBER 25-31, 2000

Bell coffee shop to be converted

No jobs to be lost

By JULI NESSETT
Independent Newspapers

With the passage of time comes the always inevitable change. Whether it be changes in style, politics or even landmarks, change is always received with mixed feelings.

Many residents in Sun City have heard reports that Bell Recreation Center's coffee shop will be closing and a snack bar will return in its place. However, according to Bob Briscoe, president of the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors, almost the exact same services will be available once the snack shop is operational.

Residents will still be able to enjoy their morning breakfast and coffee or even lunch, the only difference will be a smaller staff and no chef. Those wanting a big meal will have to drive over to Lakeview, which is a full-service, first-class restaurant, according to Mr. Briscoe.

"It will be basically what it was. It will be staffed like a snack shop but you can still come in and have lunch and breakfast and the such, but if you want a big meal you have to go to Lakeview," said Mr. Briscoe.

This decision comes after many months of losses in the food service area of the recreation centers.

Mr. Briscoe said the idea was brought to the board quite a while ago and it is only now they have made a motion to get it going.

According to Harold Boudrie, board treasurer, as of September the recreation centers have lost \$100,000 on food service.

"We have to save money, there's no question about it," he said. "We've lost \$100,000 at Bell in the last three years."

According to both gentlemen no jobs will be lost. Although the staff at the Bell coffee shop will be cut to about three people per shift, every person will be given the opportunity to work in one of the other areas of food service.

"We aren't going to lay anyone off," said Mr. Boudrie. "We aren't going to eliminate anyone."

They both also said that no real changes will be evident, other than the fact that people will have to go to the counter to order their meals, no dinner will be served and meals will be served on paper plates rather than china.

In the future the board hopes to enlarge Lakeview's restaurant and

RCSC grinds coffee shop to halt

BROUHAHA: Residents accuse board of closed- door decisions

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Accusations of closed-door decisions and out-of-touch directors accompanied Thursday's board decision to convert the Bell Coffee Shop to a snack shop Nov.

Many residents addressing the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of Directors claimed that the vote, although officially made Thursday morning, was decided weeks ago in secret.

"The decision was made before the vote was taken," Ed Anderson said. "And the thing that really bothers me is that this looks like a closed-meeting decision."

Also against the requests of residents who spoke out against the shop's conversion, board members approved cutting two part-time waitress positions at the coffee shop and converting it into a self-service eatery. They also will close Bell's food warehouse and store all its food at the Wakeview Coffee Shop.

"This is not a secret thing," said Bob Briscoe, RCSC board resident. "We've been studying it

for the past 18 months. This whole thing looks like it will benefit the people of Sun City."

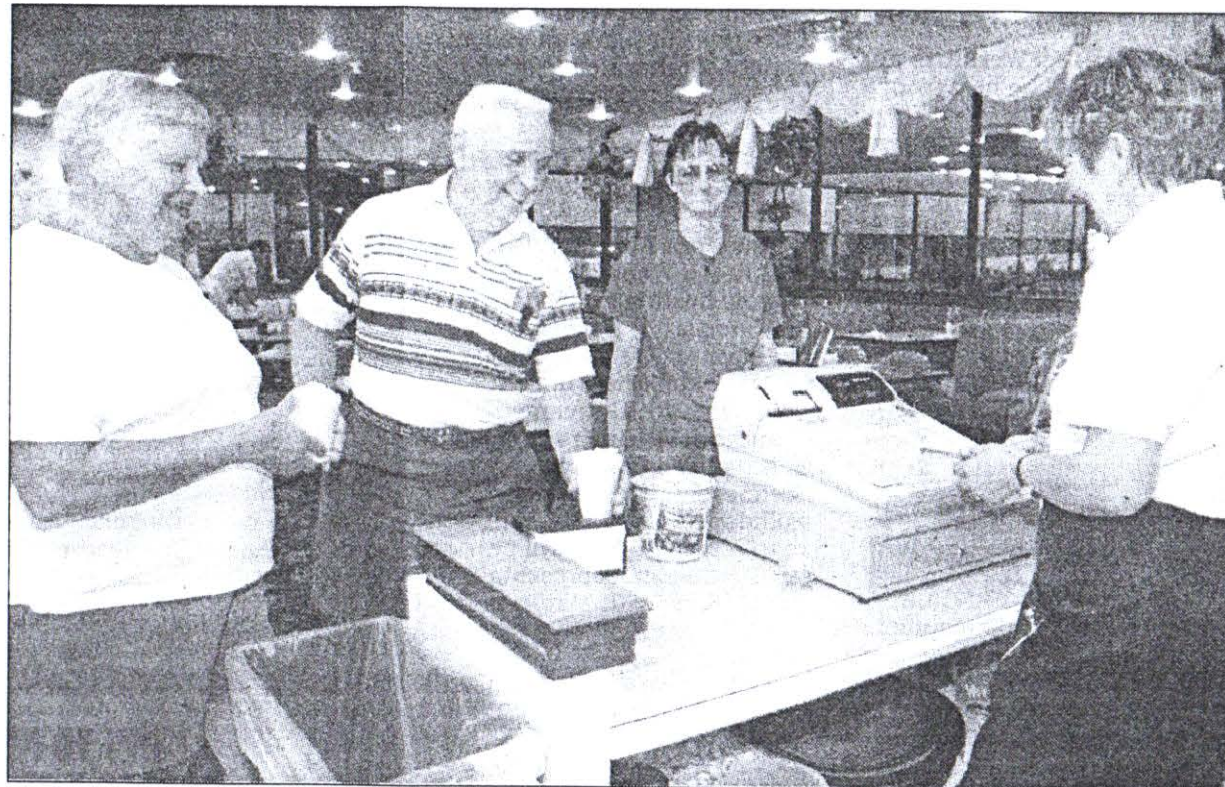
The board's action is aimed at cutting expenses at the coffee shop, which was running more than \$100,000 in the hole as of Sept. 30, according to the board. Converting the shop is expected to cut the deficit to zero, and closing the food warehouse will reduce utility costs.

