

# Free equipment on loan to Sun Citians

Since April 1962, Sunshine Service has given Sun City residents valuable needs free of charge. The 30,000-square-foot facility houses various medical and children equipment to loan people who live within the boundaries of Sun City.

The nonprofit Arizona corporation is funded by voluntary contributions and memorial gifts.

Today, Sunshine Service employs two full-time team members, including Executive Director Jim Sinclair and Office Manager Becca Davis, and 14 part-time team members.

Mr. Sinclair said the organization dates back to The Rev. T, who used to share his condo carport and lanai to store equipment near the 10th tee of the North Golf Course. In 1973, the organization moved to its current location with an addition in 1978 to 22,000 square feet and then 1983 to its 30,000 level.

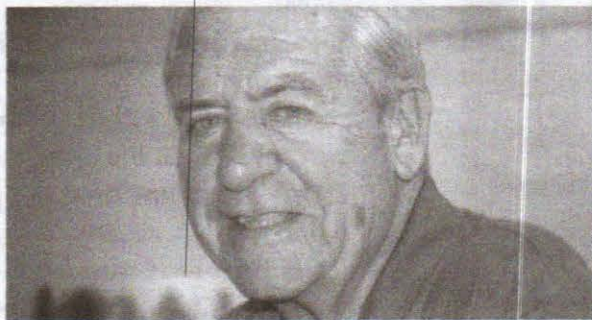
Sunshine Service saves more than \$2 million a year in the cost of equipment and rental fees.

"People are always impressed with the cleanliness of our equipment," said board member Judy Murphy.



**Jim Sinclair**  
Executive  
Director

## Sunshine Service shines spotlight on its crew



**Name/Age:** Floyd Middlekamp, 71  
**How long have you worked at Sunshine Services:** 8 years in February  
**What do you do:** Crew chief (M-T-W shift)  
**Your favorite thing about Sun City:** Likes cleanliness of Sun City  
**Your claim to fame:** Helping people and my knowledge of the equipment at Sunshine Service.



**Name/Age:** Becca Davis, 59, (Peoria)  
**How long have you worked at Sunshine Services:** December 2008  
**What do you do:** Office Manager: "I do everything," she joked.  
**Your favorite thing about Sun City:** My parents live here. I used to come in the summers for weeks to visit from Conn.  
**Your claim to fame:** Ballroom dancing. I enjoy all aspects of the various dances. I will compete in December 2014.



*Come Celebrate  
With Us!*

**"The Cleanest and Most  
Sanitized Equipment Around"**

# Sunshine Service 51st Anniversary

**Saturday, October 26, 2013**

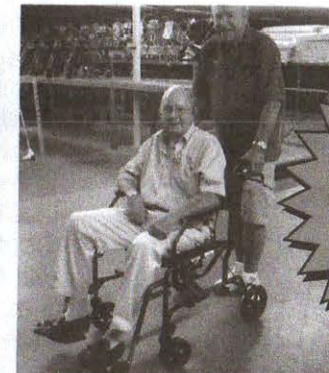
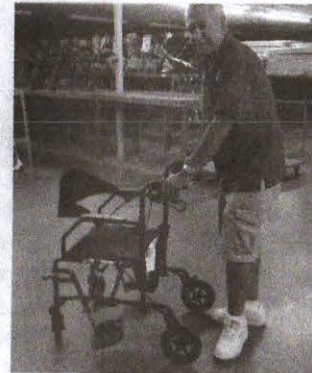
**Tours 10am-Noon • Refreshments Served**

People, meeting needs of people is what Sunshine Service is all about. Sunshine Service lends medical and children's equipment to residents of Sun City and we have been doing so for over 50 years. We are a charitable non-profit Arizona corporation and are funded by voluntary contributions and memorial gifts.

While the equipment is available for the use of all residents or visitors staying with residents, the equipment must not be taken out of Sun City on a permanent basis. As a matter of control, equipment is loaned only to Sun City residents.

Records show that as the population of Sun City grew, so did use of our medical equipment. Savings for Sun City residents have been calculated periodically; in 2012, it was estimated that residents saved over two million dollars in cost of equipment for that year alone.

Sunshine Service, Inc has received local, state and national recognition. Awards received include the George Washington Honor Medal for services to the sick and handicapped from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge in Pennsylvania.



**New  
Translator  
Chairs Just  
Arrived!**

## Some Of The Many Items We Carry:

Arm Exerciser • Bath Bench • Bed Rails • Bedside Commodes • Companion Chair  
Crutches • Foot Massager • High Chairs • Hospital Beds • Lift Chairs  
Overbed Tables • Pack-N-Play • Ramp - Aluminum • Rollaway Beds • Strollers  
• Trapeze Walkers • Weights • Wheel Chairs Translator Chairs

Monday-Friday • 9 am - 4 pm

9980 W. Santa Fe Dr. • Sun City 85351-3197

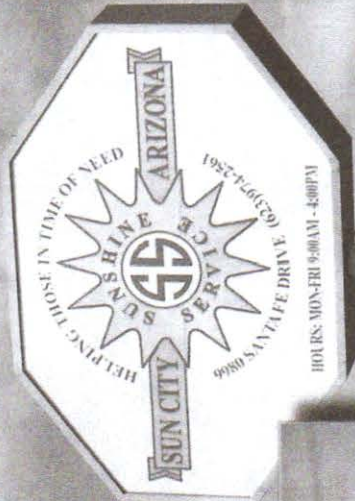
**623-974-2561**





## Open house & Shining stars

See story Page 10



Sunshine Service  
9980 Santa Fe Drive  
Sun City, AZ 85351  
623-974-2561  
[www.sunshineservice.org](http://www.sunshineservice.org)

### If You Go

Open house 10 a.m.-noon  
Saturday, Oct. 26  
Refreshments and  
cookies will be served.  
All may attend to tour  
the facility and meet  
team members.

### About

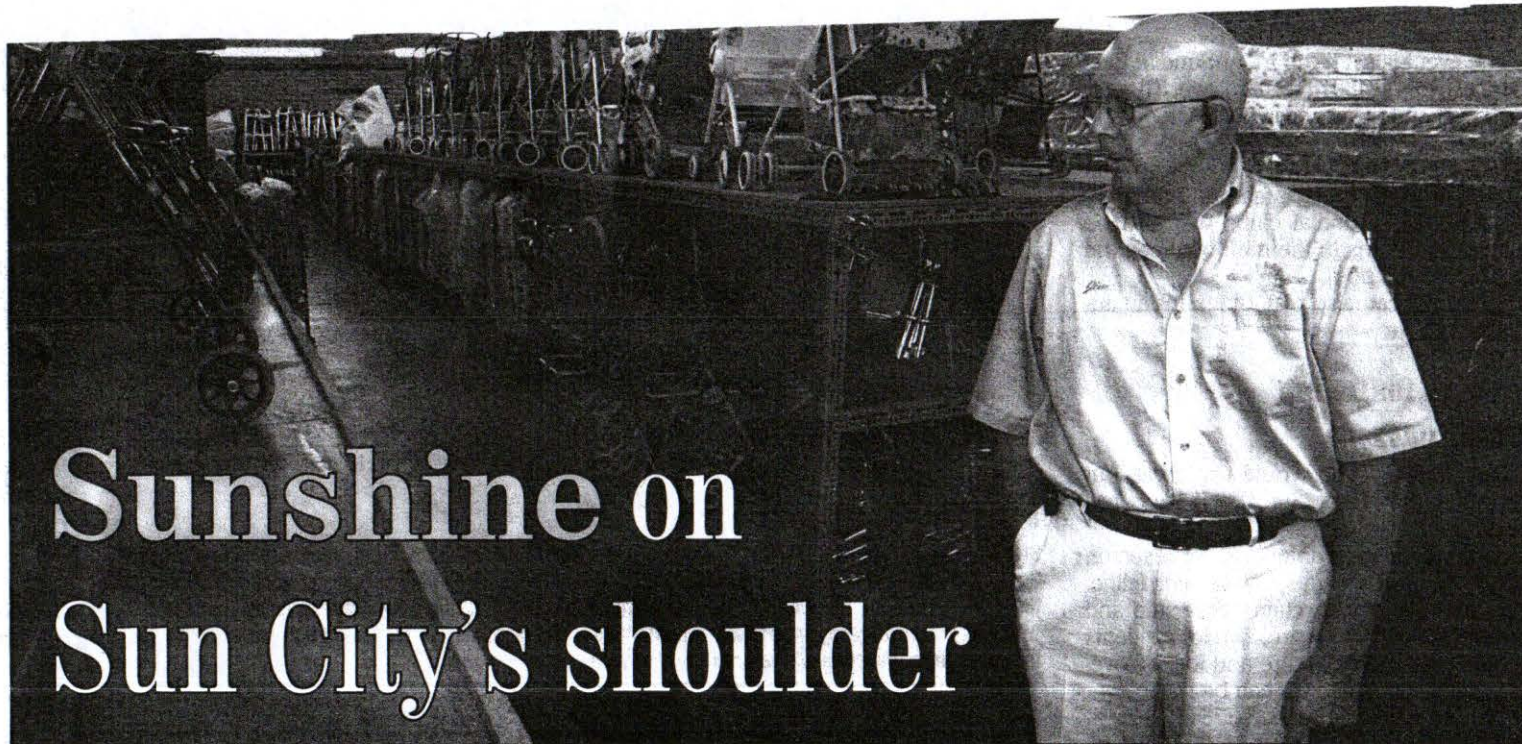
Incorporated October  
1964, to give residents  
valuable products with  
no fees.  
Del Webb Corp. donated  
and constructed at cost  
the first Sunshine Service,  
10307 Coggins Drive, in  
July 1965, with \$8,000  
worth of equipment.  
Today, equipment is val-  
ued at about \$1.6 million.  
People can borrow  
medical equipment as  
well as beds and  
children's equipment  
for visiting relatives.

### Donate

People can leave  
Sunshine Service in their  
wills. Please call for more  
information.







# Sunshine on Sun City's shoulder

Independent Newspapers/Rusty Bradshaw

**Jim Sinclair, Sunshine Services director, surveys the organization's vast inventory of household items available to Sun City residents. The nonprofit service is celebrating its 50th year of operation with a special open house Nov. 3.**

## Nonprofit agency has wide variety of household items

**By Rusty Bradshaw**

Independent Newspapers

**I**f you need it, chances are Sunshine Service has it — and has had it for 50 years.

The residential service organization will celebrate its 50th anniversary in a special open house 10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Nov. 3 at the Sunshine Service building, 9980 Santa Fe Drive. The event will include tours of the facility, which is larger than it appears from the street.

"A lot of people don't realize just how big it is," said Jim Sinclair, Sunshine Service director. "They don't realize we have more space going north and it continues going east in the L."

The nonprofit organization provides medical and children's equipment to Sun City residents at no cost.

"Sunshine Service provides a tremendous service to the residents of Sun City and I have

### If You Go

**Sunshine Service 50th anniversary open house**

**10 a.m.-noon Saturday, Nov. 3**

**Sunshine Service building, 9980 Santa Fe Drive**

used them for visiting grandchildren, as well as for temporary medical equipment for my mother-in-law," Jan Ek, Recreation Centers of Sun City general manager and Sun City resident, stated in an e-mail. "I think they are great and am grateful they are here."

Sunshine Service is funded entirely through contributions, according to Mr. Sinclair.

"People leave us money in their wills and estates," he said. "At first, it was people just coming through the door and donating. But we could not survive that way."

Sunshine Service also gets assistance from other Sun City entities. The organization has

been a benefactor of RCSC staff fundraising, according to Ms. Ek.

While it has not made financial contributions, Sun City Home Owners Association contributes in other ways, according to Bill Szentmiklosi, general manager.

"The Board of Directors always recognizes their accomplishments, and this year we are providing them with a free table at the vendor fair Nov. 14," he stated in an e-mail.

SCHOA and RCSC officials also refer residents to Sunshine Service.

"Many (residents) are not aware of it until we tell them that it is available," Ms. Ek stated.

Sunshine Service got its start in 1961, as the Sunshine Committee of the Sun City Civic Association, the forerunner of SCHOA. The committee's function was to help residents who could not afford the annual \$40 recreation dues. A Sick and Visiting Committee was also established. In the first year, board members learned a resident paid \$35 for a month's rental of a hospital bed.

See Sun — Page 24



# Sun

Continued From Page 1

The committee purchased three beds from Memorial Hospital in Phoenix and some second-hand equipment and walkers. Residents also donated items.

The first bed and wheelchair were loaned April 2, 1962. All equipment was stored on the land of The Rev. E. Duane Thistlewaite, who chaired the sunshine and sick and visiting committees.

The Sunshine Committee became an independent chartered organization in October 1964, and the name was changed to Sunshine Service.

"When it started, it had a board with 25 people on it," Mr. Sinclair explained.

Originally located in a building behind Menke Funeral Home, it moved to the present location, which was donated by Del E. Webb Corp.

"We have added on to this building three times since then," Mr. Sinclair said.

Sunshine Service equipment is for use of Sun City residents and their visitors, and no equipment is allowed to be taken out of the community. Sunshine Service equipment has been used by successive generations of residents, according to Judy Murphy, Sunshine spokeswoman.

"At the health fairs, we hear from people how our equipment was used by their parents and even grandparents," she said. "The service is handed down through the generations."

The organization could be the largest of its kind, according to Mr. Sinclair. Sunshine officials helped establish similar organizations in Sun City West, Youngtown and Peoria, he added.

Equipment is delivered to residents who need it, and Sunshine officials check frequently on loaned equipment's condition.

"If it is not working, we will fix it or replace it," Mr. Sinclair said.

Sunshine includes a full repair shop and washing station.

Mr. Sinclair said Sunshine has never taken, or even requested, grants or government funds. The agency also does not conduct fundraising drives.

"It (fundraising) has been discussed," Mr. Sinclair said. "If it got to the point where not enough money was coming in, we would

take a look at it."

The certified public accountant that audits Sunshine's financial status claims the agency is four years away from facing that prospect,' according to Mr. Sinclair.

"But he's been saying that for several years," he added.

Sunshine is operated by 16 paid staff, all but two part-time. Because of liability concerns, there are no volunteers, according to Mr. Sinclair.

The organization is open 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday, but does not deliver equipment in the afternoons during the summer months because of the heat. Because the agency is fully booked on deliveries, residents needing equipment are urged to make advance arrangements.

*News Editor Rusty Bradshaw can be reached at 623-445-2725 or rbradshaw@newszap.com.*

## Sunshine Service Equipment

### Medical

Arm exerciser  
Bath bench  
Bathtub support  
Bed blocks  
Bed board  
Bed cane  
Bedpan  
Bed rail  
Bed rest  
Bed - electric hospital (Rx required)  
Bedroom monitor  
Alt. press pump and pad  
Bedside table  
Blanket support  
Call bell  
Canes - 4-prong, straight, straight with seat  
Card holder  
Chairs - geriatric, lift (Rx required)  
Commode  
Crutches - arm crutches, Candaian crutches, platform crutches

Dressing stick  
Dumbbells  
Foam ring  
Foam wedge  
Fracture pan  
Hand truck  
IV stand  
Mattress raiser  
Platform arms  
Posey belt  
Aluminum ramp  
Restorator  
Shampoo tray  
Sheepskin  
Shoe horn  
Slide board  
Slip-on aid  
Stools - bar, foot  
Seat assist  
Toilet arms  
Elevated toilet seat  
Tong  
Transfer tub bench with slide  
Trapeze  
Trapeze stand

Trays - arm, bed, walker  
Walkers - with seat, folding with front wheels (Rx required), one hand, straight, 4-wheel (Rx required), walker bags  
Weights - 1-pound ankle, 2-pound ankle, 3-pound ankle, 4-pound ankle, 5-pound ankle, 7.5-pound ankle, 10-pound ankle  
Wheelchair/companion chair  
Wheelchair cushion  
Wheelchair tray  
**Rollaways and Children's Equipment**  
Bed rails  
Bumper pads  
Chairs - booster, folding, high, potty, youth  
Cribs  
Diaper pails  
Jumper chairs  
Nursery seat  
Pack-n-play  
Rollaway beds - 30-inch, 39-inch, 48-inch  
Strollers



# Here to serve

## Sunshine Service meets community needs

ERIN REEP  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

For retirees in need of a hospital bed, wheelchair or walker, Sunshine Service in Sun City is a godsend.

The service offers hospital and medical equipment for any donation a person can give — or for free — to Sun City residents who need it, either short- or long-term.

The reaction of people when they realize they won't have to spend nearly \$300 on a walker is priceless, says Sunshine Service Administrator Jim Sinclair.

"We're able to help people and see their reaction whenever they come in," Sinclair said.

Sunshine Service is tucked away at 9980 Santa Fe Drive, just north of Grand Avenue. It is a nonprofit Arizona corporation funded by contributions and bequests. The service occupies a 22,000-square-foot warehouse and maintains an inventory of \$1.5 million worth of medical equipment per year.

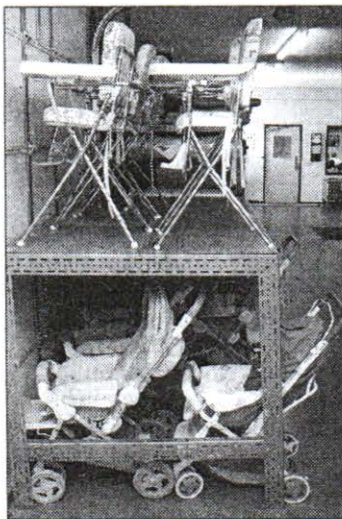
Sunshine employs two full-time and 12 part-time workers. The corporation is operated by a 10-member board whose members serve five-year terms.

Sinclair began serving as a board member in 2000, and



PHOTOS BY JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jim Sinclair of Sunshine Service shows one of the nonprofit agency's walkers Wednesday.



Strollers and high chairs are just two of the convenience items Sunshine Service stocks for Sun Citians and their visiting families.

was asked to be the administrator in November 2001.

"We're unique; I don't know of anything else our size that does everything that we do," he said.

Sunshine Service exists to serve Sun Citians, whether they have little money and live on fixed incomes or are millionaires, Sinclair said.

Here's how it works: A resident comes in to Sunshine's front office, where he is greeted by a staff person. The office is bright and orderly; two or three part-time staffers work at personal computers and answer phone calls.

Perhaps the person needs a wheelchair for his wife, who is recovering from surgery. He can borrow the wheelchair

for six weeks or six years — however long it is needed, Sinclair said. Some clients use four or five pieces of equipment at a time — a walker, a reacher, a cane and a lift chair, for example.

Medical equipment can be used for any amount of time, Sinclair said.

"Last week, we had a cane returned that had been out for 21 years," he said. "They can use them as long as they need it."

A doctor's prescription is required for some pieces of equipment, such as lift chairs and certain types of walkers.

Sunshine Service also lends out convenience equipment, including roll-away beds, high chairs, booster

OVER



chairs, strollers and youth beds. There is a 30-day limit on convenience equipment.

Once a person determines what they need, the staff can access the equipment in the warehouse, and either allow the person to take it home or arrange delivery during one of two daily runs made in the community.

The warehouse includes a shower area where equipment is sanitized. All maintenance work on the equipment is performed on-site, and tools line the walls and work stations.

The facility includes a large boardroom available to any Sun City organization that wishes to use it, free of charge, Sinclair said.

Rows of wheelchairs, three-wheel walkers, four-wheel walkers, canes, beds, commodes, doughnut pillows, posey belts, ramps and much more fill the warehouse that extends to the back of the lot. Additional space has been added in phases, forming an L-shaped building.

"We take donations of anything," Sinclair said. "If we can use it, we use it here. Or we give it away."

Sunshine Service donates unused goods to other non-profit organizations. Most of Sunshine's goods are purchased new.

Sunshine Service began as the Sunshine Committee, based out of the Sun City Civic Association (forerunner to today's Home Owners Association). The committee helped residents who were unable to pay the \$40 annual assessment fee at the time. Sick and visiting committees were established, with retired minister the Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite leading both.

Thistlethwaite learned of a resident whose terminally ill husband needed a hospital bed at home and could not afford the \$35 fee for rental and set up. The committee bought three \$25 hospital beds and started loaning the equipment. Residents then began donating items — and equipment was stored on

Thistlethwaite's lanai and carport at his Sun City home.

In October 1964, the Sunshine Committee became an independent organization; Thistlethwaite became president and served until 1981.

The Del Webb Corporation donated land and constructed Sunshine Service's first building on Coggins Drive, which is now the Sun City Room, located behind the Menke Funeral Home. In 1973, Webb donated land and built Sunshine's present warehouse; additions were made through the years.

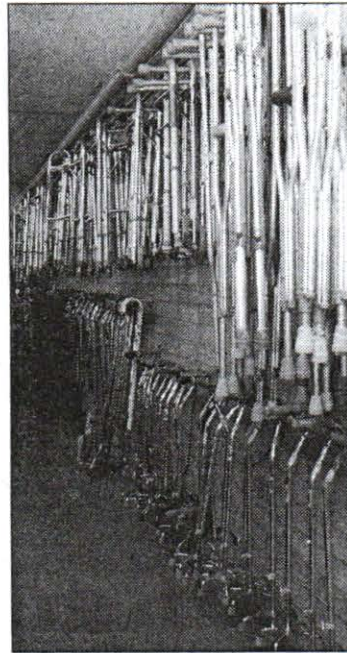
Members of the staff are mainly seniors — people like Larry Wilson, a 17-year Sunshine Service employee.

"It started out as a summer thing, and I've been here ever since," he said.

Others in the office said they enjoy working in jobs where they're helping people, and getting out of the house for a while.

Sunshine Service is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. For information, call 974-2561.

*Erin Reep may be reached at 876-2532 or ereep@aztrib.com.*



A wall of walkers and canes of all types await use by Sun Citians at Sunshine Service.



# Sunshine Service helps Sun Cities with care

By Christa Parra  
The Arizona Republic

Like Southwest Lending Closet, Sunshine Service is a non-profit organization that lends medical and home health-care equipment for free. In fact, it had donated equipment to the Lending Closet.

However, it gladly accepts money and equipment from clients.

Sunshine Service specifically provides service to the Sun City area. The organization also delivers and sets up heavy equipment such as hospital beds and electric lift chairs in the clients' homes.

"We are here to help Sun City Residents," said Jim Sinclair, Sun City resident and Sunshine Service administrator.

In 2002, Sunshine Service saved residents a total of \$2 million, workers there said.

"Some of our walkers would retail at \$300 and some of our lift chairs would be about \$1,200, but people could come in and donate any amount they want," Sinclair said.

There are two other similar services in the West Valley: Helping Hands in Sun City West and Solecito in Peoria.

Sun City's Sunshine Service has about \$1.5 million worth of equipment, including more than 1,000 wheelchairs and

more than 600 rollaway beds. It also has canes, crutches, hospital beds, walkers, electric life chairs and baby furniture. The rollaway beds and baby furniture are intended for short-term use, for up to 30 days. The home health and medical equipment is available for customers to use as long as they need it.

At any given time, about 4,000 clients borrow equipment, workers said.

Sunshine Service was founded by the Rev. Duane Thislethwaite in April 1962.

"It is a unique organization that started 40 years ago with Reverend Thislethwaite just having a hospital bed, a wheel chair and a pair of crutches in his carport," said Bettie Denning, office manager for Sunshine Service. "Over the years, it has grown into what it is today through donations from the residents of Sun City."

Dell Web Corp. donated the first piece of land and built a facility for Sunshine Service at cost. Today it is run by 12 part-time and two full-time employees.

Sunshine Service is open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at 9980 Santa Fe Drive, Sun City. For more information, call (623) 974-2561.

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Reach the reporter at  
christa.parra@arizonarepublic.com or  
(602) 444-6939.



# FORTY YEARS OF HELPING

## Sun City organization lends helpful items to individuals in need

by JULI NESSETT  
Independent Newspapers

In the City of Volunteers many organizations exist solely for the purpose of aiding local residents.

One local organization in particular — Sunshine Service — has aided local residents more than \$1 billion since its creation in 1961.

Sunshine Service is currently celebrating its 40th anniversary of lending medical and children's equipment to residents of Sun City.

With a warehouse that has a capacity over 22,000 square feet, Sunshine Services lends wheelchairs, walkers, hospital beds and even wheelchair ramps to those in need.

According to Administrator Bernie Zielinski, Sunshine Service started with a pair of crutches, a wheelchair and a bed, stored in the airport of the Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, former administrator and founder of the organization.

Anyone who is a resident of Sun City is able to borrow from Sunshine Service — keeping in mind that items must be returned when they are no longer being used.

"Residents of Sun City can keep (medical equipment) in their homes for as long as they are in Sun City," explained Mr. Zielinski.

Because demand for a service of this type is so great, officials at Sunshine Service helped other sur-



Photos by JULI NESSETT/Independent Newspapers  
From left, Bernie Zielinski, Sunshine Services administrator and Bettie Denning, office manager, stand by the dedication plaque of the organization's building.

rounding communities, like Sun City West and Peoria, start their own similar organizations.

There is no charge for loan of equipment and the entire organization is funded strictly through donations.

"It is really a unique operation," said Mr. Zielinski. "There is really nothing to compare it to."

Money saved by residents using Sunshine Service can easily be estimated by simply pricing similar rental items.

According to Active Mobility, a medical equipment rental business, cost of renting a wheelchair for one month is \$100, with a \$100 security deposit.

Cost to buy a wheelchair can be more than \$500, according to Mr. Zielinski.

Sunshine Service currently has over 19,000 residents in its database and lends over 80 different medical items and over 20 convenience items.

The organization's total inventory consists of more than 14,000

items and although much of it is medical equipment the organization also lends items such as folding chairs, cots, cribs and playpens for residents who have visitors. These items are only loaned for a maximum of 30 days.

Each year Mr. Zielinski is allotted \$40,000-\$50,000 by the 10-member board of directors for purchase of new equipment.

He also attends a medical convention each year to see what is new in the field. Mr. Zielinski said that is where he found a new, lightweight and portable wheelchair ramp.

"There are always new items that may make life easier for those using the equipment," he said.

Certain items that Sunshine Service stocks — like exercise bikes, lift chairs and electric hospital beds — do require a prescription and Mr. Zielinski said this requirement is mainly for the safety of the user.

Mr. Zielinski said he and his staff really enjoy what they do.

"We want nothing but smiling faces walking out the door. We really enjoy what we do because we're really making people's lives easier for their twilight years," he said.

For more information about the organization, for a full list of lendable items or to make a tax-deductible donation to Sunshine Service, call 974-2561.



## City of Volunteers

# SUNSHINE SERVICE HELPS OUT IN A PINCH

**A**lthough Sunshine Service is known mainly as a lending agency for sickroom and medical equipment, its services are more far reaching.

Sunshine Service can provide a rollaway bed or cot for visiting family or friends.

Also available for visiting grandchildren are cribs, playpens, car seats, folding high chairs, strollers and many other necessities.

Amazingly enough, there is absolutely no rental fee for the use of these items. Hopefully, the grateful residents who use the service will make a donation, but no pressure is put on anyone to do so.

Sunshine Service is a non-profit corporation and is funded entirely by voluntary contributions and memorial gifts. No federal, state or municipal funds have ever been requested or received.

The roots of the agency date back to 1961 when the Sun City Civic Association (now the Home Owners Association) appointed a Sunshine Committee.

Within a year, there was an apparent need for hospital beds, which rented for \$35 a month, wheelchairs, canes, etc.

The committee purchased four hospital beds for \$25 each, along with walkers and other second-hand equipment and residents began to donate items. The first bed and wheelchair were loaned out on April 2, 1962.

All equipment was stored in the apartment of the Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite, committee chairman, who went



Sunshine Service Board of Directors for 2000, from left, seated, Audrey Hanks, vice president; Theodore Olson, president. Standing, from left, Frank Simlik, Colonel Vause, treasurer; Ralph Gerber, secretary; Janet Spooner, Ronald Powell, Martha Dale, Arlene Porter and James Sinclair.

on to serve for 17 years as president of Sunshine Service.

Today, the agency occupies a building with 22,000 square feet of warehouse and office space.

Sunshine Service equipment is used in about 2,800

homes each year.

At any given time, they can have out on loan 1,000 walkers, nearly as many wheelchairs, and countless hospital beds, crutches, commodes, bedpans and more.

The Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite, one of the early founders of Sunshine Service.





The Daily News-Sun Friday, July 3, 1998

# Helping to defray medical costs

## Sunshine Service lends equipment to SC residents

By TINA SCHADE  
Staff writer

Clyde Goodwin, a former construction worker, accustomed to spinning around with steel beams hoisted on his shoulders, wasn't about to let a series of mini-strokes break his spirit.

After spending the night in the hospital, Goodwin's doctor advised him to take it easy and to get a little R & R, which is exactly what this 76-year-old needed.

What Goodwin didn't need, however, was to spend a lot of money on the equipment that would keep his muscled physique strong and help him get around the house.

Taking a cue from his sister-in-law, Goodwin looked into Sunshine Service, which lends medical equipment free to Sun City residents for an unlimited amount of time.

Goodwin borrowed five pieces of equipment. His wife Naomi said staff members explained how to use it.

Just a signature was required and the Goodwins were on their way.

