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**C2 Emphasis**      **Wednesday, Jan. 18, 1989**      **Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.**

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## Have you heard?

### Historical society moves collection

PEORIA — The Sun Cities Area Historical Society moved its collection into larger but still temporary quarters Saturday.

"Priority one is to develop a headquarters to preserve and display the vast amount of material we have acquired," said President Glenn Sanberg, who was elected last week.

The materials are now in donated quarters in Office F2 at the Plaza del Rio Medical complex. This will permit members to complete sorting, cataloging and filing in more ample space.

The assortment of pictures, clippings and other memorabilia originally was donated (much of it by the Del E. Webb Corp.) to the group which organized informally in a windowless second floor office of the Daily News-Sun.

The group produced "Jubilee — The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona" in 1984 in time for the 1985 activities. Since vacating the News-Sun quarters, materials have been stored at the home of new Vice President Jane Freeman.

"We hope to be able to announce our new, permanent home within 60 days," said Sanberg.

Other officers recently elected are Secretary Rita Wright and Treasurer Al Thompson.

# Sun Cities' historians preserve a phenomenon

By GLENN B. SANBERG  
News-Sun columnist

SUN CITY — When 20 people got together on Oct. 20, 1982, at what was then the First Federal Savings & Loan Community Room to launch "JUBILEE-The 25th Anniversary of Sun City," an historical society came Sanberg into being as well.

Now, six years later and fully organized, The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is ready to offer the world a vast storehouse of invaluable material telling the story of one of the most significant sociological develop-



## Retired in style

ments in our nation's history.

The only thing standing in the way is the public will to take the next logical step — an historical information headquarters worthy of the heritage it represents.

Sun City represents a new phase in the greening of America that is studied, reported and copied the world over. The society is attempting to make sure that the true story is being told but is hampered by the lack of facilities to meet the demand.

The society is deeply indebted to Jane Freeman, who has graciously provided storage space in her home for literally thousands of valuable and irreplaceable

documents for over three years.

Now, through the generosity of Dr. Harold Griess, these have been moved to a temporary office at Plaza Del Rio where a handful of dedicated volunteers will begin the task of sorting, identifying and cataloguing the material.

Boxes and boxes of pictures — such as the cotton fields where the Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital now stands, publicity shots of Mr. and Mrs. Frazer in front of the home they won in a contest to name Sun City and Del Webb chatting with friends at a community barbecue — are waiting to be filed for easy access.

There are tapes of interviews with men like James G Boswell,

who with L.C. Jacobson, Webb's partner, negotiated the purchase of some 20,000 acres where the Sun Cities are now built.

There are ads inviting people in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa and New York to attend the grand opening of Sun City's first model homes Jan. 1, 1960.

You can see and read the actual formal treaty that was drawn up between Oakmont and Fairway Recreation Centers and filed with the Secretary of State of Arizona, which settled a long-standing dispute that decried the use of each other's facilities.

These are just samples of interesting and valuable data the society has preserved and protected from oblivion so they can be displayed and made available

for research once suitable facilities are built.

The society is keeping the few remaining copies of JUBILEE until such time as an up-dated book can be published. The beautiful pen-and-ink sketches of Sun City churches by Emil Fischer, published in book form for the society, are still available at the nominal price of \$5.

The society is at a critical point in its journey to become a viable community enterprise.

If we are to preserve our identity as the greatest retirement community in the world; if the breakthrough of the sociological concept of Del Webb's Sun City is to be preserved for study, research and enjoyment of generations to come, a permanent

headquarters must be provided.

The foundations have been laid, but the unusual Sun City story needs to be told over and over again if our community is to grow and prosper.

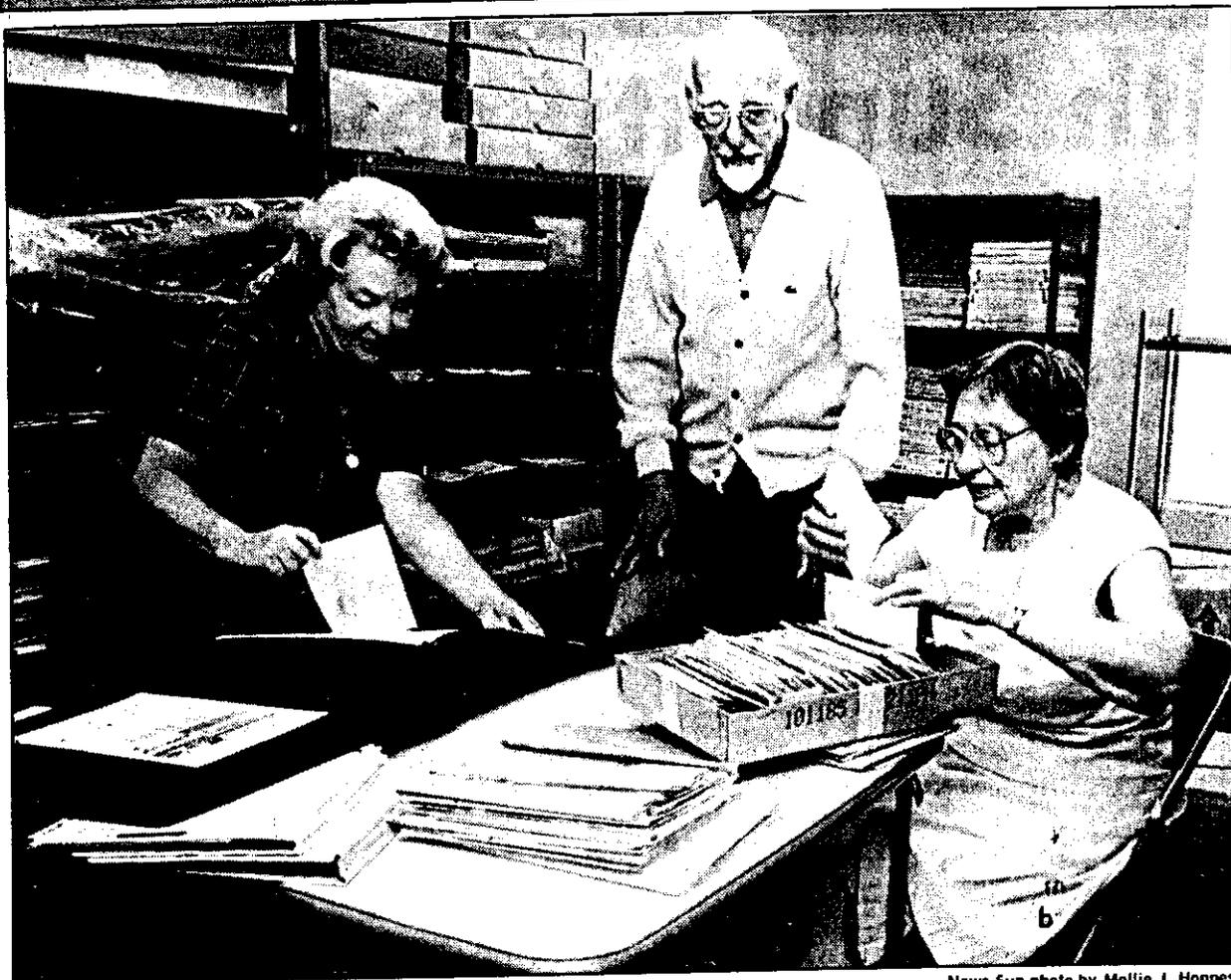
Under a newly-structured board of trustees announced this week, the society has set goals for the coming year that include renewed public understanding and support for its mission.

Like so many other worthwhile and successful projects in the Sun Cities the Historical Society will surely be welcomed with a generous outpouring of funds and volunteers so traditional in this community when a genuine need is made known.

*Sanberg is president of the Sun Cities Historical Society.*

C2 Emphasis Monday, April 3, 1989 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

## Have you heard?



News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**FOR THE ARCHIVES** — Members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society are busy in new, temporary quarters in Office F2 at

Plaza del Rio Medical complex. Here Jeanne Woodford, left, Emil Fischer and Agnes Fansler sort materials.

### Historical Society meets April 10

SUN CITY — Don Tuffs, senior vice president of the Del Webb Corp., will speak at the annual spring meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society at 2 p.m. April 10 at El Dorado of Sun City, 10330 Thunderbird Blvd.

His topic will be "The Del Webb Story: Today and the Future."

Tuffs joined the public relations staff of the Del E. Webb Development Co. in 1971. He was named manager of the Sundome in 1980 and in 1983 was appointed senior vice president. He now serves as senior vice president, real estate group, Del Webb Corp.



The society, in its fourth year, will announce future plans at the meeting.

The public is invited.

# Sun Cities Area Historical Society gets model home for headquarters

News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — While the walls of the area's first hotel have come tumbling down, a local historical society is taking steps that will keep Sun City's first model home around a lot longer.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will soon remodel the home at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, next to Oakmont Recreation Center and North Golf Course, to serve as a museum and headquarters.

The group seeks volunteers to work this summer to make a fall opening and dedication possible.

The society, formed in 1985, hopes to get the home, built in 1959, listed on the Arizona State Historic Property Inventory. And

in 19 years, when eligible, the society hopes to get the home included on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Historical Society President Glenn Sanberg announced today that the James G. Boswell Foundation donated a matching-funds grant of \$30,000 and that another \$46,000 for renovation is to be met by gifts of trustees, members and friends.

Del Webb Communities Inc., which built Sun City, will donate \$5,000, office equipment and a complete set of plats to be housed in the museum.