Many residents were irked at the decision, saying it will hurt elderly residents who depend on the Bell Coffee Shop. They accused the board of being out of touch with what residents need and want.

"They don't care what the members think," Robert Daniels said at the shop Thursday afternoon. "With everything the board has done at the bowling alley, they never asked anyone. They're not working for the people — they are a bunch of dictators."

Daniels, who moved to Sun City four years ago with his wife, Marvel, said one of the main reasons they chose their house was its proximity to the bowling alley and coffee shop.

"We eat out almost every night, and nobody wants to come here and eat with plastic forks and plates," he said. "You can go to McDonald's for that, and probably for a lot cheaper."



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Irene Lima takes Dorothy and Austin Livesey's money while Hope Troedel waits to order at the Bell Bowling Lanes Coffee Shop. Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of Directors voted Thursday to turn the shop into a self-service snack bar.

Daniels' thoughts were echoed by Shirl Burnette, who said the bowling alley and its patrons will suffer if the shop is converted to a self-service café. She said many people frequent the shop for

dinner, but few would consider eating there if the food or service changes.

"To me, I feel that the board has been totally unfair to us," she said. "We should have the right to

speak up and be heard before a final decision is made. I really wish the board would consider the feelings of the public. Our rights and privileges should be considered just as much as

theirs."

Workers at the coffee shop declined to comment on the board's decision, but they did say many people have expressed concern about the shop's changeover.

Entering the coffee shop for lunch Thursday, Austin Livesey said he is concerned about elderly residents who depend on the restaurant for their meals.

"Everybody I've spoken to is willing to pay a little bit more for the meals," he said, "but the board (members) made up their minds already."

The shop's change also will affect non-residents who work in the area. Marianne Teal, cassette librarian for the local library, said the shop serves her lunch every day, and a change in the food would cause her to go elsewhere for meals.

"I feel bad for the people in wheelchairs who want to be able to enjoy a good meal," she said. "I'd think with a decision like this, the board would let the people vote on it."

Pat Maietta, a 20-year Sun City resident, had one brief comment on the board's decision.

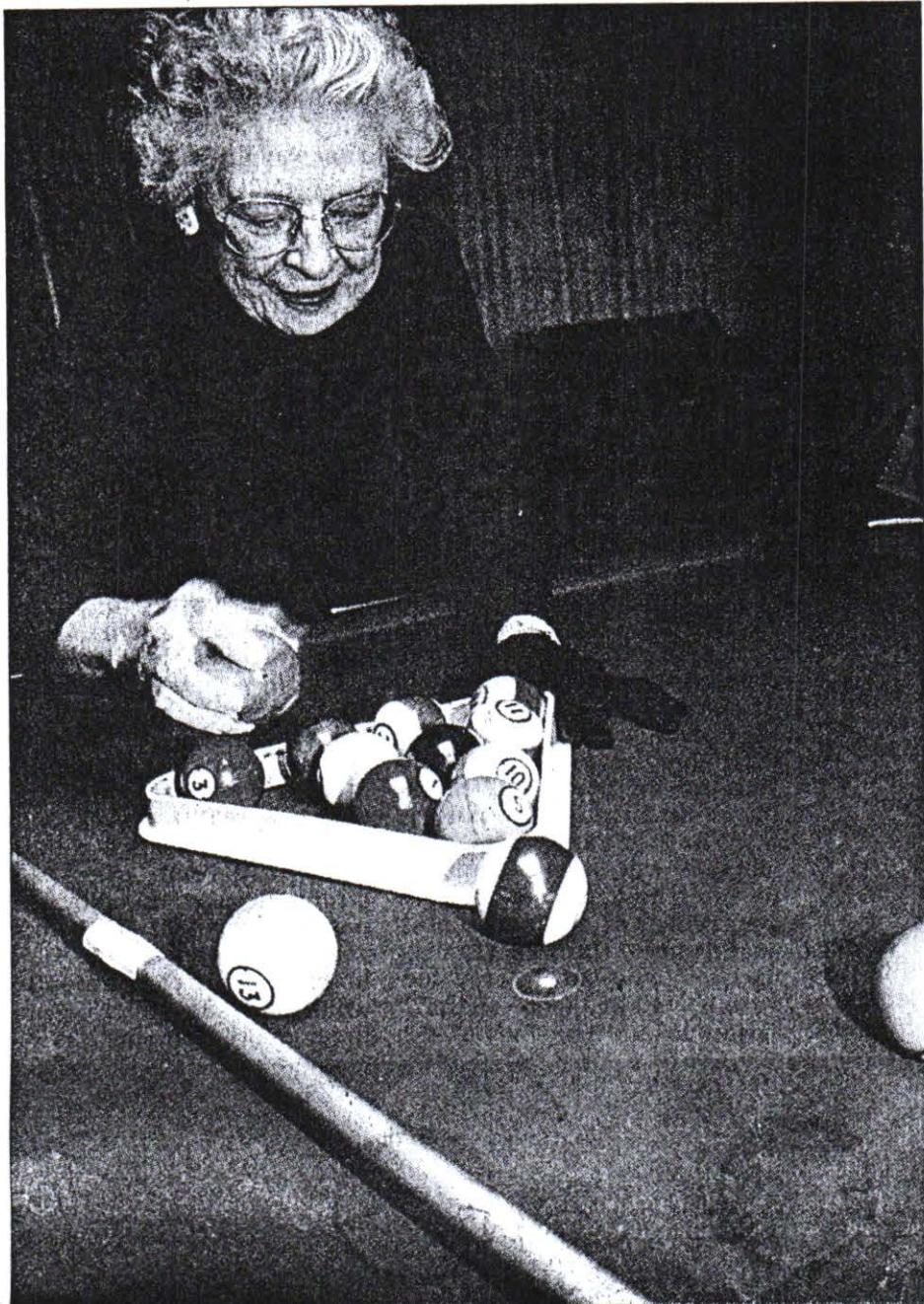
"I think it stinks," he said.