For the last 35 years or so, Sunshine Service has been loaning out medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, canes, cribs and bed rails. The inventory is regularly expanded and updated.

Bernie Zielinski, assistant administrator, said staff members attend equipment shows every year to pick up the newest gadgets that might be of some help to Sun Citians.

Their latest purchase was a portable aluminum wheelchair ramp that weighs about 13 pounds. The ramp folds up and has a traction pad to prevent slipping.

"This eliminates the need for three-foot-long wooden ramps all over the house and it's one size fits all," Zielinski said.

They also picked up bed canes, that help people get in and out of bed.

Sunshine Service is able to pur-



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Tom Denning and Bob Brisco demonstrate an aluminum ramp that Sunshine Service recently purchased. Fifty of the portable ramps are now available for people to borrow.

chase the equipment through the donations of Sun Citians.

"The goodness of people makes

this thing go ... This is the best example of a true organizational service, a visible presence of mission

(OVER)



and service to fellow man" said Jim Hauer, a Sunshine Service board member.

But the generosity of residents reaches far beyond the boundaries of Sun City.

Donated equipment that can't be used at Sunshine Service has been shipped around the world.

Beds have gone to help AIDS patients, and some equipment has been sent to Africa and Central America, said Tom Denning, administrator.

Neighboring cities have also latched on to the Sunshine Service idea. Sun City West has its own version, known as Lending Hands, and Peoria has Solecito. Both received some help from Sunshine Service. Groups from Korea have toured the warehouse to learn how to set up a similar service.

"Every major city should seek a foundation to clone Sunshine Service to help save Medicare costs. It would be a benefit to the younger tax-paying people and it would help the older retirees," Hauer said.

Hauer estimates that the organization has saved taxpayers \$1.5 million in rental costs.

Sunshine Service distributes start-up kits and is producing a video to familiarize people with the organization, Hauer said.

They also offer tours of the massive 22,000-square-foot warehouse.

Sunshine Service is also opening its doors in another way. Between the hours of 9 and 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. weekdays, non-profit organizations can use what's known as the Sunshine Room to conduct meetings.

The room has enough space for about 30 people, and groups such as the Community Fund and Meals on Wheels use the room for free.

Sunshine Service is open from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. weekdays and is located at 9980 Santa Fe Drive in Sun City. For information, call 974-2561.



# Service has room to shine

By TINA SCHADE  
Staff writer

Whether it's a wheelchair for a post-surgery patient or a crib for a visiting grandchild, Sunshine Service has equipment for just about every situation and occasion.

Since 1961, the organization has been lending medical and convenience equipment to Sun City residents at no cost. The service allows people to live independently in their own homes, as opposed to moving into nursing homes or moving away to live with their families, said board member Jim Hauer.

"We make living here possible and we give them a quality of life without them having to feel guilty," Hauer said.

The service originated 36 years ago when the Rev. E. Duane Thistlewaite's carport housed wheelchairs that were lent to residents unable to afford rental fees.

Today, the service occupies a 22,000-square-foot building on Santa Fe Drive and boasts an inventory worth more than \$1 million, said Bernie Zielinski, assistant administrator for the organization.

Sun City residents in need of medical equipment such as surgical shoes and canes may borrow items for an unlimited amount of time with nothing more than picture identification and a signature.

"We had a woman last week who returned a four-prong cane that her husband used for 22 years," Zielinski said.

Sunshine also lends convenience equipment, such as strollers, booster chairs and playpens with a 30-day limit.

People are happy to return the equipment because that means their families have finally left, Zielinski said laughingly.

The keepers of the service estimate that lending equipment to residents saves more than \$1.5 mil-

lion annually in purchase and rental costs.

"The thing we feel bad about is you go buy a wheelchair and you're told Medicare will pay for it. Those are our tax dollars. ... We really get disturbed thinking our children and grandchildren will have to pay for that," Hauer said.

Board members attend trade shows to check out items that might benefit Sun Citians and they also consider suggestions from residents.

One of the newest additions to the inventory is a three-stage pressurized mattress designed to prevent bedsores.

"The pressure in the mattress changes with the body," Zielinski said.

Members of the board also keep abreast of the latest government standards to ensure equipment

complies with regulations.

"Safety is always a concern," said Tom Denning, president of Sunshine Service.

As for outdated equipment, it's donated to charitable organizations for shipment to underdeveloped countries.

Despite the benefits of borrowing, some residents still opt for going through rental outlets for equipment.

Hauer said most people feel guilty for using the services because they are free.

"We want them to know you can keep it for as long as you need it and don't feel guilty about using it," Hauer said.

Right now the service is gearing up for the winter months, its busiest season, when up to 150 residents may come in daily requesting a rental.

And board members expect even greater traffic with the opening of the Sunshine Room.

The newly constructed 22- by 26-foot room is open for local club meetings.

"It is a method to open up to the Sun City organizations who have a need for meetings. It's comfortable and accessible and very nice," Hauer said.

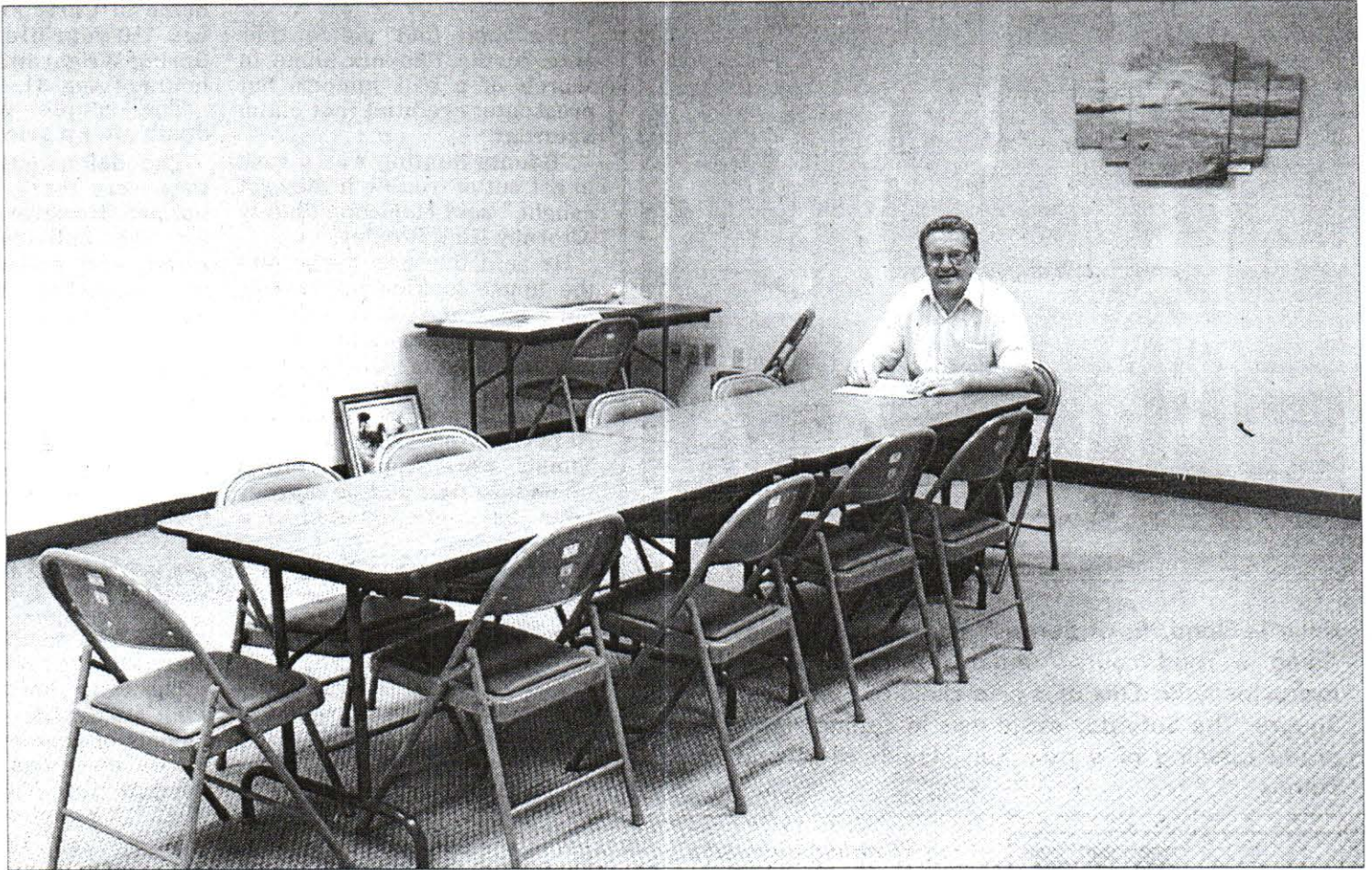
Sunshine Service's efforts are funded entirely by private donations, memorial gifts and bequests.

About 88 percent of the people who borrow children's equipment make donations and about 31 percent of the people who borrow medical equipment make donations.

Sunshine Service is at 9980 Santa Fe Drive, between 103rd and 99th avenues, just north of Grand. The phone number is 974-2561.

OVER





Steve Cherek/Daily News-Sun

Bernie Zielinski, assistant administrator, sits in the new meeting room in the Sunshine Service building in Sun City. The room may be used by any Sun City group needing a meeting place.



# Good neighbors

## Service shares sunshine with Special Olympics

By CHRISTINE A. GOW  
Staff writer

PEORIA — Peoria Special Olympics has a new set of wheels, thanks to Sunshine Service.

Sunshine Service, located on Santa Fe Drive in Sun City, loans residents equipment ranging from hospital beds to strollers for visiting children.

When the agency received a sizeable donation in August from an anonymous source, officials decided to buy 29 wheelchairs and donate them for use in local churches and the synagogue.

Sunshine finished distributing the wheelchairs, purchased at a cost of about \$400 each, in September.

With money left over and a penchant for neighborly service, the agency looked to Peoria.

Sunshine's President Robert Hoh contacted the Peoria Community Center and found, that indeed, a wheelchair would be a valuable asset to the Peoria Special Olympians.

"It was a shock because these chairs are very valuable," said Paula Considine, program assistant for Peoria Special Olympics. "It's really going to open a lot of avenues for athletes."

The wheelchair Sunshine bought for the Special Olympics is made of a lighter alloy and is specially designed for sports; it cost between \$800 and \$900.

The chair came at the perfect time, Considine said. This year the Peoria Special Olympics will begin integrating wheelchairs into its sports, beginning with a wheelchair tennis clinic in February. The chair will be especially helpful during tennis and basketball competition, Considine said.

"This (the wheelchair) serves as an outlet for people who have never used a wheelchair in sports. They can try it out now," Considine said.

She plans on using the wheelchair as a demonstration item for children to test out and parents to get an idea of the kind of wheelchair they might want to buy their



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Sunshine Services President Robert Hoh and Florence Jerousek, president-elect of the Sun City agency, are present as Paula Considine, program assistant for Peoria Special Olympics, tries out the wheelchair donated by Sunshine Services.

child. And the chair will be on loan to athletes who want to participate in wheelchair sports but can't afford a chair, Considine said.



# Charity celebrates 30th by giving Wheelchair donation spreads Sunshine



J.J. McCormack/Daily News-Sun

Robert Hoh, left, and Tom Denning inspect the first shipment of 28 Sunshine Service wheelchairs.

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — In the sea of medical equipment filling the 22,000-square-foot warehouse of Sunshine Service, 28 new wheelchairs await delivery to local churches and synagogues.

The medical equipment lending bank is giving away the chairs as gifts in observance of the organization's 30th anniversary.

"We'd rather spend money on something like this than on a party," said Tom Denning, Sunshine Service administrator, explaining the impetus for the project.

The anniversary giveaway marks the first time Sunshine Service has given new equipment to churches or

any organization. The lending bank does donate aging and worn equipment to other non-profit organizations such as Goodwill and the Salvation Army.

Denning sent letters detailing the wheelchair offer to 28 churches and synagogues on Tuesday.

"I hope I got them all," he said.

A portion of a large contribution to Sunshine Service from an anonymous donor was used to buy the wheelchairs. Sunshine Service pays wholesale prices for the chairs, which fetch between \$400 and \$1,200 retail, Denning said.

It is contemplated that houses of worship can use the wheelchairs to assist members and guests.

► See Sunshine service, A5

## Sunshine Service reaches 30

■ From A1

"With the age of the people in Sun City, (wheelchair assistance) is not just a once-in-a-while happening," said Robert Hoh, president of Sunshine Service's volunteer board of directors.

In addition to the 28 wheelchairs, Sunshine Service has exactly 1,143 others to lend to Sun City residents who need them.

"We have more wheelchairs in stock than any other single piece of equipment," Denning said, noting that the number on hand dwindles to about 300 in the summer and 100 in the winter.

Sunshine Service lends a wide variety of other medical equipment, from service bells

to hospital beds.

"We like to have the best quality for our residents. After all, it's their money," Denning said.

Baby furniture and equipment and roll-away beds also are available on loan for Sun City residents who need to accommodate young visitors.

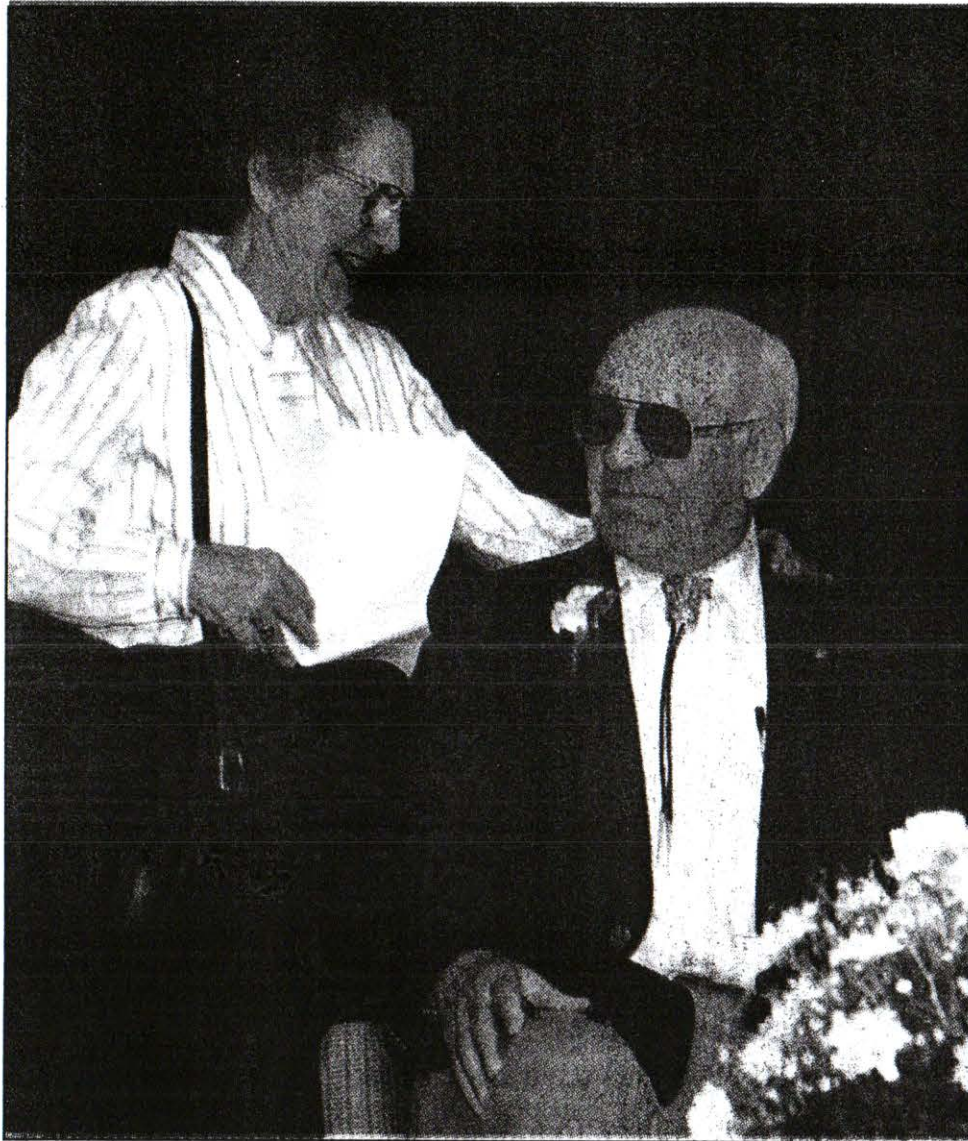
Hoh said Sunshine Service

has accumulated \$1.5 million worth of stock since its inception 30 years ago in the garage of a Coggins Drive home.

"It's been a much-brewing thing for the people of Sun City over the years," he said.

"We could take care of an army if they suddenly came around and needed beds."





Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Wilfred Stevener is honored with a "This is Your Life" program planned by his wife Gertrude.

# Administrator retires from Sunshine Service

## Stevener honored for 22 years of service

By IAN MITCHELL  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — "This is Your Life" hasn't been on television for years, but Tuesday it might have looked as if they were filming another episode of the series.

Wilfred Stevener, the retiring administrator for Sunshine Service, looked surprised when he arrived to applause at the Sun Health Support Services Building.

Stevener was told that he was coming to host a press conference to announce his departure from the equipment-lending agency, he said he was caught off-guard by the gathering of friends and associates.

"When I said I was going to retire, you know what Dottie said? — "We'll have a press conference," he told the crowd. "I never expected anything like this."

Sunshine Service board member Dottie Barna and Stevener's wife, Gertrude, conspired to pull off the surprise in honor of Stevener's 22 years of service.

Gertrude Stevener sat with her husband and more than 100 people watched from the audience as announcer Michael Dixon called out a string of names from Stevener's past and present.

Off-stage, they read tributes to Stevener, then walked on for a handshake or hug with the man who is retiring — for the third time — at the end of March.

"Thirty-seven and-a-half years with Dupont, seven years as a broker, 22 years with Sunshine Service — and you know something? I've enjoyed every bit of it," Stevener said.

As administrator of Sunshine Service since 1975, Stevener oversaw years of growth at the non-profit organization, which today has a 22,000-square-foot building and more than 10,500 pieces of medical equipment available for loan to Sun Citians.

When a medical equipment supplier announced the donation of a wheelchair to Sunshine Service in Stevener's honor, he gave the chair a hard look.

"I hope I never use it," he said to laughter.

Sunshine Service President Fred Curtis, who presented the traditional gold watch, said Stevener's legacy to the agency goes well beyond a single wheelchair.

"What Will did is build it up to what Sunshine Service is today — a real going operation, and that is his biggest contribution," Curtis said.



## Sunshine Service saves Sun Citians \$2 million a year

By IAN MITCHELL  
Daily News-Sun staff

Sun City residents who borrow medical equipment from Sunshine Service don't owe the social service agency anything but a million thanks — or perhaps it's more like 2 million thanks.

By loaning items like wheelchairs, elevated toilet seats and exercise bikes without charge, the non-profit service saved Sun Citians \$2 million in the last year, the organization calculates.

"It's a terrific savings," said Will Stevener, administrator of Sunshine Service.

The service has about 10,500 items available without cost. Its collection includes everything from hospital beds, canes and crutches to cots,

cribs and strollers — 89 different kinds of equipment in all, Stevener said.

"We have a big inventory, but it's in constant use," he said.

About 65 percent of the service's collection is out on loan at any given time, Stevener said. The organization's items are in about 3,600 Sun City residences, he added.

Sunshine Service loans medical equipment without a time limit — Stevener said this year a woman returned a cane she borrowed in 1983 — and it also loans guest items on a 30-day limit. If a Sun Citian needs a rollaway bed or a child car seat for visiting grandchildren, the agency can help.

About 85 percent of those who

See Agency sets, A5



Stephen Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Will Stevener sits among exercise cycles the agency loans.

## Agency sets open house to increase awareness

—From A1

borrow such convenience items make a donation to Sunshine Service, while 27 percent of those who use medical equipment give to the organization.

"Most of the time, if they're sick, they can't afford to do it," Stevener said.

"We work strictly on a voluntary basis," he said.

"If they can afford to make a donation, they should. If they can't afford to, they shouldn't even try. ... That's one of the reasons that we're here."

If there were no organization to loan the medical equipment, "what would they do? A lot of people would have to go without it," he said.

The organization, which has 10 part-time employees and two full-time workers, spends about \$25,000 a year buying new equipment and \$15,000

buying parts to keep its older items in shape, Stevener said.

"Donations are always required to keep the place running smoothly," he said.

Last year, Sunshine Service fell about \$42,000 short of income on its budget of \$264,000, but the agency made up the difference with interest from its invested reserves, Stevener said. The service often receives memorials and bequests from those who used its equipment, he added.

Although the organization can trace its origins back to 1961 and has been an incorporated entity since 1964, some new residents are unaware it exists, Stevener said.

To spread the word about Sunshine Service, the agency will conduct an open house from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday at its headquarters, 9980 Santa Fe Drive.



# Sunshine Service spreads the word

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Sunshine Service hopes to spread the word about its sick room equipment loan service through a new brochure it is distributing this week to Sun City residents.

Copies of the new brochure will be delivered to about 26,000 Sun City households this week in copies of Sun Life Magazine.

The brochures were printed to familiarize local residents with the services provided by the non-profit organization, said Don Rees, president of Sunshine's 15-member volunteer board of directors.

"Much to our surprise there are many people in Sun City who do not know about Sunshine Service, so what we are trying to do here is help them learn more about us," Rees said.

Sunshine Service was chartered in 1964 and now loans equipment from its warehouse, at 9980 W. Santa Fe Drive.

The organization is funded solely by contributions and memorial gifts and operations are handled by a paid administrator and staff.

Wilfred Stevener, administrator since 1975, said 3,600 Sun City residents are using items from Sunshine Service this week.

He said the organization's most used items include 1,099 wheelchairs, 1,300 folding and non-folding wheelchairs, 1,300 regular and four-pronged canes.

"Most of those items are out all of the time. There is tremendous demand for them," Stevener said.

Sickroom equipment includes pressure pads, crutches, hand

grips, posey belts, toilet arms and electric lift chairs. Children's equipment, which is in greatest demand during the holidays, includes bassinets, diaper pails and strollers.

Stevener said a committee helped prepare the eight-page brochure, which was printed for \$6,000.

He said the new brochure is an improvement over the organization's previous brochure because it lists all the equipment available to Sun City residents.

In addition, the brochure gives a history of Sunshine Service and overview of its operations. Sunshine Service's budget this year is \$220,000.

"This is the first time we are distributing copies of the brochure to residents. Before it was just a case of people picking a copy up," Stevener said. Residents who do not receive a copy can call 974-2561.

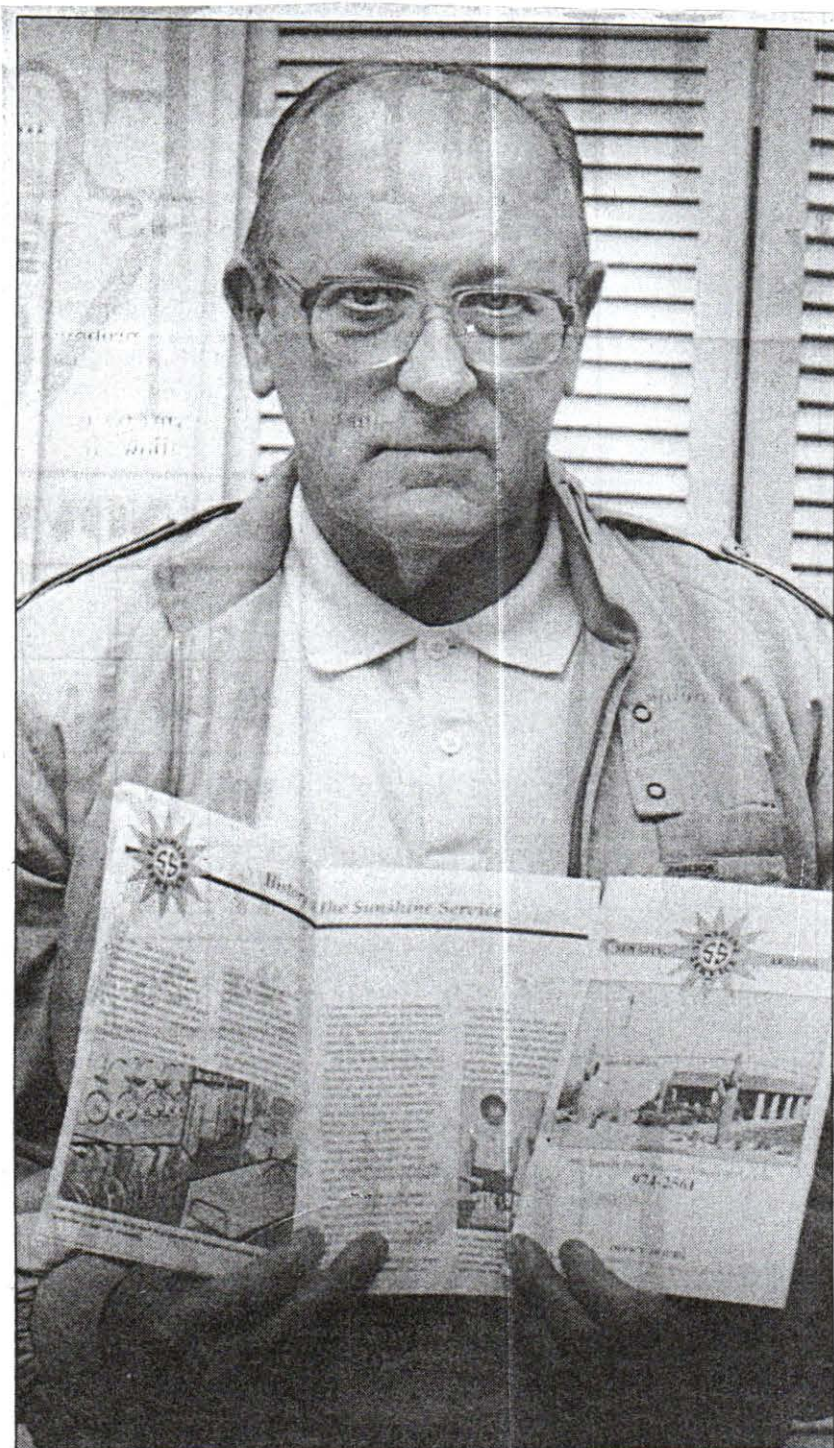
In 1961, a Sunshine Committee was appointed to help residents who were unable to pay for the then \$40 recreation center annual dues.

The committee learned that a resident had to pay \$35 for a hospital bed each month so they purchased second-hand medical equipment to loan. The committee later became Sunshine Service.

Del Webb Corp. donated the first building site on Coggins Drive in 1965 and it was occupied with \$8,000 worth of equipment. The warehouse was later moved to its present location and has an inventory worth more than \$750,000.

In 1982, a separate unit was started in Sun City West.





Frances Guarino/Daily News-Sun

Don Rees, president of the Sunshine Service volunteer board of directors, holds copies of a new brochure the organization has printed. Copies of the new brochure will be delivered to about 26,000 Sun City households this week.



Tuesday, March 28, 1989 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

# Sunshine Service helps

## Local organization celebrating 25 years of service

By CONNIE STEELE-MILLER  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — There's a place in Sun City where residents may borrow, free of charge, just about anything they need in sickroom or guest-room equipment.

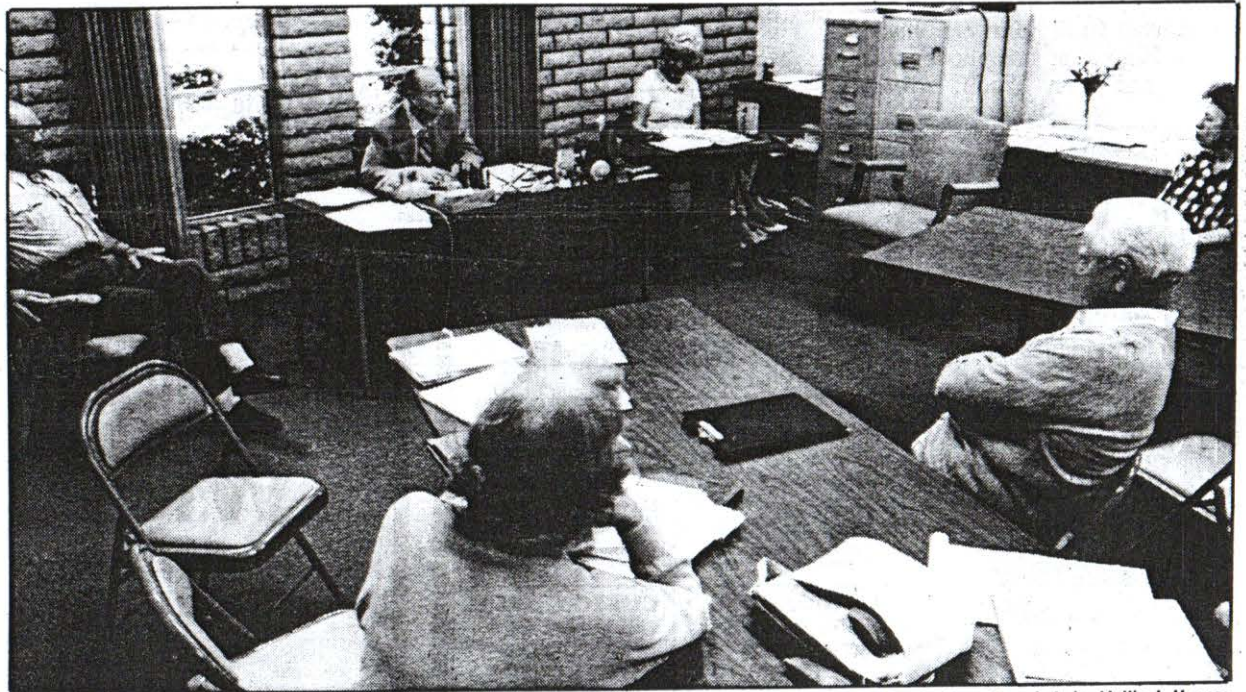
This place has helped, among others, Paul Brehm's wife, Eleanor. She's crippled by Lou Gehrig's disease. She can't use her hands, can't feed herself and can't talk.