The goal is to raise \$10,000 from the public to enable the group to house the memorabilia now in temporary storage that

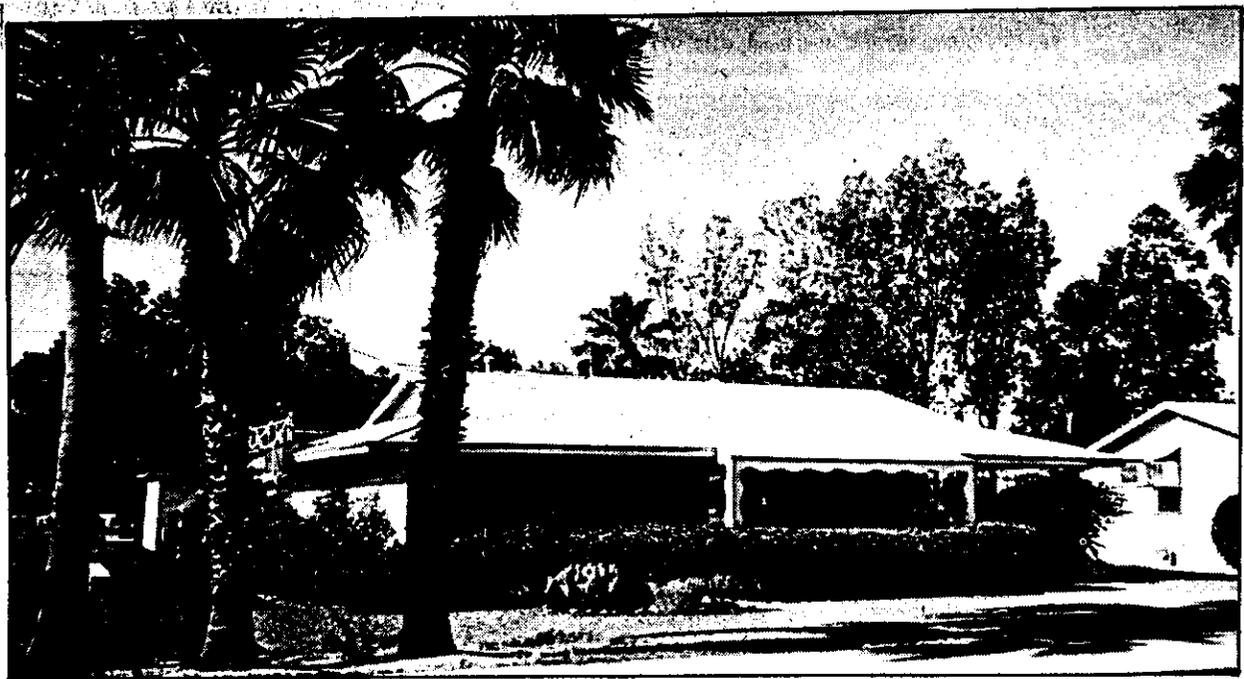
was acquired in 1985 when Sanberg and Jane Freeman wrote "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona."

Acquisition of the property was arranged by Les Merydith, building committee chairman, and lawyer Robert Farrer.

Vice President Freeman made a plea for typewriters for use by retired librarian members as they catalog thousands of photos, clippings, telephone books, brochures, scrapbooks and other memorabilia.

Those who wish to make a contribution may do so to Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 16828 N. 99th Ave., Sun City 85351.

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Tuesday, May 16, 1989 Community A3



News-Sun photo by P. Atwood Williams

**TO BECOME MUSEUM** — Sun City's first model home at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive will be remodeled to become the headquarters of the Sun Cities Historical Society.

## Sun City plans to house 29-year past in museum

By Holly D. Remy  
The Arizona Republic

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society on Tuesday announced plans to turn a house into a museum of Sun City history — all 29 years of it.

"As we like to say, 'Today is tomorrow's history,'" said Jane Freeman, the society's vice president.

The museum will contain items squirreled away by donors, including restaurant menus, programs for Easter services, a 45-rpm record from 1964 titled *Santa Claus and Sun City*, and a

uniform and softballs used by the Sun City Saints women's professional team, which was disbanded in 1985.

The house, which also will be the historical society's headquarters, is at 10801 Oakmont Drive.

"It is the first house that Del Webb built and one of the three models that opened on the first weekend in January 1960," said Glenn Sanberg, the society's president.

According to the society's records, Del E. Webb Development Corp. sold

— See SUN CITY, page B2

## Sun City planning museum

— SUN CITY, from page B1

two-bedroom homes like the model for \$9,300 in 1960, plus \$1,250 for a lot next to a golf course and \$600 for air conditioning.

The group is paying \$44,000 for the house, which has been unoccupied for about a year, and expects to spend \$16,000 to renovate it, Sanberg said. The funding is from donations and a \$30,000 grant from the James G. Boswell Foundation. The sale is expected to close within 10 days.

If all goes according to plan, the museum will open before Sun City's first 30-year mortgages are paid off.

"We hope to use the summer months to renovate the house and then open the museum in the fall," said Les Merydith, chairman of the society's building committee.

Because it will contain thousands of photographs, newspaper clippings and

books by area authors, Freeman said, the museum will be used mainly as an archive.

Eventually, she said, the society hopes to have collections dating to the 1850s, when settlers arrived in the area.

The museum idea was born in 1985, the year the historical society was begun and Sun City celebrated its 25th year.

The society already has asked that the house have a special designation.

"We've already contacted the state and have been assured that the house will be listed as a historical site," Merydith said.

Such designations are reserved for buildings at least 50 years old or of special significance, said Pat Stein, a preservation planner for the historic-preservation office of the Arizona Parks Department.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1989

**B**

# Historical society gets home

## 1st Webb model to be museum

By Connie Cone Sexton  
*The Phoenix Gazette*

SUN CITY — The community's first model home has been sold to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, which will convert it into a museum and headquarters.

During the past four years, society members have been collecting books, printed materials and other memorabilia to chronicle the Sun Cities' history. But without a permanent location, the members have had to place items in their homes or storage areas.

Buying the house not only lets members dust off and reacquaint themselves with the pieces, but it will let the public view them as well, said Glenn Sanberg, society president.

Built in 1959 by the Del E. Webb Development Co., the house at 10801 Oakmont Drive had two bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen and a living room. A third bedroom, a second bath and an Arizona room were added to the frame house.

Sanberg is excited about getting the society's collection arranged.

"We're in the process of closing the deal on the house," he said. "It's on track. There is no question whether we will be going there."

Sanberg said the house is an ideal choice for the society because of its historic nature.

"But we'll still have to do some substantial remodeling," he said. "We will maintain it as a historic property. We hope to get it filed with the Arizona State Historic Property Inventory and eventually with the National Registry of Historic Places." Only property at least 50 years old is eligible for the registry.

Most residents will be surprised at the size of the society's collection, Sanberg said. "(The James G.) Boswell (Foundation) has given us maps and original blueprints of the area," he said. "And the Del Webb people have given us architectural blueprints of the original homes. This will be very useful for people who have these original homes and want to remodel them."

Other items include the first trophy given to the Sun City Saints softball team. "And hundreds and hundreds of pictures," he said. "We can't decide how to arrange it all. The house will have to be carefully designed to accommodate everything, and we'll need a place to work and get organized."

Eventually, the museum will be opened to the public. "This means we'll have to have a group of volunteers," Sanberg said.

He plans to convert the front of the house into a large room for exhibits and meetings. The kitchen is to be remodeled for the local genealogy society. Other space will be used for a museum office and storage.

During this first stage, a sign will be erected on the lawn designating the house as the original Del Webb model home.

In the second stage of remodeling, the carport would be converted for the genealogy group. The former kitchen then would

See ■ History, Page D

The Phoenix Gazette

Wednesday, May 24, 1989

Page 1W-A

## ■ History

From Page A

become a meeting room.

A \$30,000 matching funds grant from the Boswell Foundation and money from trustees, members and friends of the society is being used to purchase the \$44,000 house. About \$16,000 will be needed for renovations and furniture, Sanberg said.

About \$7,500 per year is projected to be obtained from membership fees to operate the facility.

Acquiring the museum site was a top goal. With the move, members said they would push to have their membership grow.

The society was organized in 1985 during the publication of "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona." The book was

written by Sanberg and Jane Freeman. Proceeds were used by the authors to start the society.

Members collect material to help illustrate the history of the area, including its exploration, settlement, wealth and progress in population.

Hundreds of residents and business owners have donated printed material — histories, biographies, descriptions, directories, newspapers, handbills, posters and catalogs. Museum pieces include photographs and paintings that illustrate what the community looked like — past to present.

Contributions may be sent to: Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 16828 99th Ave., Sun City 85351.

# Historical Society purchases first Sun City model home for museum

*"Today is tomorrow's history."  
-- Jane Freeman,  
vice president, Sun Cities  
Area Historical Society*

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has purchased the very first model home ever built in Sun City and has announced plans to convert it into an historical museum.

The property, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, adjacent to the Oakmont Recreation Center and North Golf Course, will be used by the organization to store its large collection of Sun City photos and momentos.

The purchase was made possible by a matching-funds grant of \$30,000 by the James G. Boswell Foundation.

The balance of the \$60,000 price tag will be met by private donations. The price includes an estimated expense of \$16,000 to upgrade and restore the home to its original condition.

Historical Society officials say they intend to have the property listed on the Arizona State Historic Property Inventory and

See *HISTORY*, page 7

## Welcome to Lizard Acres Group seeks early history on Sun Cities

Planning a trip to Marinette? How about Lizard Acres? Well, you won't have to go far.

Before Del Webb purchased the land on which Sun City and Sun City West now sit, the area now known as Sun City was called Marinette and Sun City West was known as Lizard Acres.

Most of the land was privately owned by the Boswell family who, in turn, sold it to the Webb Company.

Unfortunately, very little is known about the two communities in their pre-Sun Cities days.

The Sun Cities Historical Society is in the process of gathering information about the area prior to 1960 (the opening of Sun City).

• Volume 29, Number 20 •



**A LOOK INTO THE PAST.** The Sun Cities Historical Society has purchased the very first model home ever constructed in Sun City and plan to use the building to house its large archive of historical material pertaining to the Sun Cities. Jane Freeman and Glenn Sanberg display some of the items to be shown at the site.

over

Among the other items to be housed at the museum:

- community newspapers;
- private scrapbooks that have been donated to the Historical Society over the past few years;
- Del Webb marketing brochures dating back to 1960;
- material pertaining to the Sun City Saints, a professional women's softball team that, at one time, played at the Sun City Stadium. Items include a uniform and trophies won by the team over the years;

• every Sun City phone directory since the first one ever published.

The Historical Society also has the original "treaty" between members of the Oakmont Recreation Center and the Fairway Recreation Center (then called Town Hall Center).

In the early 1960s, members were restricted to one or the other recreation center. The "treaty," signed by the secretary of state, allowed members of each center to use both facilities.