John Sokolich can be reached at jsokolich@aztrib.com or at 623-876-2526.

WEDNESDAY

March 26, 1997

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Pool shark Dorothy Jenson of Sun City hopes to add members to Miss-Cues Club which she founded for female pool players at the Bell Recreation Center.

Sun Citian chalks up pool club for women

By MARY L. CRIDER
Staff writer

Dorothy Jenson of Sun City was dressed to shark Tuesday morning — pool shark, that is.

Clad in athletic shoes, a casual purple and aqua outfit that did not constrict her movements, and a big smile, Jenson meticulously racked the balls, positioning them just so on the green felt table in the sports pavilion at Bell Recreation Center.

Mashing her red-lipsticked lips together in concentration, she stretched to chalk a cue stick taller than she.

Positioning herself just so, the petite woman leaned over the table and rested the stick on her right hand. She eyed the balls and the lie of her stick, checking and rechecking their alignment. Then, with an abrupt strike of her black-gloved left hand, broke the balls.

Carrying the stick, she moved slowly around the table, peering at each ball, checking each possible angle for her shot.

"I used to be pretty good," Jenson said, her twinkling eyes mirroring the sparkle of her white, quarter-sized, gemstone-studded earrings. Jenson is the founder and first member of the new Sun City Miss-Cues pool club for

women. With the club approved by the Recreation Centers of Sun City, she's recruiting members to play at 9 a.m. Mondays, beginning April 21, in Fairway Recreation Center, 10600 W. Peoria Ave.

"This is so much fun, but it's not as much fun playing with yourself. I would like to shoot pool with a group," Jenson said, racking up the balls for another practice game.

Jenson and her husband, Hartwick, moved to Sun City 24 years ago. He was a pool fanatic, so 20

years ago, she learned how to play, too.

"The first time I walked in (Bell) and saw the tables, I said, 'Oh, boy!'" Jenson said.

Despite her husband's teasing about their methods, Jenson and two women friends, armed with two books about pool, went to the recreation center and began practicing shots on a table without pockets. Then they graduated to a table with pockets.

"We had so much fun, the women I played with. We'd take a cue stick and do it all the way up like (topping) a baseball bat (to see who goes first)," Jenson said, laughing at the memory.

For a time, the couple played pool seven nights a week. Over the years, Jenson lost her pool partners. In September, she lost her husband. She wants to continue playing pool.

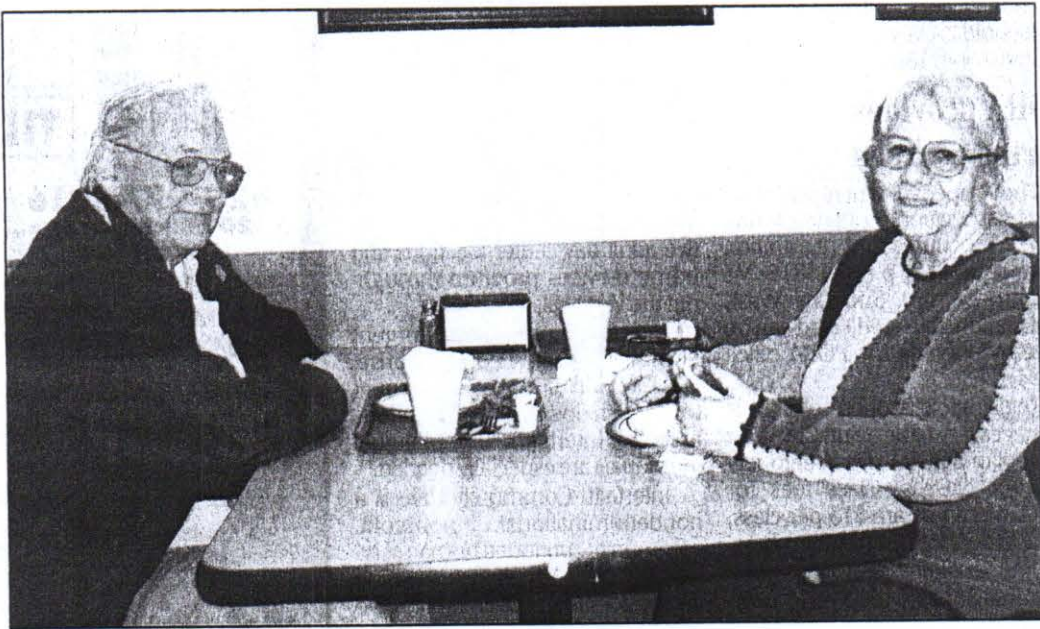
The Recreation Centers of Sun City West now offer two Miss-Cues clubs, said Jenson, adding that the "Sun City West girls" suggested she seek help from the Sun City Recreation Centers to start Sun City's own chapter. She and they believe rec card-carrying Sun City women will appreciate having their own club. Because prospective members have paid their recreation center fee, there will be no expense attached to joining the club, she said.

Playing pool is good exercise for almost everyone; people who have difficulty walking can hold onto the table to make their shots, Jenson said.

"I hope it goes well here ... It's not how good you are, it's how much fun you have," Jenson said.

For information about Sun City Miss-Cues, call Jenson at 933-5423.

Liberty Bell: RCSC Board said change needed for money-loser



Independent Newspapers/Cecilia Chan

Larry and Anna Gaskill say they miss the food variety and service once offered at the Liberty Bell Cafe.

