Saturday, Feb. 6, 1993

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

Closing isn't what customers ordered

By MIKE GARRETT Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY - Sears announcement that it would close more than 100 stores and discontinue its big catalog shocked many Sun Cities area customers.

Sears spokesman Gordon Jones said the firm will not close any department stores in Arizona, but most of the state's 32 catalog stores owned by local merchants would be closed, including the Sears Sun City catalog store at 10735 N.W. Grand Ave.

"I had one woman call up who cried on the phone when she heard the news we would be losing our catalog this year," said Judy Kryder, a saleswoman at the Sears Sun City store.

"She was a shut-in who always could call in her order using her credit card and we would have everything mailed right to her," Kryder said. "She said that (catalog ordering) gave her the last bit of independence she had."

Sun City Sears Catalog store owner Larry Ayers said he probably won't know for another six weeks on an exact closing date of his store. "I haven't heard a peep yet," Ayers said. "All I know is they'll start closing stores within 90 days and take up to the end of this year.

"Sears is getting leaner and meaner, and they've had to make some gut-wrenching decisions," Avers said. "Our store has been doing better almost every month since



Emery Kruck, left, of Sun City, checks out mer-Catelog store while store owner Larry Ayers waits to chandise in Sears' last catelog in the Sun City Sears assist him.

we opened."

Sears' spring issue is the last catalog the company plans to distribute to stores that sell Sears products. "I've sold more catalogs this week than I did in the previous three months," Ayers said.

south of Grand Avenue have found the Sears Catalog store is within walking distance and a friendly place to socialize since it opened in January 1991, said 17-year Sun City resident and 50-year Sears customer Emery Kruck.

"I had been going on the bus to the Metrocenter Sears but they never gave me the personal attention they

do here," Kruck said.

The announcement of closings also shocked Sears retiree Bob Hart.

"I'm not only shocked but I feel like I've almost lost my right arm because of my close affinity to the Many Sun City residents who live dompany and its catalog," said Hart of Sun City West.

> Jeanette Teske, a Sun City West winter resident, said she has shopped at Sears and used the catalog for her children since they were very young.

> "I will really miss it," she said. "They have a lot of things in those catalogs you can't find in stores."

"It's really too bad because I've been buying Sears washers for 50 vears," said Gladys Yost of Sun City. "I haven't been doing much catalog shopping but my daughter has. I just have faith in their products and I won't like it if I can't get them at a nearby store. I guess there is just too much competition out there."

Ayers said if Sears closes his store. he might consider opening his own appliance store but doubts he could compete well without the Sears name. "I would also have to purchase my own inventory at maybe \$150,000 and I don't have that kind of money. Sears owns everything I sell."

Sears catalog holds pages of life

By MIKE GARRETT Daily News-Sun staff

The Sears, Roebuck and Co. catalog holds a lifetime of memories for many Sun Citians.

Publication of the catalog dates back 106 years. Often it was the only thing in the house to read. Some area residents recall poring over its pages by the light of an oil lamp.

Sears announced last week that the 1993 Spring-Summer edition would be its last catalog. Its first general merchandise catalog was produced in 1896.

"The catalog was always a big thing to us when I was a kid living out in the country (near Washington, D.C.) with my five brothers and sister," said Mary Ives of Sun City. "We used it to play dolls and house with. We cut out all the pictures, since we knew we couldn't afford to order the real thing.

"We looked at it constantly and when we were done with it, we had outside toilets and used it for that," Ives said. "In the wintertime it was great. It kept us going because we had nothing

else to look at.

"In the evening we would sit around the table with our oil lamps and look at it," she said. "Sears was the only catalog for many years before Montgomery Ward came along."

A 60-year Sears customer, Fred Hawkins, 66, of Sun City said he also remembers Sears from his childhood.

"I especially remember the toys in the wish book. I would spend hours and hours going through that book," he said. "I especially liked the farm sets. We lived on ordering from the book. We were quite a ways from a large town so everything was ordered."

Emery Kruck, 84, of Sun City admits using the catalogs in his family outhouse 75 years ago on a farm near Baltimore. "They didn't have toilet paper then. We always had the Sears catalog in there. It was like a telephone book."

"We didn't have anything else to read in those days," Kruck said. "To us, the Sears catalog was the greatest thing. We bought harnesses for our horses, all kinds of farm equipment and wagon wheels, and parts for buggies."

"In the rural communities, the Sears catalog would take money out of the community and the local establishments didn't like that," said Larry Ayers, Sears Sun City catalog store owner. "Sears started delivering their catalogs in plain brown wrappers. Otherwise, the local people would make sure they weren't delivered."

"When I was in the national catalog accounting department, one of my assignments was to write national accounting instructions for catalog offices," said Bob Hart, a 50-year Sears employee. "I used to travel to catalog offices around the country to see how they were making out with my instructions."

Company officials said catalog orders will be accepted until the end of the year.

Sears plans to circulate smaller specialty and promotional catalogs, however. Ayers said the specialty catalogs will be the only publications customers can use to order merchandise. VF - SHOPPING CENTERS - GRAND AVE.

Daily News-Sun Thursday, Sept. 6, 1990

Sears plans catalog, appliance store here

Sun CITY — After nearly 31 years, Sun City will get its first major chain department store in its oldest shopping center.

, Sears Roebuck & Co. will open a catalog and appliances store in the former 5,560 square-foot Sun City Drug and Gifts Store at 10736 Grand Ave.

'in Grand Center Shopping Cen-

ter by late October or early November, said Randy Miller, CBS Property Services leasing manager.

The only other chain department store to have a catalog operation in the area is J.C. Penney, which has a small cat-

alog store in Crossroads Towne

In addition to a complete cat-

alog operation, Sears officials say the Sun City store will carry a full line of home appliances, including giant screen and regular-sized televisions, camcorders, videocassette recorders, washers, dryers, refrig-erators, hand tools, vacuum cleaners and microwave ovens.

"In order to do this, we are putting a new front on their store," said Miller, who first began negotiating with Sears to get a Sun City store in August 1989.

Construction drawings to remodel and refurbish the rest of Grand Center, including a new marquee, are still on the draw-ing boards, Miller said. The center's owner, the Texas State Teachers Retirement Fund, has approved the project. Old America, a nationwide arts and crafts chain, announced in July it would take the old Grand Center Liquor Barn-Safeway space.

Miller said he has also signed a restaurant to lease the former Melody Lane location. But its owner doesn't want the name publicly released yet until he decides on a format for the restaurant.

The Sun City Sears store comes at a time when the retailing giant is undergoing some major revisions in its catalog sales operation.

Two years ago, Sears undertook a crash program to stop the flow of catalog red ink. It cut costs sharply and improved service, taking orders over toll-free

telephone lines and selling some European-style clothes.

So far, that hasn't been enough. The Sears catalog, with annual sales of about \$4 billion, hasn't made money since 1985. If it doesn't turn a profit soon, Sears may be forced to close the catalog that once set America's standard of living.

For now, Sears is doing all it can to stay in the catalog busi-ness. Last month, Sears Chairman Edward Brennan took control of the company's faltering merchandise group and

vowed to improve profits. He is expected to slash expenses and eliminate un productive businesses. Catalog unit managers "know they're on a short fuse," says a source close to the company. Sears "has to

exit businesses that don't perform," says another.

Vern Page, the catalog unit's vice president, insists that a turnaround is imminent - and only slightly behind schedule. Next year, he predicts, the catalog will be solidly in the black.

Nevertheless, Brennan stops short of making promises about the catalog's future. "We conducted an intensive review of our catalog operation in 1988 and decided to stay in the business and to address our prob-lems more aggressively," he says through a spokesman. "We have had significant improve-ment since then and the challenge now is to build on that momentum."

Sears would clearly prefer to keep the catalog, but the fact that its fate is in question at all underscores the depth of soulsearching now going on at Sears. Two years ago, the giant retailing and financial services company seriously considered closing the catalog but decided to give it one last chance.

The changes have been sweeping. The catalog business is now a separate unit with its own management team. Its offerings have been trimmed by a third, and distribution costs have been cut sharply. The catalog also is satisfying more customers, filling more than 97 percent of its orders, compared with 92 percent in the early 1980s.

Center makes Grand return

By JACQUE PAPPAS Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY – Grand Center quickly acquired a grand reputation shortly after it opened in 1961 as Sun City's first shopping center.

Safeway, Sun City Barber Shop, Baers Drapery and Carpets and Melody Lane Restaurant were among the original businesses.

But in the early 1980s, age and competition caught up with Grand Center, located on the southwest corner of Grand and 107th avenues.

"It was like a ghost town here a few years ago," said Dick Johnson, president of Freed's Fine Furnishings, which bought Baers in 1970.

"But recently things have changed. There are a lot more people circulating here at this landmark center."