"If you think there is a wall today between Sun City and Sun City West, there once was a real wall between Oakmont and Fairway members," says Ms. Freeman.

Ms. Freeman says funds are needed to complete the necessary repairs and renovations at the model home. A fund-drive campaign is planned for this fall.

Along with early photos of Sun City, Ms. Freeman says the Historical Society is presently in search of programs from early Easter Sunrise Services and Sun City Player productions.

In addition, the organization is searching for Pioneer residents who would be willing to provide oral histories of their early days in Sun City.

Call 977-9961 or 974-5377.

## • HISTORY

*S.C. Independent 6/24/89*

*From page one*

subsequently on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The Historical Society, a non-profit organization, was organized in 1985 following the publication of "Jubilee, the 25th Anniversary of Sun City." The

"We're trying to preserve history for the people of tomorrow."

-- Jane Freeman  
Historical Society

book, written by Jane Freeman and Glenn Sanberg, detailed the first 25 years of Sun City.

"We're trying to preserve our history for the people of tomorrow," says Ms. Freeman, vice president of the Historical Society.

The organization's main purpose has been to discover, collect and preserve materials that illustrate the history of Sun City, Sun City West and Youngtown.

Ms. Freeman says the group has been very successful in accumulating material. The new building, she says, will provide the Historical Society with a permanent facility to house and display its collection.

A few years ago, she says, Webb officials donated its archives to the organization.

"Unfortunately, many of the photos are not dated or labeled so our challenge is to go back and try to place the dates and names," says Ms. Freeman.

Wednesday, June 21, 1989

# 1st Webb home becomes SC shrine

By P. ATWOOD WILLIAMS  
News-Sun staff

**SUN CITY** — The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is planning an open house in January as part of Sun Cities 30th anniversary.

Historians will show off their new headquarters in Del E. Webb's first model home at 10801 Oakmont Drive, which opened Jan. 2, 1960.

The Wentworth model home was purchased recently by the historians to house society memorabilia now in temporary storage. Remodeling is underway and the group will move in during the fall.

The purchase was made possible by a matching-funds grant of \$30,000 by the James G. Boswell Foundation. The balance of the cost of \$60,000, including \$16,000 in upgrading expenses, is being met by gifts of trustees, members and friends.

Les Merydith, chairman of the society's Building Committee, arranged temporary financing and has been personally involved in the early renovation since the group occupied the building.

The front portion of the building, including the pink-tiled gal-

ley kitchen behind a high partition, will be left intact. However, the major addition to the home, which runs along the entire back facing the golf course, will be made into a multi-purpose room for the historians.

Merydith, who has already watered the front shrubs back to life, has torn out the bathroom addition in the new portion to make more space available.

Negotiations are now underway with the area genealogical society, which may wish to use the two bedrooms as library and research facility and share equipment space in the dining area and maintenance expenses.

The original Goettl air-conditioner/heating unit is in good working condition, and the company will donate another unit to cool and heat the addition across the back.

Architectural drawings and conversion plans were done by Trustee Emil Fisher, author of "Churches of the Sun Cities" published by the group.

Office furniture has also been donated by Del Webb Communities Inc., who began building the community 30 years ago.

The society is cataloging

materials in temporary quarters at Plaza del Rio where they pay only utilities.

The group organized in 1985 after the publication of "Jubilee, the 25th Anniversary of Sun City." For many months the materials were stored in the home of Jane Freeman, current vice president.

The new headquarters will house regular public displays of significant historical documents, stories and pictures of people and events of the early years in the two Sun Cities. Many of the materials were gathered when the builder cleaned out 25-year-old files.

The society has 80 members and is governed by a board of trustees of 14 members. Officers are: Glenn Sanberg, president; Rita Wright, secretary and Al Thompson, treasurer.

Funds are needed now to complete the repairs and upscale the landscaping. Those wishing to donate office equipment, services, other goods or make a tax-exempt contribution, may send a gift to: Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 16828 N. 99th Ave., Sun City 85351.

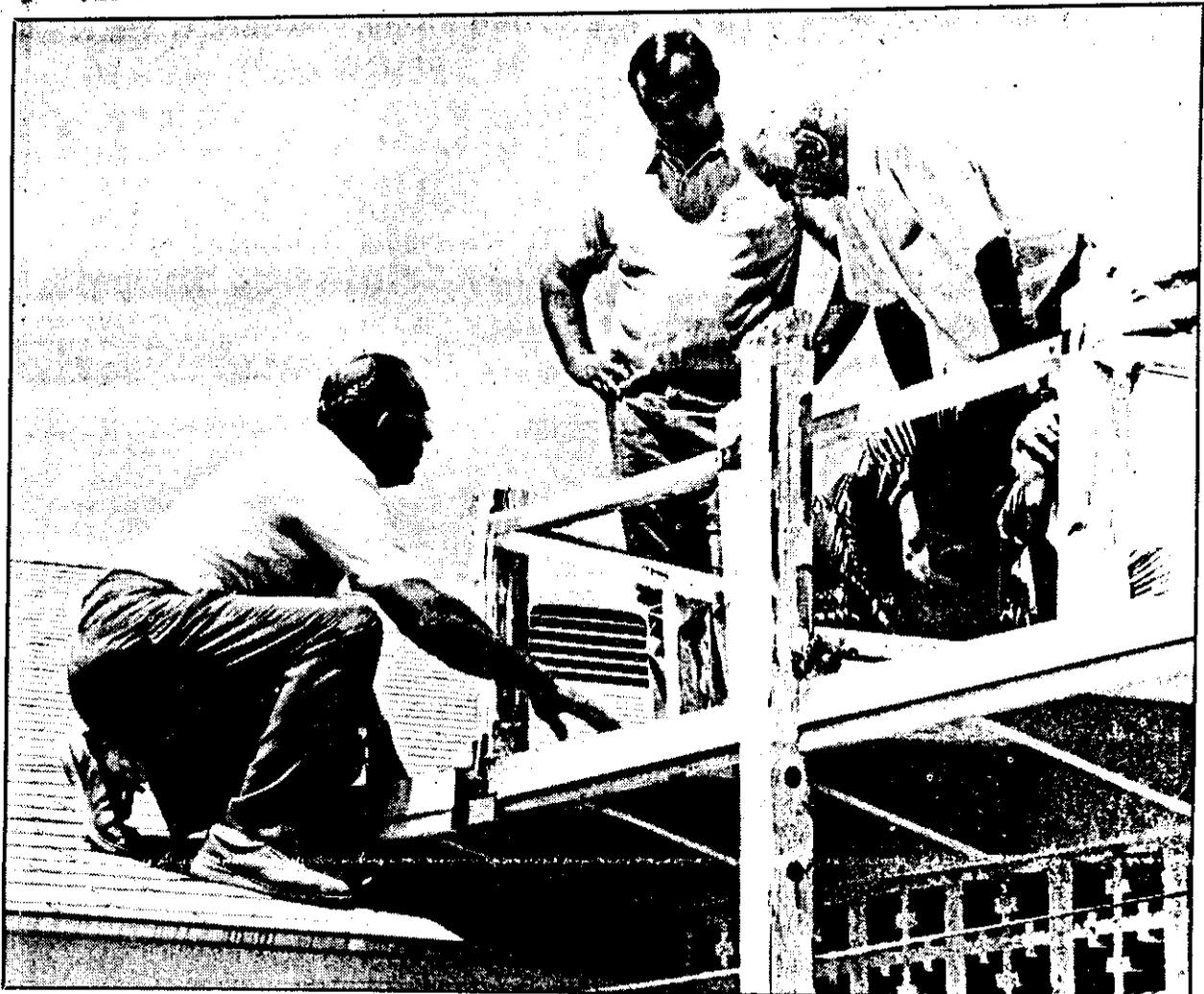


**THIS OLD HOUSE** — The first Sun City model home at 10801 Oakmont Dr., built in 1959 by the Del E. Webb Construction

Co., is being remodeled to house the Sun Cities Area Historical Society collections. A January open house is planned.

News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherneski

OVER



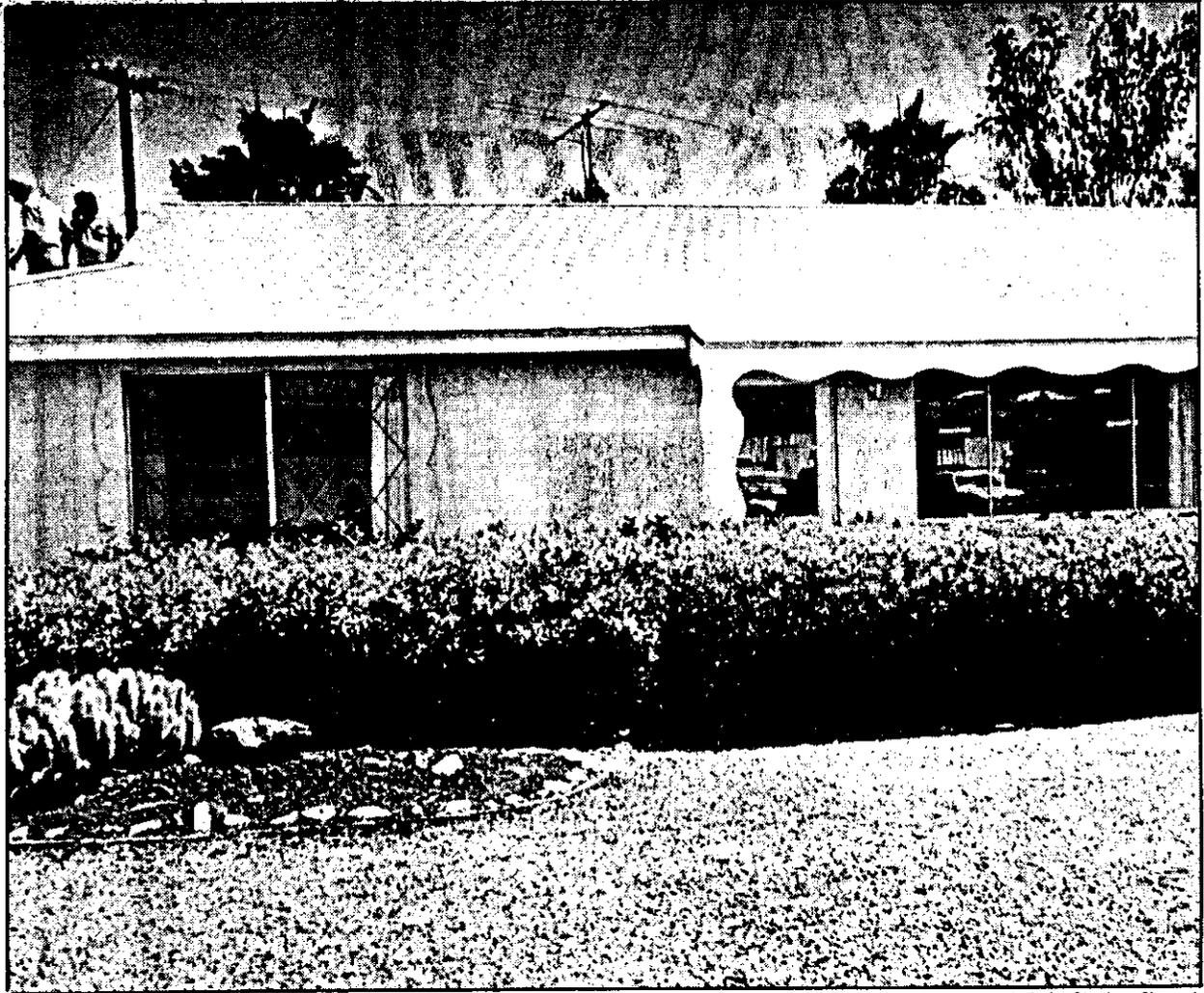
**COMBINED EFFORT** — Wally Britton, left, a consultant on the restoration project, talks with VerNon Lalliss and Les Merydith about the roof.