But because of this Sun City service, Mrs. Brehm can communicate her needs. She uses a device called a Light Talker. It's a computerized device activated by an infrared light beam worn in a band around her head.

The helpful place that bought this device for Mrs. Brehm is called Sunshine Service Inc.

Paul Brehm said, "It helps a lot expense-wise. Their services are a gratuity. A disease like Lou Gehrig's is a very expensive thing. So anything you can get that you don't have to pay for is a great deal of assistance."

Sunshine Service has been helping Sun Citizens since 1961 when it was first launched by the late Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, a board member of the Sun City Home Owners Association. It's been an independent, non-profit corporation for 25 years.



News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**SUNSHINE SERVICE BOARD MEETS** — In March, from left, Wilfred Stevener, administrator; John Lang, president; Rose

Larsen, secretary; Patricia Ferris Vickery, 2nd vice president; Ralph Gerber; Helen Vallee Erway, 1st vice president.

OVER



People on hand for Sunshine Service's silver anniversary reads like a who's who — Haakon Bang, chairman of Sun Health Corp.; Phil Dion, chairman of Del Webb Corp.; Ray Danford, president, Recreation Centers of Sun City.

But more importantly, many "wonderful people" of Sun City will be there.

In an interview prior to the dedication of Sunshine Service's building on Santa Fe Drive, Thistlethwaite said, "We couldn't extend personal invitations to our hundreds of friends, but we hope all the wonderful people of Sun City who have made this possible will come to the . . . open house."

"There's hardly a club or organization that has not contributed to Sunshine Service," said Wilfred Stevener, who has managed Sunshine Service since 1975.

Stevener is the service's first paid administrator. Before that he was the group's first vice president in charge of organization.

Rev. Thistlethwaite, founder of Sunshine Service, was also its heart and soul according to those who knew him before he died in 1987. Helen Vallee Erway, co-chairman of the celebration, said it (Sunshine Service) would never have existed if it hadn't been for this gentle man of faith who forgot to retire.

And the man he selected to run the facility seems to have carried on the founder's tradition.

"He (Stevener) is a wonderful man. He has a lot of feeling for the people who need help around here," Brehm said.

Fellow Sun City Host Lions Club member and friend, Sam Elliot, agrees. He remembers when Sunshine equipment was old and out of repair. He thinks Stevener revolutionized Sunshine Service.

"Being a retired executive, he knew the ins and outs that made this work. Currently, it is fabulous — since the installation of an administrator and the development of a qualified system to loan, maintain and repair equipment," he said in a telephone interview.

An accident led to his shift from volunteer to paid administrator. Sunshine Service lost its insurance after a youngster on a tricycle ran into an insurance inspector touring the warehouse.

"Before we could get insurance, we had to have a complete audit," Stevener said. The auditing firm recommended hiring an administrator.

"At the completion of that audit, we wrote off \$28,000 worth of equipment because we didn't

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## Special section, inside

---

know where it was," Stevener said.

"We reduced the so-called active files from 2,300 down to 1,800 because we couldn't find those people, either. Some were dead; others had moved away."

Stevener said, "Once we were reorganized and knew what we had, I started buying new equipment. As new equipment was purchased, people appreciated it and donations came in and this permitted Sunshine Service (to) have nothing but good equipment and sufficient equipment that's available for everyone in Sun City."

While Thistlethwaite, Sunshine Service president, and his board were delighted with the changes, not everyone was. Some of the employees quit.

Stevener's management style is clear and simple. He said, "It's much easier to train a person to do the job you want than to fire them. I like good work. I like a clean place and a clean operation. If you work for me and do it the way I like it, you'll seldom see me,"

His way has paid off, he thinks.



# SUN CITY SALUTES

## A SUN THAT NEVER SETS



Fern & E. Duane Thistlethwaite

This salute to Sunshine Service Inc. honors its history and the many,

many men and women who made it a reality --- most notably the Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite

and his wife Fern, who founded the service; Del E. Webb who gave it a home, and Wilfred Stevener, who has helped it grow up. It also hails the help it will bring in the years ahead.



**We're Here When You Need Us**



# Open House

*You're invited to a celebration recognizing 25 years of service to the community*

**SUNDAY, APRIL 2nd**  
**2:00 to 5:00 P.M.**  
 9980 Santa Fe Drive Sun City, Arizona  
 974-2561

**Awards Event**  
 3:00 - 3:30 P.M.  
 • ENTERTAINMENT  
 • REFRESHMENTS





## Saluting 25 years of incorporation

By CONNIE STEELE-MILLER  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Rev. T, as E. Duane Thistlethwaite, founder of Sunshine Service, was affectionately called, when interviewed in 1979, prior to the dedication of Sunshine Service's new building on Santa Fe Drive, said:

"We couldn't extend personal invitations to our hundreds of friends, but we hope all the wonderful people of Sun City who have made this possible will come to the . . . open house."

No improvement can be made on his invitation.

Wilfred Stevener has managed Sunshine Service since 1975 first as the board's first vice president and then in 1978 as its first paid administrator. He has said he doubts any Sun City club or organization has missed giving to Sunshine Service in 25 years of people helping people.

And he said that after 25 years of incorporation Sunshine Service has come close to touching nearly every Sun City neighborhood and household with a lending hand at a time of need.

Yet it's doubtful that in 1961, when the Sun City Civic Association (Home Owners Association) assigned its sick and visiting, and sunshine committees to Rev. T's ministry, anyone guessed at what they were setting in motion. Even when Sunshine Service incorporated on Oct. 19, 1964, there probably wasn't any visionary who could have foreseen the organization of today.

But here it is, expected or not. And many people are thankful. This salute includes only a few of those people. But it is hoped that through their comments and experiences, readers will be able to gain a sense of the impact of this humanitarian organization.

Rev. T's favorite passage of scripture was I Corinthians 13:13 — "So abide in faith, hope and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity," said Helen Vallee Erway, co-chairman of the silver anniversary celebration.

It is my hope that as you read through this collection of letters, testimonials, reprinted newspaper articles and interviews, you will capture that creed shining through the service extended from neighbor to neighbor. If you do, we can all be satisfied that Rev. T would be pleased. Significantly, April 1, the day before the silver anniversary celebration, would have been Rev. T's 97th birthday.

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF  SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY  
SUN CITY ARIZONA

# Open House

## Silver Anniversary Program

### 2:00 P.M. MUSIC ON OUTDOOR STAGE:

Don Sibert - JAZZBEAUS, Trumpet  
Keith Cold - BOB HENKE TRIO, Clarinet  
Bob Hennis - BOB HENNIS BAND, Bass  
Bob Ness - BOB HENNIS BAND, Keyboard  
Ken Hugo - DON NICHOLLS TRIO, Drums

### GUIDED TOURS OF WAREHOUSES - Sunshine Service Staff

### 2:45 P.M. LUCY HAYS AND COMPANY - SUN CITY PLAYERS

Selections from ANNIE GET YOUR GUN  
Lucy leading singing of NATIONAL ANTHEM

### 3:00 P.M. AWARDS CEREMONY

WELCOME: JOHN C. LANG, president - Sunshine Service Inc.  
INVOCATION: REV. RALPH GERBER  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### GUESTS OF HONOR

EMCEE: JERRY SVENDSEN - SUN CITIES LIFE, publisher  
HAAKON BANG, chairman of the board — Sun Health Corporation  
RAY DANFORD, president — Recreation Centers of Sun City  
JOAN BROWN, Carole Carpenter aide - Maricopa County Board of Supervisors  
BOB WILLIAMS — Arizona House of Representatives  
WILFRED STEVENER, administrator - Sunshine Service Inc.  
VINCENT DE FRANCIS, president - Sun City Community Council  
REV. GENE LARAMY, representative - Sun City Ministerial Association

### AWARD PRESENTATION:

PHIL DION, Chairman of the Board — Del Webb Corporation  
Mr. Dion will present an award to Sunshine Service from the community in recognition of 25 years of service.

### 3:30 P.M. REFRESHMENTS: Served in Warehouse GUIDED TOURS: Sunshine Service Staff

### MUSIC IN WAREHOUSE: DUTCH SCHULTZ, Guitar

### MUSIC ON OUTDOOR STAGE: GENTLEMEN OF NOTE (Barbershop)

Bill McEachern, Keyboard  
Francis Best  
Roy Jones

### SILVER ANNIVERSARY CO-CHAIRMEN: HELEN VALLEE ERWAY & JAMES HAUER

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR  
SUNSHINE SERVICE ANNIVERSARY  
POSSE & PARKING - WILFRED STEVENER  
ENTERTAINMENT - RAY POTTER & ROSE LARSEN  
REFRESHMENTS & DECOR - ANNETTE BICKEL  
HOSTS & HOSTESSES - PATRICIA VICKERY  
COMMUNICATIONS - ROSE LARSEN  
PROGRAM & AWARDS CEREMONY - HELEN ERWAY  
& JAMES HAUER  
PUBLICITY - HELEN VALLEE ERWAY, JAMES HAUER  
& ROSE LARSEN

HOSTS & HOSTESSES  
PATRICIA VICKERY, CHAIRMAN  
ADAM SELLMAN  
RAY POTTER  
JOHN LANG  
DR. HERSCHEL PERLMAN  
WILFRED STEVENER  
JACK HARPER  
REV. RALPH GERBER  
JANE FREEMAN

REFRESHMENTS & DECOR  
ANNETTE BICKEL, CHAIRMAN  
THELMA GATH  
JANE FREEMAN  
MARGARET KIERLAND  
DOLORES MORRIS  
JEANETTE SELLMAN  
ALICE POTTER  
ELEANOR COTTINGHAM  
STAND-BY TROUBLE SHOOTERS  
HERB COTTINGHAM & CARL LARSEN



# 'Preparing for our future'

By WILLIAM WOLFREY

**Grateful client of Sunshine Service**  
SUN CITY — Part of the reason my wife and I decided to move to Sun City was the very strong feeling I had that the Lord had something he wanted me to do here.

I had no idea what it was, but I was sure that it would develop. On the way out here, we had an (auto) accident and when we arrived my wife had a broken back.

So for the first two years, I kept house until she recovered fully.

When I was asked if I would serve on the board of Sunshine Service, I

jumped at the chance. I felt this was one of the greatest organizations I'd ever heard of.

In 1962 when the Rev. Thistlethwaite was inspired to start Sunshine Service, he had nothing but ideas. But those ideas were sound and the resulting service is something our people desperately needed.

Now it is serving thousands of people all the time.

It was very satisfying to be a part of an organization that met such a basic human need so effectively. I served on the board for five years.

While spending some 25 years be-

fore then working with the problems of aging, I became aware of another similar need. Along with several others who shared the same ideas in 1981, we put together the Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services. We wanted another way of assisting people who need supportive help to retain some measure of independence.

At that time we too had nothing but ideas, but IFS is now serving about 3,000 people a year.

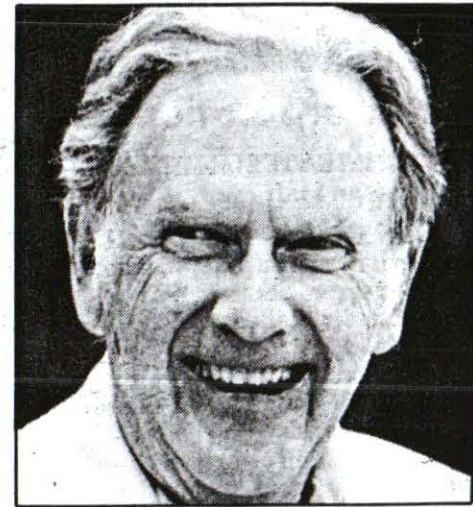
These two organizations, along with the hospitals and SCAT, form the nucleus of what every community, especially one of older people, must have. They are the most essential organizations in the community.

There is one major difference between the two. Sunshine Service has established such a reputation it no longer struggles for money to keep its operation functioning.

However Interfaith Service is still so new and unknown that it hasn't reached that point. But I am sure that before it is 25 years old, it too will have the kind of reputation that will guarantee the necessary financial support.

Operating organizations like these requires a lot of volunteer time.

Sometimes when my wife worried about the amount of time it was taking, my usual response was 'I am only preparing for our future.' Little did I realize how true those words were.



Submitted photo

**WILLIAM WOLFREY** — Sunshine Service Inc. board member 1979 - 1984 and first president of Interfaith Services Inc.

In the Spring of 1987, I began to have difficulty speaking clearly. Tests in July showed that I have Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS — Lou Gehrig's Disease).

This is a scary, progressive disease that is eventually fatal. It can lead to complete paralysis so that the only parts of the body that work are the mind and the eyes.

And every case seems to progress at a different pace.

Two of our friends here with the disease went from full activity to complete helplessness in six months, while another friend has had it for nine years and still walks, talks, eats  
See Talker, page 6



# Talker gives back speech

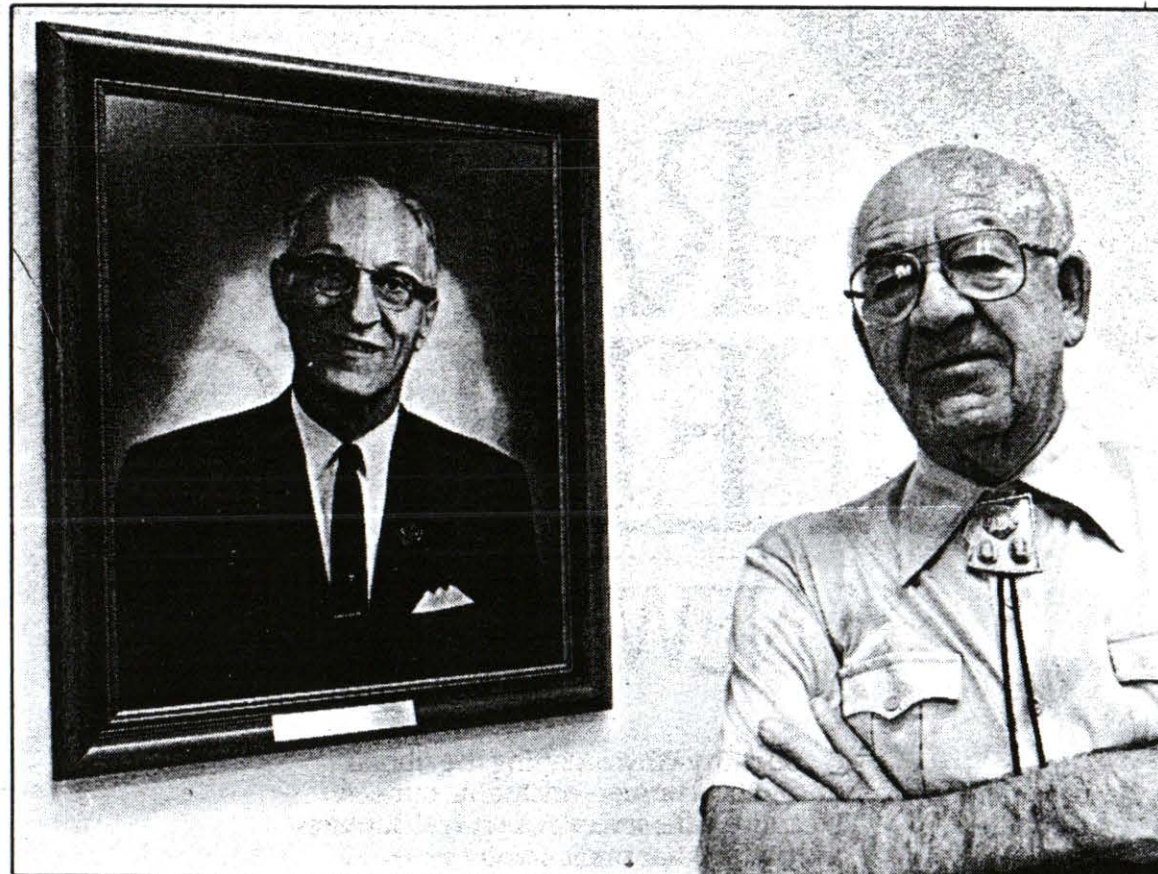
— From page 4  
and even drives his car a little.

I am very fortunate in that it has only deprived me of my ability to speak and eat. The latter has been taken care of by a feeding tube installed directly into my stomach — all my food is liquid. My inability to speak, for one who has done more than his share, has been terribly frustrating.

However, when Sunshine Service heard about my problem, they decided that here was an opportunity to move into an area that they had not provided for in the past.

I had researched the field of augmentative communication devices and had decided that one called Touch Talker was the best for my needs. We were going to buy it even though it was expensive and even though my use of it might be limited.

But Sunshine Service decided that it would be a good idea to have such a device in its inventory. It recognized that when I could no longer use it, they could pass it on to someone else who could not talk but who could type.



News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**WILFRED STEVENER** — Administrator of Sunshine Service Inc. since 1975, stands beside a portrait of the Rev. E.

**Duane Thistlethwaite**, founder of the service, prior to meeting with the board of directors Thursday, March 16.

The Touch Talker is a computer-based piece of equipment that has an ordinary typewriter keyboard. It is em-

bellished with pictures in addition to letters.

You type in what you want to say. When you press the

right button, a very normal voice speaks what you just typed.

Pictures symbolize phrases

or sentences that you wish to program. They can be repeated as often as necessary by a touch on one or two keys. This component is for someone more restricted in activity than I am at this point. I use it largely for conversation. It takes a little longer to respond to someone else's comments or questions, but it sure relieves the frustration of not being able to respond at all, or having to write everything you want to say.

Sunshine Service is also helping another ALS patient through the use of a Light Talker. It responds in the same way but to a light beam when you cannot use your fingers to type.

I was thankful for the opportunity to work with Sunshine Service and also with Interfaith Services. It is highly possible, depending on the way my disease progresses, I may be using its services also.

My wife and I are so thankful that we had the foresight to move to Sun City. Not only is the climate wonderful and the lifestyle very satisfying, but we are so thankful that the community has these two so important organizations — Sunshine Service and Interfaith Services.



## Responding to needs

By W.E. STEVENER

SUN CITY — Byron Eberwein came to Sunshine Service in October 1988 asking if we were interested in expanding our service. We were and are.

He asked me to see William T. Wolfrey. Bill Wolfrey has Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS). ALS destroys the muscles of the body. Bill cannot talk (not one word), cannot eat, and is fed through a tube surgically inserted into his stomach.

Bill's wife had set up a demonstration on a "talking computer" with a man from California. Since Bill's hands are in a condition that he can type, he could use what is known as a "touch talker." The message is typed into the computer and the talk button is pushed and the message comes out loud and clear.

I was invited to the demonstration, spent some time observing what this machine does and was impressed, to say the least.

At the demonstration was Eleanor Brehm who also has Lou Gehrig's disease. However, Mrs. Brehm has no use



News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

### BOARD HOLDS MARCH MEETING —

In the Santa Fe Drive office of Sunshine Service. From left, Patricia Ferris Vickery, 2nd vice president; Jack Harper,

assistant treasurer; Howard Gosney, Robert Hoh, treasurer; Ralph Gerber, James Hauer, Helen Vallee Erway, 1st vice president.

of her hands and her fingers are so crippled that she cannot use her fingers. Like Bill, Mrs. Brehm is also unable to speak.

In her case, the demonstrator put a band around her

head with an infrared light. There are symbols on the face of the computer, the light is directed to the symbol, and the message is relayed. For example, if the symbol is a

glass with water, the message is "I want a glass of water." In this way, communication is possible.

I presented the proposal for a talking computer to the en-

tire board of directors. The board approved it and the expenditures for this project.

Now, Bill Wolfrey has a Touch Talker that has been purchased by Sunshine Service Inc. It's a part of him. He takes it wherever he goes. When the Wolfreys celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, they repeated their vows. Bill typed his part of the vows into the machine and when he pressed the talk button, out came the words, "I do. I do. I do."

The entire roomful of guests at the Baptist Church at Burns and Hutton were struck with awe.

Eleanor Brehm has a Light Talker purchased by Sunshine Service. She'll have use of this machine for as long as she needs.

Eugene Shulze too uses a Light Talker supplied to him by Sunshine Service. He is another victim of Lou Gehrig's disease and is unable to speak.

This is the latest type of equipment Sunshine Services is involved in.

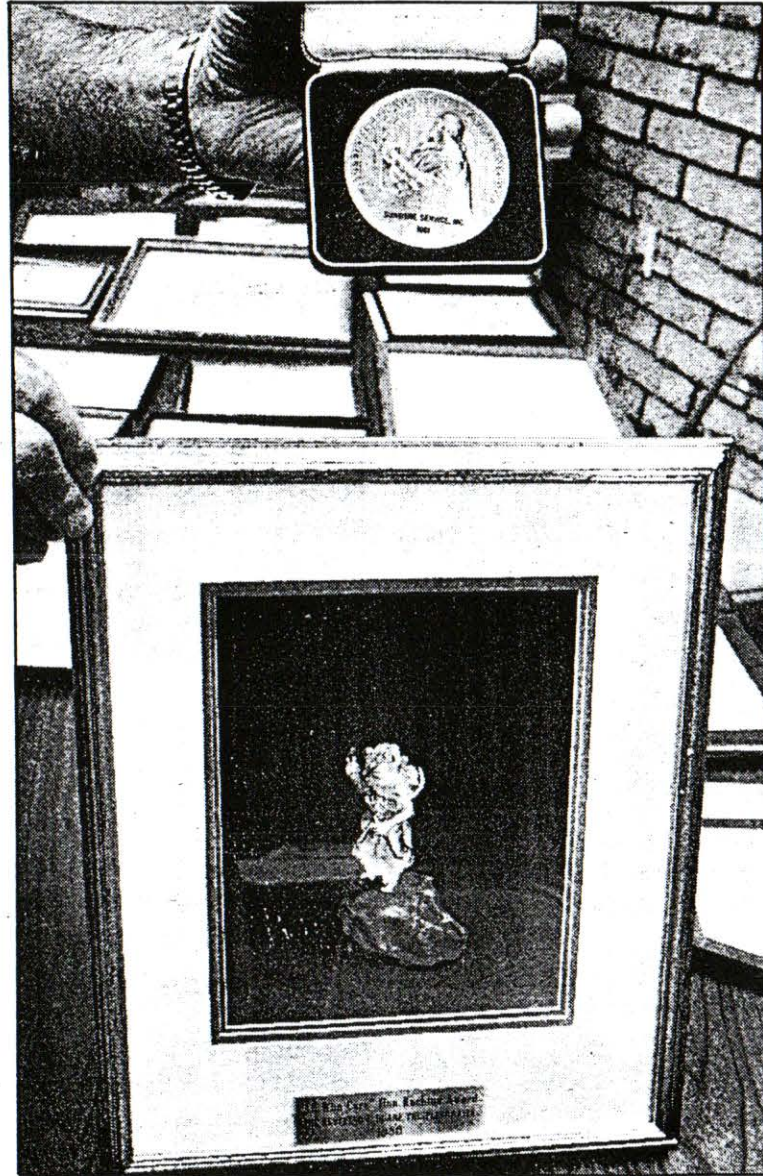
### Client gives thanks

Feb. 6, 1989

Dear Will:

Sylvia and I certainly appreciate the loving interest expressed by Sunshine Service





News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

## Entering new areas

in getting the Touch Talker for us. For anyone who has done as much talking as I have, whether I knew what I was talking about or not, being deprived of that ability by ALS has produced immeasurable frustration. The Touch Talker goes a long way in relieving a portion of that frustration.

Since I served on your board, I appreciate the wonderful service provided in so many areas of need for Sun Citizens. Taking the added step of providing these prosthetic appliances, the Touch Talker and the Light Talkers, is reaching a whole new area of service. There are many conditions that we older people find ourselves in that deprive

us of the ability to speak and make our wants and needs known. You people coming to our rescue is a great step forward.

I shall take good care of it so that when I can no longer use it, it will be in good shape to pass on to someone else who is limited in their communication skills. I want to express my grateful thanks to each and every member of Sunshine Service, and to you personally, Will, for the keen interest you have shown to those of us suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease.

Yours most sincerely,  
Bill Wolfrey



News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**MARY DARE** — Works part-time filling orders for childrens equipment.



News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**LOYAL EMPLOYEE** — Kay Rush has worked in the Sunshine Service front office for the past 10 years.

**AWARDS** — Honoring Sunshine Service include a Freedom Foundation medal and Hon Kachina award of The Luke's Men, a Phoenix organization.



## Counting our blessings

By EVELYN BARBER  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Most Sun Citians count Sunshine Service among their many community blessings.

Yet there still are some residents who say they've never heard of it.

That must be because they've never been hospitalized, suffered an extended illness or had out-of-town visitors, especially those with children, for any length of time.

But if any or all of those things happen, they'll soon become acquainted with Sunshine Service and be grateful they can get sickroom equipment or things like cribs for grandchildren so easily.

As a Sunshine Service beneficiary, I can attest to the value of the service.

Like many another Sun Citian, the time came when I had to have a total hip replacement. It's no fun and there's a six-week convalescence — or more.

Believe me, being able to borrow a bedside chair, a walker, a wheelchair and other equipment helped me to



Sunshine Service photo

**FERN THISTLETHWAITE** — Stands by donated equipment stored on the Thistlethwaite lanai. In time Del E. Webb gave land on Coggins Drive.

get through it with comparative comfort.

I didn't need a hospital bed but I could have had one if I did.

And when my father was ill for such a long time, we bor-

rowed a walker, a wheelchair and other equipment that made it easier for him to get around.

I remember when he was in a local nursing home, the wife of the patient in the bed next

to his marveled at Sunshine Service's convenience.

As a resident of Phoenix, she had to rent equipment and haul it all the way out to Sun City. It was expensive, too.

There is no rental "fee" at

Sunshine Service; you can have what you need just by presenting your rec card.

The service operates on donations from grateful users of equipment, from Sun City residents — who give because they appreciate having the service available if they need it — from clubs and civic organizations and from memorial gifts.

The service is unique and it originated right here in Sun City. Its founders, the Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite and his wife, Fern, had no idea the service would develop so fast when they started lending out four hospital beds and later other equipment that they stored on their screen porch.

They were a wonderful couple. They saw a chance to serve their neighbors and they did it with no concern about the hard work it involved.

I didn't know Fern Thistlethwaite, but I remember her husband especially from one joyous day in March 1983 when he received the News-Sun's Apex Award for outstanding longtime community service.

Rev. Thistlethwaite had been very ill for many months and was in a nursing home. There was only a slight chance that he'd be able to accept his plaque at the awards luncheon.



## A service is born, grows

By CONNIE STEELE-MILLER  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — People meeting needs of people created Sunshine Service.

As described by Helen Vallee Erway, first vice president of Sunshine Service, it began as all good stories, "Once upon a time ... in the fledgling Sun City of 1961, someone thought there should be a Sunshine Committee and a Committee to Visit the Sick. Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, a member of the Sun City Home Owners Association, was appointed to serve as chairman of both," she said.

"What luck for everyone thereafter! Under the guidance of this energetic and imaginative man, with his overtones of gentle spirituality, Sunshine Service evolved.

"In the ethic that believes good things are earned, this unique organization has worked for its place in the sun.

"That first year in the Thistlethwaite apartment, Rev. T and his devoted wife, Fern, struggled and tussled with beds and wheelchairs and



News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**LOADING UP** — Max Shuler, left, and Larry Wilson, Sunshine Service employees, load a rollaway into the trunk of a borrower's car.

assorted items, some of which often got stuck in their doorways, as they made sickroom equipment available on loan to residents in 29 homes," Erway said.

"The most recent estimate of services, to a Sun City grown to a population of about

48,000," Erway said, "is that assorted equipment (discreetly identified by special markers as belonging to Sunshine Service Inc.) works quietly, usefully and without charge or time limit or any obligation in some 3,600 homes."

Inspired by Rev. T's exam-

ple, who founded and nurtured the idea, countless others have stepped forward, volunteering their time and efforts to build an organization providing free service of the highest quality.

One of them is William Gresko. A retired engineer, Gresko is Sunshine Service's

Mr. Fixit. Any job too tough for Sunshine's able staff — jobs that demand inventing a device, casting of special screws, bolts, connectors — is the job Gresko gets.