Grand Center has changed considerably in the past three years since CBS Properties took over its management and leasing. Grand Center is one of six shopping centers owned by the Teachers Retirement System of Texas, former lender to Zane May, which lost the properties through foreclosure.

Randy Miller of CBS' retail properties division, said Grand Center has transformed from an empty and rundown center to one that is nearly full and newly refurbished.

"Grand was the first center that Del Webb built and that means it's the oldest. There was a considerable amount of deferred maintenance at the center when we came here," Miller said. "The roof was falling in, the bricks around the columns were being held together with metal bands because they were falling apart."

More than \$250,000 was spent last year to replace the center's roof, remodel, repaint, put up a new marquee and refurbish the entire 71,996-square-foot property "It is very fortunate that these shopping centers ended up in the hands of the Teachers Retirement System because they were, willing to spend the money to do what was necessary to make the centers here viable," Miller said. "The condition of the shopping centers has a direct impact on Sun City itself and the value of the homes here."

Last week's grand opening of Beall's Outlet Store makes the center 95 percent full, Miller said. Just two years ago the center was less than 50 percent occupied, with the major anchor tenants vacant.

"We had to do a lot of work in just a couple of years to get the center where it is now," Miller said.

In June 1989, Grand Center's largest tenant, TG&Y, closed. The space remained empty until Beall's signed a lease.

That same year Melody Lane closed, but reopened in January 1991 and is now called J.P. Sousa's.

Sun City Drug closed in the spring of 1990 and was replaced the next year with the Sears Catalog Sales Center.

Other tenants that just moved in within the past two years include Erica's Naughty Nails, Aztec Beauty Salon and Grand Avenue Shoe Repair.

Liquor Barn closed in July 1989 and was replaced by the Old America store in the fall of 1990. The Liquor Barn's original tenant was Safeway.

"People in the area were really mad when the Safeway went out. Many of them do not drive any more and were left without a grocery store nearby," said Leila Moore, president of Grand Center Merchant Association.

Moore, who has owned Gilbert Ortega's for eight years, said businesses that remained in Grand Center had some tough times.

Couple put heart and sole in shoe store

By JACQUE PAPPAS Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY - When Scott Stimpson was 14, he earned \$2.50 for working 34 hours a week in his brother-in-law's shoe pair store.

Now, at 70, Stimpson and his wife, Wanda, have come out of retirement and opened a shoe repair store in Sun City. We retired 12 years ago, but

I guess we just got tired of being retired and got bored," said Wanda Stimpson.

With the exception of serving as a mechanic for the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and as a mechanic for an airline in Alaska for three years, Scott Stimpson has been in the shoe repair business since 1936.

"It's a learning process that never quits. As the shoe manufacturers change the way shoes in May. They opened Grand Aveare made, you change the way you repair them," Stimpson said.

The Stimpsons have owned five shoe repair stores, including one they owned for 20 years in La Mesa, Calif., where they

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Stephen Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Scott Stimpson works in the shoe repair store he and his wife, Wanda, opened in November.

nue Shoe Repair in November.

"This is a ma and pa operation, that's for sure," Stimpson said. "But I think the people here like that. People come in and say 'welcome to Sun City, lived before moving to Sun City we're glad you're here,'" he ones that nail heels to polishers overalls."

said. "I've worked in a lot of to machines that sew on the places but this is the only place I've ever known where people actually walk off the street to tell you hello."

inside of the shoe.

"We fix everything," Wanda Stimpson said. "My husband has The Stimpsons have a variety cut out leather skirts for women. of shoe repair machines from fixed chairs and even patched

Shopping center events key its grand opening

April 6. 1961)

Gifts valued at tens of thousands of dollars and ranging in variety from a Wurlitzer organ to all-expense trips to Las Vegas and free telephone calls to any-where in the world will be given to crowds expected to throng the Sun City Shopping Center (now called Grand Center) this weekend for its grand opening.

Merchants in the original shopping center are going all-out in participation with those making their debuts in the big new addition during the three-day celebration starting Thursday.

Opening ceremonies at 10 a.m. this Thursday on a stage erected near the post office will be brief and spiced by gifts to the oldest married man from Young-town and Sun City, oldest married woman from Youngtown and Sun City, and youngest widow from either of TX XX TE

retirement the two communities.

Master of ceremonies will be Walt Ditzen, noted syndicated car-toonist. Music will be provided by the Peoria High School band, the Merry Makers band of Sun City, and Dee Fisher, official Disneyland organist who will per-form throughout the three-day event. Saturday's closing cer-

emony at 2:30 p.m. will feature announcement the "misplaced ms" contest and of items" cake bake, a grand drawing for prizes, and auctioning of the con-test cakes by the Sun City Lions Club.

The Sun City Shopping Center which sprung a year ago from acreage of a Valley of the Sun cotton farm is expected to do a \$4 milion busi-ness volume during 1961.

And as much as \$3 million of that gross likely will be business

TE

entirely new to the Arizona economy, spawned by a surprisingly increasing influx of a new class of resi-dents — the retired and semi-retired.

The center really didn't get into full swing until last spring, but its 1960 volume ap-proximated \$1 million, and now it has been doubled in size.

The first Sun City merchants were "pi-oneers" opening the doors of their stores in a city that didn't yet have its first residents. But the Sun City stores were modern and well stocked (no comparable facilities closer than eight miles) so they attracted business from nearby Young-town, El Mirage, Sur-prise, Luke Field, Peoria and the surrounding farming and ranching area as far away as Wickenburg.

Today the pioneering merchants have to ad-TO NEXT PAGE ------35

. pioneer stores

FROM PRECEDING PAGE

TT

mit that even the most optimistic forecasts of future business have been exceeded.

Gasoline gallonage pumped at the Union Oil service station at the town's entrance has sent it soaring into the top 10 stations in busi-top 10 stations in the second increment ness volume in the greater Phoenix area.

The shopping center is a beehive of activity, from drug store to su-permarket, from varie-ty shop to past office ty shop to post office.

The first increment of Sun City's commercial center included Safeway grocery store, managed by Bob Prot-ti; Baer's Drapery & store, Carpets, owned and operated by Robert Baer; Greenway Drug Co., owned and operated by

O. L. Greenway; Buzz Ellis' Barber Shop; TG & Y Variety Store, managed by Kenneth Encourt Stayons Beauty Fraser; Stevens Beauty Salon, owned and oper-ated by Mrs. Helen Stevens; One-Hour Val-

The second increment of Sun City Shopping Center includes Arizona Public Service Co., Brice Sun City Hard-ware, Brown's Furniware, Brown's Furni-ture Store Co., First National Bank, Masters TV, Maurman's Jewelry, News-Sun Newspary, News-Sun Newspa-per, Sun City Liquor Store and Delicatessen, Sun City Travel Bu-reau, Sun Control Blind & Carpet, Twin City Health Center and Del Webb's Highway House Webb's Highway House Motor Hotel.

Above reprinted in a special supplement to the NEWS-SUN in honor of Sun City's 20th birthday. Thursday, January 24, 1980

VF- SHOPPING CENTERS - GRAND AVE.

The Arizona Republic/THE PHOENIX GAZETTE Mon., Nov. 19, 1990

New stores help end doldrums Shopping center sees revitalization

By Connie Cone Sexton Staff writer

SUN CITY - After a lag of about two years in pedestrian traffic at the Grand Center, there are signs of new life along its sidewalks.

Five new tenants have signed lease agreements for the shopping center at 107th and Grand avenues, said Randy Miller, a leasing agent for CBS Properties Inc. His company is handling the center for its owner, the Teachers Retire-ment System of Texas.

Construction workers are busy remodeling the former 16,662-square-foot Liquor Barn space, readying it for the opening of an Old America Store.

The store is expected to be open in about three to four weeks.

, Miller said having a major tenant at Grand Center should help in leasing its remaining spaces. Until recently, the center had been half-vacant.

· Officials with the Old America

"Officials with the Old America Store headquarters in Dallas said they hope that the Sun City store will be open by Christmas."" "I don't have a definite date yet," said John Reynolds, the company's vice president of real estate. "A lot of work has to be done a lot of demolition work But done, a lot of demolition work. But we're hoping for a Christmas opening."

Miller said other future tenants include a restaurant and a Sears, Roebuck and Co. home appliance and catalog store.

The restaurant will go into the former Melody Lane restaurant space, he said. "The tenant hasn't defined his menu yet. But he's trying to get it open this year,' Miller said.

The Sears store is going into the 5,560-square-foot space that previously held a drugstore.

• of household items, like televisions, refrigerators and washers and dryers on display," Miller said. Customers will be able to purchase items or order from the catalog.

Gordon Jones, a Sears spokes-man in Chicago, likened the service to a convenience store. "People can order merchandise and then pick it up at the store, anything other than home-delivery items."