News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherek



**MINOR REPAIRS** — Historian Les Merydith talks with Jerry Kramer of Goettl Air Conditioning about ductwork to be done on the 30-year-old house.

News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherek



News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherek

**THIS OLD HOUSE** — The first Sun City model home at 10801 Oakmont Dr., built in 1959 by the Del E. Webb Construction

Co., is being remodeled to house the Sun Cities Area Historical Society collections. A January open house is planned.

## Retired in style

By GLENN B. SANBERG  
News-Sun columnist  
SUN CITY — ...

<sup>AUSTIN</sup>  
Tom ~~Watson~~, Del Webb's first activities coordinator, sends word from his home in Mesa congratulating the Sun Cities Historical Society on its new headquarters. He wants to donate the original Articles of Incorporation of the Sun City Civic Organization for its archives.

The framed document was presented to him by the board of directors in 1961. SCCO is the forerunner of our Sun City Home Owners Association.

Still an enthusiastic booster of Sun City, Tom suggests we should never forget that many of the present recreational facilities enjoyed in Sun City were initiated by the Pioneers.

"If it weren't for the devotion and hard work of the Pioneers," he said, "Sun City wouldn't be what it is today."

While many of the original members have died, there are still 264 Pioneer members by last count according to Evelyn Parry, secretary. Organized by Rev. Walter Witt in 1961 to celebrate the traditions of the greatest retirement community in the world, membership is now restricted to those living here up to 1965.

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Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Thursday, June 22, 1989

# Ring the bell for our freedoms

By JAN MITTELSTADT  
News-Sun editor

SUN CITY — Tomorrow is the 213th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. It is also the 213th anniversary of the Great Seal of the United States.

It's July 4th or Independence Day. It is — or should be — a day of great jubilation, rejoicing, and thanks. It's a day to celebrate the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, freedoms that are too often taken for granted.

It's a day to fly your flag, ring the bell, watch the fireworks and reread the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

It's a day to think about self-evident truths: "That all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

It's a day to think about we



## Sidesteps

the people and our duties and rights as discussed in the Preamble of the Constitution:

"We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

It's also a day to enjoy, however you want to define that.

But for once since I came to work in the Sun Cities, I have started the Fourth with ringing the bell. I will again this year.

"Ring That Bell" is a great way to start the day. As usual, it will take place from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Del Webb Memorial Garden at Bell Recreation Center, 16820 99th Ave.

There's singing, talking and ringing. This year, Jane Freeman will give the keynote address. Jane is a wonderful, tal-

ented, interested and interesting person, as well as the vice president of the Sun Cities Historical Society. I'm sure she'll have worthwhile things to listen to.

The singing has included "God Bless America" and other patriotic songs in the past and no doubt will again, led by very talented Sun Cities.

The ringing is for all of us. After the ceremony, all those who attend are invited to ring the replica of the Liberty Bell. It's fun.

The rest of the day is yours.

In the evening, you might want to go to the jazz concert at Beardsley Park Recreation Center in Sun City West. It starts at 7:30 p.m.

Or, there's a celebration, starting at 6 p.m., at the Peoria High School campus. There will be entertainment and fireworks. There's also a fireworks show in Surprise at dusk at the Bicentennial Park on Nash Street, near Crossroads Shopping Center.

Or, you can go to a baseball game at the Sun City Stadium. Game time is 7 p.m. It's the first baseball game to be played in

the stadium at 111th and Grand in four years. The game is the 1989 All-Star game of the Men's Senior Baseball League. The gates open at 6 p.m.

The Fourth of July is a big birthday party for the United States of America. It's a holiday to be enjoyed by all who are or want to be Americans.

We have a great deal to celebrate.

...

The News-Sun is also taking a holiday Tuesday. No paper will be published. It's one of six publication holidays observed each year.

Our office will close at 5 p.m. today and will reopen at 8 a.m. Wednesday.

Not all reporters and photographers will be on holiday, however. Christine Seliga, Veronica Greenwell, Mollie Hoppes and Patrick Knight will be covering various events in the area that day. You can read all about them on Wednesday.

...

Have a glorious, flag-waving Fourth of July. Happy birthday, America!

# Are we learning history's lesson?

By JANE FREEMAN

SUN CITY — If it had not been for historians and archivists, we would not be able to reflect on our past and appreciate our heritage. So it is today in Sun City and Sun City West.

Being one of the founders and past president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, I cannot help but wonder what we can preserve so that generations to come will enjoy looking back on our history and what we pioneered in these retirement communities.

In January 1990, Sun City's 30th birthday, we plan to dedicate our permanent headquarters at 10801 Oakmont Drive, in the very first home built in Sun City. As you may have read in the newspapers, we have received a grant from the J.G. Boswell Foundation, which enabled us to make this purchase.

But this is a matching grant and we must now raise \$30,000. Needless to say, your support will be greatly appreciated and will help us to carry out our motto, "Today is tomorrow's history." . . .

Let me spend the next bit of time on the future, but to do so I again go back to history.

Those of you who have read Edward Gibbons' *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, will remember he set forth some basic reasons why that great civilization fell.

Some of the reasons were the deterioration of the home, which is the basis of a healthy society; more and more taxes; spending more tax monies for welfare; an increased desire for pleasure; sports getting more violent and immoral; spending for arms instead of building individual responsibility; the decay of religion and the loss of faith and the power to guide people. Sound familiar?

The average age of the world's great civilizations has been about 200 years and they all went through the following states:

- Bondage to spiritual faith;
- Spiritual faith to great courage;
- Courage to liberty;
- Liberty to abundance;
- Abundance to selfishness;
- Selfishness to complacency;
- Complacency to apathy;
- Apathy to dependence;
- Dependence back into bondage.

Remember, we celebrated our 200th anniversary in 1976.

Have we reached the stage where the apathy of our people is leading us to dependence and ultimately to bondage?

Look around you at the multitude of Americans who would rather be on welfare than work, and the even greater number who look to our government for protection from every conceivable problem.

If history does repeat itself, and if I were among the young people of today, I would be worried.

But at my age, I am optimistic, and to end on a quote from Dwight D. Eisenhower: "There is nothing wrong with America that faith, love of freedom, intelligence and the energy of her citizens cannot endure."

The above are excerpts from a speech made by Jane Freeman at the annual bell ringing ceremony July 4 at Bell Center.

# Sun Life

SERVING ACTIVE ADULTS  
IN THE  
NORTHWEST VALLEY

MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1989

Formerly SUN CITIES LIFE MAGAZINE

## NORTHWEST VALLEY, *from Page 25*

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its annual meeting and program at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, in Swain Hall, First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave.

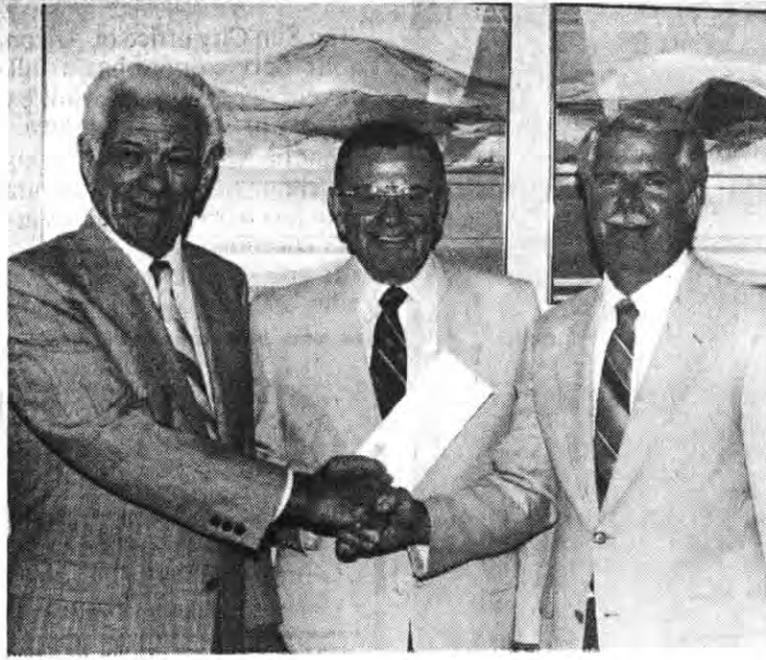
Featured speakers will be J.G. Boswell II and Henry (Hank) Raymond.