Another is Max Gimpel, a Sun City artist. Gimpel in a 1982 News-Sun interview said he'd designed a logo for a certificate honoring Rev. T's 88th birthday. Garnett Jones, a board member, liked it and asked Gimpel if he could use it as a logo on Sunshine Service stationary. From there it was adopted as the official Sunshine Service logo.

And still another was Del E. Webb himself. Webb and his construction company have always been there for Sunshine Service.

As Erway said, "When in 1965 the seams of the Thistlethwaite walls threatened to burst, the Del E. Webb Co. came to the rescue. The first official Sunshine Service building opened its doors that year at 10307 Coggins Drive with an inventory valued at some \$8,000."

Webb's company donated the land on Coggins Street for the service's first real home away from the Thistlethwaite lanai and constructed the \$14,000 building entirely from money donated by Sun City service clubs, churches, or-



We thought if he was unable to make it for the awards ceremony, we'd arrange a suitable presentation at his bedside, if necessary.

We didn't take into consideration his remarkable spirit.

He was so excited about the award that he found the strength somewhere in his spiritual reserves to travel by car from the nursing home and show up in his wheelchair, dressed in his best.

He charmed the whole place. He was affable and highly pleased. And when the presentation was made, he gave a little thank-you speech that touched everyone.

I know Sunshine Service, during its 25 years, has received a number of local, state and national awards, including the George Washington Honor Medal for services to the sick and handicapped, presented by the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge, Pa.

But the Apex Award was a recognition of personal achievement. And I'll never forget Rev. Thistlethwaite as he sat so straight in his wheelchair and told the luncheon guests how proud he was to be recognized.

It has often occurred to me that Sun City's true wealth is in people like E. Duane and Fern Thistlethwaite.



Sunshine Service photo

**NEW BUILDING** — Friends of Sunshine Service Inc. on Santa Fe Drive. As with the Coggins Drive location, gathered in 1973 to dedicate the first building constructed Del Webb donated the land and many services.



## From storage to owning land

ganizations and individuals. At its dedication in July, Webb presented Rev. Thistlethwaite with the flag and flagpole that today stand in front of the Santa Fe facility. Three years later Webb and Sun Citians built and paid for an addition to the building.

Erway said, "If Topsy grew fast, Sunshine Service grew faster. Many residents had by

now discovered and used this distinctly different organization with the shining name that conveyed the warmth of its services."

And the Del E. Webb Co. continued to back Sunshine Service generously. In 1973 it donated property and built at cost the first Sunshine Service facility on Santa Fe Drive.

Erway said, "Further leaps and bounds marked that year when interested Sun Citians, the Snyder Transfer Co., the Del E. Webb Co. and other

builders and landscapers brought a new building to completion.

"But demand for Sunshine Service still grew and grew," said Erway.

So when that office and warehouse were outgrown three years later, the Del E. Webb Co. gave more land, provided paving and built at cost a 7,463 square-foot warehouse addition, which Sunshine Service dedicated in October 1977.

Said Erway, "Then 15,663

square feet of edifice housed what had become an important part of the community."

But growth had become a pattern and Erway said, "In 1985, expansion was once more necessary."

This second addition produced, Erway said, "the present well equipped and splendidly efficient building containing 24,438 square feet."

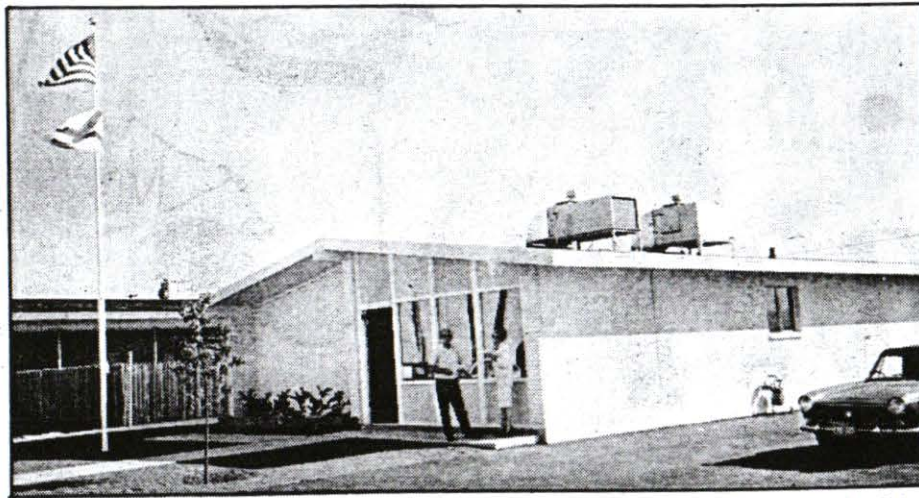
The addition cost \$240,000 and boasts administrative offices, a board room, modern

cleaning facilities, and space for handling and repairing equipment.

Erway invites people to come by and see for themselves what the community has provided for this service.

"Anyone wishing to pace it off is more than welcome, as are visitors at any time," she said.

Because Sunshine Service emerged from the advent of retirement communities, it has been molded by the special See Volunteers, page 16



Sunshine Service photo

**COGGINS DRIVE BUILDING** — Measured only 30 feet X 50 feet but it was a giant improvement. The flagpole presented by Del E. Webb stands today in front of Sunshine Service Inc.



## Volunteers work, serve

— From page 13

cial needs of elderly persons living apart from family or established municipalities. Just as did other Sun City services, such as the Posse and Prides, Sunshine Service took shape and form as it responded to the unfolding demands of a community designed for retirees.

Most recently, just in the past few months, a "touch talker" and two "light talkers" have been purchased for three Sun Citizens suffering from Lou Gehrig's disease.

But Sunshine Service is more than a convenience or a way to help people in need. In the years since the service became a reality, Sunshine Service Inc. has spared Sun Citizens an estimated \$15 million to \$18 million in fees that would have been paid for borrowing or buying sickroom or other equipment.

Erway said, "A very modest Sunshine Service calculation projects the figure of over \$1.25 million to Sun City residents in the past year."

Similar savings to Sun Citizens peaked in 1986 when records show an annual rental fee savings of \$1.25 million and have remained fairly constant since then, Stevener said recently.

Analysis suggests an annual taxpayer savings of another \$1 million by avoiding Medicare reimbursement and administration costs. Stevener estimates 80 percent of all loans made by Sunshine Service could qualify for Medicare reimbursement, which pays 80 percent of a medical expenditure.

Stevener said, "Every day you take a person out of the hospital, you save the taxpayers money."

Sunshine Service does just that. Providing medical equipment helps maintain some elderly at home. More than 900 wheelchairs are in use among Sun Citizens.

"Imagine if you can what would happen if doctors wrote (prescriptions for) and sent 900-plus people out to buy wheelchairs to be paid by Medicare," he said.

So the value of Sunshine Service can be measured not only in humanitarian terms in its community, but also in fiscal ripples that flow out beyond the borders of Sun City.

## Sunshine plaque called 'beautiful'

*This letter appeared in the News-Sun on Monday, Feb. 14, 1983.*

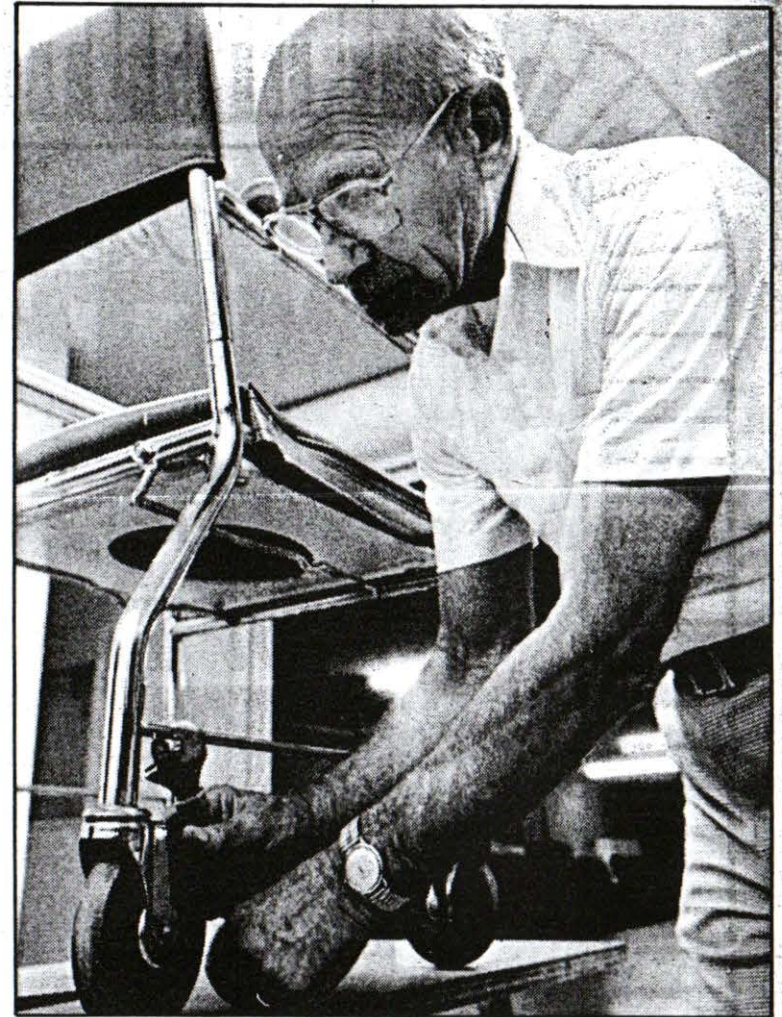
What a beautiful plan — to have a commemorative plaque for the Reverend Mr. Thistlethwaite at Sunshine Service.

For years we have, in our home, enjoyed items that ranged from crutches to baby bed, high chair and stroller and, finally, hospital bed, eggshell mattress and other equipment.

There are hundreds of people in Sun City who could duplicate my recital of the many, many items of sickroom equipment loaned to us for the comfort and care of a sick person in his or her own home during illness, convalescence and in terminal cases, where the loved one was kept in the privacy of his own home.

We showed our appreciation with checks as time passed; bequests were made in memorials and wills to Sunshine Service at death. That is the way Sunshine Service has grown from four used hospital beds to the huge inventory it now has.

Sarah West  
Sun City



News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**TAKING CARE** — Of equipment and maintaining its utility has been Ray Leannais' job for 10 years.



# 95-year-old's accomplishments still endure

*This interview with Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite appeared in the News-Sun Monday, April 20, 1987*

By KAREN S. LEONARD  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — The Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite easily can be called Sun City's own living legend. The 95-year-old lives in Sun Valley Lodge and is visited weekly by his 60-year-old daughter, Ruth Thistlethwaite of Phoenix.

"At the rate he's going, he's going to outlive me," she says.

She says her father is blind and can't remember from one hour to the next whether she has visited him. Friends no longer call on him because he doesn't remember them.

Yet, he is far from forgotten.

Thistlethwaite remains a man people can't seem to praise enough.

Mostly remembered as the driving force behind the founder of Sunshine Service, Inc., former co-workers recall with fondness and admiration his many hours of dedication to those in need.

"His heart and soul were with people," says Don Pale-

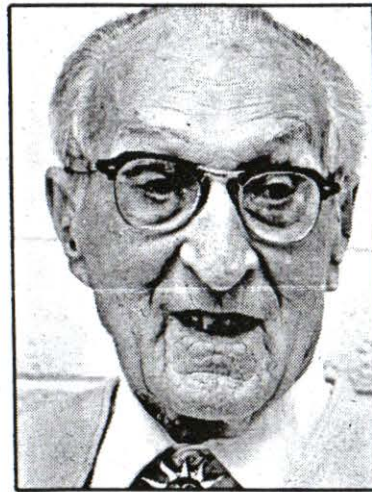


Photo courtesy of Charlotte Bowling

Mostly remembered as the driving force behind the founding of Sunshine Service, Inc., former co-workers recall Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite with fondness and admiration for his many hours of dedication.

rmo whose wife, Dorothy, worked with Thistlethwaite when Sunshine Service first started 25 years ago.

"He was a very conscientious individual and willing to help anybody," says friend Dolores Morris.

"He always had a little joke for you," she says.

Sunshine Service administrator Wilfred E. Stevener says one of Thistlethwaite's favorite jokes was to ask someone how he was and when he answered, "I'm all right," Thistlethwaite would

say, "No you're not. You're half right and you're half left."

Stevener says Thistlethwaite came into Sunshine Service almost every morning. He would look around and then be off to make his many visits to hospitals and homes to people in need.

Ruth Thistlethwaite says her father "got a bigger charge out of visiting people than anything else."

He visited ill people even before he got into the ministry, she says. He went to

school to be an electrician and then would go around helping people in his spare time.

After awhile, Ruth says, her father decided to go back to school and become a minister.

Stevener says he believes Thistlethwaite's objective when founding Sunshine Service "was to make certain people in need were taken care of."

Ruth Thistlethwaite says she believes getting Sunshine Service on its feet was his biggest accomplishment. Another was getting a church built in the early 1950s in Indianapolis.

She says her father was always understanding, helpful and tolerant. In addition, he always thought of others.

Thistlethwaite and Stevener didn't always see eye to eye but Stevener says any disagreements they had were easily solved because of Thistlethwaite's ability to get along with people.

Ruth Thistlethwaite says if there ever was anything wrong or her father thought something was wrong, he would go to the person and talk it out.

She says she doesn't remember her parents ever fighting. They disagreed at times, she says, but they'd talk it over and sometimes he'd win and other times her mother, Fern, would.

She says her father had a "quiet way of leading. He didn't intimidate people."

"He could always get me to do something I didn't want to do — willingly," she says.

She does admit her father can be stubborn at times. It's something, she says, he inherited from his father's side.

"I didn't really see (his stubborn side) until he got older," she says. But his stubbornness, she says, is typical of elderly people who have been in charge of their lives and then suddenly find themselves in hospitals or nursing homes being looked after.

Something her father and mother insisted upon and that has stayed with her, she says, is family privacy.

Whatever I heard at home I was expected to keep to myself. ...To this day, I don't talk about people," she says, including talking about her father.



## Devco, Meeker cited

*Del E. Webb and his companies have been an integral part of Sunshine Service Inc.'s growth and success. No tribute would be complete without acknowledging the debt owed to Del Webb Corporation's generosity. The following article appeared in the News-Sun, Nov. 4, 1980*

News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Del E. Webb Development Co. received recognition Monday at a luncheon in The Lakes Club for the role it has played in the growth of Sunshine Service Inc.

John Meeker, Devco president, accepted a desk clock from Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, Sunshine Service president and founder, who expressed gratitude for the help given by the Webb firm through the years. The desk piece is inscribed:

"To John W. Meeker in appreciation of the many cour-



Sunshine Service photo

**SANTA FE DRIVE FACILITY** — After adding two additional warehouses to the original warehouse and

tesies extended to Sunshine Service Inc."

Said Meeker:

"This service began with a couple who saw a need and answered it," referring to 1962 when Mr. Thistlethwaite and his wife, Fern, stored hospital equipment in their home and conducted the free

loan service for what was then the Sunshine Committee.

Praising Rev. Thistlethwaite, Sunshine Service officers, board members and staff for their dedication, Meeker continued, "We have been mutually supportive and that's the key to our success." He admonished them to "keep

office, space totals 22,438 square feet. Right from the beginning, Webb companies gave to meet the need.

spreading sunshine."

Other Webb men at the luncheon were Joe Aubin, executive vice president; Gerald Williams, the firm's attorney; Jerry Svendsen, vice president and public relations; Jerry Safran, commercial designer; and Don Tuffs, Sundome management.

"Our original aim has never changed, to help people. From \$150 worth of equipment 18 years ago, Sunshine Service is now worth a million-plus, and all paid for," said (Wilfred) Stevener, administrator. "Without Devco, the service wouldn't have been anywhere near where it is today."



## Old times remembered

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

SUN CITY — Sam Elliot goes back a long while with Sunshine Service Inc., the Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite and Wilfred Stevener. And they share a lot of experiences.

For one thing, they were all members of the Sun City Host Lions Club. For another, they've shared an active and sincere interest in their community.

His friend, Stevener, has said, "Some people might think at times, Sam's abrupt. But he talks straight. You know right where he is."

Elliot remembers when Sunshine Service "was getting by on donated equipment such as you'd give to the Salvation Army."

That was when it was "over on Coggins Drive and had a little dinky building," he said. "We were not really established. It was vastly different — about the size of a living room."

He recalled when he and his wife arrived in Sun City. "Rev. T brought an old wheelchair over for us to use."



News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**AWAITING VISITING VIPs** — Strollers, car seats, highchairs and beds will be loaned when needed. Max Shuler, left, and Larry Wilson stand ready to help.

They were grateful, he said, but they also could hardly wait to get their own.

Elliot said when Sunshine Service incorporated, that was a turning point in its development.

"When they built the building on Santa Fe, it wasn't the same organization," he said.

He also credits Stevener with making the service what it is today.

"When Stevener went in as administrator — Rev. T was getting pretty old and couldn't

do as much — being a retired executive he knew the ins and outs that made this work."

He praised Sunshine's administrator of the past 14 years.

Sun Citian Paul Brehm agrees. "Mr. Stevener especially needs a lot of praise because he's a wonderful man. He has a lot of feeling for the people who need help around here."

Brehm's wife, Eleanor, crippled by Lou Gehrig's dis-

ease, is able to "talk" by using a Light Talker device on loan from Sunshine Service.

"A disease like Lou Gehrig's is a very expensive thing," said Brehm. "So anything you can get that you don't have to pay for is a good deal of assistance."

Elliot, who had thought he wouldn't have much to say, said over the telephone, "Currently it (Sunshine Service) is fabulous. Since the installation of an administrator

and the development of a qualified system to loan, maintain and repair equipment."

Elliot has been visually impaired for 28 years. But that hasn't stopped him from working with others — he was the first sight conservation chairman of the Sun City Host Lions Club and still works with the sight impaired.

When he was called at home to be interviewed, it took two calls. The first call reached him busy with his sightless friends.

Elliot's community work has earned him honors. The News-Sun named him 1979 Man of the Year for outstanding community service. In 1981 The Luke's Men, an organization of business and professional men affiliated with St. Luke's Hospital Medical Center and KPNX-TV in Phoenix, included him in its prestigious "12 Who Care/Hon Kachina Awards program.

The awards program honors individuals and organizations from throughout the state. Honorees include professionals and volunteers who have selflessly given their energies to significant community activities. The year before Rev. Thistlethwaite had received the same honor for his efforts in founding Sunshine Service.



# An idea too good to hold

## YT Community Fund

News-Sun staff

For many years the Youngtown Community Fund has loaned sickroom equipment and other items to the town's residents.

The beginnings of the fund's loan service and of Sunshine Service Inc. seem to have been about the same time.

Roger Hanke, manager of the fund, said that he didn't know anyone around who knew exactly, but he thought it began in 1961.

Russ Conant, manager of the service from 1980 through 1985, said he believes service began "sometime in the 1960s."

But what is known is that Youngtown has benefitted from its neighbor.

During his five years as manager, Conant said, Sunshine Service "gave us some hospital beds and things like that that they didn't want anymore."

Tom Dadian, who delivered

sickroom equipment for both organizations, said, "When they (Sunshine Service) replenished their beds, strollers, whatever — they'd donate them to Youngtown Community Fund or to the Indian School."

## Lending Hands Inc.

Congratulations to Sunshine Service on 25 years of faithful service to the Sun City community.

In 1982 a similar service was establishing in Sun City West. Sunshine Service helped us in many ways.

First, they provided us with several pieces of equipment which became our initial inventory.

Second, they set up our inventory control system.

Third, they provided us with a delivery and pick-up service for our hospital beds. Without this help, we would not have been able to launch Lending Hands as early as we did.



News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**ORDERING** — Katherine Rush, from the office, confers with Robert Gustafson from the warehouse.

To Will Stevener, your administrator, we owe much. He has always been helpful and congenial when we needed him.

Thank you Will.

We wish you many years of continuing service to Sun City.

**Wes Ebert**  
administrator  
**Sig Sampson**  
former administrator

## Solecito Services

Solecito Services is a non-profit self-service organization serving Peoria, El Mirage, Surprise, Wittman and Waddell. We lend without charge for home use only: wheelchairs, crutches, hospital beds, bath benches, commodes and more.

Through the efforts of Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, Solecito had its beginning in

May 1982. Sunshine Services contributed \$1,000 in startup funding.

Later in 1986 Wilfred Stevener came to our rescue when Solecito was forced to close its doors after its liability insurance was cancelled. Mr. Stevener arranged a meeting with Prudential Insurance for coverage and the Sun City Lions Foundation for funding.

Solecito is indebted to Sunshine Services for their support. We are now able to meet the needs of our expanding area. By working together we are succeeding in meeting the community's demand for our services.

On behalf of our Board of Directors and Volunteers, we wish you well on your Silver Anniversary.

**Ben Christofferson**  
president

## Solecito Services

As a social worker and discharge planner, it has been a blessing to know that patients can obtain just about anything they would need to assist them in recuperating at home — and at no cost to them.

Many patients only need a walker, wheelchair, bedside commode, hospital bed, etc., for a short time and really



## Helping others

cannot afford to rent or buy the equipment.

It certainly makes my job less stressful when I can refer family members to Sunshine Services.

In another capacity, I served as a board member in the early days of Solecito Services which lends home care equipment to residents of Peoria, El Mirage, Surprise, and Wittman. Solecito Services was modeled after Sunshine Services and received its initial funding from Rev. D. Thistlethwaite and original equipment was donated by Sunshine Services.

Sunshine Services serves a vital need in this community and as noted above has reached out to assist the

surrounding communities as well.

My congratulations to all the hard-working people who are instrumental in making this very fine service work.

**Florence A. Jerousek**  
former board member;  
Valley View Hospital  
social service manager

## SCAT: Sun Cities Area Transit System Inc.

My wife and I have lived in Sun City since 1979. On a number of occasions when our grandchildren and great-grandchildren were visiting us we have borrowed cribs, play pens, youth beds, high chairs, etc. from Sunshine Service. One of our friends borrowed a rollaway bed, another borrowed a hospital bed and a walker.

## Plaza del Rio

Sunshine Service has offered much valued support to individuals at a time when they can least cope with problems. To be there with all different kinds of medical equipment to help residents of the community on a temporary basis is laudable.

The physicians and health care professionals on the Plaza del Rio campus have continually praised the efforts of this organization as it offers such fine assistance to their patients. The community support that makes the service and equipment available adds a great deal of gratification to the true spirit of community.

We at Plaza del Rio applaud this type of community spirit and effort for it is the ingredient that makes a community great. We congratulate Sunshine Services for the past 25

years, and support and applaud that organization for the help and peace of mind they will offer community residents for the next 25 years.

**Sharon Harper,**  
general partner

## Home Owners Association

As president of the Sun City Home Owners Association and the Sun City Community Fund, I see every day how important the Sunshine Service really is. I certainly do compliment them on the excellent way they operate.

From a personal standpoint I have had an opportunity to call upon the Sunshine Service several times in the 14 years we have lived in Sun City.

We had just moved here when my mother had a stroke and was in and out of the hospital several times. Since she couldn't walk very well, we borrowed a wheel chair which we kept until she died a year later.

After my mother died, my mother-in-law moved to Sun City. She soon needed a walker and a few years later she progressed to a wheel chair — all supplied by Sunshine Service.

Sunshine Service has given SCAT two wheelchairs for use on our vans.

I think this has been and is one of the greatest things in Sun City. I would imagine that practically every resident has benefitted from this service at one time or another.

**Dale R. Shockley,**  
president

Then it was my turn to get sick. At first, I needed a wheelchair, then a walker and finally a cane.

When you put this all together you can see that the Sunshine Service has saved us a lot of money.

Since the Civic Association (now called the Sun City Home Owners Association) was instrumental in helping to get Sunshine Service started, we are especially proud of them.

**W. B. Forman,**  
president  
H O A

## Royal Oaks

Happy anniversary Sunshine Service!

I have known you since you were "born" in Rev. Thistlethwaite's carport.

You have been there whenever there was a need for canes, wheelchairs, hospital beds, etc. in the home. You were there when children visited and magically produced cribs, high chairs and even tricycles!

On many occasions in both my work and my own parents' home in Sun City, I have been very thankful that you were there.

Congratulations!  
**Virginia Sylvis,**  
executive administrator;  
Sun Valley Lodge,  
retired administrator

## SC Handi-Capables Club

I feel privileged indeed to be able to participate in my own small way in the Silver Anniversary celebration of Sunshine Service, and to pay tribute to its founder, Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite.

I became acquainted with Duane through my position as transportation chairman of the Handi-Capables Club of Sun City, of which Duane Thistlethwaite was a chaplain.

Arranging for his transportation and riding in the van with him gave us a chance for private conversation. I learned that he was a genteel and quietly witty person. I learned too that his first assignment as a chaplain, many years ago, was at Cook County Hospital in Chicago, where I had been hospitalized several times as a child.

Sunshine Service has become a very strong link in the chain of services to the people of Sun City and is a fitting memorial to its founder who spent his life in the service of others.

**William Mower,**  
past president

## SC Ministerial Association

There is an old gospel song entitled "There is Sunshine in My Soul."

In Sun City, the word "sunshine" has become very special. Add the word "service," and it becomes a living entity that brings help, aid and assistance to homes in the community where illness demands special equipment for the caregiver to maintain the one who is ill.

Sunshine Services can almost say, "Name it and we have it."

What makes this "Sunshine" even more important is there is no required fee. And if necessary, larger items, such as a hospital bed, will be delivered and set up ready for immediate use.

Once a Sun City church was asked to house a two-day women's meeting and provide overnight accommodations. After trying several other solutions, contact was made with Sunshine Services. Because the meeting occurred "off-season," Sunshine loaned the church more than 100 cots which were set up in its social hall.

Today Sunshine Service's inventory staggers the imagination. A whole new dimension for caring for the ill has developed and it remains the main thrust of the service rendered. Home care has become possible in a new way.

Again and again, as I served as a Sun City pastor for eight years, I heard all kinds of appreciation for this new found ability to care for family members at home. Help is given also



for rehabilitation and long term care.

Those borrowing equipment have been free to make a "thank you" contribution. Churches and community groups have made contributions.

Persons from across the country have visited to find out about Sunshine Services, so they in turn might try to provide a similar service.

Sun City is a better place to live because Sunshine Service is such a living and vital part of its existence.

**Leslie J. Ross,**  
1st United Methodist Church  
Pastor 1976 - 1984;  
Sunshine Service Inc.  
board of directors 1983 -1984

### Interfaith Services Inc.

Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services would like to take this opportunity to say THANKS to Sunshine Service.

The need for their service is incredible. According to the 1985 special census and the Maricopa County Needs Assessment project, 12,146 persons in the Sun Cities area report having some type of disability. Nearly 5,000 persons report being at or near the poverty level. Over 50 percent of the area population has no nearby family or no family at all.

In working with more than 2,600 people in 1988, Interfaith Services provided more than 60,000 hours of direct services.

Many people we serve face chronic illness. These same people contend with the added tragedy of often becoming ineligible for medicare and private insurance benefits.

Some people have had to spend as much as \$20,000 of their life savings in less than six months on major medical health care expenses. In fact, there have been times that the commode or wheelchair provided at no cost by Sunshine Services enabled someone to continue living in their home. As a result, the remaining meager income was used to buy groceries and pay utilities. The alternative would have been to sell the home, move into a residential care facility and eventually go onto county support.

Such people are capable of independent living with just a few pieces of adaptive equipment and home companion help.

So, thanks to Sunshine Service from Interfaith Services for helping us do our job. Thanks to Sunshine Service for helping residents live independently in their home as long as they are able. And thanks for being part of a team of service organizations that provide the best system of services offered older persons nationwide!!

**Robert P. Pangburn,**  
Executive director

## And Sunshine also speaks

### Board keeps secretary on toes

Sunshine Service keeps me on my toes and I like that.

Being secretary for an astute board of directors (to say nothing of working with such highly motivated presidents such as Bud Eberwein, Ray Potter and John Lang) has engendered a respect that approaches awe.



**Larsen**

And then, there's administrator Wilfred Stevener — a man whose heart extends from his soles to the top of his head. There is no plea for help from residents of Sun City that escapes Will's undivided attention.

Though I'm 74 years old and have had ample time to memorize the dictionary, there are not enough words to describe the pride I feel in being a small part of an organization, that for 25 years, has opened its caring arms to residents of the community.

Kudos to all of you who came before and believed in your dreams!

**Rose Larsen,**  
1989 Board secretary

### A dream stocks warehouse

It is a privilege to write of my five year term served as a director of Sunshine Service.

What started as one man's dream has become a well established, well financed, professionally managed source of help to the citizens of Sun City.



**Cottingham**

Whenever there is a need for sick-room equipment, Sunshine Service is there to serve from a completely stocked warehouse, even to cribs, high chairs, automobile seats for children and roll-away beds. There is no charge for using this equipment, but a donation by the borrower is appreciated upon return of the items.

Sun City citizens have been loyal and cooperative with Sunshine Service and grateful for the scope of its services. Much of the success of Sunshine Service has been due to the compassionate and skillful management of Will Stevener who has been administrator for the past twenty-five years.

Sun City is indeed fortunate to have such a service available, and I am proud to have participated in its growth.