Residents unhappy with the "new" Liberty Bell

By Cecilia Chan
Independent Newspapers

The Recreation Centers of Sun City's attempt to make food service ring a profit at the Bell Center so far is striking out with some patrons.

Tom and Tana Kubic said the Jan. 1 change-over of the Liberty Bell Cafe from a restaurant to snack bar left a bad taste in their mouths. The Blue Plate Specials and waitresses serving complete meals are a thing of the past, they said.

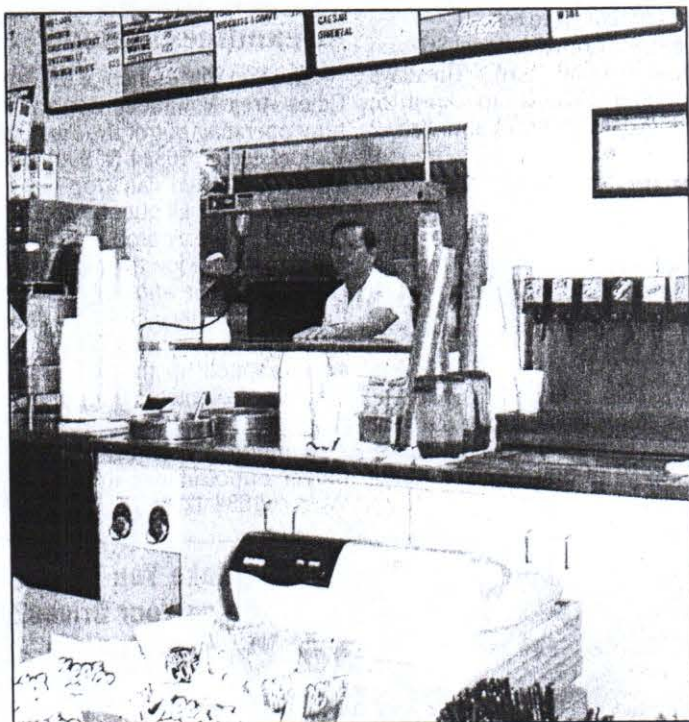
"It's terrible," said Tana Kubic as she and her husband left after eating lunch at the Bell Recreation Center eatery. "The cost and the service are not there. You use to get french fries with the hamburger. Now it's all a la carte. An egg costs 85 cents. It's highway robbery."

Tom Kubic said after their experience, it would be their last time at the cafe.

The Recreation Board of Sun City Board of Directors last month announced it would scale operations at the restaurant, which has been financially hemorrhaging for some time.

Former RCSC Director Bud Hantke reported in December the cafe for the first 11 months of 2004 lost \$73,000.

"For at least the five years that I have been going to the board



Chef Eddie Tomas said few patrons ate at the Liberty Bell Cafe, when it was a full-service restaurant.

meetings, the Liberty Bell Cafe cost more to run than income from sales," Board President Norm Dickson said. "Residents for at least the last five years didn't support the restaurant by going to it. It has a long history of losing money and other

See Bell — Page 8

What do you think?

Do you like the new Liberty Bell Cafe? Why or why not. What ideas do you have to generate foot traffic to the cafe? Write us at 10220 W. Bell Road, Suite 116, Sun City, Ariz., 85351, mail cchan@newszap.com or call Speak Out at 445-2892.

Bell

Continued From Page 1

boards have looked at this issue and tried solutions. Five years of not able to turn it around your choices are simple, either continue pouring money into it that is not being recouped or you try something, either reduce or eliminate the loses."

RCSC food services manager Frank Foskett said other changes at Bell include no more dinner hour and catering services will operate out of the kitchen. Hours of operations for the cafe are 7 a.m.-3 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m.-

3 p.m. weekends.

He said they plan to try several enticements, including offering a Sunday buffet at the cafe. So far, he has heard an earful of complaints from patrons.

"Nobody likes changes," he said.

However, the restaurant just did not have the foot traffic to sustain operations.

"A restaurant would have a rush hour of 4-7 p.m.," he said. "Here, they kind of staggered in, same way with lunch. It became labor-intensive to serve."

Anna Gaskill agreed a restaurant was not necessary at Bell because "not so many people come here."

However, she missed the offerings of a restaurant, she said as she ate lunch with her husband, Larry.

"You can't get meals, just sandwiches," she said. "We were use to a restaurant and now it's more like a cafeteria."

RCSC operates five other snack bars and the Viewpoint Restaurant at Lakeview Center at Thunderbird and Del Webb boulevards.

Viewpoint has been breaking even, Mr. Dickson said.

"As we see it the Viewpoint cafeteria is in an area where there is not a lot of restaurants," he said. "We have the hospital across the street and a new medical center

Construction tolls for Bell Rec Center

Budget clear for \$3.5 million in renovations

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Multi-million dollar renovations are about to begin at the Bell Recreation Center in Sun City. Evidence that work is forthcoming includes a drained pool and empty fitness room.

Those who frequent the center at 99th Avenue and Boswell

Boulevard will be without the pool and fitness amenities for nearly a year, but they can utilize pools at other centers. Starting today, Bell's fitness equipment is available for use at Oakmont Recreation Center, 10725 W. Oakmont Ave.

Construction will begin this week after all preparations are completed, said the Recreation Centers of Sun City board of directors. Jim Wellman, senior manager for centers operations, said the project is running on schedule and on budget.

See PROJECT, A5



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Workers install a curtain on a fence around the construction zone at Bell Recreation Center Thursday.

From A1

"It's going very well," Wellman said. "We're excited that we're able to start right up and get rolling with it. So far, everything's right on."

After planning for a year, screening architects, taking public comments and reviewing bids, the RCSC board approved the project and projected a cost of \$3.5 million in the 2005 RCSC capital budget.

Plans include new locker room facilities, a floor exercise room, a walking pool, doubling the space of the fitness area, renovating the existing pool and deck and

upgrading air conditioning, the board said.