Boswell will recall the early days of the tract of land known as the Marinette Ranch, which was sold to the J.G. Boswell Co. of Los Angeles in 1936, and how machines replaced the local residents who planted the fields with cotton and lettuce. This endeavor converted what had been the community of Marinette into the most prosperous plantation in the country until the Boswells released the acreage to Del Webb.

Raymond served as general manager of the Boswell operation in Arizona. Considered one of the top men in water management in Arizona, he previously served as engineer and manager of the Maricopa County Municipal Water District (Beardsley Irrigation District) and was president of the Central Arizona Project Association for several terms.

The meeting is open to the public.

P.26



**WEBB DONATES** to Historical Society. Sun Cities Historical Society board members Les Merydith, left, and Al Thompson, center, accept a \$5,000 contribution from Chuck Roach, Del Webb Corporation vice president and general manager of Sun City West. The donation will be used to renovate one of the first model homes ever built in Sun City. The home was recently purchased by the Society and will be turned into a museum and office.

Sept. 6-12, 1989, THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT-Page 9

Monday, Aug. 7, 1989 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

## Historical Society receives \$5,000

SUN CITY — The Del Webb Corp. recently gave a \$5,000 contribution to the Sun City Historical Society.

The society has acquired one of the first Sun City model homes at 10801 Oakmont Ave. The home will be preserved as a historic landmark and the society will move its office there.

The donation will help defray some of renovation costs with Del Webb additionally contributing some building materials and furnishings. Webb is the developer of the Sun Cities.

The society plans to be settled in its new location for the 30th anniversary of Sun City in January 1990.



Daily News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherneck

**HISTORIANS' OFFICE** — The Del Webb Corp. recently gave the Sun Cities Area Historical Society \$5,000 to remodel quar-

ters at 10801 Oakmont Ave. Also donated, equipment shown with Al Thompson and Jane Freeman.

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**C2 Emphasis**    Monday, Aug. 14, 1989    Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

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# Society relocates in the original Sun City home

## Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — The first house built in Sun City soon will be the office of a group dedicated to preserving the history of the retirement community.

Members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society moved into the Sun City landmark Tuesday, bringing with them books, photographs and stacks of other memorabilia.

The house, 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, is the first of five models built by Del Webb in 1959 and put on the market in January 1960, said Jane Freeman, Historical Society vice president.

Freeman said the two-bedroom, one-bath house was purchased by the group with the help of a \$30,000 matching grant from the J.G. Boswell Foundation.

"The home has been for sale for several years, but we were

only able to purchase it after we got the grant. Now we have a headquarters to help preserve the history of Sun City," Freeman said. "In 100 years from now, people will be able to come here and find out all they want to know about Sun City. That's the purpose of a historical society — to preserve history."

The society, which was incorporated as a tax-exempt organization more than two years ago, moved into an office in the Plaza del Rio Medical Center in January.

Freeman said the office will officially open in January during Sun City's 30th anniversary celebration festivities.

She said the group will then initiate a fund-raising campaign to collect the additional \$30,000 needed to complete the purchase of the home.

"We are very excited about this. It makes us a little more



Daily News-Sun photo by Frances Guarino

**THE BIG MOVE** — Jane Freeman and Al Thompson, Sun Cities Area Historical Society boardmembers, look through

visible and gives us the chance to permanently store things," Freeman said. "This will be a place historians can do research and visitors can come."

Among the memorabilia collected by the society is a copy of all but one of the Sun City

telephone directories since 1961. Freeman said the group is still trying to find a 1963 phone directory to put on display.

Freeman said individuals and business owners in the community have donated carpeting, furniture and other items for

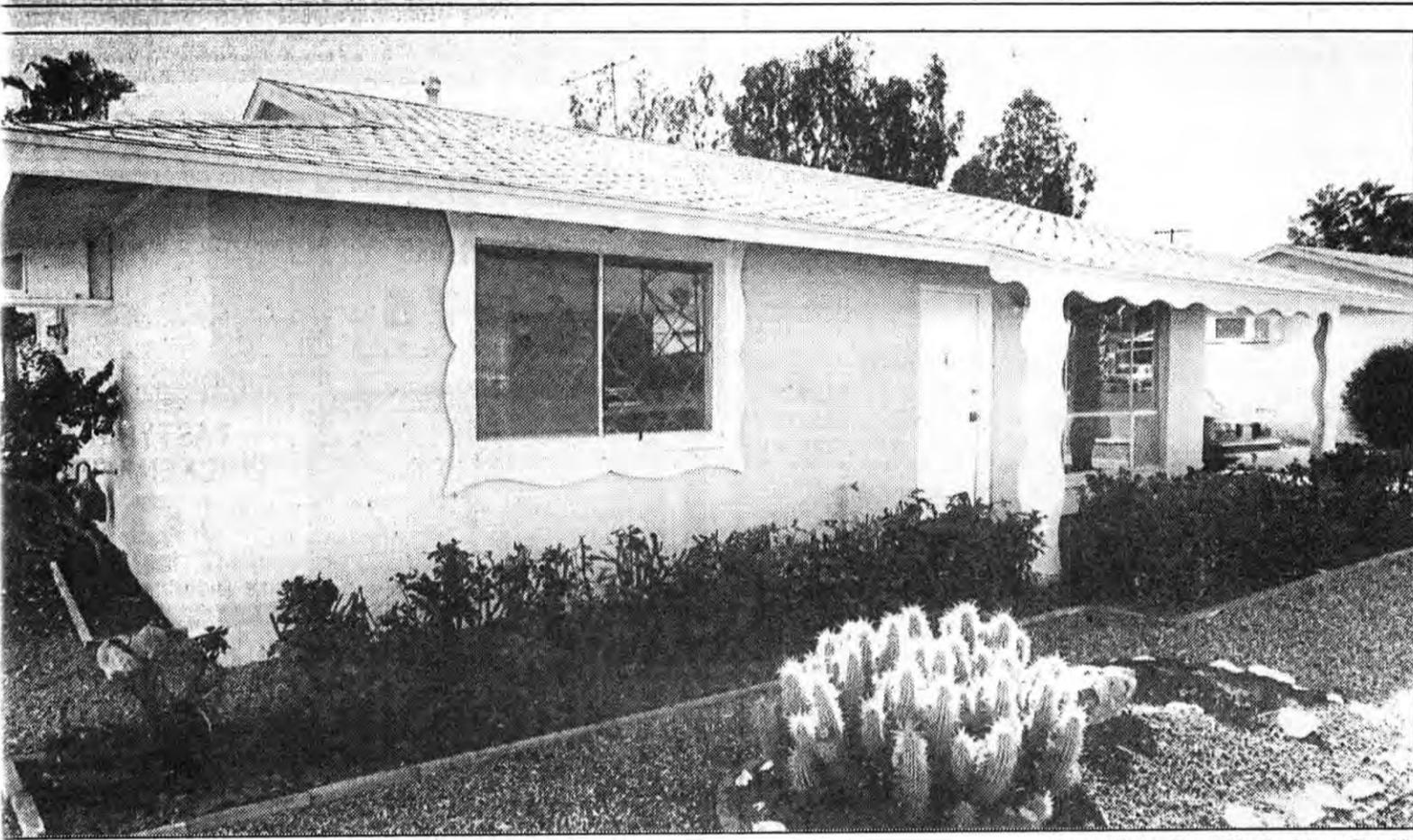
boxes Tuesday after the group moved into its new office, 10801 Oakmont Drive, in one of the first model homes.

the office.

Al Thompson, treasurer of the board, said group members volunteered long hours to clean the house before materials were moved in.

"It was really a mess when

we bought it, but now it looks great. This home will make a lot of difference to the organization," Thompson said. "There are a lot of people who don't know we are in existence and this will help publicize our efforts."



Bayard Horton/Special for the Arizona Republic

Sun City's first model home, at 10801 Oakmont Ave., will become the retirement community's headquarters and museum.

## Historical society at home in artifact

### Museum is in 1st Sun City model

by Phyllis Gillespie  
The Arizona Republic

Most historical artifacts are stored in museums. In the case of the Sun City Historical Society, the museum is the major artifact.

Through the support of the J.G. Foswell Foundation, the Del Webb Corp., and other groups and individuals, the historical society has purchased Sun City's first model home as its headquarters and museum. The house is at 10801

Oakmont Ave.

Area residents can learn more about the history of their community at the society's annual meeting on Nov. 8. The meeting is open to the public.

The society, which is a tax-exempt corporation, recently moved into the house, and members have started unpacking mementos that will be displayed in the museum. Now that it has a permanent

— See **HISTORICAL**, page 9



Rita Wright rummages through some of the files that contain the early history of Sun City, which was established nearly 30 years ago.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1989

1W

over

# Historical society's annual meeting is a chance to review Sun City's past

— HISTORICAL, from page 1

address, the society also is looking for more artifacts, especially from the era before the development of Sun City.

Established nearly 30 years ago as the nation's first "active retirement community," Sun City now has about 46,000 residents. The neighboring Sun City West is still being developed and so far has about 19,000 residents.

But before Del Webb brought his bulldozers and carpenters to the far northwest Valley, others had tried to develop the area, said society President Glenn B. Sanberg.

R.P. Davie, a business adventurer from Marinette, Wis., tried to make a go of ranching between the Agua Fria

and New rivers, Sanberg said.

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. established a compound in the settlement of Marinette for its Southwest Cotton Co. and in 1936 sold the 20,000-acre Marinette Ranch to the J.G. Boswell Co.

That ranch eventually became Sun City. A cattle-feeding lot called Lizard Acres became Sun City West.

James G. Boswell II and Henry "Hank" Raymond will turn back the calendar and reminisce about the early days in Sun City at the society's annual meeting, which will be held at 2 p.m. in Swain Hall at First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave.

Boswell will recall the early days when the Marinette Ranch was sold to the J.G. Boswell Co., converting the community of Marinette into one of the most prosperous plantations in the country, Sanberg said.

Raymond, an expert in water management, served as general manager of the Boswell operation in Arizona. He also served as president of the Central Arizona Project Association for several terms.

Sanberg said he expects the two men who watched Sun City emerge from the Marinette cotton fields to be able to fill in many aspects of the community's history that have never been revealed to the public.