**Eleanor D. Cottingham,**  
Director 1983 - 1988

### Dan Cupid prompted loan

The five years I served as a board member and vice president of Sunshine service inc. were some of my most rewarding years.

Board members are like family. They work together not only for the benefit of the organization but for all concerned.

**Rev. E. Duane Bowling,** Thistlethwaite was responsible for this feeling of all





working together to bring the true purpose of Sunshine Service to Sun City.

It is remarkable to note that this service is supported solely by voluntary contributions. There has never been a fundraising drive to finance the organization.

We have had many unusual requests over the years. One was to aid Dan Cupid.

There was to be a wedding and a number of rollaway beds were needed to sleep out-of-town guests. This presented no problem for our administrator as Wil Stevener always makes certain to have enough equipment on hand to accommodate any need.

Another time I remember receiving a good size check from someone in Germany who had read about Sunshine Service and wanted to contribute to our work.

The plaque on the Sunshine Service building, dedicated in 1983 to Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, says it all: This building is proudly dedicated to Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite whose indispensable leadership, dedication and devotion made Sunshine Service a model of community aid and good will.

**Charlotte Bowling,**  
Director 1980 - 1985

### Loans are free of charge

When I was a member of Sunshine



**Higginbotham** Through my work with the elderly, several times I ran across needed items that Sunshine Service could not furnish, such as, lift chairs for people in nursing homes. I had you purchase them at a great saving for the folks involved.

No one purchases anything. All

Service Inc. Board of Directors, a number of beneficial things happened for the community.

Its building on Santa Fe Drive tripled in size to accommodate the growth of the community.

monies from gifts or donations keep the entire project going. Sunshine Service operates without any indebtedness or solicitation.

Sunshine Service has also helped other similar organizations to start off with gifts of money, equipment and know how, such as Lending Hands of Sun City West.

Sunshine Service Inc. is truly the only one like it in the world, I think. Its growth over the years from the generosity of the people has been phenomenal.

**Sam J. Higginbotham,**  
Sunshine Service Inc.,  
board member 1979 - 1984



# Sunshine Service Inc.

## Boards of Directors

### 1979 - 1989

A listing of board members of Sunshine Service Inc. often reads like a Who's Who of community leaders. Meeting to advise and encourage administrator Wilfred Stevener, the board has represented the interests of the service and the community it serves. Only the boards spanning the decade of the 80s have been listed. Regrettably many individuals worthy of recognition will not receive it in this listing.

#### 1989

Annette Bickel  
Spencer Earnshaw  
Byron Eberwein  
Helen Vallee Erway,  
**1st vice president**

Jane Freeman  
Ralph Gerber  
Howard Gosney  
William Gresko  
Jack Harper,  
**assistant treasurer**

James Hauer  
Robert Hoh, **treasurer**  
John Lang, **president**  
Rose Larsen, **secretary**

Herschel Perlman  
Ray Potter  
Donald Rees  
Willis Reineman  
Adam Sellman  
Patricia Vickery,  
**2nd vice president**

#### 1988

Annette Bickel  
Thomas Clewes, **treasurer**  
Eleanor Cottingham,  
**2nd vice president**

Spencer Earnshaw  
Helen Vallee Erway  
Paul Eskew  
Ralph Gerber  
Howard Gosney  
William Gresko  
Jack Harper

Robert Hoh,  
**assistant treasurer**

John Lang,  
**1st vice president**  
Rose Larsen, **secretary**  
Herschel McManus  
Dolores Morris  
Herschel Perlman  
Ray Potter, **president**  
Donald Rees  
Willis Reineman  
Patricia Vickery

#### 1987

Annette Bickel  
Thomas Clewes, **treasurer**  
Eleanor Cottingham,  
**2nd vice president**

Spencer Earnshaw  
Paul Eskew  
Ralph Gerber  
Howard Gosney  
William Gresko  
Robert Hoh,  
**assistant treasurer**  
John Lang,  
**1st vice president**  
Rose Larsen, **secretary**

Herschel McManus  
Dolores Morris  
Herschel Perlman  
Ray Potter, **president**  
Donald Rees  
Willis Reineman  
Charlotte Waite

#### 1986

Gilbert Alinder  
Annette Bickel  
Thomas Clewes,  
**assistant treasurer**  
Evelyn Conlin,  
**1st vice president**  
Eleanor Cottingham,  
**2nd vice president**  
Byron Eberwein, **president**

Ralph Gerber  
Howard Gosney  
Robert Hoh  
Harold Jordan, **treasurer**

John Lang  
Rose Larsen  
Herschel McManus  
Dolores Morris  
Ray Potter  
Donald Rees



Charlotte Waite  
La Verne Weimer, **secretary**

## 1985

Gilbert Alinder  
Annette Bickel  
Thomas Clewes  
Evelyn Conlin,  
**assistant treasurer**

Eleanor Cottingham,  
**2nd vice president**  
Byron Eberwein  
Thomas Fitzgerald, **president**

Robert Graham,  
**1st vice president**  
William Gresko  
Robert Hoh  
Harold Jordan, **treasurer**  
Dolores Morris  
Virginia Nelson  
Margaret Patterson  
Ray Potter  
Leslie Ross  
Heinz Schulz  
Charlotte Waite  
LaVerne Weimer, **secretary**

## 1983 - 1984

Gilbert Alinder  
Charlotte Bowling,  
**2nd vice president**

William Campbell  
Thomas Clewes  
Evelyn Conlin,  
**assistant treasurer**

Eleanor Cottingham  
Bud Eberwein  
Thomas Fitzgerald, **president**  
Lucille Goodman  
Bob Graham  
William Gresko  
Sam Higginbotham  
Gustaf Holstrom  
Harold Jordan, **treasurer**  
William Maxant,  
**1st vice president**

Dolores Morris  
Virginia Nelson  
Margaret Patterson  
Gerald Richardson  
Leslie Ross  
Heinz Schulz  
Charlotte Waite, **secretary**  
Laverne Weimer  
William Wolfrey  
Duane Thistlethwaite,  
**honorary board member**

## 1982 - 1983

Gilbert Alinder  
Charlotte Bowling  
Evelyn Conlin  
Bud Eberwein  
Thomas W. Fitzgerald,  
**treasurer**

Lucille Goodman  
Bob Graham  
Howard Gosney,  
**1st vice president**

William Gresko  
Sam J. Higginbotham  
Gustaf H. Holmstrom  
Robert J. Kolar, **president**  
John C. Lang,  
**2nd vice president**

Willard C. Lighter  
William Maxant,  
**assistant treasurer**  
Virginia Nelson, **secretary**  
Margaret G. Patterson  
Gerald F. Richardson  
Leslie J. Ross  
Guy Sartor  
Heinz K. Schulz  
Charlotte T. Waite  
Frank H. Weiner  
William T. Wolfrey  
Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite,  
**immediate past president**

## 1981 - 1982

Gilbert Alinder  
Charlotte Bowling  
Edythe Bregnard  
Evelyn Conlin  
Bud Eberwein  
Thomas W. Fitzgerald,  
**assistant treasurer**

Lucille Goodman  
Bob Graham  
Howard Gosney,  
**1st vice president**

William Gresko  
Sam J. Higginbotham  
Mrs. Garnett Jones  
E. Harold Jordan, **treasurer**  
Robert J. Kolar, **president**  
John C. Lang,  
**2nd vice president**

Willard C. Lighter  
William Maxant  
Virginia Nelson, **secretary**  
Margaret G. Patterson  
Helen Quy  
Guy C. Sartor  
Clara M. Sicher  
Frank H. Weiner  
William T. Wolfrey  
Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite,  
**immediate past president**

## 1980 - 1981

Edyth Bregnard  
Charlotte Bowling  
Leslie E. Duran  
Thomas W. Fitzgerald  
William Gresko  
Howard Gosney,  
**2nd vice president**

Sam J. Higginbotham  
Earl M. Holmes  
Roy Houston,  
**assistant treasurer**

Mrs. Garnet Jones  
E. Harold Jordan, **treasurer**  
Robert J. Kolar,  
**1st vice president**

John C. Lang  
Willard C. Lighter  
William Maxant  
Virginia Nelson  
Margaret G. Patterson  
Helen Quy  
Guy C. Sartor  
Clara M. Sicher  
Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite,  
**president**

Charlotte T. Waite, **secretary**  
Frank H. Weiner

Ray A. Williams  
William T. Wolfrey

## 1979 - 1980

Edyth Bregnard  
Charlotte Bowling  
Ruth Darrah  
Leslie E. Duran  
Howard Gosney,  
**2nd vice president**

Sam J. Higginbotham  
Earl M. Holmes  
Roy Houston,  
**assistant treasurer**

Mrs. Garnet Jones  
E. Harold Jordan,  
**treasurer**

Robert J. Kolar,  
**1st vice president**

John C. Lang  
Willard C. Lighter  
Gustav Lucie  
Kenneth Marion  
William Maxant  
Margaret Murray  
Helen Quy  
Guy C. Sartor  
Clara M. Sicher  
Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite,  
**president**

Charlotte T. Waite,  
**secretary**

Frank H. Weiner  
Ray A. Williams  
William T. Wolfrey.



## Clients write to say thanks

One of the following letters was written upon request for the occasion of the 25th Anniversary Celebration. Others have been taken from Sunshine Service files. Names on letters taken from files have been withheld.

March 16, 1989

Dear Mr. Stevener,

Lying in bed, completely immobilized, in a Hong Kong hospital for a month gave me ample time to think of many things — including how I would manage by myself at home.

What a relief it was to be told the day before I was shipped home air express that a wheelchair and numerous other sickroom supplies were already in my home, courtesy of Sunshine Service (nurse not included).

This was not my first introduction to Sunshine Service, however. Sparkling clean and of the finest quality, members of my family had turned to the Sunshine Ser-

vice for the loan of many items.

We in Sun City are most fortunate to have had this fabulous organization to turn to for help.

Marguerite Perlman

Jan. 12, 1989

Dear Mr. Stevener:

I want to thank you and your crew on the fine job performed on refurbishing my wife's wheelchair. She thinks it looks great. I am enclosing a check for \$50. While this will not cover all the parts and labor spent on this project, it will in some way help support the wonderful work the SUNSHINE SERVICE undertakes here in Sun City.

Name withheld

*EDITOR'S NOTE: The next five letters are all from the same woman; her words speak for themselves.*

Aug. 25, 1988

Mr. Stevener:

I could not get out of this jail without HELP to go to my

house to unlock to let you have your equipment.

The man to ask is called "Lennie," the evening Mgr. (3:30 p.m.-12:00). Just come, present your case and he will write out a permit for me to be escorted (or could you drive me?) Maybe I could get 3:30 to 6 p.m. on the Outside! I doubt it. But Lennie is the person to ask (Leonard?)

Hope you think I took good care of your wheelchair. Inmates are not told how long their sentence is.

Name withheld

Aug. 26, 1988

Dear Mr. Stevener:

I ought to pass it on this gift, free, pretty chair you brought me. It is for a teenager, size 12. It pains me to think a young person might have to be in this situation.

When I try to stand in bathroom, etc, the nurse has to pull the chair off me. Could you buy for me a lounge chair, tall back, and a foot rest that pulls out from under seat? Dark red plastic, preferred color. Several here have them. It's the bed or the wheelchair for me, period. And I'd like a chair that looks comfortable, two or three oth-

ers here have it. How much \$.

Name withheld

Aug. 30, 1988

Dear Mr. Stevener:

How I do wish I could see inside my house just one more time. The only way I can do that is to go with someone who does not work here — an outsider. Won't you take me when you go to pick up your furniture? I will pay for the trip. The woman who kept house for me dropped me off here in this prison, as children drop off elderly parents, to be cared for until they die. I'm 81, so don't have long to wait. I'm trying all the avenues I can to be released and make my house in Texas with a niece and her husband.

I'm glad my husband can't see me in this jail. We appreciate all the kindness and things you loaned us. I want to just see my home again, even if I can't live there anymore.

Name withheld

Sept. 6, 1988

Dear Mr. Stevener:

I'm now at West Valley Camelback hospital, first floor, room 401 and I'm sure a social worker will call you and ar-

range a time for you to come to my house at ----- to pick up your things. I wish they'd let me go, too. It's more that I want you to be able to pick up your things so that you don't have to increase your inventory. The things were used a lot before I began having strokes, from then on I remember little.

I'm still hoping for more of a recliner wheelchair. When my life is bed or wheelchair, I should try to get the most comfortable.

Name withheld

March 10, 1989

Dear Mr. Stevener:

Hello — you haven't lost track of me. Room 503, West Valley Camelback hospital and I think I'll be home in one week — two at the most. I can go home as soon as I find a housekeeper. I sent an ad into the News-Sun today — full time, live-in housekeeper. It will be a matter of choosing the right woman. I pray for God's help.

I enjoy my wheelchair and wish I had the recliner wheelchair. Bed and wheelchair is not living.

Sincerely,

Name withheld



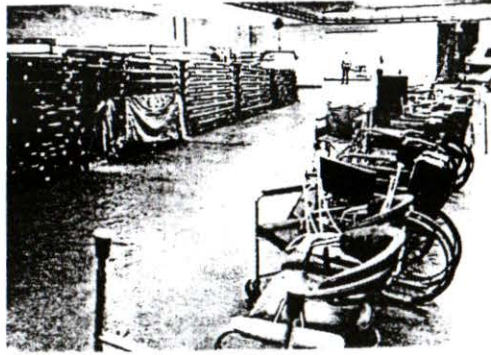
## Sunshine items for loan

Wheelchair  
Straight Walker  
Folding Walker  
Straight Cane  
Four-Prong Cane  
Crutches  
Commode  
Elevated Toilet Seat  
Toilet Arms  
Bath Bench  
Transfer Tub Bench  
Four-Wheeled Walker  
Hospital Bed  
Alternating pressure pads  
Trapeze  
Bed Board  
Mattress raiser  
Shampoo Tray  
Talking Computer  
Massager  
Exercise bicycle  
Wheelchair tray  
Walker w/seat  
Geriatric chair  
Lift chair  
Straight cane w/seat  
Bed pan  
Fracture pan  
Arm exerciser  
Foot Stool  
Platform crutches  
One-hand walker  
Folding chair  
ankle weights  
Cervical traction  
Pelvic traction  
Sheepskin  
Posey belt  
Posey jacket  
Rubber ring  
I.V. stand  
Wheelchair cushion

Restorator  
Blanket support  
Bed Blocks  
Bed Rail  
Hand Grip  
Dumbbell  
Pacer Mat  
Vibrator  
Back Massager  
Bed tray  
T.V. Tray  
Foam Wedge  
Bed Rest  
Oxygen Carrier  
Walker Bag  
Arm Tray  
Ramp  
Trapeze stand  
Slide board  
Bath tub support  
Call Bell  
Surgical Shoe  
Amigo Carrier

**Children's Equipment and Rollaway  
Categories**  
Rollaway beds  
Walkers  
Regular cribs  
Teen cots  
Portacribs  
Bassinettes  
Playpens  
Strollers  
High Chairs  
Youth Chairs  
Nursery Chairs  
Booster Chairs  
Car Seats  
Bathtubs  
Carriers  
Diaper Pails





Equipment begins to fill Sunshine Service's new warehouse. The addition is 7,838 square feet.

## Bright new hope

### *Sunshine Service expands to meet needs of disabled*

SUN CITY — Workers at Sunshine Service Inc. must feel something like Santa:

The warehouse is full now, but come Christmas, all will be gone.

Christmas, New Year's and Easter are crush times at the facility, which lends out hospital equipment and other home items to Sun Citians.

Sunshine Service will hold an open house Nov. 6 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to acquaint residents with the 14-year-old service and its brand-new warehouse.

Sunshine Service started in the early '60s, but did not move into its present quarters at 9980 Santa Fe Drive until 1972, said administrator Wilfred Stevener.

In 1977, the building doubled its original 7,100-square foot size to 14,500 square feet.

The new warehouse, which is used for storage and maintenance, is 7,838 square feet.

Sunshine Service is a non-profit agency that lends equip-

ment free of charge for many needs.

There are 88 categories of equipment for adults to use, ranging from crutches to wheelchairs to hospital beds.

"There's no time limit on any of these items," Stevener said.

*Stories by A.J. Flick  
photos by Stephen Cherek*

"The only requirement is you have to be a resident of Sun City and use it in Sun City homes."

However, there is a stipulation for children's equipment — which includes 16 categories like high chairs, car seats and cribs.

"We have a 30-day limit on those because we don't furnish apartments," he said. "The equipment is for visitors, and we figure after 30 days they're not visitors anymore."

Visitors at the open house, though, will get to see the new IBM computer, renovated driveway, new roofs protecting the

older portion of the building and four new evaporative coolers, all funded by private donations.

Donations have paid for thousands of items the service owns, Stevener said. The facility saves money by buying some equipment direct from the manufac-

turer, other times by buying in bulk.

For instance, four years ago, a woman asked for help with her specific problem. Her husband, who had undergone knee surgery, had trouble getting in and out of chairs. However, it was easy for him to use bar stools.

A local furniture company lent the couple a bar stool, which she reported worked well for him.

Each bar stool sold for \$186; however, by ordering in bulk, the price went down to \$130 each. Sunshine Service bought four dozen, Stevener said.



Sunshine service administrator Wilfred Stevener inspects equipment.

"A lot of people come to Sun City for knee and hip surgery," he said, explaining that many who are recovering borrow the stools.

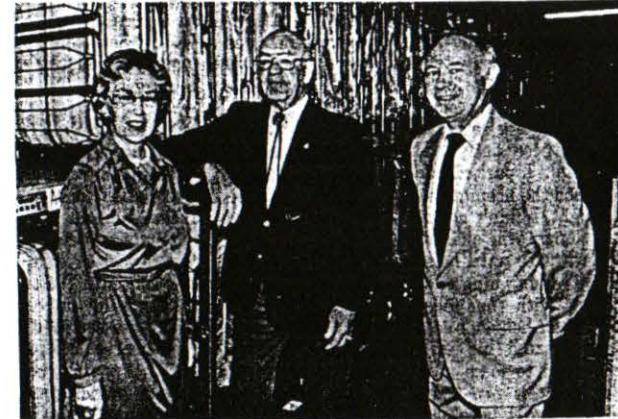
"From January to March nearly every one of these is out. In four to six weeks (the time it takes to recover from surgery), they all come back in."

One feature of the new warehouse is the electric track that lifts hospital beds up and loads them into the waiting delivery vehicle. Previously, the labor was all done manually.

And, Stevener said, a power-washing facility cleans returned beds in minutes. Before the shower was installed, workers cleaned beds by hand.

Clients must have prescriptions in order to rent medical equipment, he said — even for exercise bicycles. The facility has nearly 500 of them.

The service recently purchased new exercise bicycles that have the wheel placed in the rear, which makes it easier to mount, Stevener said.



Sunshine Service Board of directors vice president Evelyn Conlin with administrator Wilfred Stevener (center) and board president Byron Eberwein. They are standing in the part of the building that was added in 1977.

In addition to housing a fix-it shop to make major repairs, the new warehouse is used to store exercise bicycles, some hospital beds and wheelchairs.

Stevener said Sunshine Service owns 1,094 wheelchairs,

many of them still in stock.

"We have a lot of wheelchairs right now," he said, pointing to a long row of chairs. "But it's not yet the first of January. They'll be gone by then."



JUL 21 1982

PHOENIX GAZETTE  
DAILY  
PHOENIX, AZ  
MARICOPA CTY

# Sunshine Service offers 11,000 items for free loan

By Susan Martin  
The Phoenix Gazette

Sun City's Sunshine Service has come a long way since its inception in 1961.

What began with the purchase of four \$25 hospital beds has grown in leaps and bounds to a free loan service boasting more than 11,000 pieces of equipment.

"Sunshine Service is not the little outfit that it used to be 20 years ago," administrator Wilford Stevenor says.

The service, operated from donations by residents and the Sun City Community Fund, offers more than 10,000 pieces of sickroom equipment at no charge for residents who cannot afford to rent or purchase items such as wheelchairs, walkers or crutches.

They also loan 996 pieces of children's furnishings and roll-away beds for residents with visiting friends or grandchildren.

In Sun City, where one would least expect to find a crib or highchair, Sunshine Service's warehouse is stocked with rows and rows of those items. They also loan baby seats, playpens, tot commodes and strollers.

All of these items are loaned to area grandparents during the Christmas season. In fact, last year the warehouse was emptied of all children's furnishings five days before Christmas, much to the dismay of some residents.

"I could have given out 500 more of

these items if we had them," Stevenor says.

Most in demand among the service's sickroom equipment are the wheelchairs. With 1,021 wheelchairs in their inventory, this organization has more than the rest of the Valley's hospitals put together, Stevenor says.

"We have everything and almost anything a hospital has for home use, with the exception of oxygen, nurses and patients," he says. And most of the time 75 percent of the equipment is loaned out.

"If all the equipment came in on one day, we would fill more than just the parking lot."

There is no time limit for use of sickroom equipment. Children's equipment and roll-away beds are loaned for no more than 30 days, or two weeks during holidays.

A paid staff keeps records of the group's operations. Warehousemen clean and repair each piece returned and load and unload items into residents' cars. Hospital beds, which require two people to set up, are delivered by a private contractor.

Sunshine Service first was headed by the Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, who housed the equipment at his home.

In 1964 the Del E. Webb Development Co. donated property along Coggins Drive and constructed a facility for the service at cost. The building was expanded in 1968.

By 1972 the walls were bulging once again and DevCo donated property where the group currently is housed, 9980 Santa Fe Drive. This building also was constructed at cost.

Stevenor says Sunshine Service's original concept remains stronger than ever. They do not discriminate and do not check patrons' finances.

"When people need help, money is not the object ... they should be helped."

If it were not for the service, many residents would go without the equipment they need, Stevenor says. A wheelchair costs between \$300 and \$400, and a folding walker costs about \$70.

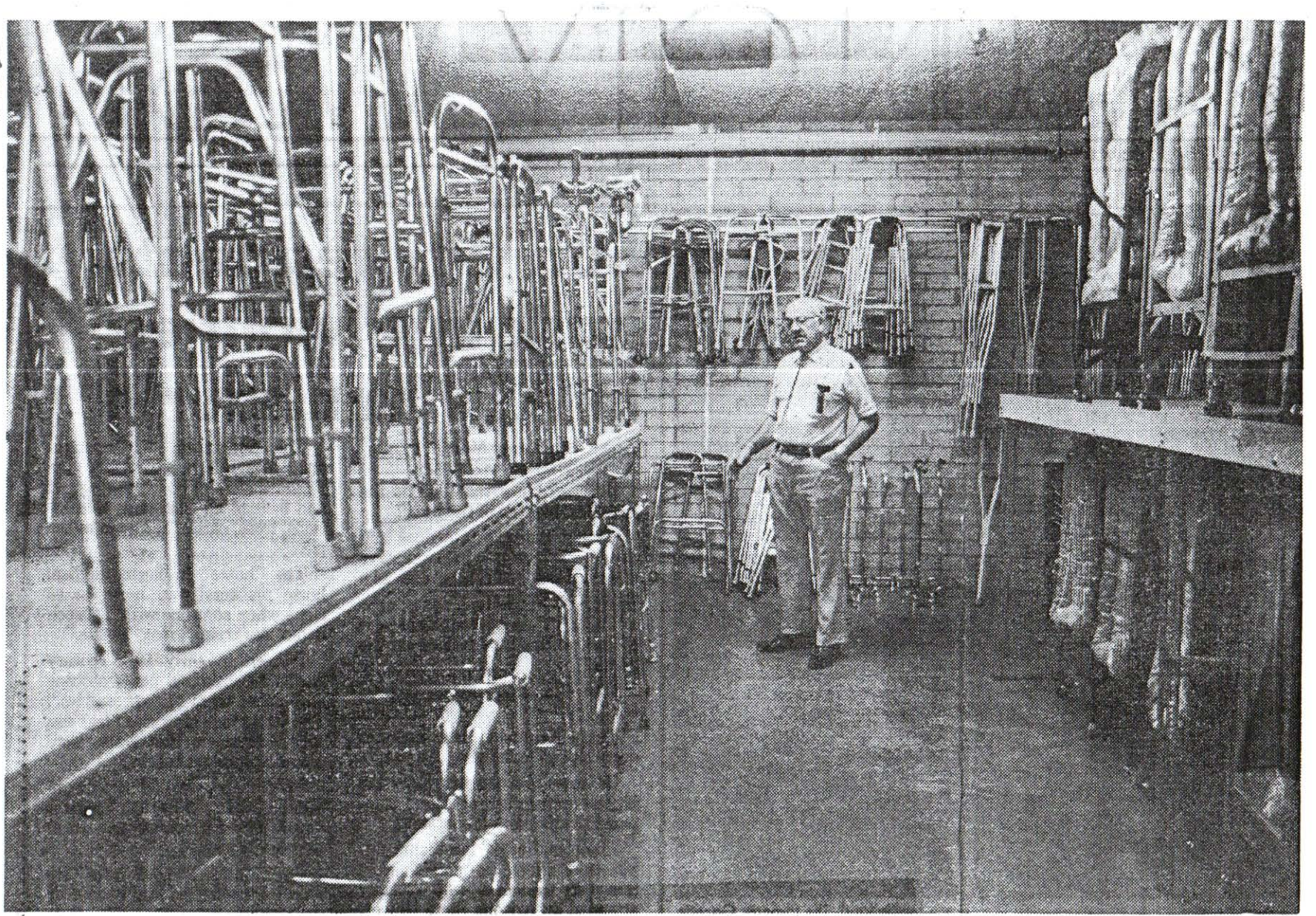
Rental fees for the equipment loaned in 1980-81 would have cost residents \$862,000, the administrator says.

The service is extended to Sun City West, which will open its own operation Oct. 1. Stevenor says his group also has helped other organizations begin similar services in El Mirage (Solecito), Carefree and Scottsdale.

OVER



422-



View of ward at University Hospital



# Devco, Meeker cited by Sunshine Service

Del E. Webb Development Co. received recognition Monday at a luncheon in the Lakes Club for the role it has played in the growth of Sunshine Service Inc.

John Meeker, Devco president, accepted a desk clock from Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, Sunshine Service president and founder, who expressed gratitude for the help given by the Webb firm through the years. The desk piece is inscribed:

"To John W. Meeker in appreciation of the many courtesies extended to Sunshine Service Inc."

Said Meeker:

"**THIS SERVICE BEGAN** with a couple who saw a need and answered it," referring to 1962 when Mr. Thistlethwaite and his late wife, Fern, stored hospital equipment in their home and conducted the free loan service for what was then the Sunshine Committee.

Praising Mr. Thistlethwaite, Sunshine Service officers, board members and staff for their dedication, Meeker continued, "We have been mutually supportive and that's the key to our success." He admonished them to "keep spreading sunshine."

Other Webb men at the luncheon were Joe Aubin, executive vice president; Gerald Williams, the firm's attorney; Jerry Svendsen, vice president and public relations; Jerry Safran, commercial designer; and Don Tuffs, Sundome management.

**WILFRED STEVENER**, Sunshine Service administrator, sketched the relationship of the Webb firm to the service, beginning in 1964 when the

company donated a lot and built the first Sunshine Service building at 10307 Coggins Dr.

The building was paid for before it was completed with gifts from clubs, organizations and individuals. The lot, improvements and landscaping were provided by the Webb Co. and Del. E. Webb personally presented the service with the flagpole which stands in front of the present building at 9980 Santa Fe Dr.

As Sunshine Service grew, support from the Webb firm continued, Stevener said. In 1968, Webb built a 30- by 60-foot addition to the building to store the increasing amount of equipment. And in 1973, the firm donated the lot at the service's present location and constructed a new building at cost, providing the paving and parking area and the landscaping.

**IN 1977 AN ADDITION** was needed, again for storage, and was built by the Webb Co., which also has donated land at the site for still further expansion, if necessary. The 7,463 square-foot addition, Stevener said, was estimated to cost \$96,000, but was built by Webb for \$87,250. In addition, the company did the work on an expansion of office space, a \$4,000 project, and never sent a bill for it.

"Our original aim has never changed, to help people. From \$150 worth of equipment 18 years ago, Sunshine Service is now worth a million-plus, and all paid for," said Stevener. "Without Devco, the service wouldn't have been anywhere near where it is today."



John Meeker, right, beams as he accepts gift of clock radio from Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite in Lakes Club ceremony. (News-Sun Photo)



# Agency in Sun City provides equipment for free use by sick

BY THELMA HEATWOLE

SUN CITY—Sun Citizens have devised a way to provide sickroom equipment for their fellow citizens, and unlike the situation in most of the nation, it isn't a drain on the country's taxpayers.

The Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite, 83, believes other communities could follow suit.

The answer here is Sunshine Service, a non-profit corporation, and it enables residents to use sickroom equipment without rental fees.

Mr. Thistlethwaite says Sunshine Service saved Medicare about \$200,000 in 1975.

"Most people in Sun City are on Medicare," he explained. "If they rented the equipment at prevailing prices, it would have cost about \$290,000." Medicare patients pay 20 per cent of the cost of renting items.

Sunshine service was organized in 1962 with a beginning capital of \$150. At first, used equipment was bought and dispensed from Mr. Thistlethwaite's carport and lanai.

Today, Sunshine Service has a capital investment of \$300,000.