Jones expects the retirement community will appreciate the store because residents won't have to travel to Westridge or Metrocenter malls to shop at Sears.

Two new tenants have already opened in Grand Center.

Erika's Naughty Nails and Hair, which has four other locations in the Valley, moved to the center Oct. 30.

"We had a store on 98th (Ave-nue) and Bell Road, and we decided we needed another in Sun City," Vince Giannotti, the owner's son, said. "This location is a good one.

Some of my people (clientele) have moved over with me, but we've been busy with new people, too." The nail salon moved into the

former Sun City Beauty Salon spot, Miller said. See STORE, Page 4

STORE

A second salon, Aztec West, opened Nov. 7 in the center, he said. The shop moved from a location at 99th and Olive avenues. It sits in the former space of Sun City Optical.

Owner Sharon Cuppy believes that the Grand Center has promise.

"This is a better location for us," she said. "It has the best parking in Sun City, which was what we needed. I feel the center will be one of the best in the area when they remodel."

Miller said the front of the Grand Center will be renovated. "It will be more than just paint," he said. "There will be some new brick and other changes. We are imminent in choosing the colors' and are bidding the contracts right

From Page 1

now." He is planning for a grand reopening, perhaps in spring.

Miller said the existing tenants are pleased to see activity. "They're thrilled," he said. "They've been through the night, and the dawn is upon us. We still have a few more spaces to fill, including the old TG&Y spot, but we're really excited."

Miller said being able to lease spaces in the center has taken some time, but he is happy with the results. "This all has come out of the ground pretty good," he said. "I'm not surprised, though. It's been a lot of hard work."

AZ. REPUBLIC, June 4, 1990

VF - SHOPPING CENTERS - GRAND AVE.



El Mirage Glendale Peoria Phoenix Sún City Sun City West Surprise Youngtown Wickenburg

Monday, June 4, 1990

Shopping area needs tenan Landlord 'committed to the property'

By Connie Cone Sexton Staff writer

SUN CITY - As Bob Waters tells it, women were beside themselves when TG&Y pulled out of the Grand Center.

"They were heartbroken. They didn't know what to do," he said, shaking his head.

"They could go in there with \$5 and spend half the day."

Waters, who runs a contract U.S. postal station in the shopping center, said the recent departure of the variety store and + nearly half of the center's other businesses has left merchants at a loss.

"We sure wish they'd bring more stores into the center," Waters said, standing in the breezeway where his postal station is

located.

It's not that efforts aren't being made, says Randy Miller, a leasing agent for CBS Properties Inc., which is handling the center for its owner, the Teachers Retirement System of Texas. Grand Center is on the southwest corner of Grand and 107th avenues.

While no new tenants have been signed for the property, Miller said he may have several hopefuls.

"We do have a restaurant that is very interested in the old Melody Lane (restaurant) space," he said.

Waters said that kind of addition could bolster the half-vacant shopping center.

"Many people drive by and don't think anybody is open," he said. He and other merchants credit loyal

customers for helping them stay in business but say the property manager must bring new businesses to the center.

Eight businesses operate out of the facility; a half-dozen others recently closed their doors.

Miller said progress is being made to lure potential tenants. "But it's not in the works to the point where I want to say anything specific," he said. "I do have a small tenant for about a 5,000-square-foot space that is close to signing.

He hesitates to identify businesses interested in moving into the center. "We were very close to signing Hancock Fabrics" but the deal fell through, disappointing many residents, he said. Some residents expected the final blow

to Grand Center would be the develop-ment of the Kings Inn Shopping Center and Smith's food store on the east side of See CENTER, Page 2



Eight businesses operate at the Grand Center in Sun City, but six others recently closed their doors.

OVER

107th Avenue, Miller said.

"There have been all kinds of rumors about us knocking it down and putting up a hotel. And then there was a rumor about Target coming in," he said.

Neither is true, Miller stressed. "The landlord is committed to the property. We recently had the restriping of the parking lot. And in the future, we're thinking about replacing the roof. We're not sleeping on this project," he said.

Other possible changes to the center include creating a "people place," where customers could congregate to eat or visit. "Another thing we're planning

is some kind of cosmetic face lift like painting it," Miller said. He also hopes to add a marquee to improve signage.

Grand Center merchants believe any activity will help.

Soon after Smith's went in, business increased, said Chuck Tompkins, who runs Sun City Barber in the Grand Center.

"Smith's is bringing lots of younger people into the area," he said. "I used to only have gray hair

From Page 1

left on the floor." Tompkins said there's still room for improvement. "But I have no plans to relocate. I've been here for

30 years.' Juan Aguilera, owner of Grand Shoe Repair, also is hopeful.

"I'm still here, doing business. If they could bring in a restaurant, that would be great. It would help. I hate seeing the center so empty.

Leila Moore, president of the Grand Center Merchants Association, said CBS keeps the tenants informed during monthly meetings.

Moore, who runs the Gilbert Ortega Jewelry store, said her business also has picked up in recent months.

"But part of our problem is that we have a row of banks fronting Grand, and people can't see that we're here," she said.

B8 NEWS-SUN THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1985

Sun City's oldest business to close Nov. 9



Sun City's oldest business, the Safeway store at nearly 26 years of doing business in the Sun City Grand Center, will close its doors Nov. 9 after

area.

(News-Sun photo)

By MIKE GARRETT Financial Editor

It's a Sun City institution, a landmark. It's roots have been sunk into Sun City soil longer than any other business here. But its small size got in the

way of progress. The building will remain and the memories will linger. But the Grand Center Safeway store which opened the month Sun City was born in January 1960.

will be converted into a Liquor Barn after Nov. 9. "The decision to close one of

our stores is never an easy one, and this decision was particularly difficult," said Robert Taylor, vice president and manager of the Phoenix Division of Safeway. "We opened our Grand Ave-

nue store in January 1960 and sincerely appreciate the support we have had for the store during the last 25 years.

"However, our business has changed dramatically in the last few years. Our Grand Avenue store at 18,000 square feet is less than half the size of the new stores we are building today. Our decision was made only after a very careful and detailed analysis," added Taylor.

"It simply is not possible for us to merchandise and successfully operate this store in today's market. It is no longer successful for us, and it is not fair for us to ask our customers in other areas to help support this location."

Taylor noted that all Grand Center Safeway employees will be offered positions in other Safeway stores, which was confirmed Wednesday by current manager Gail Grev.

Safeway will continue to operate three other supermarkets in the Sun City area-at Sun Bowl Plaza, Bell Camino Center and Sun City West.

The closure is particularly difficult for its former manager of 23 years, Steve Hornacek. He took over as manager in June 1962 before moving to the Sun City West Safeway in June 1985.

"I'll miss it, no question," lamented Hornacek. "There were some beautiful people there and I love the whole bunch of them."

But the closing of the Valley's smallest Safeway came as no surprise to Hornacek, who now serves as a "handyman" at the SCW store and says he's nearing retirement.

"I kind of expected it. They were fighting a losing battle. Progress goes on. It was just too small."

Safeway had tried to close the store four years ago for the same reason. But so many Sun Citians wrote letters and complained that officials decided to keep it open.

Hornacek thinks the store's loval customers will feel the loss

Sun City area Safeways which carry considerably more items.

Grey said business had held up pretty well over the summer but the store "was no longer adequate" in serving its customers.

"We just couldn't provide all the items they needed and they often had to shop at other Safeways to get everything," said Grey. "We just couldn't do jus-

but hopes they'll switch to other tice to our customers any longer."

The Grand Center Safeway will continue to operate as normal until the Nov. 9 closing date. The facility then will be converted to a Liquor Barn as quickly as possible.

"The Liquor Barn will allow us to offer a new service for Sun City and will ensure an effective use for the facility," concluded Taylor.

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Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Monday, July 3, 1989 Community A3

Grand Center to lose Liquor Barn, TG&Y

By MIKE GARRETT News-Sun staff

SUN CITY - Sun City's oldest shopping center is losing two of its older tenants this month.

The Liquor Barn will leave its Grand Center location, at 107th and Grand avenues, on Wednesday and TG&Y is scheduled to close its doors there July 20.

The Liquor Barn has operated at the center for the past $2\frac{1}{2}$ years, taking over the spot vacated by the old Safeway store, which had been one of the cen-

ter's original stores since it opened in 1960.

The Liquor Barn franchise was purchased from the Safeway chain last August by Mark Newman, president-owner of Liquor Barn of Arizona Inc.

Newman said Liquor Barn is moving its expanded operation to the Mercado del Sol shopping center on Camino del Sol Road in Sun City West.

Newman said the new Liquor Barn should reopen there around Aug. 15 at the former Hanson's Market site.

"The store will be opening under the name of Newman's Marketplace," Newman said. "We'll have a full-service deli and a Chicago-style deli. We'll also be selling some natural foods, nuts, dried fruits, cheeses plus all the Liquor Barn's discounted wine, beer and liquors."