## Society seeks artifacts for planned displays on Sun Cities history

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society soon will be moving into its permanent headquarters in Sun City — 10801 Oakmont Ave. — the first home built nearly 30 years ago in that retirement community.

Exhibits, which will be open to the public, are in the planning stages.

Toward that end, society members have gathered a considerable amount of material about the Sun Cities but are looking for information and artifacts relating to the era prior to the development of the current communities.

The society is looking for archival

material, memorabilia, photographs, newspaper items and road signs — especially the Santa Fe Railway sign "Marinette" that related to the time of the Boswell ranching operation, the town of Marinette and even items dating before that period, society President Glenn Sanberg said.

"We are also interested in talking with people who lived in the Marinette area or worked there and those who could possibly give us information," he said.

Anyone who has information or items to donate or loan is asked to call 933-2698 or 974-5377.

THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1989

FW

The first model home built in Sun City was purchased by the **Sun Cities Area Historical Society** last April and will be converted into an historical headquarters. Historical documents and memorabilia will be housed at the model known as The Kentworth, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive.

The purchase was made possible by a matching grant of \$30,000 by the James G. Boswell Foundation and \$5,000 from Del Webb Communities, Inc. The matching funds, expected to be met by trustees, members and persons interested in historical projects, will be used to renovate the building and pay off the mortgage. Memberships are available, ranging from Individual (\$10) to Life (\$250).

During the summer, retired librarians Agnes Fansler and Jeann Woodford sorted and catalogued many of the items to be stored at the new headquarters. The Society is seeking information, photos, stories and memorabilia about the town of Marinette from the early 1920s through the time it was sold and became Sun City. Also needed is early Sun City and Sun City West (including Lizard Acres) material plus identified photos.

The headquarters will make it possible to conduct regular public displays of significant historical information involving the people and events of the early years in the two Sun Cities. Plans are underway for a formal dedication in January 1990, when Sun City celebrates its 30th anniversary.

Funds and volunteers are needed to complete the necessary repairs and renovations as well as the every-

day operation of the headquarters.

Persons wishing to make a tax-exempt contribution may send their gift to Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 16828 99th Ave., Sun City, Az. 85351. For more information, call 977-9961, 972-9310, 977-1775-5377.



**A SIGN OF THE TIMES.** The Sun Cities Historical Society last week installed a sign at its headquarters on Oakmont Drive, Sun City. The building was the very first model home ever built in Sun City. Assisting in the project are, from left, Glenn B. Sanberg, president of the Sun Cities Historical Society; Les Merydith, chairman of the building committee; Emil C. Fischer, architect. The Sign Makers in Youngtown donated the sign.

## Historians publish new book, search for permanent home

### News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — It was the realization in 1986 of the uniqueness of Sun City that prompted a small group of citizens to form the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, Inc.

While Sun City had become known as a successful retirement community, in 1985 — the year of its 25th anniversary — few people were aware of its distant past, and no one had saved any materials to preserve its recent history.

To prepare for publication of "Jubilee, The 25th Anniversary of Sun City" a small group salvaged materials being discarded by the Del E. Webb Corporation here. The News-Sun loaned the group a tiny room for an office, and with some filing cabinets and card tables, the sorting and filing began.

Today this organization has over 40 members, a board of 12, has released a second publication and hopes to acquire permanent quarters in which to display materials in a Sun City Historical Museum. It will be developed and maintained by a group of trustees.

Present officers and trustees include: Wester Maurice Boatman, president; Jane Freeman, past president; Glenn Sanberg, vice-president; Rita Wright, secretary; Doug Kennedy, treasurer; Ronn Broadway, Burton Davis, Joe Davisson, Spencer Earnshaw, Emil C. Fischer, Lester Merydith, Ellen Randall, Kay Williams and Leona Yeager.

Fischer prepared a series of pen-sketch drawings used to illustrate the group's second publication of Sun City Churches, on sale at \$8 at both Sun City Libraries. A group of about 10 historians wrote the text. An autograph session for the book will be scheduled soon.

The group's brochure de-

scribes how German mineralogist Henry Wickenburg had prospected for gold in the hills overlooking what is now Sun City.

Near the turn of the century, R.P. Davie, a business adventurer from Wisconsin, bought and leased thousands of acres between the New River and Agua Fria rivers and envisioned a city of industrious farmers and tradesmen.

The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company established a compound for its Southwest Cotton Company in Marinette, a settlement given its post office in 1912, the year of Arizona statehood. In 1936 Goodyear sold the 20,000-acre Marinette Ranch to the J.F. Boswell Company.

"All these efforts to tame the desert to agriculture failed to prosper, and it was Del Webb who rescued the inhospitable desert from oblivion by establishing the most successful retirement community in the world — Sun City," reads the historical group's brochure. Boswell retained 50 percent partnership with this sale in 1959.

It continues to describe how "the parched earth of an area of the old feeding lot called Lizard Acres was turned into a flourishing sister community ... Sun City West."

What makes Sun City unique has caused it to be the object of great interest by social scientists and researchers around the world. This fact motivates the Sun Cities Area Historical Society members.

Membership is open to anyone interested in collecting and preserving the historical data of the area. Tax-exempt memberships start at \$15 for a family and progress to a Life Membership at \$250.

Inquiries may be sent to the society at 16828 99th Avenue, Sun City, Ariz. 85351.

# Architect sketches way through Sun Cities' churches

By CAROL ANNE GAINER  
View editor

SUN CITY — His pen-and-ink sketches of Sun City churches first appeared in the Daily News-Sun in 1982.

Now, noted architect-artist Emil Fischer's sketches have been incorporated into a book: "Churches of the Sun Cities."

Although the softcover, spiral-bound book was published at the end of 1987, the public will have to wait until next week to meet the author at three autograph parties. They are 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 29 at Fairway Recreation Center Library; March 1 at Bell Recreation Center Library in Sun City; and March 2 at United Bank of Arizona in Sun City West.

What first strikes the reader about this "tour" of houses of worship is Fischer's dedication: "... to the people who after retirement, dared to leave old ties, establish new homes, make new friends and build new churches, thereby demonstrating a deep-seated faith that goodness will ultimately prevail."

What prevails in the book is Fischer's talent in reproducing the unique and diverse contemporary architecture found in the 37 existing Sun Cities' churches and synagogues. Both exterior and interior views allow for an overall picture of each structure. This will satisfy the curiosity of those people who have only passed by these places and wondered what they were like inside. It will also have appeal for anyone who appreciates the beauty of architecture.

As Fischer said in his introduction, the design of these

## REVIEW

church interiors is much subtler than its counterparts. The main body has removed once-distinct barriers. In essence, the main body is the entire open interior of the church. The nave and sanctuary overlap or flow together, enabling the congregation to be in close proximity of the priest, minister or rabbi.

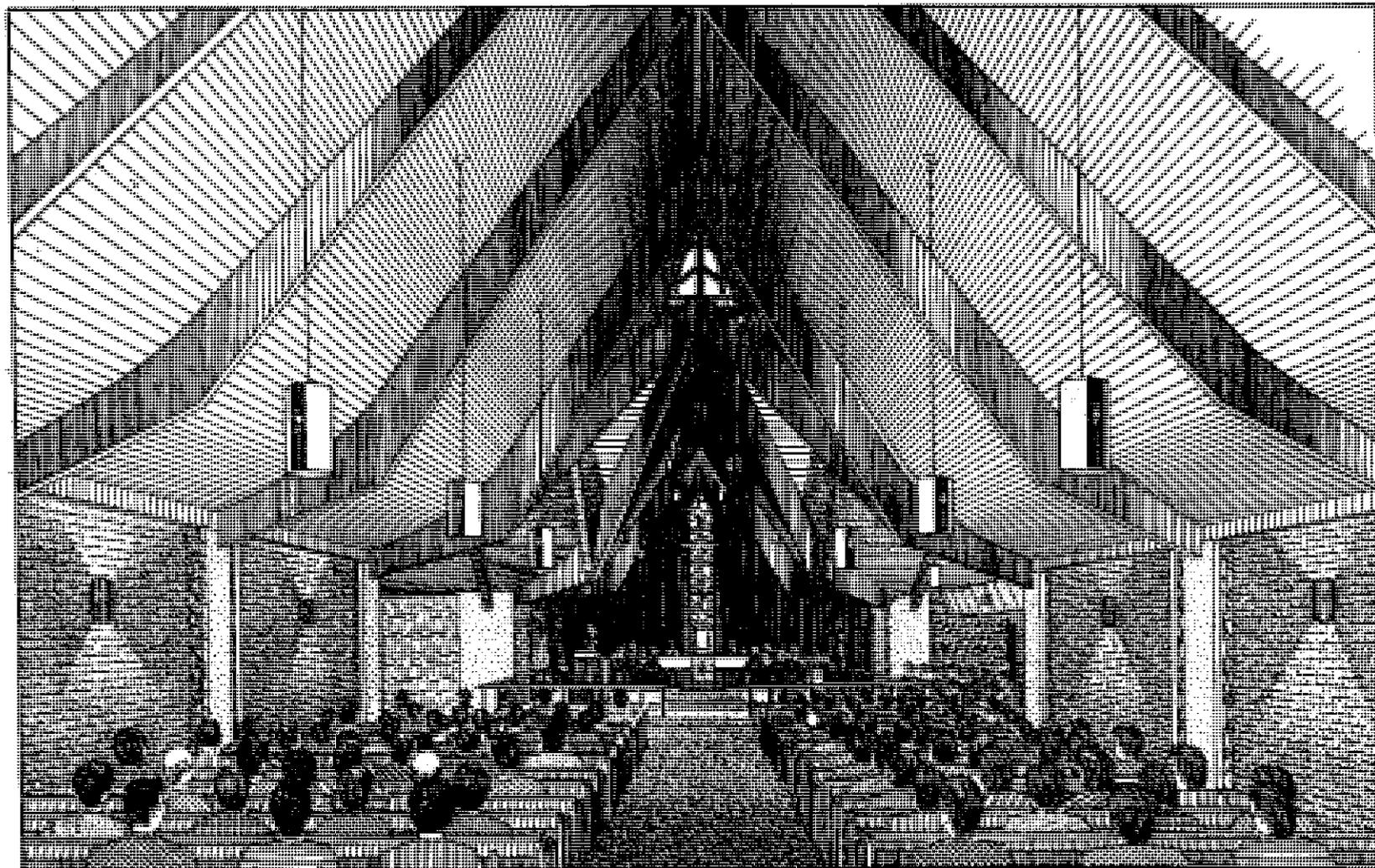
In this respect, these modern designs seem to encompass the true feeling of brotherhood. In these churches, everyone is "together" — parish and clergy.