Line drawings of what the new facilities will look like are on display at Bell Recreation Center. Residents are encouraged to visit and see what the changes will bring.

"It will provide new functionality to what's already there," said RCSC treasurer Jim Kuchler. "This will increase the value and attractiveness of the area for our members and future members who will buy into this retirement community."

For information about the Recreation Centers of Sun City, call 876-3000.

Construction: \$3.5 million expansion in order



Independent Newspapers/Cecilia Chan

Paule Petit said the Bell Recreation project is a bad idea and a waste of money.

Bell Center to close for construction

By Cecilia Chan

Independent Newspapers

Lois Clark gave a thumbs up for the \$3.5 million facelift under way at the Bell Recreation Center on 99th Avenue and Hutton Drive.

Built in 1976, the aging center aims to be bigger and better.

"It definitely needs to be enlarged because there are so many people," said Ms. Clark, who just finished exercising. "I hope they are going to improve it like at Sundial."

And with baby boomers retiring, the center needs to be updated to attract new residents to Sun City, she added.

After more than one year of planning and soliciting public input on the project, the Bell pool, exercise room, locker rooms and spa will close Jan. 23 for renovation.

"They will be closed for 11 to 12 months after the contractor starts his work," said Jim Wellman, director of centers operations for the Recreation Centers of Sun City. "So far, he is scheduled for Feb. 1 but that depends on us getting (the preparations) finished."

Construction includes resurfacing the existing outdoor swimming pool, adding next to

Where to go when Bell Center closes Jan. 23 for renovation:

For exercise facility members are encouraged to go to the Oakmont Center at Oakmont Drive and 107th Avenue. The exercise room will not open until Jan. 29 because time is need to relocate the Bell exercise equipment to Oakmont.

For swimming, members are encouraged to Marinette Center on 99th Avenue and Union Hills Drive, which is available for immediate use.

it a serpentine walking pool, doubling the size of the exercise room, adding a floor exercise room and adding a wet and dry message facility, Mr. Wellman said.

Both indoor spas will be replaced with new spas and one will be relocated outside, he said. The dressing rooms and lockers also will be updated.

"We are updating the facility because we want to provide more room," Mr. Wellman said. "It's to accommodate our members and provide some other activities for them like the walking pool."

However, not everyone was pleased with the project.

"I resent it very much," said Paule Petit as she peddled away on an exercise bike at Bell. "We don't need it to be better. It just needs to be clean and the machines improved. I don't see why we are spending so much money."

Ms. Petit said she purchased her home six years ago because it was close by the Bell Center and she did not relish the thought of having to go to Marinette Center for her daily exercises.

"We hate it," said swimmer Jack Eberhahn, who uses the Bell pool daily. "First of all we are out for a whole year and second I don't think we need to spend that amount of money. Everything is nice. We don't need anything else. I think it's silly to spend \$3.4 million."

He said all the RCSC needed to do was fix the pool and put in new furniture.

Fellow swimmer Ursula Borck echoed the comments, questioning the need for another walking pool. Sundial has a rectangular walking pool.

"I'm very disgusted," she said. "I don't think the directors think so well."

Mr. Wellman said 2004 numbers show about 5,500 members a month use the Bell exercise room, 3,500 use the pool and about 1,000 the spa. Some of the numbers are repeat uses, members who use more than one amenity.

Evelyn Phillips, on the other hand, welcomes the improvements.

She said one day she might have to use a walking pool when she is no longer able to swim laps.

"I think we need to keep up with the future," said Ms. Phillips, a 27-year resident. "I feel the board has done a lot of preliminary study and I trust they know what they are doing."

Built in 1960, Sun City is Del Webb's oldest and largest retirement community. RCSC oversees eight golf course and eight recreation centers for about 42,000 residents.

Thanks to a one-time fee paid by new homeowners, the recreation center is able to afford a major fix-up to its aging facilities.

The Capital Preservation Fund, established in 1999, charges new homebuyers a \$1,600 fee that is set aside for projects that cost at least \$100,000 and have a life span of 15 years or longer. The Fairway Center is next on the books for renovation.

Post your comments on this issue at newsblog.info/0302

News editor Cecilia Chan can be reached at 972-6101 or cchan@newszap.com

Renovations ring in at Bell Rec Center

JOY SLAGOWSKI
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The grand re-opening of an updated fitness center and pools was enough to perk up the standing room-only crowds at Bell Recreation Center at 10 a.m. Saturday.

The facilities debuted after a year of construction and renovations, which updated the look and feel of the building to that of a day spa and fitness facility.

Tour guides showed visitors the new rooms, amenities and services during the event, which ran until 4 p.m.

Lois Nelson led visitors through the building, giving a description of all of the new amenities, pointing out energy-saving features such as positioning the windows to the north and using fluorescent lighting. Carpeting is laid in tile form, so pieces can be replaced easily if they become worn or stained. A planned steel wall was replaced by stone to give it a warmer feel.

In the day spa, massage services, wraps, salt glow treatments and pedicures will be offered for a fee through United Therapists' Services. The spa will offer seven types of massage services: shiatsu, Swedish, integrated, cranio sacral, specific muscle, ortho-bionomy and abbreviated reflexology.

Ron Zohner, the owner who was trained in Oriental medicine in the Army, said the spa will concentrate on the health aspects of massage and pedicure treatments. A podiatrist will be hired, and people with diabetes would benefit from the hand and foot care, Zohner said.

Unlike salons, the pedicure station at the spa at Bell Recreation Center is not elevated. It is lower so it's easily accessible.

"For pedicures, the station is lowered so that people in wheelchairs can have access," Zohner said.

Spa services are available to members and the public. Prices are \$30 for a half-hour massage and \$50 for an hour. For an appointment or information about other services, call 687-4974.

The new locker rooms feature lowered lockers in two sizes and private showers.