Newman said the Sun City West outlet is a new concept store that is opening almost simultaneously with two other Liquor Barns at 32nd Street and Thunderbird in Phoenix and at Scottsdale Road and Shea

Boulevard in Scottsdale.

"It will have the advantage of all the discounted wine, liquor and beer prices with the specialty foods, cheeses, nuts, dried foods and juices," said Newman. who operates 16 Liquor Barns statewide, including eight in the Valley.

TG&Y is being vacated because its parent company, McCrory's, recently opened a Newberry's store at Arrowhead Mall at 99th and Peoria Avenues.

among the 10 five and dime nationwide chain stores carrying virtually identical merchandise under the McCrory's banner. company spokesman Troy Fisher store. said.

"We're constantly evaluating our stores and their traffic patterns and it didn't make much sense for us to have two virtually identical stores operating within 3 miles of each other,' Fisher said.

He said the Newberry's store TG&Y and Newberry's are at Arrowhead is seeing better

business than the TG&Y. Fisher said that many Grand Center TG&Y employees have already transferred to the new

Ron Roeske, vice president of Phoenix Commercial Operations for CBS Property Services Inc., said this morning that CBS has been negotiating for some time to find "two large users" to fill the Liquor Barn and TG&Y stores. He indicated they are chain-store operations but won't identify who they are until negotiations are complete.



SUN CITY-YOUNGTOWN NEWS-SUN

its Size

its Service

Contest To Highlight Opening Ceremonies

ontests will feature opening cer-monies of the Sun City Shop-

arking lot near the post of-

fice. It will be preceded by a perremains of the Sun City Shop-ping Center grand opening week-end at 10 a.m. this Thursday. The inaugural event will be held on a stage constructed in of Disneyland, and the Sun City



oldest Sun City married woman attending ,oldest Youngtown married man, oldest Youngtown mar-ried man, oldest Youngtown married woman, and youngest widow re-siding in either Sun City or Youngtown.

Their prizes will be a Sunbeam vacuum cleaner, Sunbeam deluxe hair dryer, Mirro-Matic frypan, Mirro-Matic coffee percolator, and Mirro-Matic pressure cooker.

Official guests on rostrum will be Youngtown Mayor John Snure; Ralph Hawley, Sun City Civic Association president; Warren Campbell, president of the Sun City Lions Club; Chas. P. Brice- Sun City Merchants Association president, and L. C. Ja-cobson, Tom Breen, and Fred Kuntz of the Del E. Webb Corp. Master of ceremonies will be Walt Ditzen, renowned for his widely syndicated Fan Fare sports cartoon which is carried in the Asignme Dut View. in the Arizona Republic

FIRST BURGLARY ATTEMPT FAILS

A would-be burglar with ob-ous good taste wasted no vious good taste wasted no time in getting into operation in the new addition to the Sun City Shopping Center. ious

Alan Maurmann, who open-ed Maurmann's Jewelry in the center last month, reported that a burglary attempt was made the first weekend his store was

City Hardware wasn't in operation at the time, or he-could have obtained the proper, highquality tools to do the job.



WALT DITZEN, nationally known as a topflight syndicated cartconist and notoriously poor golfer, will be master of ceremonies at 10 a.m. ribbon-cutting Thursday which will open expanded Sun City Shopping Center officially



MELANIE KAHANE, famous interior decorator and industrial designer says: "I use Flexalum Twi-Nighter venetian blinds in many of my finest homes. Their solid wall of beautiful color is the perfect backdrop for al. the newest window treatment.". No other venetian blind works o smoothly ... lasts so long ... gives you all these

advantages:

- exclusive shut-tight design kcops out 6 times more daylight than conventional blinds!
- Spring-tempered aluminum lats snap back ruler straight exclusive Flexalum baked enamel finish
- won't rust, chip, crack or pccl
- wipe-clean plastic tapes won't fade, fray, shrink or stretch extended head-rail for drapes elimi-nates extra brackets all parts perfectly color matched in 20 decorator colors including new natural birch and linen look finishes
- .
- Lustine the

Ask For Wally Richter Sun City Shopping Center YE 3-3041



DOUBLING

DOUBLING

Greenway Drug Co. Masters T.V. Maurman's Jewelry News-Sun Newspaper One Hour Valet Safeway Store Stevens Beauty Salon Sun City Barber Shop Sun City Liquor Store and Delicatessen Sun City Travel Bureau Sun Control Blind & Carpet T. G. & Y. Variety Twin City Health Center Union Oil Service Station

Del Webb's HiwayHouse Motor Hotel

LOCATED AT THE GRAND AVENUE ENTRANCE TO SUN CITY

First Center Merchants Pioneered The Sun City Shopping Cent-er, which sprung a year ago from acreage of a Valley of the Sun And as much as \$3 million of increasing influx of a new class

cotton farm, is expected to do a that gross likely will be business

(NEWS-SUN STAFF PHOTO)

SUN CITY REAL ESTATE CO. pariners' LeMarr Lundstrom (left) and Ed Hesser, installed in their new office in shopping center, get set to handle business for local residents. They work-ed for same California firm before moving to Sun City.



It's Open House

at our new Sun City Shopping Center office. Join us for refreshments any time between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., Thursday through Saturday, April 6, 7, 8. We'll look forward to seeing you !



of residents - the retired and semi-retired.

The Center really didn't get in-The Center really dan't get me to full swing until last spring, but its 1960 volume approximated \$1 million, and now it has been doubled in size.

THE FIRST Sun City merthe doors of their stores in a city that the doors of their stores in a city that didn't yet have its first re-sidents. But the Sun City stores were modern and well stocked (no comparable facilities closer than eight miles) so they attract-ed business from nearby Youngtown, El Mirage, Surprise, Luke Field, Peoria-and the surrounding farming and ranching area as far away as Wickenburg.

Today the pioneering mer-chants have to admit that even the most optimistic forecasts of future business have been exceeded.

Gasoline gallonage pumped at the Union Oil service station at the town's entrance has sent it soaring into the top 10 stations in business volume in the Greater Phoenix area.

THE SHOPPING center is a beehive of activity, from durg store to supermarket, from variety shop to post office. The first increment of Sun

City's commercial center includ-ed Safeway grocery store, man-aged by Bob Protti; Baer's Drapery & Carpets, owned and oper-ated by Robert Baer; Greenway Drug Co., owned and operated by O. L. Greenway; Buzz Ellis' Barber Shop; TG & Y Varlety Store, managed by Kenneth Fra-ser; Stevens Beauty Salon, owned and operated by Mrs. Helen Stevens; One-Hour Valet, now under new ownership; Berridge Nursery, managed by Pat Pow-ers; Union Oil, and the post office.

Not widely known is the fact that the postal substation con-tract is held in the name of Tom Austin, which makes the activities co-ordinator Sun City's postmaster.



NOW-TO SERVE YOUR

REAL ESTATE NEEDS

EFFORTS TO PART OF OUR NEVER ENDING PROVIDE YOU WITH BETTER SERVICE VE FLAVE JUDI CONFLETED TWO NEW HOTEL SECTIONS. INCREASING OUR UNITS FROM 12 TO 48. TO ACCOMMO

ANOTHER NEW ADDITION . OUR BEAUTIFUL SWIMMING POOL NOW IS READY FOR USE BY HOTEL GUESTS NOW IS HAVE YOU VISITED OUR NEW COCKTAIL BAR FACILITY? RE.

SERVED ATMOSPHERE FOR RELATION. MORE AND MORE OF YOU ARE MONTH ENJOYING OF YOU MONTH OF MARCH FINE FOODS. CORDS FOR MARCH FINE FOODS. THE OUR RESTAURANT FACILITY. CUSTOMERS IN REEPING PACE WITH SUN CITY'S SOARING

EEPIS OURIE

DEL WEBB'S SUN CIT



THIS IS EXPANDED Shopping Center which is nearing sta-tug as one stop merchandise mart. Some shops are still in con-

Three Merchants, Law Firm **To Enter Shop Center Soon**

more merchants and a law firm have leased space inthe new addition to the Sun City Shopping Center, adding to the center's appeal as a one-stop merchandising area.

Joseph Bacheller, leasing agent for the Del E. Webb Development Co., said the new firms are Beael's Fashions, Sun City Delicatessen and Liquors, Sun City Frame and Photo Shop, and the law firm of Lewis, Roca, Scoville, Beauchamp & Linton.

None of these four new tenants will occupy their quarters in time for this weekend's Grand Opening.

Bedel's Fashions, a ladies ready-to-wear shop, is expected to open about May 15. It will be operated by Mrs. Madeline Bedel, who is moving to Sun City from Eig:n, Ill.