Unlike photographs, Fischer's wide-angle perspectives also provide an undistorted view of the interior. But these are not static, empty drawings. Fischer made each one really come alive by sketching the parishioners, clergy and choir.

Fischer's illustrations also show that appearances can be deceiving. The exteriors of some of these churches belie what's within the structure.

Some churches have more elaborate structuring. An example is the Fountain of Life Lutheran Church on Del Webb Boulevard. Its dramatic pyramidal structure is reminiscent of the U.S. Air Force Academy Chapel in Colorado Springs, Colo. But looking at the exterior gives no indication of its ornate interior design.

Other churches epitomize a simpler, basic design, such as First Baptist Church on Peoria Avenue and the Salvation Army chapel on Union Hills Drive.



**ORNATE NAVE** — The ornate architecture of the interior of the Fountain of Life Lutheran Church has been recreated in this pen-and-ink drawing by architect-artist Emil Fischer. It is one of numerous interior and exterior

sketches he did of the 37 churches and synagogues in the Sun Cities. They are included in his book, "Churches of the Sun Cities," published by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

But these differences are what make each church individual. As each religion differs, so do its ways of expression. And architecture is one of those means.

This is where the accompanying text for each house of worship comes in handy. It provides

a brief history of the building and the religion represented, its activities and programs, and architectural information. Its capsule contents — furnished by each church — keep the reader informed without being inundated with dry, technical data.

Thus, Fischer's book should have appeal for anyone interested in art, architecture, and the Sun Cities from a religious angle.

It is spiral-bound so that the Historical Society may augment its contents if and when new

churches are built. The \$8 "Churches of the Sun Cities" is available at Bell and Fairway libraries, Boswell Hospital Gift Shop, AmRic Bookstore and some churches. It also will be available at the Feb. 29-March 2 "Meet the Author" autograph parties.

# Author of SC church guide holds talk/autograph session

Emil Fischer, nationally known architect and author of "Churches of Sun City," will be on hand to talk to area residents and autograph copies of his book Feb. 29, March 1 and 2.

Mr. Fischer will participate in a "Meet the Author" autograph party 10 a.m.-noon at the following locations: Fairway Recreation Center on Feb. 29; at the Bell Recreation Center March 1; the United Bank of Arizona in Sun City West on March 2.

The sessions are sponsored by the Sun Cities Historical Society, publishers of "Churches of Sun City."

Mr. Fischer, former dean of the School of Architecture and Design, Kansas State University, has been sketching local churches since 1982. Copies of the book will be available during the autograph sessions.

Page 14-THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, Feb. 24-March 1, 1988

## MEET THE ARTIST/AUTHOR

**Emil C. Fischer**

**"Churches of the Sun Cities"**

*Published by*

**Sun Cities Area Historical Society, Inc.**

*You are invited*

Monday, Feb. 29

Fairway Library

Tuesday, Mar. 1

Bell Ctr. Library

Wednesday, Mar. 2

Union Bank SCW

10:00 AM - 12 Noon

or



### CHURCHES OF THE SUN CITIES

Sun Cities Area Historical Society, Inc.  
16828 99th Ave., Sun City, AZ 85351

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ copies at  
\$8.00 per copy. -PLEASE SEND TO:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Page 6-THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, Feb. 24-March 1, 1988

Tuesday, April 12, 1988  
 Community A5

## Early Sun Cities realty sales manager to speak

SUN CITY — Ken Parker, a sales manager from the early days of the Sun Cities, will be the featured speaker at the spring meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

The meeting will be 2 p.m. Thursday at First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave.

The meeting is open to the public.

Parker joined Devco (now Del E. Webb Communities Inc.) in 1964 in the resale division in Sun City. In 1965 he was transferred to Sun City, Fla. as sales manager and back to Sun City in 1986 as sales manager for new and resale homes. He is

currently serving as senior vice president of residential sales for Webb Communities.

April 13-19, 1988, THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT-Page 5

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

## Historically speaking: *Sun City homes discussed, then and now*

People are only part of the narrative. Habitat also plays an important role in the Sun Cities story.

Ken Parker, the man who is credited with "having more to do with model home sales in Sun City and Sun City West than any other individual," will be the featured speaker at the Sun Cities Historical Society meeting, at 2 p.m. Thursday, April 14, at the First Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City.

The meeting is open to the public.

This will be an opportunity for many to hear the story behind the Sun Cities houses, from one who knows first-hand about the transformation of cotton fields and cattle feed lots, into viable communities, says Glenn Sanberg, vice president of the society.

Mr. Parker will present an overview beginning with the modest homes of the 60s, to the elegant homes of the 80s, and with it, some of the trials and tribulations of selling homes in a retirement community.

A native of Winslow, Mr. Parker graduated from Arizona State University and started with the then DEVCO organization in 1964 (resale division). In 1965, he was transferred to Sun City, Fla., as sales manager, then came back to Sun City, Ariz., in 1966, as sales manager for new and resale homes.

In 1969, Mr. Parker was promoted to vice president, and in 1972, to senior vice president. Currently, he's serving as senior vice president of residential sales, including Tucson and Las Vegas, for the Del E. Webb Communities, Inc.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society sponsors two major meetings annually.

### Historical Society meets Nov. 17

SUN CITY — The Sun Cities Area Historical society, Inc. will hold its annual fall program at a noon luncheon Nov. 17 at Sun Ridge, 12221 W. Bell Road.



Cooke

Historical writer James E. Cooke will be the speaker. He writes weekly of Arizona history, chronicling its transition from a frontier to a modern society, blending history, nostalgia and humor.

Cooke has written two books: "Arizona 101," a humorous guide for newcomers and "Arizona Landmarks," published by Arizona Highways in 1985.

The historical society was organized in 1986 as a tax exempt group. Future plans call for a headquarters where items of historical interest relating to the Sun Cities can be displayed and available for research and study.

Tickets at \$7.50 each may be reserved by mail: Make checks to Sun Cities Area Historical Society and mail to Treasurer Douglas Kennedy, 13806 Gunstone Drive, Sun City, Ariz. 85351.

Information: 977-3107.

NEWS-SUN

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 1988.

# AA1

Serving Sun City, Sun City West, Youngtown  
El Mirage, Surprise, Waddell

35¢

## JAMES E. COOK

Columnist James E. Cook is an Arizona native (born in Phoenix Sept. 25, 1935).

He began his journalism career as a correspondent for The Arizona Republic while attending Flagstaff High School.

Cook joined the Republic staff in 1962 after a two-year tour with The Associated Press in Salt Lake City, Utah. He also edited weekly newspapers in northern Arizona.

Cook has held a variety of writing and editing jobs with The Republic, including service in the Tucson bureau and 15 years on the staff of the defunct Arizona, the newspaper's Sunday magazine.

Cook now writes three times a week about the history of Arizona, and its transition from a frontier to a modern society. His varied columns deal in history, nostalgia and humor.

In 1958 he received a bachelor's degree from Arizona State College at Flagstaff, now Northern Arizona University.

In 1981, NAU and the Associated Press presented Cook the Robert E. Eunson Alumni Achievement Award in Journalism. Eunson was a graduate of the college, a World War II combat correspondent for AP, and later an AP executive in New York.

Cook has written two books about Arizona: Arizona 101, a humorous guide for newcomers; and Arizona Landmarks, published by Arizona Highways in 1985.

September 1987

# Want to help Sun Cities go down in history?

By EVELYN BARBER  
Editorial page editor

SUN CITY — We know about our most ancient ancestors because they scratched pictures that told the story of their lives on walls of caves. We know about the rise and fall of a number of civilizations because of the hieroglyphs in tombs and the rude beginnings of alphabets on clay or stone tablets.

Even in the Dark Ages industrious monks in secluded monasteries drew the colorful



## Double takes

manuscripts that tell us about those unenlightened days.

Finally, when Johann Gutenberg invented printing we had the means to tell our story far and wide in endless repetition.

This is a roundabout way of arriving at the point I wish to make. All those forms of communication would be worth little if no one had ever scratched or chiseled out or painted or typeset the history of his particular age.

That's what the Sun Cities historians believe. They are working to augment the history they presented in *Jubilee: The*

*25th Anniversary of Sun City*, which was published in 1985 and is highly praised by everyone who reads it.

History just doesn't stand still for its chroniclers and it's been nearly four years since Jubilee. Also, there's a large surplus of material that was gathered during the writing of the book and never used, but still must be organized and documented.

A Sun Cities Area Historical Society was officially incorporated in 1986 to collect, organize, preserve and display the historical data of these retirement communities.

Much has been done, but volunteers are needed to help catalogue archives this winter and

to work on an oral history project, taping interviews with area pioneers and people of interest who have enlivened the history of this area.

I know we have many residents who are qualified to do this fascinating work, but haven't heard about it before now.

And I know that in the Sun Cities we have people who are exceptional fund-raisers.

They are really needed because the society plans to start raising money to obtain a home for its precious memorabilia — a permanent headquarters where the work of historical preservation can be carried on.

(There's just so much space in a garage, you know, and then the stuff starts to spill over into other garages.)

History buffs who would like to get into it with both hands instead of simply reading about it have an opportunity to join with others who share their interest.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society Inc. will meet for its annual fall luncheon at noon Nov. 17 at Sun Ridge, 12221 W. Bell Road. After lunch, historical writer James E. Cooke will speak — he won't bore you because he's extremely knowledgeable about Arizona and has a great sense of humor.

It would be a good way to meet members of the society (including Jane Freeman and Glenn Sanberg who were the prime movers of the Jubilee writing project) and perhaps think about joining the group and lending your particular abilities to the ongoing task of saving the history of this area.

Tickets are \$7.50 each and you can reserve by mail with Douglas Kennedy, 13806 Gunstone Drive, Sun City 85351; checks should be made payable to Sun Cities Areas Historical Society.