The aerobics room will be used for fitness classes, but recreation center members who would like to play their own exercise tapes may do so if a class is not in session.

The fitness center features new Life Fitness machines and ceiling fans, something Nelson said was frequently requested from users of the former facility. Sun Health will give equipment demonstrations every other month to introduce users to the functions of each machine. The next class will be from 2 to 3 p.m. March 28.

The free-weight room features adjustable weights and a rubberized floor.

The outdoor pool area features two



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Yoga instructor Ingrid Petersen watches Kim Chaisson use the assisted dip/chin-up trainer in the fitness center at Bell Recreation Center Saturday. Guides introduced visitors to the new pool, day spa and fitness facilities at Bell's grand re-opening.

walk-in pools and one lap pool. The walk-ins are 3½ feet and 4½ feet deep and feature five entries. Half way through the walk-in pool there is a bench for those who wish to sit and take a break. The lap pools are set up for competition, but two lanes will be open for swimmers.

After the Maricopa County Department of Health inspected the center

about two weeks ago, the pool area was restricted from opening until an automatic door was child-proofed, said Ken Fold, Recreation Centers of Sun City board treasurer and properties committee chairman. The county said the door was acceptable Friday, RCSC officials said.

Joy Slagowski may be reached at 876-2514 or jslagowski@aztrib.com.

Renovated Bell reopens

Public invited to rec center unveiling

By Matt Loeschman
Independent Newspapers

The Bell Recreation Center's "extreme makeover" is nearly complete.

Following a year of construction, it is time for renovations to be unveiled to the public.

"We believe the membership will be very pleased with the changes," said Jim Wellman, Recreation Centers of Sun City senior operations manager. "This was a big undertaking and finally the time has come to show off the results."

Members are invited to view the renovations 9 a.m.-4 p.m. March 11 at the center, 16820 N. 99th Ave.

"There's going to be plenty

If you go

What: Bell Recreation Center unveiling

When: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. March 11

Where: Bell Recreation Center, 16820 N. 99th Ave.

going on," Mr. Wellman explained. "Clubs will be providing demonstrations as well as people explaining how to use the new features and equipment. Tours of the new facility will also be available."

Last week, the finishing touches were applied to the center.

"We're just making some final inspections and tying up some loose ends," Mr. Wellman said. "Everything will be ready to go on March 11."

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Bell

Continued From Page 1

Construction and renovation of the sports and fitness portion of the recreation center has taken approximately one year.

"That's right about where we expected to be," the operations manager noted. "We are completing this project on time."

In the past, as RCSC board member Norm Dickson monitored the construction progress, he said the center would be worth the wait.

"It is outstanding," Mr. Dickson said. "It's going to be something the entire membership can be proud of."

Members will notice major changes to the facility.

A new pool area highlights the upgrades. Two new pools were built — a 173,000-gallon competition pool and a 128,000-gallon serpentine walking pool. The 25-yard short course competition pool has eight lanes and will be used for both competitions and open/lap swimming.

The walking pool is shaded by unique "sails" Mr. Wellman said are aesthetically pleasing.

Pool decks have a new color scheme, new furniture and upgraded landscaping including a hillside water feature.

Locker rooms near the pool were completely refurbished as

well. This is one of the major improvements, according to Mr. Wellman.

"They appear larger and more comfortable," he said.

Those not wishing to take a dip can take advantage of the refurbished fitness center.

The center will be home to Life-Fitness and Hammer Strength equipment as well as an expanded weight training area.

"Members will say 'wow' when they see it," Mr. Wellman said.

The fitness center is equipped with televisions and FM technology, allowing members to watch television or listen to music during their workout. New fitness locker rooms are located adjacent to the fitness

center.

A new indoor spa and new indoor massage facility are also part of the renovation. A large lobby allows for gathering and socializing.

The upgraded facility is estimated at approximately 20,000 square feet, nearly double the space of the old center. Audio upgrades are also included — a better music and public address system.

Security is also at the forefront, according to RCSC officials.

The building is prewired for member card access.

"This is something we can implement in the future," Mr. Wellman explained.

A new surveillance system is in use, allowing monitors to pan

through camera views of the facility. A state-of-the-art alarm system will protect the center when it is not in use.

Some members questioned the cost of all the upgrades — estimated at about \$4 million. The project was paid for with RCSC capital preservation and improvement funds.

The original cost was set at \$3.5 million, but officials said the realization the original swimming pool would need to be completely replaced raised the overall price tag to about \$4 million.

Resident Jo Gelfand said she looks forward to the Bell unveiling.

"Things like this cost money," she said. "From what I have seen, it

will be worth it. We will have a center envied by others. I plan on using it all the time."

Mr. Wellman said upgrades were badly needed.

"This was a project where we basically took everything out and started from scratch," he said. "It was definitely time."

The operations manager invites members to experience the "new Bell."

"To sum it up, people will be impressed," he said. "They will say it was worth the wait."

Post your comments on this issue at www.newszapforums.com/forum29. Reach News Editor Matt Loeschman at 972-6101 or mloeschman@newszap.com.



SUN CITY, ARIZONA'S

Bell Recreation Center

Sun City's sixth great center for recreational, creative and cultural activities is located on a 27-acre site just south of Bell Road. It is bounded by 99th Avenue on the east, Boswell Boulevard on the west and Hutton Drive on the south. There are driveway entrances from each of these streets leading to paved parking lots for automobiles, golf carts and bicycles.

Bell Recreation Center has ten buildings

totaling some 94,000 square feet. The Sun City Library Building stands at the northeast corner. The buildings, in contemporary Spanish style, are arranged to form a number of landscaped malls and alcoves, and a large central court with an olympic-size swimming pool. Other exterior recreational facilities include: the swimming pool, a volleyball court, two lawn bowling greens, seven tennis courts, two bocce courts and an 18-hole miniature golf course.