The delicatessen, operated by Andrew Hudson, and photo shop, operated by Homer Taylor and Al Wilson, are expected to open for business by the end of April.

maanmann

NEWCOMERS

formation SERVICE

Nifty Prizes: **Phone Calls** To Anywhere

Free telephone calls to place in the world are an the many unique prizes to be fered this weekend by Sunmerchants in connection with shopping center's grand oper

The free calls will be sele by drawing and put through booth specially installed at Safeway Store. Store Man Bob Protti said five such u stricted calls will be awar Friday and five more Satur He emphasized that no purch is necessary to enter. S & Foods is sponsoring the teleph prizes.

Another Safeway feature be the appearance of caricatu Frank Petty, who illustrates Channel 12 weathercasts y cartoons. Petty, who appearan from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday a Friday will be spensored by B ternut Coffee, will sketch gra opening visitors in the Safew store

store. Through the co-operation Safeway, open-air refreshm booths will serve the expec crowd and benefit two local ganizations. A hot dog booth w be manned by members of Youngtown Barracks of Veters of World War I. The Merry Ma ers, a Sun City band, will man Pepsi-Cola booth, with proceed sheet music and instruments

POWERS JOINED TO MOW ON

Giant Cake Bake Has 3 Divisions will be | Friday. The cakes will be receivgrand prizes Nino

awarded to winners in the giant cake bake which will be a highlight of Saturday's Sun City Shopping Center Opening activi-ties, but the biggest winner will be the El Mirage Child Care Center.

The center, which feeds and ares for underprivileged children to allow their parents to ob-tain employment as field work-ers, has been faced with a shutdown because of a need for funds. The Sun City cake bake, with a big assist from the Sun City Lions Club, will put the center on a more solid footing.

The Lions will auction off all takes entered in the contest following Saturday's 2:30 p.m. an-nouncement of winners. The auction is expected to net several hundred dollars.

BAKING competition will be in three divisions - layer, sponge and loaf cake. Cakes will be limited to standard 8-inch diameter and not more than two layers.

Awards will be the same in each category. First prize will be a Frigidaire rotisserie; second place will win a Frigidaire spatter-proof broiler; Frigidaire Kant-lide griddles will go to third place winners.

Every entrant will receive a free spatulette frosting knife. The first 500 entrants also will get a certificiate good for a two-pound bag of Desert Rose flour at the Safeway Store.

ENTRY BLANKS may be ob-tained from all merchants. The knives and flour certificates will be given when the entry blank submitted to Brice Sun City Hardware.

Entries must be filed by 5 p.m.

'SEALED ORDERS' TO PICK WINNERS

Sun City merchants will distribute gifts with almost machine-gun-like rapidity in Friday's feature of the three-day grand opening weekend, a "Sealed Orders" mystery contest.

Every 15 minutes a merchant somewhere in the center will take a from his display window a seal-ed order which will designate a prize winner in his store.

The winner will be decided strictly by chance. It could be anyone. The sealed order, in most cases, will designate the winner by his location near some specified object.

All that's needed to win, therefore, is to be in the right place of the right time.

ed at Brice's between 8:30 a.m. and noon Saturday ... Ruth Kruger, Arizona Public

Service's home service director, will supervise the panel of judges. Judges will be Youngtown Mayor John Snure; Ralph Hawley, Sun City Civic Association president; Mrs. Esther Minton, Peoria High School home economics teacher; Husie Mills of the Arizona Public Service home service depart-ment, and Mrs. Mary Ann Gates, former home service director of Montana Power Co.

> with First National's exclusive Newcomers Information Service! Stop in at any First National Office and take advantage of all the exclusive Newcomer aids designed especially for you!

Feel <u>at home</u> in Ari**zona**

- A Newcomers hostess at every First 4. The best street maps and guides available of our booming, changing Arizona things are" such as utility companies, schools, churches, libraries, National Bank. and all the things different from back h
- Informative pemphlets about recrea-tional facilities, employment, housing, taxes, road conditions, camping and other accor modations in any part of the state.
- Interesting booklets about historical aites, museums, ancient ruins and cal-endars of all the exciting events and celebrations.

A complete reference library full of many other facts about areas of spe-cial interest to you and your family ... to help you feel at home in Arizone...



MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

MORE THAN 67 OFFICES STATEWIDE-ARIZONA'S OLDEST BANK

nformative booklet to help you get blished in your new home and community — and to enjoy your new life in Arizonal APRIL 6.



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SUN CITY-YOUNGTOWN NEWS-SUN

SEC. IV, PAGE 5



SUN CITY, ARIZONA

Grand Shopping Center No. 1

Southwest corner of 107th Avenue and Grand Avenue

ocation:

creage:

Original Center	4.42
First Addition	8.35
Nursery	1.78
	14.55

escription:

Single-story Shopping Center containing 70,727 sq. ft. of gross leasable area.

listory:

The original center was opened in January 1960. The first addition was opened in March 1961 and the Nursery was added in September 1966. The facade was remodeled in late 1973.

oning, Evaluation, urrent Status, and uture Plans:

Commercial 2 (C-2). Medium restrictive value. Obtained for sales, service and amusement uses. The Maricopa County Fair Market Value, Assessed Valuation, and Taxes for the years indicated are as follows:

	FMV	Assessed	Taxes	
1972	\$ 762,145	\$ 190, 535	\$ 14,462	
1973	731,062	177,965	12,102	
1974	1,057,621	277,640	24,155	
1975	1,057,621	277,640	21,128	

.30 14

Property is currently 100% leased. No future change is contemplated.

\$373, 457 (Original Center Cost)

'rincipals:

Del E. Webb Development Co. - Owner Nineteen business firms - Tenants

ate Acquired: January 1960

urchase Price:

ook Value:

Land	\$ 21,933
Land Improvements	34, 308
Buildings and Structures	1,037,066
	1,093,307
Less Depreciation	436,117
Net Book Value	\$ 657,190
	Statement of the local division of the local





PATRONIZE SUN CITY MERCHANTS-THEY ARE TRUSTED MEMBERS OF YOUR COMMUNITY 196

N.J,



Shopper's Guide

ANTIQUE REPAIRING Sun City Picture Frame and Art Shop YE 3-1717

APPLIANCES Brice Sun City Hdwe. YE 3-2121

ART SUPPLIES "Sun City Picture Frame and Art Shop YE 3-1717

BANK First National Bank of Arizona YE 3-1321

BARBER — BEAUTY SHOP Sun City Barber Shop Stevens Beauty Salon YE 3-1502

Sun City Liquor Store YE 3-2381

BLINDS — CARPET — TILE Baer's Carpets — Draperies YE 3-1152 Sun Control Blind & Carpet YE 3-3041 Sun Control Carpet, Blind & Tile Co. YE 3-3041

CAMERAS — FILM DEVELOPING Greenway Drugs 933-0141 Sun City Photo Shop YE 3-1717

CANDY Greenway Drugs 933-0141 Memory Lane Confectioner, Inc. 933-3091

CARPETS Baer's Carpets — Draperies YE 3-1152 Brown's of Glendale Sun City Store YE 3-0311 Sun Control Blind & Carpet YE 3-3041

CLOTHING, LADIES' Bedel's Corner-On-Fashion YE 3-2111 Porter's 933-2431

CLOTHING, MEN'S Porter's 933-2431

DINING ROOM, COCKTAIL LOUNGE HiwayHouse YE 3-1311 DOCTORS — DENTISTS Sun City Medical Building 933-2351

DRAPERIES Baer's Carpets — Draperies YE 3-1152 Sun Control Blind & Carpet YE 3-3041

DRUGS Greenway Drugs 933-0141

FURNITURE Brown's of Glendale Sun City Store YE 3-0311

GIFTS Brice Sun City Hdwe. YE 3-2121 Greenway Drugs 933-0141 Porters 933-2431

GREETING CARDS Greenway Drugs 933-0141

GROCERIES Sun City-Youngtown Safeway

HANDBAGS Greenway Drugs 933-0141

HARDWARE Brice Sun City Hdwe. YE 3-2121

HEALTH FOODS Twin Cities Health Center

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS HiwayHouse YE 3-1311

HOUSEWARES Brice Sun City Hdwe. YE 3-2121

ICE CREAM Memory Lane Confectioner, Inc. 933-3091

A. T. Germond YE 3-2141

JEWELRY Greenway Drugs 933-0141

LAUNDRY — DRY CLEANING One-Hour Valet YE 3-9984 LIQUOR – WINE Sun City Liquor Store YE 3-2381

MIRRORS — GLASS TOPS Sun City Picture Frame and Art Shop YE 3-1717

NURSERY Berridge Nurseries Inc. YE 3-1592

PICTURE FRAMING Sun City Picture Frame and Art Shop YE 3-1717

REAL ESTATE Sun City Real Estate YE 3-1976

REPAIR SERVICE Brice Sun City — Frigidaire YE 3-2121 Masters TV YE 3-2451

RESTAURANTS – SNACK BARS Greenway Drugs 933-0141 Memory Lane Confectioner, Inc. 933-3091 Coffee Brake, HiwayHouse YE 3-1311