Its equipment includes more than 500 wheelchairs (including new ones on order); 500 walkers and about 75 hospital beds, more than two-thirds of them in use. Stock also includes prism glasses, hydraulic lifts, breathing machines and a maze of other equipment.

All this is, in contrast to a national situation in which millions in tax dollars are spent needlessly to rent medical equipment for sick and disabled beneficiaries of Medicare.

Under the law, Medicare beneficiaries can either rent or buy equipment prescribed for them by their doctors and authorized by Medicare officials.

This, according to wire service stories last week, has led to such excesses as a \$168 wheelchair rented for 72 months at a cost of \$1,080, and a \$44 commode rented 22 months for \$286.

Sunshine Service operates in the black. The equipment is lent and returned when no longer needed. No one is charged rentals, but they can make a donation. Contributions and memorial gifts from individuals, organizations and clubs keep Sunshine going.

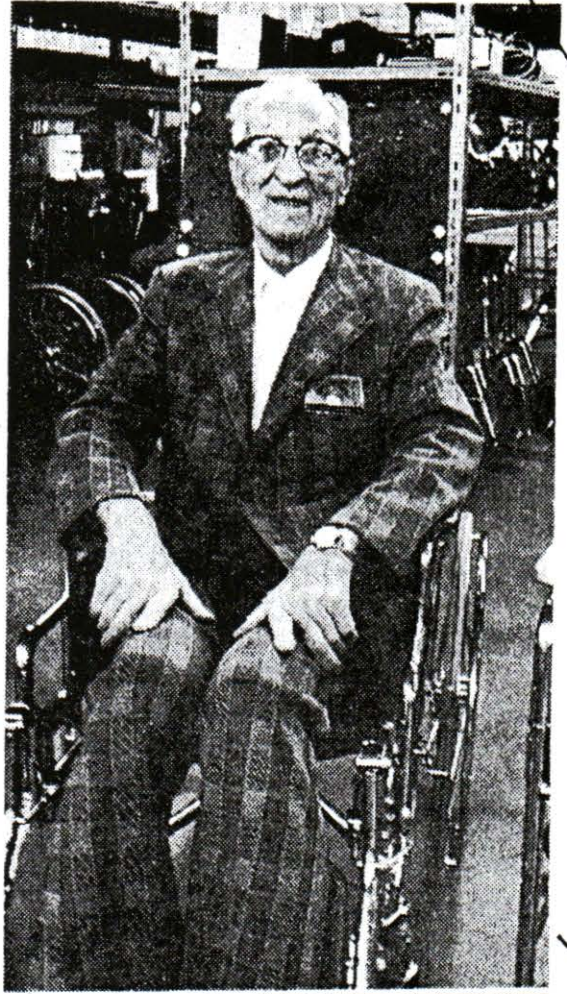
Just about everyone in Sun City knows about Sunshine. A doctor who arrived recently bought two rollaway beds to use until his furniture arrived. Then he gave the beds to Sunshine.

A druggist told Mr. Thistlethwaite that the store no longer handles sickroom equipment because of Sunshine.

Sunshine Service started out with volunteer helpers, outgrew its first building and is in larger quarters at 9980 Santa Fe Drive. The Del E. Webb Development Co. constructed the buildings at cost and provided the land.

Sunshine Service now has some paid office help, the minister said.

"I believe Sunshine Service could be started in other communities," he said. "We started with \$150. Others could do that with churches or lodges, the starting agent. Maybe it wouldn't work as well in another community. I think the service should be handled by retired people who have the time to devote to the work."



Republic photo

The Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite samples one of the deluxe wheelchair models Sunshine Services loans to Sun City residents.



Jan. 8 - 1974 *Sickroom supplies on loan*

## Sunshine building dedicated

By THELMA HEATWOLE

SUN CITY — The new Sunshine Service headquarters, a 7,130 - square-foot block building valued at about \$110,000, was dedicated here Monday.

An open house followed.

Spectators huddled from the cold under the red-roofed porch as the Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite, Sunshine president, spoke about the non-profit organization that provides sickroom equipment here for residents.

"We dedicate this building to God, for the purpose for which it stands in Sun City — to help those in need of its service," he said.

The minister who is referred to as "The Rev. T" said that last year the organization saved Sun Citizens more

than \$100,000 in medical equipment rental costs.

He said the building was free of debt — thanks to clubs, organizations and individuals in Sun City.

John W. Meeker, president of the Del E. Webb Development Co., said the event was more than the dedication of a building. "It is the culmination of a goal reached by many hard-working people and organizations," said he.

The Webb firm came in for a share of praise. The firm donated the site for the building at 9980 Santa Fe Drive, constructed the building at cost, and then purchased the former Sunshine building.

The services supplied by Sunshine Service were inspired by Mr. Thistlethwaite

back in the early days of the community. Recognizing the need for a ready supply of sickroom equipment he started storing crutches, wheelchairs and other invalid aids in his carport.

Much of the equipment was donated or purchased from donated funds.

Sunshine Service lends out everything from hospital beds to heat lamps at no cost. It has equipment valued at \$90,000. The service is often called upon to assist in finding household or nursing help for people incapacitated by accident or illness.

Many Sun Citizens volunteer service to the organization. Mr. Thistlethwaite makes several hundred calls a month visiting the sick in hospitals and homes.



# Caring lights pathway to Sunshine

By SUE CHILDRESS  
Staff Writer

It has been said of Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite that he is everything good that's spoken about Sun City.

He is a ray of sunshine whose light beams down on all the people here.

Well known for his part in the formation of Sunshine Service, Inc., he also is an ordained Methodist

minister, a community leader, a lover of humanity, and a Sun City pioneer.

"Reverend T" and his wife, Fern, visited Sun City just a week after it opened in January 1960. "We were planning to scout-around Youngtown but we never made it that far. We stopped to see Sun City and bought here within an hour," he said with a soft-chuckle.

Originally from Indiana, the Thistlethwaites had lived in Florida for a while, retiring there in 1957. A dry climate and chance for a healthier life lured the couple to the Southwest.

"WE BOUGHT here because this was the first place we saw that had a motel, shopping center with a chain grocery store, drug store, five and dime, beauty parlor, barber shop, and laundromat.

"Besides that," he said, "the community already had shuffleboard courts, lawn bowling, a pool, and a golf course." Other communities had planned these things but no action had been taken.

It wasn't long before the sunny weather improved Rev. T's health. He soon found himself an active member of the Sun City Civic Association and was appointed chairman of its sunshine and sick and visiting committees.

The sunshine committee helped those persons who were unable to pay recreation dues by finding them jobs. It also began to collect sickroom equipment for those unable to pay for the facilities.

WHEN THE original sunshine committee was transferred to the Sun City Community Fund, a new committee continued to collect hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers, and other equipment donated by residents.

Rev. T became its chairman and appointed four women to coordinate activities in four Sun City districts. The women, in turn, appointed neighborhood chairmen who were to keep in touch with folks in their areas, visiting those who were ill or alone, or needed help, advice, or sympathy.

"I visited all these people



E. Duane Thistlethwaite, chairman of Sunshine Service, Inc., accepts \$500 check from two Sun City volunteers. A nonprofit, civic charity, Sunshine Service loans sickroom equipment to residents.

OVER



in their homes for several years until the place became too large," he said. "I even used to visit hospitals in Phoenix and Scottsdale."

**IN THOSE** early days before each visit to the sick or family of a deceased person, Rev. T traveled to Oakmont Center. There he would clip roses from the bushes and take them to persons in need.

"Rev. T has done more for Sun City than any other man," said John Zilien, another local pioneer. "He organized all those colonies of women in the neighborhoods to do good things for the community. He's quite a man."

As an ordained minister, Rev. T began calling in hospitals 60 years ago in Cook County, Ill. He helped to start the first church in Sun City with Rev. W. W. Witt and also played a part in the formation of the First Methodist and Lakeview United Methodist churches.

"DO YOU know I baptized the first baby in Sun City?" he asked. The date was Jan. 29, 1961, and the child was from an Indiana family in a town where Rev. T had ministered.

"But that was long ago," he said. "I have seen Sun City grow considerably since then." He also has seen his Sunshine Service grow with the times. To this day he is chairman.

In the beginning all the unused sickroom equipment was stored in Rev. T's apartment; and his wife was the telephone and office girl. That first year, the committee loaned equipment to 29 homes.

Later it became an independent chartered organization, acquiring the name it claims today, and now has equipment in 1,170 homes. A new building on Santa Fe Drive stores more

than \$80,000 worth of goods.

A SUNSHINE Service board of 25 members runs the organization, and all service by the Sun Citizens is voluntary. The organization provides the sickroom equipment without charge to local residents for as long as necessary.

The service also supplies residents with a window card which contains vital information for use in any emergencies. On top of this, Rev. T manages to visit more than 150 ailing persons in hospitals and homes each week.

"I guess the Sunshine Service really began when my brother and I wanted to buy a wagon when we were kids. We had money in the bank but asked our father if we could do it anyway," he reminisced.

Rev. T's father agreed, providing the boys take food from their farm to the town's widow women via wagon. "It became a regular thing, and I guess this might be the beginning. My father's spirit is still with me.

"THE OLDER we get the less important material things become and the more important real love and affection for one another is," he continued. "Helping other people has always been important to me. Sunshine Service always is there to help.

"In the old Sun City most people knew each other. It was nice to be able to know everyone and see their needs and help them, but we wouldn't have everything we have today if Sun City hadn't grown.

"It doesn't matter where we live because God wants all people to be happy and well and love one another. If we all did more of this," he said, "the world would be a better place."



# New Sunshine Service Building To Be Dedicated

Dedication and open house at the new Sunshine Service building, 9980 Santa Fe Dr., will be at 11 a.m., Monday, January 7.

Participating in the ceremony will be the Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, president, and Homer Ling, vice president, of Sunshine Service and John W. Meeker, president, and Owen Childress, executive vice president, of the Del E. Webb Development Co.

Following the dedication, which will include the deed transfer, the new facility will be open until 5 p.m. for

resident inspection and refreshments will be served.

The slump block structure provides over 6,000 sq. ft. of warehouse storage space, and another 1,130 sq. ft. of office and reception area.

The services supplied by Sunshine Service were originated by Rev. Thistlethwaite in the early days of Sun City. Recognizing the need for a ready and reasonable supply of sick room equipment, he started storing crutches, wheel chairs, and other such invalid aides in his carport.

Much of the equipment was donated and some

purchased with donated funds. Soon the carport was overflowing and a drive was started to construct a building.

Over the years, a pattern has been formed. Sunshine Service loans out everything from hospital beds to heat lamps at no cost. Sun City's charity-oriented clubs and organizations and many individuals donate both time and money to its support.

Today, services even include loaner cribs, highchairs, play pens, other juvenile equipment for grandchildren visiting on vacations.

Sunshine Service is

often called upon to assist in finding household or nursing help for people incapacitated by accident or illness. The "red cross" emergency cards they distribute are now commonplace and supply vital emergency information.

It has been estimated

that Sunshine Service saved Sun Citizens over \$100,000 last year in medial equipment rental costs.

One of the lesser known services is sick room visits personally handled by the Rev. Thistlethwaite. He averages around 800 of these

hospital and home calls each month.

Sunshine Service is a non-profit corporation, has a Board of 25 directors, and a volunteer group of district and neighborhood chairmen. Any money donated to its operation is tax deductible.



SUN CITY CITIZEN Jan. 2, 1974

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APR 1 1973

*By Keller*

# Sunshine Service outgrows space, building planned

A new headquarters for Sunshine Service, Inc., which will more than double its present size, will be constructed by the Del E. Webb Development Co., on Santa Fe Drive just east of 103rd Avenue.

Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, founder and president of the service which for more than a decade has provided nearly

any type of sickroom equipment to Sun Citians free of charge, said he expects to be in the new building by Oct. 1.

In addition to more storage space for the equipment, which has cost more than \$80,000 since the service began in 1961, there will be parking space for 27 cars.

**THE PRESENT** building,

located at 10307 Coggins Dr., was enlarged from its original size in 1968, but the increasing population of Sun City has made an inventory of more equipment necessary. "Our equipment is used constantly," said Rev. Thistlethwaite, who, with his wife, operated the service out of his home for several years until there was no space left.

"Right now, more than 800 homes have sick room equipment, ranging from wheelchairs and crutches to hydraulic lifts, traction units, mattress raisers, and hospital beds. The equipment is used for as long as the person needs it," he said, noting that one home has been using a wheelchair for nine years.

"**WE HAVE** 260 wheelchairs, but 230 of them are being used at the present time," he said. He estimated that last year alone Sunshine Service saved Sun City residents more than \$100,000 because they did not have to pay any rental fees on the equipment they used.

The new building will be built at cost by the Webb company, which will take over the present building at its present valuation and apply that amount on the cost of the headquarters.

"However, it will still be necessary to raise an additional \$20,000 to \$25,000," he said. Letters have gone to all local clubs and organizations asking for

financial aid, and donations from individuals will be accepted at the present office.

**SUNSHINE** Service's availability of equipment to residents is unique in itself, but the service has other aspects.

Rev. Thistlethwaite, who is known to many simply as "Reverend T," visits Sun Citians who are hospitalized both here and in Phoenix and takes a personal interest in persons who are ill at home. District and neighborhood committee helpers also visit and even help residents arrange for household or nursing aid.

A card, with emergency telephone numbers and a section for personal emergency medical information is given to every resident. The back of the card has a large red "X" on it, and anyone who needs help can put the card in his window in an attempt to summon help.

In addition, the service makes baby cribs and roll-away beds available to residents with visiting grandchildren or newcomers whose furniture hasn't yet been delivered.

**ALL THE** work is accomplished by Rev. Thistlethwaite and an office staff of three persons. All the funds come from free-will donations by persons who have used the service, from Sun City organizations and clubs, and from bequests in wills.



## Sickroom Equipment <sup>3/17/71</sup> Galore, And It's Free <sup>SUN CITIZEN</sup>

Where can you get the use  
free of charge of:

- 7 pressure pads
- 13 backrests
- 32 bath benches
- 35 hospital beds
- 117 canes
- 121 wheelchairs
- 50 commode chairs
- 80 crutches
- 32 exerciser bikes
- 10 heat lamps
- 12 hydraulic lifts
- 7 whirlpool massages
- 8 mattress raisers
- 36 bedside tables
- 24 traction units
- 16 trapezes
- 10 vapirozers
- 101 walkers
- 18 baby cribs
- 9 high chairs
- 34 rollaway beds

Where?

Why from Sunshine Ser-

vice Inc., 10307 Coggins Drive, dedicated to providing sickroom (plus some other) equipment to Sun City residents who need them, and providing it without charge.

Sun Citians can see for themselves what is available at an open house at the Sunshine Building from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday.

The occasion in Sunshine Service's 10th anniversary, and visitors will have the opportunity to meet the man most responsible for the service, the Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite. The Rev. Thistlethwaite was not only in on the ground floor of organization, but he has been chairman ever since.

But Sunshine Service is more than 7 pressure pads, 13 backrests, 32 bath benches, etc. It is organized with a governing board of 25, which meets monthly, and has 500 district chairmen, co-chairmen and subdistrict and neighborhood chairmen. And these district and neighborhood chairmen visit those who are alone or ill and offer various services.

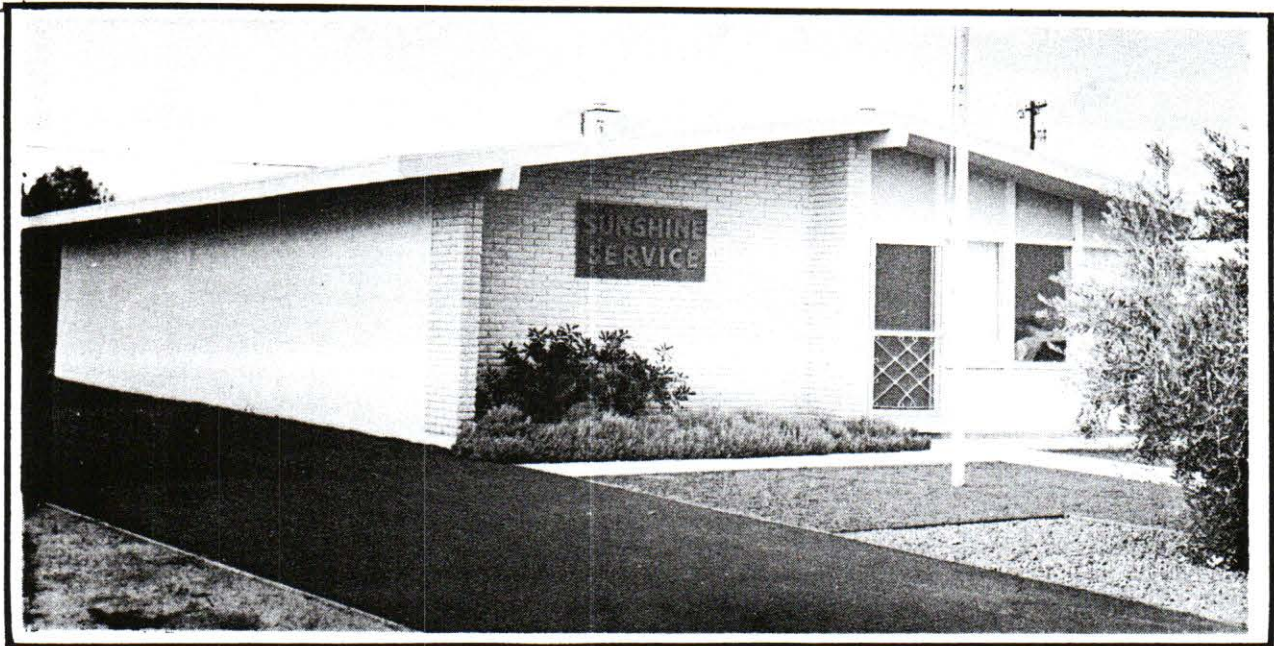
Sunshine Service also provides residents with cards which contain information on emergencies and, if placed in a window, alerts passers-by that an emergency exists.

The service has more than \$40,800 in sickroom equipment and this money, as well as the cost of the building, has been paid through contributions from organizations and individuals.

Somewhere near 400 of Sun City's residents are using equipment from the service.



**S U N S H I N E  
S E R V I C E  
I N C .**



**The Sunshine Building**

**Office and Store Room**

**10307 Coggins Drive, Sun City, Arizona 85351**

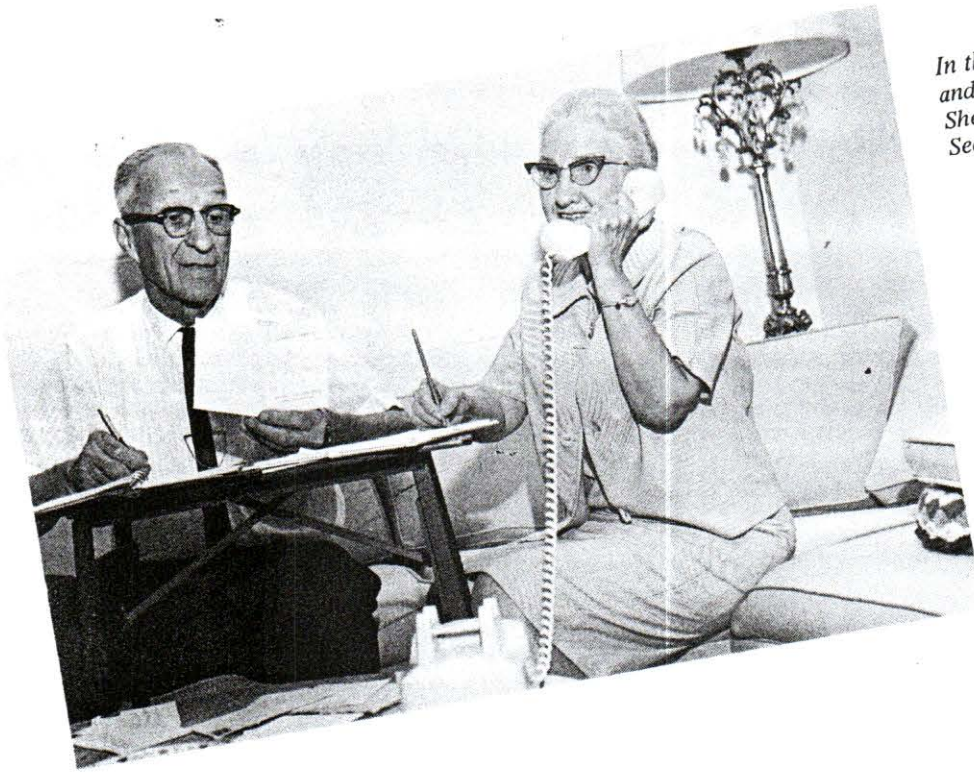
**Telephone: 933-5826**

**OFFICE HOURS: MONDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS**

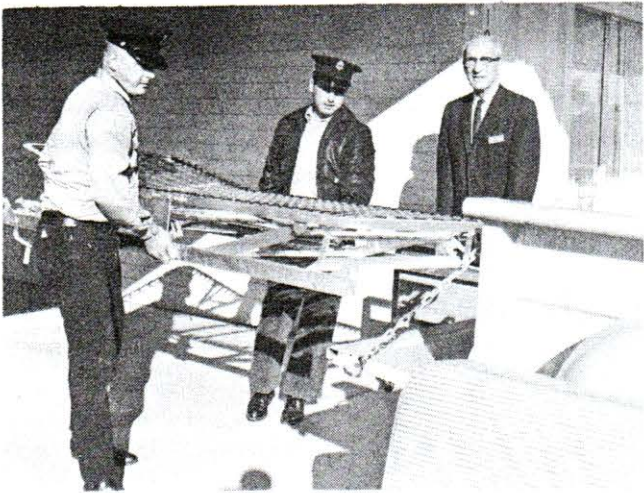
**9:00 TO 12:00 AND 1:00 TO 4:00**

**SATURDAYS: 9:00 TO 12:00**





*In the Beginning Rev. Thistlethwaite and His Wife, Fern, Worked Together. She was Telephone Girl and Office Secretary.*



*The Rural Fire Department of Sun City Moving a Hospital Bed*

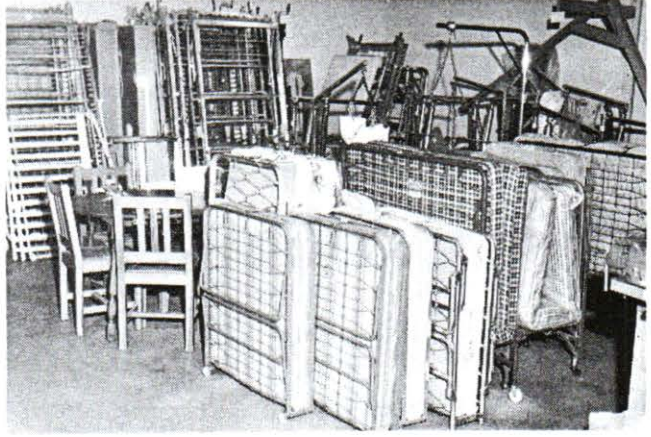


*Mrs. Virginia McFadden, One of the Office Girls, Who Will Greet You at the Sunshine Office*



*A View of the Equipment Stored in the Thistlethwaite Lanai, Which Showed the Need for Our First Building.*





*These Views Show Crowded Condition of the Sunshine Store Room*



*Here Rev. "T" is Calling On Mrs. Elder at the Hospital. Her Husband is Standing Near.*



*Lloyd Culbertson Has the Use of One Leg and One Arm, But He Travels in a Sunshine Wheel Chair about a Mile Every Morning.*



# WHAT IS THE SUNSHINE SERVICE?

By Hazel V. Meyer, Publicity Chairman

It is the success story of an organization. That success is due to the vision, inspiration and never-ending effort of its founder, Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, and the hundreds of Sun Citians who have given their time, effort and money to make this success possible.

Now for a little history. In 1961 Rev "T.", as his friends call him, was appointed chairman of the then Sun City Civic Association, Sunshine and Sick Visiting Committees. Five members of this association contributed \$200.00, primarily to help some Sun Citians who found it difficult to pay their community center recreational dues. At that time a Sun Citian wanted to come home from the hospital so his wife rented a hospital bed for a month at a cost of \$35.00. The Sunshine Committee had an opportunity to buy second-hand hospital beds for \$25.00 each. Rev. "T" thought this a good idea. With an assist from another Sun Citian, he bought four such beds and used the rest of the committee's funds to buy some second-hand hospital equipment. And so began the supply of Sunshine Service sickroom equipment that cost more than \$24,000.00!

In 1963 the Sunshine Committee came under the auspices of the Home Owners Association, when it took the place of the Sun City Civic Association.

In the beginning, the equipment, when not in use, was stored in the carport storage room and in the enclosed lanai of Rev. "T". Later, when it became obvious that the committee had to have more room for the growing supply of equipment, plans were made for the construction of the Sunshine Building, now located at 10307 Coggins Drive in Sun City. The Del Webb organization gave the land, furnished the architect, provided the improvements and landscaping and built the building at cost. More than \$12,000.00 to cover the cost of the building was raised by sending letters to the clubs and without an organized campaign. Many Sun City organizations, clubs and individuals contributed.

In order to receive the deed to the land, the Sunshine Committee became incorporated, changing its title to "Sunshine Service, Inc." It is now an independent organization.

Sunshine Service is financed solely by contributions and memorial gifts from individuals, organizations and clubs. A number of Sun Citians have remembered Sunshine Service in their wills. All money received is used to buy new equipment, repair older equipment, pay the utilities and other expenses of the building and for the salaries of a nurse and two secretaries, each of whom work half time. All checks must be signed by two officers of the corporation who know where the money goes. The services of Chairman "T", the 25 Board members and the more than 400 district chairmen, subdistrict chairmen, neighborhood chairmen and other workers are all voluntary.

It must be remembered that there is a constant, in fact phenomenal, growth in Sun City. Therefore the needs served by the Sunshine Service are ever-increasing. Although there is a steady flow of contributions to the Sunshine Service, there is also a steady outgo of money. As a matter of fact, the organization had about \$500.00 more in August of 1968 than in August of 1966.

Plans are now being made for increasing the size of the Sunshine building as there is a great need for more storage space. The Del Webb organization will construct the expansion at cost.

There have been rumors that Sunshine Service is sponsored by the Del Webb Corporation or by the Sun City Community Fund. There is no foundation for these reports.

And now, more specifically, what does Sunshine Service do?

(1) It is a helping hand in time of illness, bereavement or heartaches of many kinds.

(2) It lends hospital beds, trapeze, walkers, wheelchairs, commode chairs, hydraulic lifts, traction units and many smaller pieces of sickroom equipment, without charge, to any Sun Citian who requests them.

(3) Neighborhood chairmen visit those in their neighborhoods who are alone and ill. They offer their services, if desired, in time of bereavement.

(4) It provides all residents with a window card which contains vital information for use in an emergency.

(5) It helps residents get household or nursing help in case of accident or illness. (The remuneration paid such help is a matter between those who need help and those who want work.)

(6) It lends up to \$500.00, without interest, to Sun Citians in case of a death, when insurance, social security and other payments may be delayed and money is needed for living expenses.

(7) In cooperation with the Visiting Nurse Service, Inc., it helps provide nursing service to Sun Citians.

(8) Neighborhood chairmen, district chairmen and the Sunshine Office maintain a card file of Sun Citians. The card gives information as to names, addresses and telephone numbers of next of kin to be notified in the event of an emergency, name of doctor, and church affiliation, drugs to which the Sun Citian may be allergic and other information which might prove helpful in an emergency, particularly where both husband and wife might be in an accident.

The window cards, distributed to residents, have been very useful and in a few cases, have literally proved to be lifesavers. The red "X" alerts passersby to the fact that the resident needs help. The reverse side of the card gives information needed in an emergency.

For years the hospital beds were delivered and returned by the Lundberg Mortuary at Youngtown without charge. This service has been assumed by the Sun City Rural Fire Department.

Efforts are being made constantly to organize the newer neighborhoods with the appointment of district chairmen and neighborhood chairmen.

And now something about the founder. Rev. "T" is the motivating force behind Sunshine Service. He has been its chairman from the beginning. His daily calls to hospitalized Sun Citians have cheered and encouraged hundreds. This service and his other efforts in behalf of Sunshine Service have earned him the name, "Mr. Sunshine." Working eight to ten hours a day, this "retired" 76-year-old minister believes that one should not "retire from life" when one retires from one's life work. Commenting on Sunshine Service, he says, "We try to bring good cheer and sunshine to chase gloom away. So often people need someone with whom to discuss their problems as much as they need the sickroom equipment. I am ready to go out any time of the day or night if I can help." That he has helped and continues to do so is vigorously affirmed by countless Sun Citians.

So far as is known, there is not another community service just like Sunshine Service in existence — thanks to the vision of Rev. "T" and the public spirit and voluntary service of Sunshine Service workers. Sun Citians are invited to visit the Sunshine Building to see the sickroom equipment and learn more about what "Sunshine" is doing.

Gifts to Sunshine Service, Inc. are Income and Gift Tax Deductible.