TOUR GUIDE

1 LIBRARY

The Recreation Centers of Sun City provide this handsome building to Sun City Library, Inc. to house its books and central operational facilities. It affords shelf space for 40,000 volumes, seating for 110 readers and expansion capabilities of 50%. Sun City Library, Inc. is an Arizona nonprofit corporation that depends primarily upon voluntary membership fees (and donations from individuals and organizations) for funds to acquire books and cover its administrative expenses. The Librarian will be pleased to provide specific details as to lending regulations and memberships.

2 ARTS & CRAFTS VILLAGE

Three buildings connected by a covered mall, and containing facilities for ceramics, silvercraft, lapidary work, painting, sewing, weaving and other popular creative activities. It also houses a suite of offices and rest rooms.

3 SPORTS PAVILION

A handsomely appointed foyer opens into an air-conditioned concourse overlooking a 19-table billiard room, a 16-lane bowling facility (with an electronic scoring system), and an eight-court shuffleboard layout. This outstanding sports center also contains a coffee shop, team room, locker room, office suite, and rest rooms.

4 THERAPY BUILDING

Adjacent to both the Sports Pavilion and the vast sun court with its huge swimming pool and volleyball court this building contains two therapy pools, an exercise room, lockers, showers, rest rooms, and an equipment & storage area.

5 SWIMMERS' SHOWER & LOCKER BUILDING

To serve the outdoor swimming pool, this building contains lockers, showers, rest rooms and storage facilities.

6 ACTIVITY CENTER

Actually two structures connected by a covered concourse. The enclosed areas contain a woodworking shop, a metal working shop, a table tennis hall with five tables, lockers, showers, rest rooms and storage rooms. Two 3-wall handball courts open onto the concourse which forms the entrance to a vast outdoor sports complex with: seven tennis courts (3 illuminated), an illuminated 18-hole miniature golf course, and two bocce courts.

7 LAWN BOWLING PARK

Bell Recreation Center has two grass lawn bowling greens. They are located in an illuminated park just south of the tennis complex. The building at the entrance to the park contains rest rooms and facilities for the storage of supplies and equipment for the maintenance of the greenswards.

8 SOCIAL HALL

A large assembly hall adjoined by a serving kitchen, storage rooms, and rest rooms. The assembly hall can be divided into two equal meeting rooms by use of a folding partition.

9 THE DEL E. WEBB MEMORIAL GARDEN

The portico of the Social Hall opens onto a beautifully landscaped garden dedicated to the memory of the founder of Sun City. Since Mr. Webb cherished the principles of liberty upon which our nation is founded it is most appropriate that the garden will contain a replica of the Liberty Bell. To mark the Bicentennial of the United States more than 1,500 Sun City families donated metal objects to be melted to help make the bronze for this great bell. It is to be cast at the Netherland Bell Foundry in Asten, Holland. It will be full-scale, weighing some 2,080 pounds, and it will ring!

There are two seating areas in the garden overlooking the adjacent outdoor sports complex. The large planting bed bordering the west end of the Library Building provides a beautiful setting in which Sun City garden clubs may plant seasonal flowers.



BOSWELL BLVD.

HUTTON DRIVE

99th AVENUE

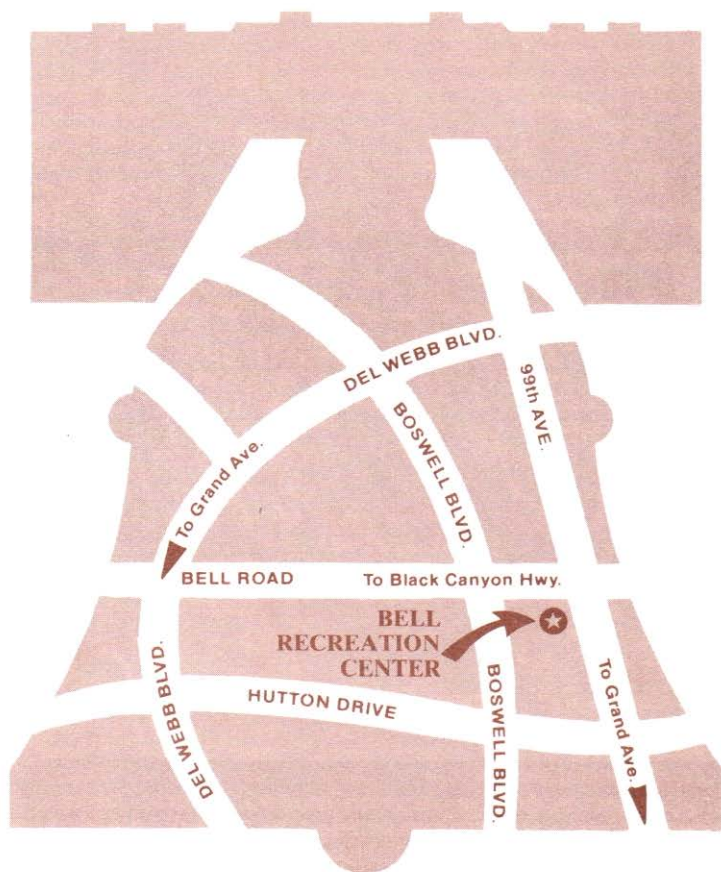
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SITE PLAN

Opening Ceremonies April 9-1996
Ribbon cutting April 10-1996

**HOW MUCH
DOES MEMBERSHIP
IN
BELL RECREATION
CENTER
COST?**

Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. is an association made up of the owners of residential property in Sun City, Arizona. It is an Arizona nonprofit corporation with the primary function of operating and maintaining the recreational facilities under its ownership on a *break-even* basis. Among those facilities are Sun City's six recreational/cultural centers. The association currently assesses each Sun City household an annual fee that breaks down to less than 10 cents a day per resident for membership privileges in all six of the centers... **INCLUDING BELL RECREATION CENTER!**