SERVICE STATION Sun City Union Service Station YE 3-1182

STATIONERY Greenway Drugs 933-0141

TELEVISION – SALES, SERVICE Masters TV YE 3-2451

TRAVEL BUREAU Sun City World Travel Bureau YE 3-1811

UTILITIES & SERVICES Arizona Public Service YE 3-1331 News-Sun YE 3-1892 Western Union YE 3-1811

VARIETY STORE T.G.&Y. YE 3-1521

WESTERN WEAR Porter's 933-2431

OP WITH CONFIDENCE! SUN CITY SHOPPING CENTER MERCHANTS STAND BEHIND THEIR MERCHANDISE AND SERVICE

LEGEND-GRAND AVENUE MERCHANTS

1 Sun City Stadium 2 Sun City Water & Sewer Co. 3 Del Webb Sales Pavilion 4 Lakeview Recreation Center 5 Lakeview Lanes 6 Lakes Club 7 Valley National Bank 8 Boswell Memorial Hospital 9 Lakeview Medical Arts Center 10 Gulf Service 11 Harry's Golf Car Center 12 Fire Station **13 Vacation Apartments** 14 Suntowner Restaurant 15 Greater Arizona Savings & Loan 16 Sun City Travel Service/Greyhound Bus 17 Arizona Public Service

18 Western Savings & Loan 19 First National Bank 20 Sun City Union Service 21 McClellan's Nurserv 22 Melody Lane Restaurant 23 Baer's of Sun City 24 Emily's Womenswear 25 Law Offices 26 Zuhl Jeweler 27 Hollett of Arizona 28 Jean's Sportogs 29 Hunters Books 30 Del Webb Realty 31 Dr. John Kay, Optometrist 32 Sun City Liquors 33 Bedel's Corner on Fashions 34 Greenway Drug & Gifts

35 T G & Y 36 Safeway 37 Sun City Beauty Salon 38 Sun City Barber Shop 39 Sun City Grand Avenue Cleaners 40 Kings Inn 41 Sun City Medical Center 42 City Bank 43 Venable ARCO Service 44 Circle K 45 Sun City Professional Building 46 Sun City Homeowners Association 47 Oahu Music Company 48 Germond Insurance Building 49 Sunshine Service Building 50 U.S. Post Office 51 Snyder Transfer & Storage

52 Exxon Service
53 Howard Johnson Restaurant
54 Chrysler Test Station
55 Kentucky Fried Chicken
56 Del Webb Property Management Bldg. (Site)
57 Sun City Animal Hospital
58 Del Webb Construction Yard & Office
59 News Sun Building
60 Thunderbird Bank
61 Medical Buildings
62 Sun Valley Lodge
63 Texaco Service
64 Mobil Service
65 Sun City Ticket Office

Compliments of the Grand Avenue Merchants' Association



GRAND AVENUE MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY MAP



SUN CITY SHOPPING CENTER

Spring

FREE! PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Served by the Sun City Woman's Club and the Sun City Shopping Center Merchants Association.

Saturday, March 30 8:00 to 11:00 a.m.

11

1 111

11/11

Be our guests! The Sun City Merchants Association is throwing a "Spring Thing" and we would like you to join us for a delicious pancake breakfast. Come to the mall at Sun City Shopping Center anytime between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. There will be plenty of seating, great pancakes, and entertainment by the popular Merry Makers. We'll be looking for you!



Plenty of free easy-to-use parking.

111 //11 11/

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Grand Avenue

626

Everyone Invited

Your Host....Sun City Merchants Association



MAY 9, 1963 NEWS-SUN MEMO Remind Mabel... She and John to join us at Old Fashioned Strawberry Social this Sunday at Sun City Community Center. Time 3 to 6 p.m. Everybody's going to be there. It's free, of course. Entertainment by Sun City Merrymakers



OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF YOUNGTOWN, THE ORIGINAL RETIREMENT COLONY

Vol. 3, No. 9

YOUNGTOWN, ARIZONA, TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 1961

5¢ Per Copy

GRAND OPENING OF SHOPPING CENTER THURSDAY, FRIDAY, AND SATURDAY

vorthwhile prizes will be offered o prospective customers at the Ladies of Youngtown, here is he shops open for business.

art 10:00 with Walt Ditzen, the artoonist, serving as master of eremonies. A specially construct-d stage will occupy the center's arking lot. Here Ditzen will be oined by Dee Fisher, a musician

topper as the receiver of a prize. ontest.

ill to any place in the world, town. ffered by the S&W Foods at Thi afeway; oonist, drawing caricatures of istomers on Thursday and Friay, sponsored by Butternut Cof-e, also at the Safeway; Dee isher performing at the Greenay Drug Store each of the three iys of the celebration.

try blanks.

Many genuine bargains and CAKE BAKING CONTEST by "Zim"

b prospective customers at the Ladies of roung own, nere is hree-day event this week celebrat-ong the opening of "one-stop shop-ping center" in Sun City. The City Shopping Center, April 6, briginal center has been more than 7, & 8 it is one of especial interbubled by the addition of shops est to the many 'Cake Baking Art-loubled by the addition of shops est to the many 'Cake Baking Art-ists' of Youngtown. Here's the set-up. You get your entry blank he post office. Youngtowners from SUN CITY BRICE, Frigi-nave already discovered some of daire Distributors for the Valley Area. When you pick up your entry blank you will receive a The ribbon-cutting ceremony free gift, either from Mr. Brice, vill take place on Thursday morn-or from one of his courteous ng at 10:00 with Walt Ditzen, the clerks. You will also probably wish to spend some time looking over the many 'real bargains' included in his large display of Made-In-America merchandise. Mr. Brice does not stock shoddy, or 'cheap-

oined by Dee Fisher, a musician rom Disneyland, who will play a Vurlitzer organ, later to be the rand prize of the celebration, iven away at the final event on faturday. The Sun City Merchants Asso-iation is sponsoring three major when you submit your check en-outest. ontests. On Thursday customers try to Sun City Brice you will ill seek for a misplaced item: a receive a certificate which en-hovel in the barber shop, or a titles you to a gift from Sun City af of bread among the draperies. Sateway, Judging of the cakes with 'hey must be able to return it take place on April 8. The judg-o its proper shop. On Friday a merchant in the 'enter will open a sealed envelope 'hich will indicate some lucky paf of bread among the draperies. Safeway. Judging of the cakes will Youngtown and Sun City, will auction off the cakes. The proceeds On Saturday is the cake baking will go to the EI Mirage Child Other features planned by the to the heart of every civic minded erchants include a free telephone citizen of Sun City and of Young-

This Cake Baking Contest is Frank Petty, the car- only one of the many, many im-irawing caricatures of portant features that will make this Official Opening of the New Sun City Shopping an event well worth attending by every Young-towner. You will find bargains galore - in every store. These ave of the celebration. Participation in all of these so as to make it good business for tents is free; no purchases are Youngtowners to buy at home and the fine new shops being opened cessary either for admission or avoid traffic difficulties and park- for the convenience of these two ing problems.



ANOTHER YOUNGTOWN MYSTERY! These two small graves, marked by a simple cross, were discovered by Marshall States, one marked by a simple cross, were discovered by Marshall Nofs. They are located in the rough area of the Agua Fria river bed, just about opposite Montana Avenue. Who or what lies buried there? Some-body's pets? Or does the white cross cover the story of human tragedy?

FREE BUS SERVICE FOR YOUNGTOWN FOR GRAND OPENING OF SUN CITY SHOPPING CENTER; APRIL 6TH, 7TH, AND 8TH Through the courtesy of the Sun City Travel Bureau and the

Youngtown-Sun City Travel Club, the Youngtowness who plan to attend the Grand Opening of the new Sun City Shopping Center may ride free to and from Sun City during the three days of celebration.

Every hour on the hour between Every hour on the hour between 1:00 and 5:00 p.m. a bus will enter Connecticut avenue, travel down Lake Shore Drive, on 114th Drive to Montana, east to 111th Avenue, then north to Oakmont and thence to the Shopping Cen-ter, It will follow the same route picked up on any corner along the scheduled route. Your the The new Roman C as Church, to be built on 11 the Divector the Shopping Cen-ter, It will follow the same route picked up on any corner along the scheduled route. Your the The new Roman C as Church, to be built on 11 the Divector the Shopping Cen-ter, It will follow the same route Peoria to the limits of Wid It will be known as St. Your the Content of the shopping Cen-ter, It will follow the same route Peoria to the limits of Wid It will be known as St. Your the Shopping Cen-ter, It will follow the same route Peoria to the limits of Wid It will be known as St.