**SUNSHINE SERVICES CHAIRMAN Rev. Duane Thistlethwaite and committee secretary Gladys Smith witness signing of deed for new committee building. Inking document (at left) is Del E. Webb Development Co. project manager T. P. Kohl. Webb company donated land and erected facility at cost. Building will store hospital equipment loaned residents free of charge.**



## BUSY

### Sunshine Committee Distributes Cards

Within the next week or two every occupied house in Sun City should have its emergency card which is being provided by the Sunshine Committee. Neighborhood chairmen of the committee are busy affixing bright glow-fire orange tape "X" on the backs of the cards and distributing them to the homes in their neighborhoods. The card itself gives important information as to the purpose of the Sunshine Committee, where to call for ambulance service or a resuscitator, or in case of fire.

The Committee hopes that you will never need to put your card in the window with the red "X" facing the street for this will mean that you need help. But it is a mighty comforting thought to know that if that should happen, all Sun Citizens know what the red "X" stands for and you may be sure that help will be forthcoming in a jiffy.

The general chairman, Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, the area chairmen and innumerable neighborhood chairmen are all working to one end to make a Happier Sun City for you. Read your card and keep it handy.



**EMERGENCY CARD OF SUNSHINE SERVICE INC.**

(FORMERLY SUNSHINE COMMITTEE)

OFFICE, 10307 COGGINS DRIVE  
SUN CITY, ARIZONA 85351

*Clay Smith 1961*

Hours - Mon. to Fri. 9:00 - 4:00 p.m. Saturday 9:00 - 12:00 noon  
Phone 933-5826

PUT THIS CARD IN YOUR WINDOW IF YOU NEED HELP. Your neighbor will come to help you. Anyone seeing a card in a window is asked to help, or seek some one to help. The neighbors in Sun City, Arizona, are wonderful people.

SUNSHINE SERVICE INC. IS NON-PROFIT AND NON-DENOMINATIONAL. No one receives any pay for what he or she does. Its funds come from Clubs, Memorials, and Individual Gifts. These gifts and bequests from wills are deductible from Federal Income and Estate Taxes. Checks or wills should be made out to SUNSHINE SERVICE INC., SUN CITY, ARIZONA.

Hospital beds, trapeze, hydraulic lifts, wheel chairs, commode chairs, walkers, crutches, bed pans, traction units, and many other things for the ill are available WITHOUT CHARGE to Sun Citians. We also have roll-a-way beds and help in many other ways in emergencies. All our checks are signed by two persons who know for what it is being paid.

Your Neighborhood Chairman checks, or has some one check, on you almost every day, to make sure you are all right. So please don't go away without telling a neighbor, for he or she will wonder what has happened to you. Aren't you glad some one is interested in YOU?

**EMERGENCY CALLS**

- AMBULANCE - 933-2551** They have a RESUSCITATOR (Lundberg delivers our Hospital beds without charge.)
- FIRE - - - - 939-3111** They have a RESUSCITATOR
- POLICE - - - - 258-6941** County Sheriff, for any emergency.
- OXYGEN - - - 933-1475** Everett Taylor (Sponsored by American Legion)

**SICK ROOM EQUIPMENT, HOSPITALIZATION OR DEATH - CALL OFFICE** or  
Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, 933-1248 - 10643 Oakmont Drive  
Mr. O. K. Glessner, 933-4256 - 10102 Desert Hills Drive  
Mrs. Gladys W. Smith, 933-0948 - 10430 Oakmont Drive  
Mrs. Esther V. Kays, 933-1494 - 10523 Oakmont Drive

Rev. Thistlethwaite calls regularly at Mountain View and Northwest Hospitals. He also calls on Sun Citians who are in Phoenix Hospitals if you will let him know where to find them.

Sun City is a wonderful place to live. We have the best neighbors in the world. By cooperation we hope to make it even better. The Sunshine Service wants to help the lonely get better acquainted and participate in community activities. By visiting and helping in illness, by lending a hand in bereavement and in other ways, we hope to be of real service to you and our community.

Please fill in the following:

Doctor..... Minister ..... Allergies .....

Priest, or Rabbi

Phone .....

Whom to notify in emergency - Name .....

Phone ..... Address .....

This information might be helpful in an emergency.



1961

S U N S H I N E C O M M I T T E E

OF

SUN CITY CIVIC ASSOCIATION  
SUN CITY, ARIZONA

Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite, Chairman  
10643 Oakmont Dr. 933-1248

Dear Friends in Sun City:

This is for your information. We suggest that you put this in your telephone book so you can have this information handy.

(The purpose of this committee is service to the people of Sun City.) We want to do what we can that all of us will enjoy life here. We know that we all have good neighbors and they will help, but here is an additional source, which is organized as an official committee of the Civic Association, and reaching into the local neighborhood, to see that no one in need is missed. We do not pry into your affairs, but we do not want you to be sick, or in need, or lonesome without help. Your local helper will bring you this paper.

If you are ill, call if you have a phone; if not, put a handkerchief on the screen or window, turn on the lights outside. You can even make arrangements so your neighbor can get into your house if you are too ill to come to the door. In case of hospitalization, we like to help if we can, but cannot if we do not know.

We have four sections, with leaders as follows:

New Life Division, North of Alabama Avenue, West of 107th Avenue.

Mrs. Fran Asteres	11005 Alabama Ave.	933-1044
Mrs. Irma Bugher	10802 Windsor Dr.	933-2278
Mrs. Irma Crain	10834 Oakmont Dr.	933-1112
Mrs. Lou Leisy	10808 Alabama Ave.	933-0374
Mrs. Kathryn Phillips	12483 Augusta Dr.	933-1881
Car Pool - Albert Bartolain,	12214 Augusta Dr.	933-3003

New Life Division, South of Alabama Ave., West of 7th Avenue

Mrs. Margaret Rogers 10907 Cherry Hills Dr. 933-3009

Car Pool - Warren G. Rogers, 10907 Cherry Hills Dr. 933-3009

Sun City #1 Division, North of Alabama & East of 107th Avenue

Mrs. Esther Kays	10523 Oakmont Dr.	933-1494 - Treasurer
Mrs. Gladys Smith	10430 Oakmont Dr.	933-0948 - Secretary
Agnes V. Allen	10607 Oakmont Dr.	933-1058
Car Pool - Tom Bingemer	- 10516 Oakmont Dr.	933-1883

*Carl Hayes*

Sun City #1 Division, South of Alabama & East of 107th Avenue

Mrs. Anna J. Heath	11826 105th Ave.	933-1301
Mrs. Hazel Meyer	10319 Sun City Blvd.	933-2317 - Publicity
Mrs. Maude Sherman	11818 105th Ave.	933-1377

*Car Pool - Geo. Heath*

The first one named in each section is the Chairman.

For the Fire Station, call 265-5242. They have First Aid and Oxygen and a Resuscitator. They charge for this service.

Yours for a happy Community

November 29, 1961

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE







## Medical Equipment

- Arm Exerciser
- Bath Bench
- Bathtub Support
- Bed Blocks
- Bed Board
- Bed Cane
- Bedpan
- Bed Rail
- Bed Rest
- Bed - Electric Hospital (Rx Required)
- Bedroom Monitor
- Alt. Press Pump & Pad
- Bedside Table
- Blanket Support
- Call Bell
- Canes:
  - Four Prong
  - Straight
  - Straight with Seat
- Card Holder
- Chairs:
  - Geriatric
  - Lift (Rx Required)
- Commode
- Crutches:
  - Arm Crutches
  - Canadian Crutches
  - Platform Crutches
- Dressing Stick
- Dumbbell
- Foam Ring
- Foam Wedge
- Foot Massager
- Fracture Pan
- Hand Truck
- I.V. Stand
- Mattress Raiser
- Platform Arms
- Posey Belt
- Ramp - Aluminum
- Restorator
- Shampoo Tray
- Sheepskin
- Shoe Horn
- Slide Board
- Slip-on Aid
- Stools:
  - Bar
  - Foot
- Seat Assist
- Toilet Arms
- Toilet Seat - Elevated
- Tong
- Transfer Tub Bench with Slide
- Trapeze
- Trapeze Stand
- Trays:
  - Arm Tray
  - Bed Tray
  - Walker Tray
- Walkers:
  - With Seat
  - Folding with Front Wheels (Rx Required)
  - One Hand
  - Straight
  - 4-wheel Walker (Rx Req.)
  - Walker Bags
- Weights:
  - 1# Ankle Weight
  - 2# Ankle Weight
  - 3# Ankle Weight
  - 4# Ankle Weight
  - 5# Ankle Weight
  - 7.5# Ankle Weight
  - 10 # Ankle Weight
- Wheelchair / Companion Chair
- Wheelchair Cushion
- Wheelchair Tray



Folding Walker with Bag & 4 Wheel Walker

## Lift Chairs



Lift Chair (Rx required)

## Rollaways & Children's Equipment

- Bed Rails
- Bumper Pads
- Chairs:
  - Booster Chair
  - Folding Chair
  - High Chair
  - Potty Chair
  - Youth Chair
- Cribs
- Diaper Pails
- Jumper Chairs
- Nursery Seat
- Pack-N-Play
- Rollaway Beds:
  - "C" (30")
  - "D" (39")
  - "E" (48")
- Strollers



9980 Santa Fe Drive  
Sun City, Arizona 85351-3197

Phone 623-974-2561  
Fax 623-974-6514

Office Hours  
Monday through Friday  
9 am - 4 pm



## Welcome to Sunshine Service

People, meeting needs of people is what Sunshine Service is all about. Sunshine Service lends medical and children's equipment to residents of Sun City. We are a non-profit Arizona corporation and are funded by voluntary contributions and memorial gifts. A paid Executive Director and staff handle the daily operations of Sunshine Service. The Executive Director is hired by and reports to the Board of Directors who are elected for five-year terms, with an option for an additional 5 year term, if the Director so chooses. The Board nominates and elects officers, approves budgets, major expenditures and monitors overall operation of the corporation. Sun City residents are eligible to be nominated to serve on the Board of Sunshine Service.

While the equipment is available for the use of all residents or visitors staying with residents, the equipment must not be taken out of Sun City on a permanent basis. As a matter of control, equipment is loaned only to Sun City residents.

It is our pleasure to serve the residents of Sun City. We trust that, when necessary you will avail yourself, your family and visitors of the many items of equipment that Sunshine Service offers.

*Sincerely,*

*Sunshine Service Board of Directors*



## History of Sunshine Service

In 1961, the Sun City Civic Association, the forerunner of today's Sun City Homeowners Association, appointed a Sunshine Committee to help residents who were unable to pay the then annual recreation dues of \$40 per home. Four directors of the Civic Association contributed \$40 each to establish a fund for the Sunshine Committee. A Sick and Visiting Committee was also named and the Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite was named to chair both committees.

In the first year, the Sunshine Committee learned of a resident who had to pay \$35 to rent a hospital bed for one month. Upon learning this, the committee purchased three hospital beds from Memorial Hospital in Phoenix for \$25 each, as well as second-hand equipment and walkers. Residents also donated items and the first bed and wheelchair were loaned on April 2, 1962. All of the equipment was kept on the lanai at Rev. Thistlethwaite's home.

In October 1964 the Sunshine Committee became an independent chartered organization and the name was changed to Sunshine Service, Inc. Rev. Thistlethwaite was elected president and served in that capacity until ill health forced his resignation in 1981.



**A friendly staff eager to help you.**



**Equipment repairs and maintenance.**

The Del Webb Company donated a building site and constructed the first Sunshine building at 10307 Coggins Drive. The building was occupied in July 1965 with \$8,000 worth of equipment. In 1968, an addition was constructed by the Del Webb Company and interested citizens. In 1973, Del Webb again donated the land and constructed the building at our present location at 9980 Santa Fe Drive. We occupied the property courtesy of Snyder Transfer Company and volunteers. In 1978 & 1985, other additions brought us to our current capacity of more than 22,000 square feet. Currently the inventory is valued at over 1.6 million dollars.

Records show that as the population of Sun City grew so did use of our medical equipment. Savings for Sun City residents have been calculated periodically; in 2010, it was estimated that residents saved over two million dollars in cost of equipment for that year alone.

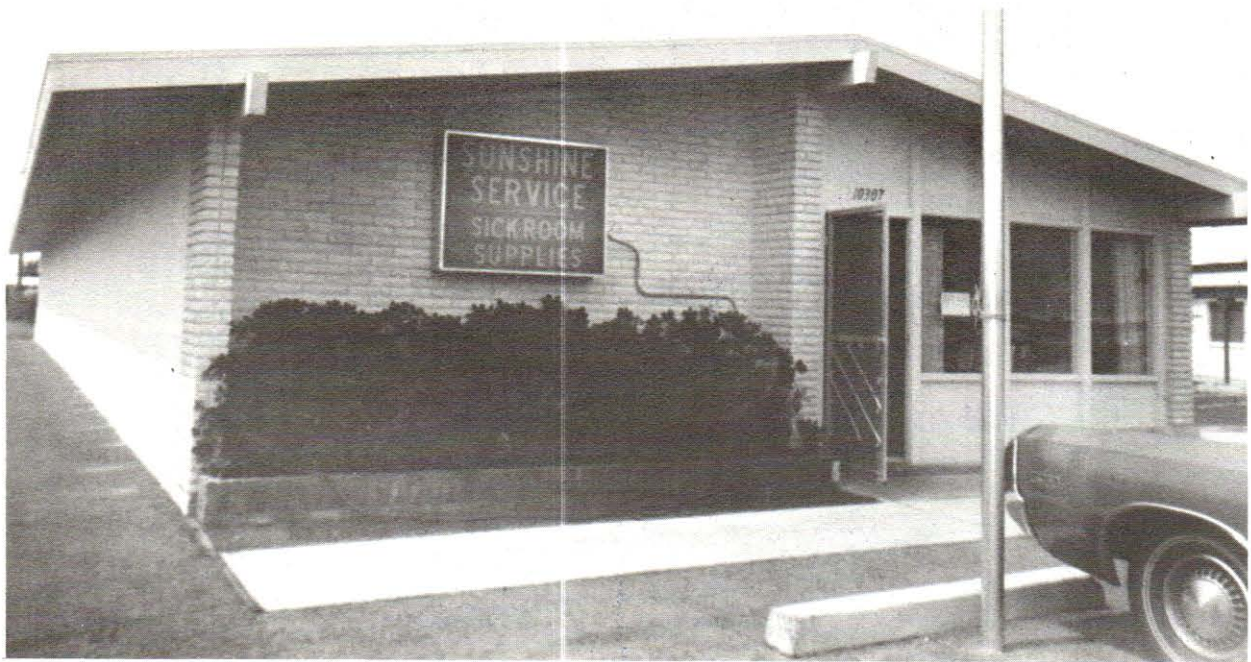
Sunshine Service, Inc. has received local, state and national recognition. Awards received include the George Washington Honor Medal for services to the sick and handicapped from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge in Pennsylvania.





Nov-72

**S U N S H I N E**  
**S E R V I C E**  
**I N C .**



**The Sunshine Building**

**Office and Store Room**

**10307 Coggins Drive, Sun City, Arizona 85351**

**Telephone: 933-5826**

**OFFICE HOURS: MONDAYS THROUGH FRIDAYS  
9:00 TO 12:00 AND 1:00 TO 4:00  
SATURDAYS: 9:00 TO 12:00**





*In the Beginning Rev. Thistlethwaite and His Wife, Fern, Worked Together. She was Telephone Girl and Office Secretary.*



*Dorothy Vollmer, Office Secretary*



**EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR THE NEEDS OF SUN CITY RESIDENTS**



# TO THE PEOPLE OF SUN CITY

## An Explanation of

### YOUR SUNSHINE SERVICE

**WHAT IS IT?** A helping hand in time of bereavement, illness or heartaches of many kinds.

**WHO PROVIDES THIS SERVICE?** The Sunshine Service Board of 25 members (which meets each month), district chairmen, co-chairmen, neighborhood chairmen, et al. All service by these Sun Citians is voluntary. The two office secretaries (who work part time) are paid. Recently (due to the big increase in the work) it has been necessary to employ one man to help in the office and sickroom equipment storerooms.

The organization does not have a self-perpetuating Board of Directors. The Directors are elected on the fourth Monday of October at the annual meeting. Every district chairman, co-chairman, neighborhood chairman and other helpers has a vote and may nominate a Sun Citian for director. (This is provided for in the incorporation documents of the organization.)

**WHAT DOES IT DO?** It provides sickroom equipment **WITHOUT CHARGE** for as long as may be necessary to any Sun Citian who may need it. Following is a list of sickroom equipment available:

Alternating electrically operated bed size pressure pads (invaluable in preventing bed sores)	
Backrests; bath benches	Hydraulic lifts; whirlpool massagers
Hi-Lo hospital beds	Mattress raisers; bedside tables
Canes; wheelchairs; commode chairs	Traction units; trapeze
Crutches; exerciser bikes; heat lamps	Vaporizers; walkers; baby cribs
High chairs; rollaway beds, and many other smaller items of sickroom equipment.	

The chairmen visit Sun Citians who may be alone, and in time of illness and bereavement they offer their services (if they are desired.) The President of Sunshine Service calls on Sun Citians who may be ill in their homes and at local hospitals. He tries to ascertain the names of Sun Citians in Phoenix hospitals and calls on them also. He has been averaging over 600 such calls a month.

The Service provides all residents with an emergency window card which contains vital information for use in an emergency.

The Service also helps residents get household or nursing help **IN CASE OF ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS**. (The remuneration paid such help is a matter between those who need help and those who want work.)

Obsolete but still usable sickroom equipment is disposed of by giving it to Sun Citians who may be leaving Sun City, to someone recommended by a doctor or visiting nurse or to some charitable organization.

In several cases Sunshine Service has helped Sun Citians who, because of illness, were no longer able to live in Sun City, to go some place where they would be near relatives and friends who would help care for them.

**HOW IS IT FINANCED?** Solely by contributions and memorial gifts from individuals, organizations and clubs. Some Sun Citians are remembering the Service in their wills. While there is a constant flow of money into Sunshine Service, there is likewise a constant expense as Sun City expands and more residents use the Service. As the need grows, additional new equipment is bought and obsolete equipment sold or given away, and replaced. The Sunshine Office with its three paid workers is also a continuing expense.



# HOW IT ALL CAME TO PASS

## A Short History

In 1961 the then Sunshine Committee was appointed by the Sun City Civic Assn. Inc. Its initial purpose was to help Sun Citians who were unable to pay their dues for the upkeep of the recreational facilities, meeting hall, etc., which had been turned over to the residents by the Del Webb organization. Five of the directors contributed \$40 each to a fund for this purpose. Also appointed at this time was a Sick and Visiting Committee, with Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite to head both committees. With the \$200 the Committee paid the first quarter dues for four homes. The people for whom this was done said "We would rather pay our own dues if we had work." So the Committee found work for three and paid only for one during the second quarter. This left a balance of \$150 in the treasury. It was agreed that all checks had to be signed by two members of the Committee who knew where the money was going, but it was <sup>NOT</sup> to be made known who received the help.

Later all activities were consolidated under one committee. Rev. Thistlethwaite was appointed chairman (he still heads the organization.) Four women were appointed to head four districts in the community. They in turn appointed their co-chairmen, sub-district and neighborhood chairmen. This procedure continued until there were hundreds of these chairmen in Sun City.

When the Committee found that a Sun Citian was paying \$35 for a hospital bed for one month and the opportunity arose to buy hospital beds and mattresses from Memorial Hospital at \$25 each, the decision was made to spend one half of the \$150 in the treasury for three beds. A Sun Citian offered to buy the fourth bed. So began the supply of Sunshine Service sickroom equipment now worth thousands of dollars. (The second-hand equipment has long since been replaced by new equipment.)

The first bed and mattress and wheelchair were loaned in April, 1962. The number of pieces of equipment continued to grow and when not in use were stored in Rev. Thistlethwaite's apartment. His wife, Fern, was the telephone and office girl.

Finally the equipment in Rev. Thistlethwaite's apartment threatened to displace the residents, so the Board proposed a separate building to house the equipment.

The Sunshine Committee had to incorporate in order to accept a deed for a lot on which to build the Sunshine Building. The Del Webb Corporation provided the lot and built the building at cost. The estimate for the building was \$14,000. A simulated thermometer was placed in the Grand Avenue shopping center and letters were sent to Sun City clubs and organizations asking for contributions. Soon checks began to arrive from individuals as well as from the clubs and organizations to which the plea had been sent. When the thermometer registered \$12,000, work began. The building was constructed for less than \$12,000 and all improvements and landscaping were given by the Webb Company. The key to the 30 x 50 foot building was received on July 1, 1965.

Sun City and the Sunshine Service continued their record growth. By the end of 1968 more storage room was needed. Therefore the Sunshine Service decided to add on to the building, making it 30 by 110 feet and also installing much needed shelving. Sun Citians gave \$9,000 to pay for the addition which the Del Webb Company again constructed at cost.

It has never been the policy of Sunshine Service to ask individuals for money. Letters were sent only to clubs and organizations in Sun City. However, the organization receives many gifts from individuals. Though not required, it is the usual custom for those who borrow sickroom equipment to make a contribution to Sunshine Service when returning the equipment.

## AN APPRECIATION

Who has been responsible for this unique service of concern for and helpfulness to their neighbors? The immediate answer is the people of Sun City and the Del Webb Corporation. Where is there a service of this kind? There may be something similar elsewhere but it is doubtful that it is as far-reaching, as helpful, as quick in an emergency, as quiet and as kind.

There is a sign in Sunshine Service office which reads "This is Your Building, You Made it Possible." Appreciation is expressed to those who made the building possible and to the hundreds of volunteers who have given and continue to give untold hours to this work. There are now thousands of dollars invested in the best sickroom equipment which money can buy. It is for use in the home of ANY Sun Citian who may need it, for as long as he may need it. Financial ability to buy or rent such equipment does not enter into the picture.

Many people cannot understand why Sunshine Service does not make a charge for the use of the equipment. The answer is that, without a charge, it is possible for those, who cannot afford to buy or rent the equipment or even contribute to Sunshine Service, can have the equipment without a feeling of embarrassment. Others can and do make a gift for its use.

Sunshine Service has put more than \$1,000 worth of sickroom equipment in a number of homes in Sun City. Where else can this be done so easily, without even a deposit? Sun City is unique in many ways and Sunshine Service is one of the most unique and wonderful features.

Come and visit the Sunshine Building and see the large assortment of sickroom equipment. There may be something you may need some day!

*Gifts to Sunshine Service, are Income and Gift Tax Deductible.*

Information provided by Hazel V. Pfeiffer, Publicity Chairman for Sunshine Service.

June, 1972





**Emergency:** **9-1-1**

Arizona Public Service: 371-7171

Water/Sewer Company: 974-2521

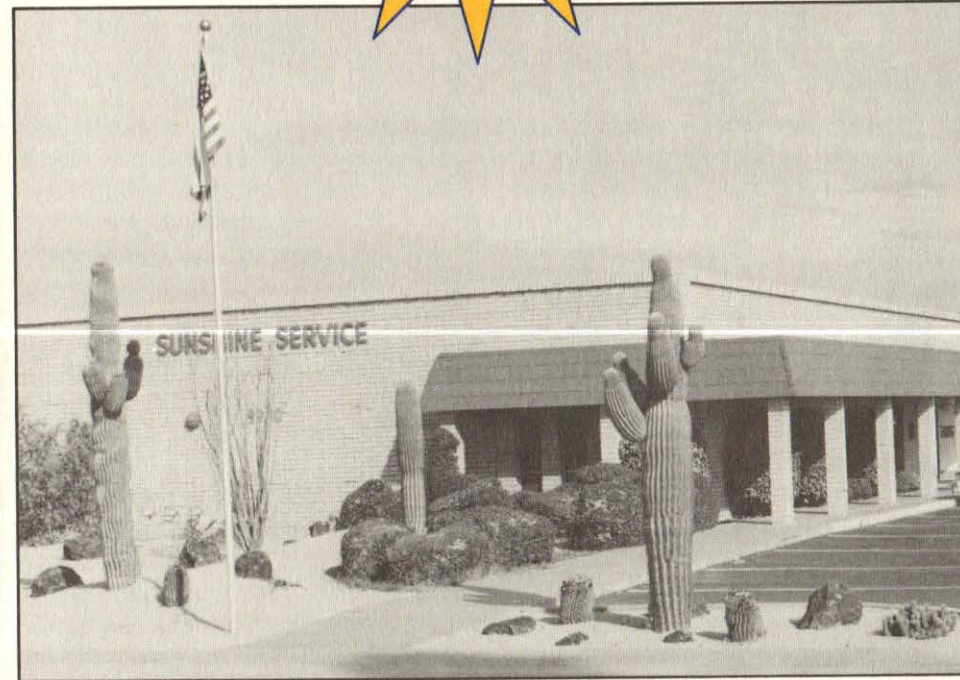
Sunshine Service: 974-2561

Doctor:

Dentist:

Hospital:

Ambulance:



9980 Santa Fe Drive, Sun City, Arizona 85351-3197

**974-2561**

**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. – 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.





*To All Sun City Residents:*

We hope that you will read this new Sunshine Service information booklet and keep it available for reference in your home. This new booklet has been prepared and is being distributed to all homes in Sun City so that all residents in Sun City know about Sunshine Service, the sick room, medical equipment and children's equipment that it makes available on a loan basis from its warehouse, located on Santa Fe Drive.

Sunshine Service is a non-profit Arizona corporation and is funded by voluntary contributions and memorial gifts. No federal, state or municipal funds have ever been requested or received.

The day-to-day operations of the Sunshine Service are handled by a paid administrator and staff. The administrator is hired by and reports to a Board of Directors who are elected for five-year terms by board members and serve in a non-paid voluntary capacity. The board nominates and elects directors, approves the articles of incorporation and bylaws, establishes policies, approves budgets and major expenditures and monitors overall operation of the corporation. Any resident of Sun City who has a paid-up Sun City recreation center card is eligible to be nominated to serve as a director of the Sunshine Service.

While Sunshine Service equipment is available for the use of all residents or visitors staying with residents, the equipment must not be taken out of Sun City on a permanent basis. As a matter of control, equipment may be loaned only to Sun City residents.

We hope that you will find this new information booklet helpful, and we hope that when necessary you will avail yourself and your family and visitors of the many items of equipment provided by Sunshine Service.

*Sincerely,*

*Your Sunshine Service Board of Directors*

## *the Sunshine Service*

Committee became an independent chartered organization and the name was changed to Sunshine Service, Inc. Rev. Thistlethwaite was elected president, a position he held until ill health forced his resignation in 1981.

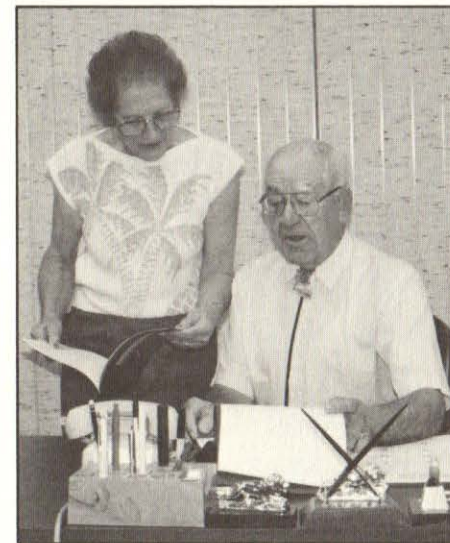
The Del Webb Company donated a building site and constructed the first Sunshine Building at 10307 Coggins Drive. It was occupied in July 1965 with \$8,000 worth of equipment. In 1968, an addition was constructed by Del Webb Company and interested citizens. In 1973 it moved to the present location at 9980 Santa Fe Drive, courtesy of Snyder Transfer Company and volunteers. In 1985, another addition brought it to the present capacity of more than 22,000 square feet. The inventory is valued at \$750,000.

Records show that as the population of Sun City grew, so did use of the equipment. Savings have been calculated periodically; in 1988, for instance, it was estimated that more than \$1,305,000 was effected for Sun City residents.

In 1982, help was provided to start a separate and independent unit in

Sun City West.

Sunshine Services, Inc., has received local, state and national recognition. Awards received include the George Washington Honor Medal for services to the sick and handi-capped from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge in Pennsylvania.



**Our Sunshine Services office, located on Santa Fe between 103rd and 99th avenues, is staffed by experienced women and men who can help you find what you need.**





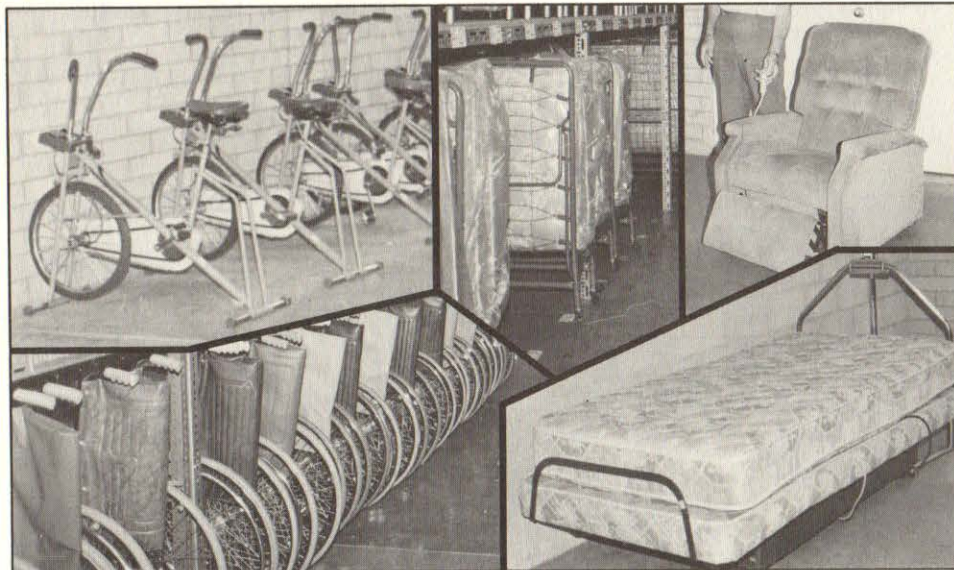
## History of

In 1961, The Sun City Home Owners appointed a Sunshine Committee to help residents who were unable to pay the then annual recreation dues of \$40 per home. A Sick and Visiting Committee was also named and a board member, the Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite was named chairman of both.