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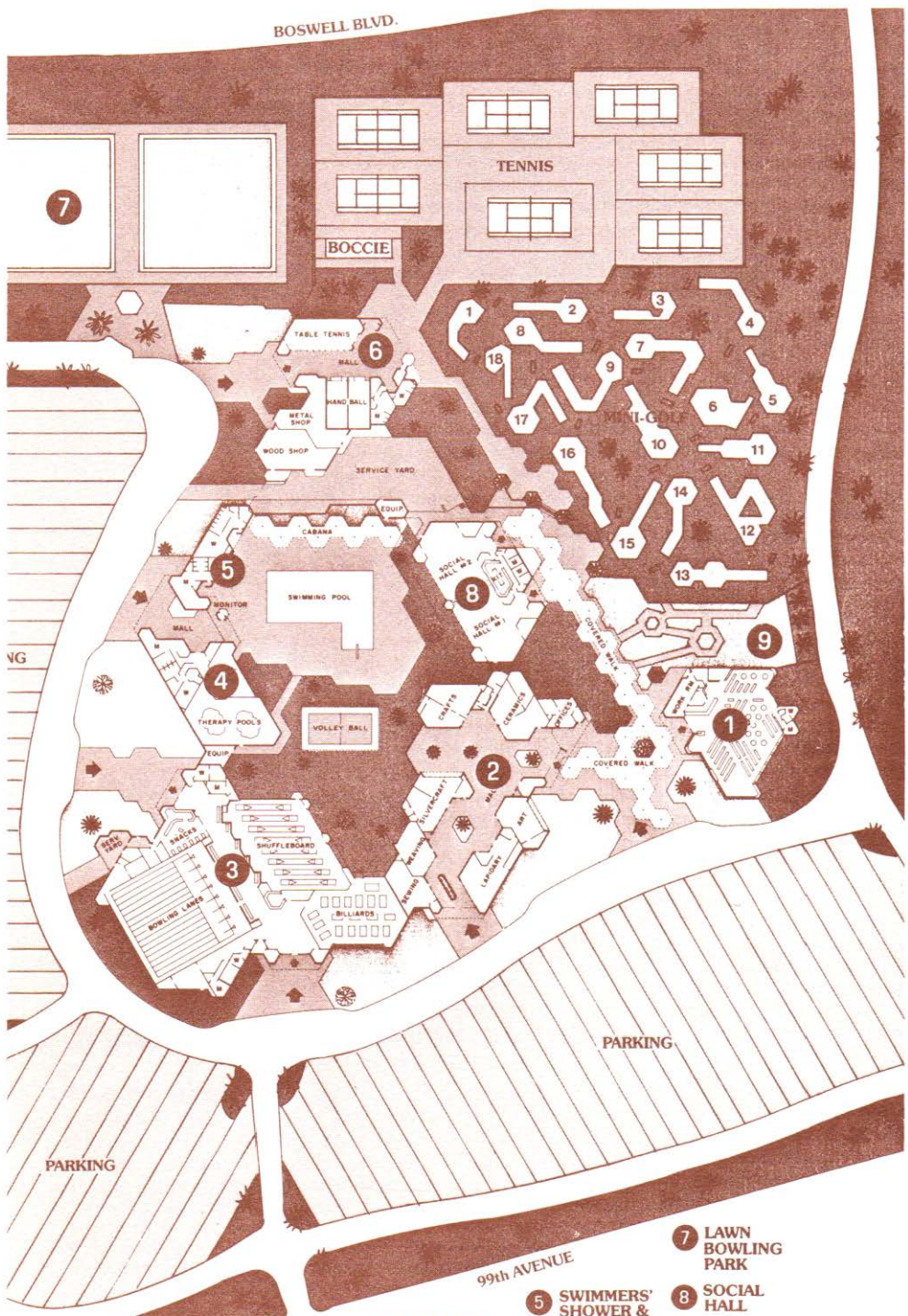
totaling some 94,000 square feet.

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BOSWELL BLVD.



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RING THAT BELL!



SUN CITY'S Liberty Bell was "born" in September, 1975, when the Bicentennial Committees met to plan some of the many Sun City celebrations for our national birthday party. One of the objectives was to find a single event or project that would have permanence and significance long after the bicentennial year festivities were over.

About 120 Sun Citians, representing many organizations, convened and were divided into 13 "brainstorming" groups. The suggestion of a Liberty Bell appeared on every list submitted by the groups, and later, put to the test of a newspaper poll; the Liberty Bell led all the other projects the Bicentennial Committees proposed.

THE DEL WEBB Company offered to underwrite the cost of the bell, and one of our residents came up with the idea of a metal drive, which would enable all Sun Citians to be a part of the project. On January 15th, 1976, an estimated 1500 residents contributed to the metal drive, creating a mountain of family treasures, precious personal mementos, wedding rings and jewelry, bric-a-brac, statuary, souvenirs from our country's wars, and musical instruments, to mention just a few of the varied items that totaled some 7000 lbs. It was explained to the donors that any metal not compatible with the casting process would be used in the base of the bell.

THEN the artists and craftsmen and foundrymen took over. The metal was processed by a Pennsylvania foundry and sent to Asten, Holland, where the bell was cast, an exact replica in size and design of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. The original, however, was made by a sand cast process, which gives it a mottled surface. The Sun City Liberty Bell has a smoother finish because it was made by a lost wax and plaster casting method, treated with a sulphuric liquid to give it the same color as the original.

THE LIBERTY BELL arrived in Sun City on July 5, 1976, and it was unveiled at the Sun Bowl on July 8. On November 15 it was officially dedicated and the time capsule in its base, containing memorabilia and messages of love from our generation to future generations, was sealed. *To be opened 2026.*

WHEN you visit the Sun City Liberty Bell, ring it. It has a fine, strong and free sound.