Youngtowners who enjoy the fa-cilities of our sister city would do well to make use of this ser-vice offered by Jack Willett and Roy Kelso, officers of the Travel Club, and avoid the crowded parkcommunities of senior citizens.

The new Roman Catholic Church, to be built on 111th Ave. facing Duluth Avenue of Young-town, will be the center of a parish within the Diocese of Tucson, extending from the outer limits of Peoria to the limits of Wickenburg. It will be known as St. Joachim Parish, with Father Palmer H. Plourde as the founding pastor.

"It will take several months of preparation before the actual building can get under way," said Father Plourde, who is at present staying in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sisterman, 11427 -112th Ave. S.

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SEC. I, PAGE 4

Shopping Center Addition Speeds Toward Completion

Construction of the addition to Sun City's shopping center is 20 percent ahead of schedule, and completion target for the segment nearest the existing commercial building has been advanced two weeks to Feb 15.

The announcement was made by Jack McFee, Del E. Webb De-

velopment Company's construction superintendent. He said the second half of the addition, which will contain the News-Sun office, will be completed by Mar. 1.

Opening of the new buildings plus a separate banking facility for First National Bank in May is expected to boost the shopping center's gross from almost \$1,000,000 in 1960 to \$4,000,000 in 1961.

The additions will include offices for Arizona Public Service, Sun Control Blind and Carpet, Camelback Health Foods, Master's Radio and TV, a men's and women's clothing store, candy store, delicatessen, photographic and gift shops, a travel agency, the News-Sun, possibly a stock brokerage office, Brown's of Glendale furniture, Peoria Hardware, and several professional offices.

Presently operating in the shopping center are Greenway Drugs, Baer's drapery and carpet store, Stevens Beauty Shop,

Buzz Ellis' barber shop, a laundromat and cleaning shop, TG&Y variety store, a garden nursery, post office, and supermarket.

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History of the Grand Shopping Center

Southwest Corner of 107th and Grand Avenues

Prepared by Edson F. Allen, Sun Cities Area Historical Society

January 2008

The Grand Opening

January 1,1960 marked the Grand Opening of Del Webb's new, active adult community, Sun City, Arizona. A golf course, recreation center with swimming pool, and five model homes, awaited visitors – along with a shopping center featuring a fully stocked Safeway Supermarket. Del Webb wanted prospective purchasers to find a complete, new community awaiting them under the warm Arizona sun.

According to the Webb organization, 100,000 people came that opening weekend. Cars were lined up for miles along Grand Avenue. Interest was so feverish, salesmen ran out of order forms and had to use receipt forms from one of the nearby stores. That first weekend, 237 homes were purchased, and Sun City was on its way to become a national success.

The convenience of local stores added to the immediate attraction of the new community. The story is told that Safeway didn't want to build a store, miles from anywhere in a community with no people. Jim Boswell, owner of the Marinette Ranch that became Sun City, was on the board of Safeway. He was able to gather support from a proposal from Webb to build a store, and offer it rent-free until a certain sales volume was reached. As part of the deal, Safeway was given first refusal on future grocery stores in Sun City. As a result, Safeway was ready with fully stocked shelves, fresh produce, and a meat department on Day One!



A fully stocked Safeway greeted visitors. Steve Hornacek (left) managed the store for some 20 years and lived in Sun City.



Mr. and Mrs. Greenway ran the drug store. He was the pharmacist, and wife Barbara (above) did the buying for the gift section.



Signs of value in 1960. Gas was 25.9-cents per gallon for regular, 28.9 for premium.

New Year's Day also marked the opening of a Del Webb Highway House and Motor Hotel (later known as King's Inn) just east across 107th Avenue. It gave prospective purchasers a place to stay while they "tried out" the new community.

Originally named the Sun City Shopping Center, the center soon became a beehive of activity. The supermarket was followed on March 4 by the TG&Y Variety Store. Two weeks later, Greenway Drugs and the Desert Barber Shop opened for business. Others soon followed including Steven's Beauty Salon, "One Hour Valet" cleaning and launderette, a Union Oil service station, and Berridge Nursery. While there was no house-to-house mail delivery, the U. S. Post office opened a Sun City contract sub-station on April 4th to great fanfare.



Mary Garretson receives the key to the new facility from the Phoenix Postmaster

First-Day cover for the opening of the new post office.

Later in the year, the new Sun City Medical Center building opened behind the shopping center on Oakmont Drive. It housed the office of Dr. Robert M. Stump and provided temporary quarters for a branch of the First National Bank. While the two "roof mates" were noncompetitive in a business sense, they did have to compete for use of their common restroom.

Expansion of the Center

Plans for an expansion were started almost immediately, and a second "Grand Opening" occurred on April 6, 1961. Along with it came a new name: The Grand Center. Three days of ceremonies included entertainment, contests, and gifts. Second year volume was predicted to be \$4-million, most of it business new to the Arizona economy thanks to the increasing influx of a

new class of residents – the retired and semi-retired.

With some 70,000 sq. ft. of leasable space, news reports praised the Grand Center as "the largest shopping center in Arizona, outside of Phoenix!" Business was good, too, at the nearby Union Oil service station whose gasoline sales soared into the list of top-10 stations in the greater Phoenix area.

The addition made room for a hardware store, a liquor store, and a



On the final day of celebration, Otto Martin won the grand prize – a Wurlitzer organ.

delicatessen. It also permitted a drapery shop known as Baer's of Sun City to expand into a fullfledged furniture store after buying out Brown's of Glendale. Baer's was sold in 1972 to Henry S. Freed who opened Freed's Fine Furnishings. Two years later, Freed expanded his store into an additional 8,000 square feet of space

The Center's expansion in 1961 also marked the opening of the First National Bank building as it moved from its temporary home to a new location along Grand Avenue. According to JUBILEE, the First National Bank's appearance in Sun City was no coincidence. Back in the mid-thirties, Del Webb needed working capital and applied for a loan at a Valley bank – but was turned down. First National, however, believed in the young contractor and granted the loan. For years the two prospered together as Webb's construction business hit the big time with his winning of a government contract to build Luke Air Force Base.



The new First National Bank of Arizona building on Grand Avenue with Grand Center in the background.

In the summer of 1961, the center experienced its first business failure. Maurman's Jewelry failed to open one Monday morning when the owner didn't show up. He had left in the night, and it's believed his creditors never collected a cent.

A Newspaper Calls Grand Center Home

In April 1960, Burt and Ursula Freirich purchased the biweekly Youngtown *News* and Sun City *Sun* from Mr. and Mrs. Syd Lambert. As they waited for space in the expanded shopping center, they published the first issues of the *News-Sun* from the Lambert's back porch. "We didn't even have a phone," Freireich recalled. Shortly after, he received a call from Mountain Bell asking if he was happy with the new telephone booth the company had installed. "What booth?" Freireich asked. "Well, the one the *News-Sun* called about. You said you needed a public phone in the shopping center so we installed one." Freireich never did find out who used his name.

After the expansion was completed, the News-Sun moved into space opposite the Post Office where the paper was published weekly.

Grand Center Gets a Radio Station

In June 1962, the 1000-watt radio station, KTPM-FM, began broadcasting from the Grand Center. Its studios were in the shopping center and shoppers passing by could look in through a large window to view broadcasting taking place.

Unfortunately, the station only lasted six months, and it wasn't until March 1975 that Sun City had another radio station. The 3,000-watt KWAO-FM, owned by three men from Harrisburg, PA, was 100% community-oriented. In 1983, the station was purchased by Canyon Communications and became KMZK, a light rock music station. The local studios were vacated, and broadcasts are made from Glendale. In following years, the station changed hands several times, and currently is KOMR, a Hispanic station at 106.3 on the radio dial. Over the years, the tower grew in height from its original 150-feet to 400-feet today.



Shoppers at Grand Center could look in on Announcer Otto Highfield of KTPM-FM as they passed by. Note the long-playing, 33-1/3 rpm record album in Highfield's hands.

From a Del E. Webb Development Report (Circa 1976):

SUN CITY, ARIZONA				
	Grand Shopping Center No. 1			
Location:	Southwest corner of 107 th Ave. and Grand Ave.			
Acreage:	Original Center 4.42 First Addition 8.35			
	Nursery <u>1.78</u> 14.55			
Description	Single story Shopping Center containing 70,727 sq. ft. of gross			
Description:	leaseable area.			
History:	The original center was opened in January 1960. The first addition			
mstory.	was opened in March 1961 and the Nursery was added in September			
	1966. The façade was remodeled in late 1973.			
Zoning, Evaluation.	Commercial 2 (C-2). Medium restrictive value. Obtained for sales,			
Current status and	service and amusement uses. The Maricopa County Fair Market			
Future Plans	Value, Assessed Valuation, and Taxes for the years indicated, are:			
	1972 \$ 762,145 \$ 190,535 \$ 14,462			
	1973 731,062 177,065 12,102			
	1974 1,057,621 277,640 24,155			
	1975 1,057,621 277,640 21,128			
Property is currently 100% leased. No future change is				
	contemplated.			
Principals:	Del E. Webb Development Co. – Owner			
	Nineteen business firms – Tenants			
Date Acquired:	January 1960			
Purchase Price: Book Value:	\$373,457 (Original Center Cost) Land \$ 21,933			
Book value:	Land \$ 21,933 Land Improvements 34,308			
	Buildings and Structures 1,037,066			
\$ 1,083,307				
Less Depreciation 436,117				
	NET BOOK VALUE \$ 657,190			
	a tan man Automatika ang katanggan ing katanggan ing katanggan ba			
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Grand Center Directory from mid-1960s.