In that first year, the Sunshine Committee learned a resident had to

pay \$35 for a hospital bed for one month. The committee then purchased hospital beds from Memorial Hospital in Phoenix for \$25 each, as well as second-hand equipment and walkers. Residents also donated items, and the first bed and wheelchair were loaned on April 2, 1962. All the equipment was kept at Rev. Thistlethwaite's apartment.

In October 1964 the Sunshine



Our warehouse enables us to store large amounts of equipment, making it easily accessible to Sun City residents.



## Sick Room Equipment

### Weights:

- 1# Ankle weight
- 2# Ankle weight
- 3# Ankle weight
- 4# Ankle weight
- 5# Ankle weight
- 7.5# Ankle weight
- 10# Ankle weight

### Alternating pressure pad

### Amigo carrier

### Arm exerciser

### Bath bench

### Bathtub support

### Bed blocks

### Bed board

### Bedpan

### Bed rail

### Bed rest

### Bed-hospital

### Bedside table

### Blanket support

### Dumbbell

### Call bell

### Canes:

- Cane-four prong
- Cane-straight
- Cane-straight w/seat

### Card holder

### Cervical traction

### Chairs:

- Chair-folding
- Chair-geriatric
- Chair-lift
- Chairs-stationary



### Commode

### Crutches:

- Crutches
- Crutches-Canadian
- Crutches-platform

### Exercise bicycle

### Foam wedge

### Foot massager

### Fracture pan

### Hand grip

### Hand truck

### Hydro tub lift

### I.V. stand



Continued





## Sick Room Equipment

Jacuzzi  
Mattress raiser  
Pacer mat  
Platform arms  
Posey belt  
Posey jacket  
Ramp  
Restorator  
Rings:  
  Ring-foam  
  Ring-rubber  
Shampoo tray  
Sheepskin  
Shoe horn  
Slide board  
Slip-on aid  
Stools:  
  Stool-bar  
  Stool-foot  
Surgical shoe  
Tables  
Talking computer  
Toilet arms



Toilet seat-elevated

Tong

Transfer tub bench

Trapeze

Trapeze stand

Trays:

  Tray-arm

  Tray-bed

  Tray-T.V.

Walkers:

  Walker with seat

  Walker-folding

  Walker-four-wheeled

  Walker-one hand

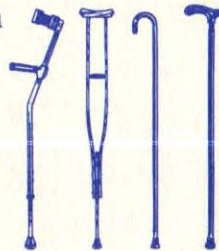
  Walker-straight

  Walker-walking

Wheelchair

Wheelchair cushion

Wheelchair tray



## Rollaways & Children's Equipment

Bassinets

Bathtub

Bumper pads

Carriers

Carseats

Chairs:

  Booster chair

  Folding chair

  High chair

  Nursery chair

  Youth chair

Cots:

  "A" (Age group up to 6 years)

  "B" (Age group up to 4 years)

Cribs:

  Porta crib

  Regular crib

Diaper pails

Nursery seat

Playpens

Rollaway Beds:

  "C" (30")

  "D" (39")

  "E" (48")

Strollers

Walkers





## HOW IT ALL CAME ABOUT -- A Brief History

In 1961 a Sunshine Committee was appointed to help those who were unable to pay the recreation dues of \$40 per home. These dues could be paid quarterly. Five of the nine directors of the Sun City Civic Association donated \$40 each to a fund for this purpose. A Sick and Visiting Committee was named and member of the Board, Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite was appointed to head both committees.

With \$200 the Sunshine Committee paid dues for four homes for the first quarter. These people said they would rather pay their own dues if they could find work. During the first quarter the Committee found work for three of them and paid only for one for the second quarter. This left \$150 in the treasury. The Committee learned that a Sun Citian had to pay \$35 to get a hospital bed for one month. An opportunity arose to buy hospital beds with mattresses from Memorial Hospital in Phoenix for \$25 each. Half of the \$150 was spent for three beds and a Sun Citian offered to buy a fourth. Thus the acquisition of sickroom equipment began. The Committee then bought some second-hand wheelchairs and walkers and some equipment was donated by residents.

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The 30 by 50 foot building was occupied in July, 1965, when there was \$8,000 worth of equipment. In 1968 it was realized that more storage space was needed. At that time there was \$22,000 worth of equipment. It was decided to build an addition to the building. The Del Webb Co. again came to the aid of the organization and Sun Citians contributed \$9,000 to help pay for the addition.

Again in 1973 larger quarters were needed and the Webb Co. gave Sunshine Service a large lot at its present location with parking space for 27 cars, and agreed to build a much larger building at cost. The building was occupied in December, 1973. The moving was accomplished with the help of the Snyder Transfer Co. and volunteer helpers. At this time there was \$83,726 invested in sickroom equipment. Through the sale of the old building and with the help of the Del Webb Co. in building the new building at cost and providing the paving and parking area and the landscaping, together with money from the organization's treasury, the new Sunshine Building was paid for in full.

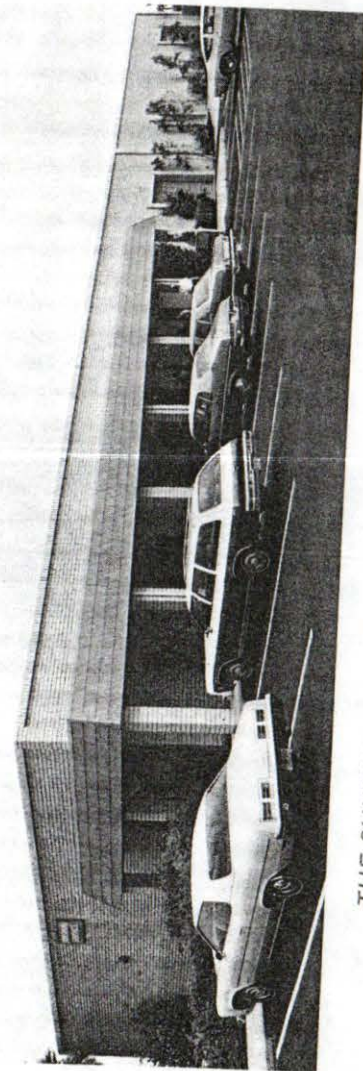
In 1970 when the population of Sun City was 16,000, Sunshine Service equipment was in 400 places. In 1974 with a population of 35,000 the equipment was in 1170 places. And on July 25, 1977 with a population of 42,000 the sickroom equipment was being used in 2,054 places.

It has been calculated that in 1976 through Sunshine Service, savings to borrowers totaled over \$415,000.00. With the rapid growth of Sun City and the aging of the early residents, it is conceivable that even though the Sunshine Building has been enlarged in 1977, the Service will need even more space as the need arises.

*So far as is known, there is nothing like Sunshine Service of Sun City anywhere. Those who work in it, for it, and contribute to it are proud to be a part of this thoughtful care and concern for their fellow Sun Citians.*

September, 1977

1977  
SUNSHINE SERVICE, INC.



9980 Santa Fe Drive  
Sun City, Arizona  
85351

Telephone:  
974-2561

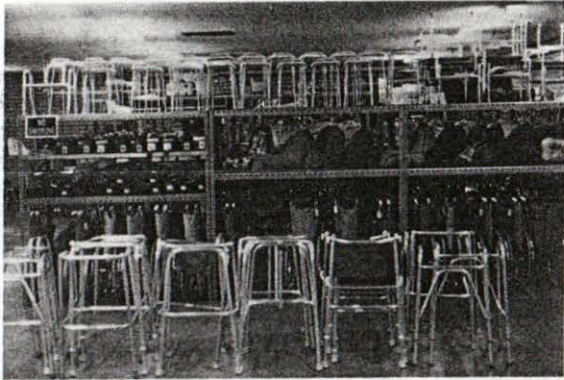
OFFICE HOURS:  
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THE SUNSHINE BUILDING -- OFFICE AND STORE ROOM





*Fern Thistlethwaite, office and telephone girl for Sunshine Service, surveys the hodgepodge of sickroom equipment on the Thistlethwaite lanai in 1965.*



*Some of the sickroom equipment for use by Sun Citians.*



*Rollaway beds for guests or new residents awaiting their furniture, baby cribs, high-chairs, strollers, etc. available for visiting children.*

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# SUNSHINE SERVICE

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The Sunshine Service Board of 25 members (which meets each month), district chairmen, co-chairmen, neighborhood chairmen, et al. All service by these Sun Citians is voluntary. The four office employees and one bookkeeper and the three men who work in the equipment warehouse all work part-time and are the only paid members of the Sunshine Service Organization.

The organization does not have a self-perpetuating Board of Directors. The Directors are elected on the fourth Monday of October at the annual meeting. Every district chairman, co-chairman, neighborhood chairman and each helper has a vote and may nominate a Sun Citian for director. (This is provided for in the incorporation documents of the organization.)

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It provides sickroom equipment **WITHOUT CHARGE** for as long as may be necessary to any Sun Citian who may need it. Following is a list of sickroom equipment available:

Alternating electrically operated bed size pressure pads (invaluable in preventing bed sores)

Backrests  
Bath Benches  
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Breathing Machines  
Canes  
Commode Chairs  
Crutches  
Exerciser Bikes  
Heat Lamps  
Hi-Lo Hospital Beds

Hydraulic Lifts  
Mattress Raisers  
Nebulizers  
Paraffin Baths  
Suction Machines  
Traction Units  
Trapeze  
Vaporizers  
Walkers  
Wheelchairs  
Whirlpool Massagers  
And many other items for use in the sickroom.

(Oxygen is not provided)

We also have rollaway beds, baby cribs, high chairs, strollers, tricycles, etc.

The President of Sunshine Service calls on Sun Citians who may be ill in their homes and at local hospitals.

The Service provides all residents with an emergency window card which contains vital information for use in an emergency.

Obsolete but still usable sickroom equipment is disposed of by giving it to needy people outside of Sun City who are unable to buy their own, or to someone recommended by a doctor or visiting nurse or to some charitable organization.

### HOW IS IT FINANCED?

Solely by contributions and memorial gifts from individuals, organizations and clubs. Some Sun Citians are remembering the Service in their wills. Although there is a constant flow of money into Sunshine Service, there is also constantly increasing expenses as Sun City expands and more residents use the Service. All gifts to Sunshine Service are tax deductible.



# Medical Equipment

- Arm exerciser
- Bath bench
- Bathtub support
- Bed blocks
- Bed board
- Bed cane
- Bedpan
- Bed rail
- Bed rest
- Bed - electric hospital (Rx required)
- Bedroom monitor
- Alt. press pump & pad
- Bedside table
- Blanket support
- Dumbbell
- Call bell
- Canes:
  - Four prong
  - Straight
  - Straight with seat
- Card holder
- Chairs:
  - Geriatric
  - Lift (Rx required)
- Commode
- Crutches:
  - Arm crutches
  - Platform crutches
- Exercise bicycle (Rx required)
- Foam Ring
- Foam wedge
- Foot massager
- Fracture pan
- Hand grip
- Hand truck
- I.V. stand
- Mattress raiser
- Platform arms
- Posey belt
- Ramp - aluminum
- Restorator
- Shampoo tray
- Sheepskin
- Shoe horn
- Slide board
- Slip-on aid
- Stools:
  - Bar
  - Foot
- Surgical shoe
- Toilet arms
- Toilet seat - elevated
- Tong
- Transfer tub bench with Slide
- Trapeze
- Trapeze stand
- Trays:
  - Arm tray
  - Bed tray
  - T.V. tray
  - Walker tray
- Walkers:
  - With Seat
  - Folding with front wheels (Rx req.)
  - One hand
  - Straight
  - 4-wheel walker (Rx req.)
- Weights:
  - 1# Ankle weight
  - 2# Ankle weight
  - 3# Ankle weight
  - 4# Ankle weight
  - 5# Ankle weight
  - 7.5# Ankle weight
  - 10 # Ankle weight
- Wheelchair / Companion Chair
- Wheelchair cushion
- Wheelchair tray



Three Wheel Walker • Folding Walker  
Four Wheel Walker

# Lift Chairs



Lift Chair (Rx required)

# Rollaways & Children's Equipment

- Bathtub
- Bed rails
- Bumper Pads
- Chairs:
  - Booster chair
  - Folding chair
  - Nursery chair
  - Youth chair
- Cots - Children
- Cribs
- Diaper pails
- Jumper chairs
- Nursery seat
- Playpens
- Rollaway Beds:
  - "C" (30")
  - "D" (39")
  - "E" (48")
- Strollers



9980 Santa Fe Drive  
Sun City, Arizona 85351-3197

Phone 623-974-2561  
Fax 623-974-6514

Office Hours  
Monday through Friday  
9 am - 4 pm



## Welcome to Sunshine Service

People, meeting needs of people is what Sunshine Service is all about. Sunshine Service lends medical and children's equipment to residents of Sun City. We are a non-profit Arizona corporation and are funded by voluntary contributions and memorial gifts. A paid administrator and staff handle the daily operations of Sunshine Service. The administrator is hired by and reports to the Board of Directors who are elected for five-year terms. The Board nominates and elects officers, approves budgets, major expenditures and monitors overall operation of the corporation. Sun City residents are eligible to be nominated to serve on the Board of Sunshine Service.

While the equipment is available for the use of all residents or visitors staying with residents, the equipment must not be taken out of Sun City on a permanent basis. As a matter of control, equipment is loaned only to Sun City residents.

It is our pleasure to serve the residents of Sun City. We trust that, when necessary you will avail yourself, your family and visitors of the many items of equipment that Sunshine Service offers.

*Sincerely,  
Sunshine Service Board of Directors*



## History of Sunshine Service

In 1961, the Sun City Civic Association, the forerunner of today's Sun City Homeowners Association, appointed a Sunshine Committee to help residents who were unable to pay the then annual recreation dues of \$40 per home. Four directors of the Civic Association contributed \$40 each to establish a fund for the Sunshine Committee. A Sick and Visiting Committee was also named and the Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite was named chairperson of both committees.

In the first year, the Sunshine Committee learned of a resident who had to pay \$35 to rent a hospital bed for one month. Upon learning this, the committee purchased three hospital beds from Memorial Hospital in Phoenix for \$25 each, as well as second-hand equipment and walkers. Residents also donated items and the first bed and wheelchair were loaned on April 2, 1962. All of the equipment was kept on the lanai at Rev. Thistlethwaite's home.

In October 1964 the Sunshine Committee became an independent chartered organization and the name was changed to Sunshine Service, Inc. Rev. Thistlethwaite was elected president and served in that capacity until ill health forced his resignation in 1981.



**A friendly staff eager to help you.**



**Equipment repairs and maintenance.**

The Del Webb Company donated a building site and constructed the first Sunshine building at 10307 Coggins Drive. The building was occupied in July 1965 with \$8,000 worth of equipment. In 1968, an addition was constructed by the Del Webb Company and interested citizens. In 1973, Del Webb again donated the land and constructed the building at our present location at 9980 Santa Fe Drive. We occupied the property courtesy of Snyder Transfer Company and volunteers. In 1985, another addition brought us to our current capacity of more than 22,000 square feet. Currently the inventory is valued at over one million dollars.

Records show that as the population of Sun City grew so did use of our medical equipment. Savings for Sun City residents have been calculated periodically; in 2001, it was estimated that residents saved over two million dollars for that year alone.

Sunshine Service, Inc. has received local, state and national recognition. Awards received include the George Washington Honor Medal for services to the sick and handicapped from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge in Pennsylvania.





# SUNSHINE SERVICE, Inc.

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THE SUNSHINE BUILDING - OFFICE AND STORE ROOM

**OFFICE HOURS:**  
Mondays through  
Fridays  
9:00 to 12:00 and  
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Saturdays:  
9:00 to 12:00



# HOW IT ALL CAME ABOUT --



*A hodgepodge! Sunshine Service sickroom equipment piled on Rev. Thistlethwaite's lanai in Spring of 1965.*



*A glimpse of the many articles of sickroom equipment available at Sunshine Service. Roll-away beds are a great convenience for visitors and newcomers whose furniture has not yet arrived.*



*A general view of the hundreds of items of sickroom equipment available at Sunshine Service.*

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Later the Sunshine Committee became an independent chartered organization and changed its name to Sunshine Service, Inc. The Del Webb Co. donated a lot and built the first Sunshine Service building at 10307 Coggins Drive. It was to cost not over \$14,000. Letters were sent to clubs in Sun City asking for contributions. Checks were received from clubs, organizations and individuals (individuals were not



# TO THE PEOPLE OF SUN CITY--

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The organization does not have a self-perpetuating Board of Directors. The Directors are elected on the fourth Monday of October at the annual meeting. Every district chairman, co-chairman, neighborhood chairman and other helpers has a vote and may nominate a Sun Citian for director. (This is provided for in the incorporation documents of the organization.)

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Suction Machines

Traction units

Trapeze

Vaporizers

Walkers

We also have baby cribs, high chairs and rollaway beds.

And many other items.

The chairmen visit Sun Citians who may be alone, and in time of illness and bereavement they offer their services (if they are desired.) The President of Sunshine Service calls on Sun Citians who may be ill in their homes and at local hospitals.

The Service provides all residents with an emergency window card which contains vital information for use in an emergency.

The Service also helps residents get household or nursing help IN CASE OF ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS. (The remuneration paid such help is a matter between those who need help and those who want work.)

Obsolete but still usable sickroom equipment is disposed of by giving it to Sun Citians who may be leaving Sun City, to someone recommended by a doctor or visiting nurse or to some charitable organization.

### HOW IS IT FINANCED?

Solely by contributions and memorial gifts from individuals, organizations and clubs. Some Sun Citians are remembering the Service in their wills. While there is a constant flow of money into Sunshine Service, there is likewise a constantly increasing expense as Sun City expands and more residents use the Service. All gifts to Sunshine Service are tax deductible.



# A Brief History

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The 30 by 50 foot building was occupied in July, 1965, when there was \$8,000 worth of equipment. In 1968 it was realized that more storage space was needed. At that time there was \$22,000 worth of equipment. It was decided to build an addition to the building. The Del Webb Co. again came to the aid of the organization and Sun Citizens contributed \$9,000 to help pay for the addition.

Again in 1973 larger quarters were needed and the Webb Co. gave Sunshine Service a large lot at its present location with parking space for 27 cars, and agreed to build a much larger building at cost. The building was occupied in December, 1973. The moving was accomplished with the help of the Snyder Transfer Co. and volunteer helpers. At this time there was \$83,726 invested in sickroom equipment. Through the sale of the old building and with the help of the Del Webb Co. in building the new building at cost and providing the paving and parking area and the landscaping, together with money from the organization's treasury, the new Sunshine Building was paid for in full.

In 1970 when the population of Sun City was 16,000, Sunshine Service equipment was in 400 homes. In 1974, with a population of 35,000, the equipment is in 1170 homes. It has been calculated that if all this equipment had been rented at current prices, it would cost \$23,869 per month! On this basis, Sunshine Service saved Sun Citizens over \$250,000 in 1974. With the rapid growth of Sun City, it is easily conceivable that it may be necessary to enlarge the building in two or three years. The work of Sunshine Service can only be continued through the constant generosity of Sun Citizens.

So far as is known, there is nothing like Sunshine Service of Sun City anywhere. Those who work in it and for it are proud to be a part of this thoughtful care and concern for their fellow Sun Citizens.



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*THE SUNSHINE BUILDING — OFFICE AND STORE ROOM*



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*Some of the sickroom equipment for use by Sun Citians.*



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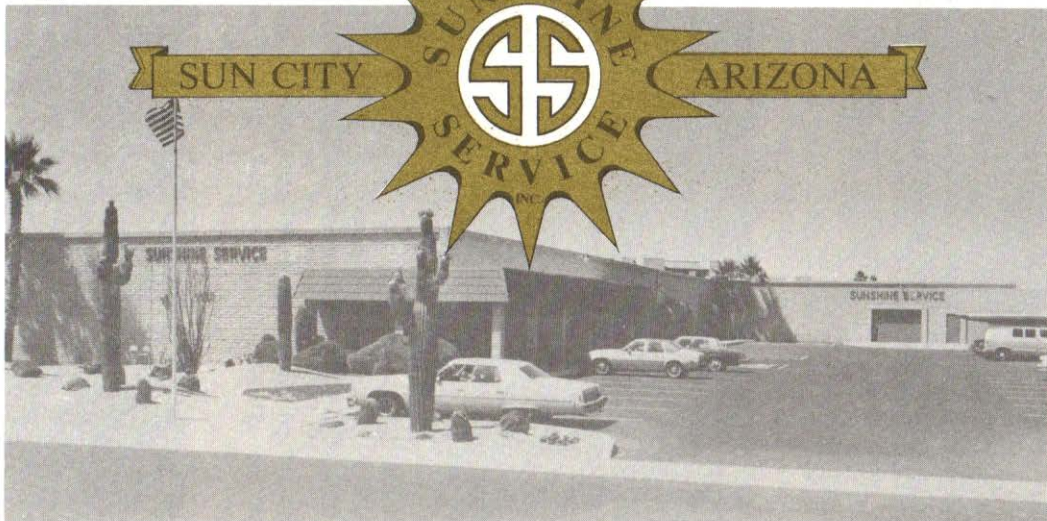
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1989?



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 Sun City, Arizona  
 83531-3197

Telephone:  
 974-2561

**OFFICE HOURS**

**Mondays through  
 Fridays**

**9:00 to 12:00 and  
 1:00 to 4:00**

**THE SUNSHINE SERVICE BUILDING — ADMINISTRATION AND WAREHOUSE**





*Administrative Office and Personnel of Sunshine Service, serving residents of Sun City.*



*View of Sickroom Equipment in the Warehouse.*



*View of Sickroom Equipment, and also items for visiting children.*

## SUNSHINE SERVICE INC. . .

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- In that first year, the Sunshine Committee learned that a resident had to pay \$35 for a hospital bed for one month. An opportunity arose for the committee to buy hospital beds with mattresses from Memorial Hospital in Phoenix for \$25 each. Some second-hand equipment and walkers were also purchased, and together with items donated by residents, the acquisition of sickroom equipment began.

- In the early years, neighborhood chairmen kept in touch with residents who were alone, ill, or in need of advice or sympathy. Eventually the growth of the community made it impractical to continue this personal service.

- The first bed and wheelchair were loaned on April 2, 1962, and all the equipment, when not in use, was stored in Reverend Thistlethwaite's apartment. He and his wife Fern, the telephone and office girl, loaned items to 29 homes that year.

- In October, 1964, the Sunshine Committee became an independent chartered organization, and the name was changed to Sunshine Service, Inc. Reverend Thistlethwaite was elected president, serving in that capacity until 1981, when ill health dictated his resignation.

- The Del Webb Company donated a building site and constructed the first Sunshine Service building at 10307 Coggins Drive. Gifts from individuals, clubs, and organizations made it possible to have the 30' x 50' building paid for on completion, and it was occupied in July, 1965, with \$8000 worth of equipment.

- When, in 1968, the now \$22,000 equipment inventory needed more space, an addition was constructed, again with the help of the Del Webb Company and interested citizens.

Those who work at **SUNSHINE SERVICE** are proud to be a part of this thoughtful



# To the People of Sun City . . . **THE STORY OF SUNSHINE SERVICE, INC. . . .**

*A helping hand in the time of illness, bereavement or heartaches of any kind.*

## **WHO PROVIDES THIS SERVICE?**

- Sunshine Service, Inc. functions under the direction of the Board of Directors, which serves on a voluntary basis and meets once each month.
- The only paid employees of the organization are a full time administrator, and on a part-time basis, four office employees, one accountant and six warehouse men.
- The organization does not have a self-perpetuating Board of Directors. A Nominating Committee presents its list of Sun City residents who have been interviewed by members of the committee. Nominations may also be made from the floor. (This procedure is specified in the Articles of Incorporation.) The Directors are elected at the annual meeting for a term of five years.

## **WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED?**

- Sickroom equipment is available for as long as necessary to any resident of Sun City who may need it.
- Alternating Pressure Pads
- Exercise Bikes
- Back Rests
- Hospital Beds
- Bath Benches
- Mattress Raisers
- Bedside Tables
- Trapeze
- Canes
- Walkers
- Commode Chairs
- Wheelchairs
- Crutches
- Whirlpool Massagers

*Plus many other items for sick room use.  
(Oxygen is not provided)*

- Equipment that is obsolete but still usable is repaired to make it safe. It is then donated to needy persons outside of Sun City, to persons recommended by a doctor or visiting nurse, or to a charitable organization.

Other items are available for visiting guests and grandchildren.

- Cots
- High Chairs
- Strollers
- Cribs
- Roll-Away Beds
- Car Seats

## **HOW IS SUNSHINE SERVICE, INC., FINANCED?**

- Voluntary contributions and memorial gifts from individuals, organizations and clubs provide substantial income. Some Sun Citians remember the service in their wills. Although there is a flow of money into the coffers, there is also continually increasing expense as the residents grow older and more people need and use the service.

All gifts are tax deductible. No federal, state or municipal funds have ever been requested or received.



# SUNSHINE SERVICE INC. ... The Historical Perspective

- In 1961 The Sun City Home Owners appointed a Sunshine Committee to help residents who were unable to pay the annual recreation dues of \$40 per home. Five of the nine association directors contributed \$40 each to a fund for this purpose. A Sick and Visiting Committee was also named. Board member Rev. E. Duane Thistlethwaite was chairman of both committees.

- In that first year, the Sunshine Committee learned that a resident had to pay \$35 for a hospital bed for one month. An opportunity arose for the committee to buy hospital beds with mattresses from Memorial Hospital in Phoenix for \$25 each. Some second-hand equipment and walkers were also purchased, and together with items donated by residents, the acquisition of sickroom equipment began.

- In the early years, neighborhood chairmen kept in touch with residents who were alone, ill, or in need of advice or sympathy. Eventually the growth of the community made it impractical to continue this personal service.

- The first bed and wheelchair were loaned on April 2, 1962, and all the equipment, when not in use, was stored in Reverend Thistlethwaite's apartment. He and his wife Fern, the telephone and office girl, loaned items to 29 homes that year.

- In October, 1964, the Sunshine Committee became an independent chartered organization, and the name was changed to Sunshine Service, Inc. Reverend Thistlethwaite was elected president, serving in that capacity until 1981, when ill health dictated his resignation.

- The Del Webb Company donated a building site and constructed the first Sunshine Service building at 10307 Coggins Drive. Gifts from individuals, clubs, and organizations made it possible to have the 30' x 50' building paid for on completion, and it was occupied in July, 1965, with \$8000 worth of equipment.

- When, in 1968, the now \$22,000 equipment inventory needed more space, an addition was constructed, again with the help of the Del Webb Company and interested citizens.

- In 1973, the service was moved to the present location at 9980 Sante Fe Drive, courtesy of Snyder Transfer Company and many other volunteers.

- By 1977, a total of 15,600 square feet housed the equipment, valued at nearly \$100,000. Growth and service continued, and in 1985 the Board of Directors approved the addition of 7,800 square feet with very modern cleaning and handling equipment. Present floor capacity is just over 22,000 square feet, and inventory is valued at \$750,000.

The records show an interesting correlation between population and use of the service. In 1970, when the population of Sun City was approximately 16,000, loaned equipment was in 400 homes. In 1974, with the population increased to 35,000, equipment was in 1,170 homes. By 1981, population 48,000, equipment was in 2,800 homes, and in 1988 the records show equipment in more than 3,400 homes at any given time.

- Significant savings for Sun Citizens have been calculated periodically. In 1988, for instance, 17,981 separate items were on loan, and based on average costs for rental or purchase, an aggregate savings of over \$1,305,000 was effected for the residents in this single year.

- Many communities across the nation continue to express interest in this extraordinary concept, and many individuals and organizations have had the opportunity to examine the Sunshine Service operation at first hand. In the immediate area, help was provided, in 1982, to start a separate and independent unit to serve Sun City West.

- **SUNSHINE SERVICE, INC.**, has received local, state and national recognition. Among the coveted awards is the George Washington Honor Medal award for services to the sick and handicapped, from the Freedoms Foundation of Valley Forge in Pennsylvania.

Those who work at **SUNSHINE SERVICE** and for it, and contribute to it, are proud to be a part of this thoughtful care and concern for their fellow Sun Citizens.