"Sun City's Oldest Business to Close Nov. 9"

So read the headline in the Oct. 17, 1985 DAILY NEWS-SUN. After 26 years, the Safeway store's small size got in the way of progress. With 18,000 sq. ft., the Grand Avenue store was less than half the size of the new Safeway stores being built at the time. With the space limitations, it was impossible for the store to stock all the merchandise found elsewhere. Actually, Safeway had announced plans to close the store four years earlier, but so many Sun Citians wrote letters and complained that officials decided to keep it open.

After closing, the store was converted to a Liquor Barn. In 1988, the Liquor Barn franchise was purchased from the Safeway chain.

Two Other Major Stores Announce Closings

Four years after Safeway closed, the Liquor Barn and TG&Y announced on July 3, 1989, that they would close on July 20.

The Liquor Barn moved to an expanded location in the Mercado del Sol Shopping Center in Sun City West where it opened under the name of Newman's Marketplace. A full-service deli was planned, along with discounted wine, beer, and liquor.

TG&Y was closed because its parent company, McCrory's, recently opened a Newberry's store at Arrowhead Mall. TG&Y and Newberry's were two of the ten five-and-dime chain stores operating nationwide under the McCrory's banner. Management felt it didn't make sense to have two virtually identical stores operating within three miles of each other. The Arrowhead Mall was seeing better business than the TG&Y.

As Bob Waters – operator of the postal station -- told it, women were beside themselves when TG&Y left. "They were heartbroken. They didn't know what to do," he said. "They could go in there with \$5 and spend half the day."

<u>1990 – Low Point for Grand Center</u>

By June 1990, nearly half the center's stores had closed and stood empty. The center was now owned by the Teachers Retirement System of Texas that had been the lender to the former owner, Zane May. May had lost Grand Center and five other shopping centers through foreclosure. CBS Properties was handling the search for new tenants. There was hope of a new restaurant opening in the old Melody Lane space, as that would bring people to the center.

When the King's Inn was torn down to make room for a shopping center with a Smith's food store, rumors spread that Grand Center would by razed to make room for a hotel. That was followed by the rumor that the center would give way to a Target store. But, neither was true.

The opening of Smith's did benefit some Grand Center businesses. Chuck Tompkins, who ran the Sun City Barber Shop, reported "Smith's was bringing lots of younger people into the area. I used to only have gray hair left on the floor." Leila Moore, who ran the Gilbert Ortega Jewelry store, said her business had picked up in recent months. "But, part of our problem is that we have a row of banks fronting Grand, and people can't see that we're here," she said.

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"New Stores Help End Doldrums"

Arizona Republic, Nov. 19, 1990

CBS Properties announced that five new tenants had signed lease agreements in the Grand Center. Construction workers were busy remodeling the former 16,662 sq. ft. Liquor Barn space, readying it for the opening of an Old America Store before Christmas.

Two new tenants had already opened in the center. Erika's Naughty Nails and Hair moved to the center on Oct. 30. They had a store on 98th and Bell, and decided Sun City could use another location. The nail salon occupied the former Sun City Beauty Salon.

A second salon, Aztec West, opened Nov. 7 in the space formerly occupied by Sun City Optical. The shop moved from a location at 99th and Olive avenues. The amount of available parking space is what drew them, according to the owner.

Other future tenants include a restaurant and a Sears, Roebuck and Co. home appliance and catalog store. The restaurant would occupy the former Melody Lane space, and it, too, hoped to be open before yearend.

The Sears store was going into the 5,560 sq. ft. space that had previously held the Greenway Drugstore. The store would have a number of household items – television sets, refrigerators, washers, and dryers -- on display, and customers could purchase them or order from the catalog. A Sears spokesman felt Sun Citians would really appreciate the new store, as they wouldn't have to drive to Westridge or Metrocenter malls to shop at Sears

A part of the attraction for the new tenants was the plan that the center owners announced a remodeling of the front of Grand Center. More than \$250,000 was spent to replace the roof, put up a new marquee, remodel, repaint, and refurbish the entire property.

A little over a year later, the center had a smart new look, and was 95% full. Beall's Clothing Outlet Store was the most recent opening, occupying the TG&Y store that had stood empty for nearly three years. Another welcome addition was J.P. Sousa's restaurant. It opened in 1991 in the former Melody Lane location.

The cycle of openings and closures continued over the years. In February 1993, Sears announced it would close more than 100 stores and discontinue its catalog business. The news shocked Sun Cities area customers. The loss of the convenience of selecting items from the

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catalog at home, and calling orders in was difficult to accept. But it wasn't just Sun City residents that were affected – nationwide, people mourned the loss of the Sears catalog.

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Over the years, many other changes have taken place within the Grand Center and the surrounding area. The Center performed a key role in the successful launch of the world's first active adult community, and nearly 50 years later, continues to serve Sun City area residents.



Welcome!

Welcome to your Sun City Shopping Center! In this convenient center you'll find everything you need from food to fashions, from housewares to hobbies, from toiletries to television, from flowers to ice cream . . . every possible need you'll find at Sun City Shopping Center. And always it's a pleasure to make shopping pleasant its Size

its Service

DOUBLING

OUBLING

Sun City SHOPPING CENTER

Offers Complete, One-Stop Convenience for All Your Needs

> WITH THESE FINE RETAIL STORES AND SERVICES

Arizona Public Service Co **Baer's Draperies** Berridge Nursery, Inc. Brice Sun City Hardware Brown's Furniture Store Co. First National Bank Greenway Drug Co. Masters T.V. Maurman's Jewelry News-Sun Newspaper One Hour Valet Safeway Store Stevens Beauty Salon Sun City Barber Shop Sun City Liquor Store and Delicatessen Sun City Travel Bureau Sun Control Blind & Carpet T. G. & Y. Variety Twin City Health Center Union Oil Service Station Del Webb's HiwayHouse Motor Hotel

LOCATED AT THE GRAND AVENUE ENTRANCE TO SUN CITY

GRAND AVENUE MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY MAP



LEGEND-GRAND AVENUE MERCHANTS

1 Sun City Stadium	18 Western Savings & Loan	35 T G & Y	52 Exxon Service
2 Sun City Water & Sewer Co.	19 First National Bank	36 Safeway	53 Howard Johnson Restaurant
3 Del Webb Sales Pavilion	20 Sun City Union Service	37 Sun City Beauty Salon	54 Chrysler Test Station
4 Lakeview Recreation Center	21 McClellan's Nursery	38 Sun City Barber Shop	55 Kentucky Fried Chicken
5 Lakeview Lanes	22 Melody Lane Restaurant	39 Sun City Grand Avenue Cleaners	56 Del Webb Property Management Bldg. (Site)
6 Lakes Club	23 Baer's of Sun City	40 Kings Inn	57 Sun City Animal Hospital
7 Valley National Bank	24 Emily's Womenswear	41 Sun City Medical Center	58 Del Webb Construction Yard & Office
8 Boswell Memorial Hospital	25 Law Offices	42 City Bank	59 News Sun Building
9 Lakeview Medical Arts Center	26 Zuhl Jeweler	43 Venable ARCO Service	60 Thunderbird Bank
10 Gulf Service	27 Hollett of Arizona	44 Circle K	61 Medical Buildings
1 Harry's Golf Car Center	28 Jean's Sportogs	45 Sun City Professional Building	62 Sun Valley Lodge
12 Fire Station	29 Hunters Books	46 Sun City Homeowners Association	63 Texaco Service
3 Vacation Apartments	30 Del Webb Realty	47 Oahu Music Company	64 Mobil Service
14 Suntowner Restaurant	31 Dr. John Kay, Optometrist	48 Germond Insurance Building	65 Sun City Ticket Office
15 Greater Arizona Savings & Loan	32 Sun City Liquors	49 Sunshine Service Building	
16 Sun City Travel Service/Greyhound Bus	33 Bedel's Corner on Fashions	50 U.S. Post Office	
17 Arizona Public Service	34 Greenway Drug & Gifts	51 Snyder Transfer & Storage	

Compliments of the Grand Avenue Merchants' Association