I like the society's motto: "Today is tomorrow's history," don't you?

...  
**SURPRISE** — Historical writer **James B. Cook**, who was reared in Peoria and on the Mongollon Rim, regaled 115 members and guests of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society at the annual meeting recently. The event was a luncheon and talk held at the Ridge Club of Sun Ridge.

Cook's father drove a cotton truck in Peoria at 30 cents an hour and worked during the summers as a firefighter on the Rim.

Cook said "only a fool goes into an area and talks about the history of that area. That's like taking a rope to a hanging."

Members fanned themselves with souvenir bright yellow and red Sun City Saints Fans resurrected by Alice Messick, who also has most of the Saints trophies.

Vice President Glenn Sanberg described the growing collection the group has of documents, photos and tapes.

"We must be about our business of establishing a permanent headquarters for this society," he said asking for "the faith, help and encouragement with this enterprise."

Other officers for the group are President Maurice Boatman, Secretary Rita Wright and Treasurer Douglas Kennedy. Board members also include Emil Fischer, Jane Freeman, Lester Merydith and Helen Randall.

Elected to three-year terms are Joseph Keenan, Lester Simpson, Jeann Woodford and Jay Woods; two-year terms: Kingman Eberhart and Evelyn Parry.

Officers will be elected the second Thursday of December by the board members.

...

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SUN CITY  
INDEPENDENT  
CIR: 32,000 (W)  
DEC. 3 1988

## Newly-formed group attempts to preserve Sun Cities history

By LAURIE HURD-MOORE

Although Sun City has become known as one of the most successful retirement communities in the world, few people are aware of the history of the community before it became known as Sun City.

That history begins with R.P. Davie, a business adventurer from Wisconsin, who founded Marinette, Ariz. (the original name of the location where Sun City now exists).

From there, Davie sold his land to the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. which turned the area into a compound for its employees. Then, in 1936, J.G. Boswell purchased the land.

The land was used mainly for cotton farming until the late 1950s when it was purchased by a developer by the name of Del Webb. The rest, they say, is history.

But some local residents fear that history will be forgotten. A group of Sun Citians have joined together to form the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and begun collecting and preserving items from the community's past.

The Historical Society is an offshoot of the book "Jubilee," that was published in 1985 and that detailed the history of Sun City.

Jane Freeman president

of the society, says the group eventually hopes to raise the funds necessary to construct a museum, which would house various Sun City-type exhibits.

Currently, several of the members are acting as curators, storing and caring for boxes of historical documents and memorabilia within their own homes. Freeman's home contains dozens of boxes of photographs, newspapers and Del Webb Webb publications.

Displayed on a folding cardboard backdrop, are various Sun City postcards, advertisements and a Sun City Christmas record from 1964. The presentation is used as a sampling of the group's inventory and is taken to various meeting places for public viewing.

"A lot of these items came from what was the Del Webb Co. It is now Webb Communities, Inc. They gave us full access to their files over the last two or three years since we worked on 'Jubilee,'" says Freeman.

"We cleaned out literally thousands of pictures -- some with no dates or IDs (identifications) on them," she says.

And some the the society's collection was amassed through donations made by members of the community.

"People live here and go through their things, cleaning up. We ask them if they have anything of interest to contact us," she

adds.

The organization's next move will be to create an oral history program, whereby members of the Historical Society go out into the community and interview various people that have spent many years in the Sun Cities area.

Freeman says the collection is not so much for today, but to be preserved for tomorrow.

"Unless we collect it today -- we lose it."

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society, Inc. has issued a "Search List" for items needed for their collection. They include:

- Sun City's "HERE" magazine issues from January and February, 1977.

- A picture of the railroad highway marker sign "Marinette" and "Webb."

- A picture of the "Lizard Acres" sign -- Sun City West.

- The complete 25th anniversary supplement to the *News-Sun*, three sections, Jan. 29, 1985; The 20th anniversary supplement dated Jan. 24, 1980 and the 15th anniversary supplement dated Jan. 14, 1975.

- Early Sun City West memorabilia.

- Metal shelving for storing materials.

Residents are urged to contact a member of the society if they have any materials they wish to be preserved. Telephone 974-2569.

## Founders to discuss 'early days' 2-26-87

SUN CITY — For the first time in years, three of Sun City's founders will meet to about the early days of the community.

They'll be onstage 2:30 p.m. April 15 in Swain Hall of First United Methodist Church.

The three are John Meeker, ex-president of the former Del E. Webb Development Co.; Owen Childress, former executive vice president of the same firm; and James G. Boswell II, chairman of James G. Boswell Co.

Boswell is a member of the family for whom Boswell Hospital is named and whose land and funds helped found Sun City.

The Sun City Area Historical Society has made arrangements for the "remember when" session. The Sun Citian responsible for getting the trio together is Jane Freeman, society president.

Glenn Sanberg will moderate the program and Dorothy Koehn and Kay Williams arranged the meeting.

The historical society was formed last year as a non-profit corporation organized for education, collection and preservation of information on the area's history.

## Three Sun City founders to be reunited at meeting

Three men who were part of the original Del E. Webb team that developed Sun City back in 1960 will be reunited once again at the next meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

68-97-70  
John Meeker, former president of the Del E. Webb Development Co., Owen Childress, former executive vice president of the company, and James G. Boswell II, chairman of the board of the James G. Boswell Co., will be present at the meeting to discuss the early days of Sun City.

The meeting, open to the public, will be held 2:30 p.m. April 15 at the First Presbyterian Church of Sun City, 12225 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City.

"This is the first time the three men have gotten together

for many years," says Jane Freeman, president of the society.

"The society feels honored to be able to share this rare opportunity with other members of the community."

Call 977-9961 for further information.



JAMES G. BOSWELL II

## Founders to discuss 'early days'

SUN CITY — For the first time in years, three of Sun City's founders will meet to about the early days of the community.

They'll be onstage 2:30 p.m. April 15 in Swain Hall of First United Methodist Church.

The three are John Meeker, ex-president of the former Del E. Webb Development Co.; Owen Childress, former executive vice president of the same firm; and James G. Boswell II, chairman of James G. Boswell Co.

Boswell is a member of the family for whom Boswell Hospital is named and whose land and funds helped found Sun City.

The Sun City Area Historical Society has made arrangements for the "remember when" session. The Sun Citian responsible for getting the trio together is Jane Freeman, society president.

Glenn Sanberg will moderate the program and Dorothy Koehn and Kay Williams arranged the meeting.

The historical society was formed last year as a non-profit corporation, organized for education, collection and preservation of information on the area's history.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1987 NEWS-SUN A3

## Historical group welcomes three Sun City founders

Three men who were part of the original Del Webb team that developed Sun City will get together to reminisce about the early days of the community at the next meeting of the Sun Cities Historical Society.

The meeting will be held 2:30 p.m. April 15 in Swain Hall at First United Methodist Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City.

John Meeker, former president of Del E. Webb Development Co., Owen Childress, former executive vice president of the company, and James Boswell II, chairman of the board of the James G. Boswell Co., will be the guests at the meeting.

The public is invited.

April 1-7, 1987, THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT-Page 11

## Sun City founders to address society

John Meeker, Owen Childress, and James G. Boswell Jr., three of the original developers of Sun City, will appear at an open meeting of the Sun City Historical Society on April 15.

The meeting is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. in the First United Presbyterian Church, 12225 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City.

"The Society feels honored to be able to share this rare opportunity with other members of the community," said Jane Freeman, society president.

Meeker is the former president of the Del E. Webb Development Corp. Childress is the former executive vice president of Webb. Boswell is board chairman of the James G. Boswell Co.

The men will engage in a "remember when" discussion, society officials said.

More information is available at 977-9961.

EXTRA 1W-B THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC MONDAY, APRIL 6, 1987

# Three Sun City founders to be reunited at meeting

Three men who were part of the original Del E. Webb team that developed Sun City back in 1960 will be reunited once again at the next meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

John Meeker, former president of the Del E. Webb Development Co., Owen Childress, former executive vice president of the company, and James G. Boswell II, chairman of the board of the James G. Boswell Co., will be present at the meeting to discuss the early days of Sun City.

The meeting, open to the public, will be held 2:30 p.m. April 15 at the First Presbyterian Church of Sun City, 12225 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City.

"This is the first time the three men have gotten together

for many years," says Jane Freeman, president of the society.

"The society feels honored to be able to share this rare opportunity with other members of the community."

Call 977-9961 for further information.



**JAMES G. BOSWELL II**

Page 4-THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, April 8-14, 1987

# Historical Society program features 3 Sun City pioneers

SUN CITY — Three men instrumental in the birth of Sun City will tell how it was in those early days at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The setting will be Swain Hall of the First United Methodist Church.

Two of the three were executives with the original development company, Devco, now Del E. Webb Communities Inc. They are John Meeker, former president, and Owen Childress, former executive vice president.

The third man is James G. Boswell II, chairman of the James G. Boswell Co.

They will reminisce at a program planned by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

The public may attend the free meeting, said society President Jane Freeman.



JOHN MEEKER



OWEN CHILDRESS



JAMES BOSWELL

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 1987 NEWS-SUN A3

## Meeting is in First United Presbyterian Church

SUN CITY — Reminiscences of the early days of Sun City will take place in the First United Presbyterian Church.

The meeting, scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, will have the Sun Cities Area Historical Society as host. Speakers will be John Meeker, Owen Childress and James Boswell II.

A4 NEWS-SUN SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1987

# Perspective

## Historic get-together

On Wednesday, there will be a reunion of three colleagues who haven't had a good get-together in years.

And, of course, as usually happens at this kind of reunion, there'll be plenty of reminiscing about the yesterdays they shared.

These three, however, will be reminiscing not over a cup of coffee but at 2:30 p.m. before a large crowd in Swain Hall of First United Presbyterian Church, at the invitation of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

John Meeker, former president of the Del E. Webb Development Co., (Devco); Owen Childress, former executive vice president of Devco; and James G. Boswell II, chairman of the James G. Boswell Co. board, will talk about the early days of Sun City when they were deeply involved in its development.

What these three men remember will add a vital chapter to the historical data of the area that the society is collecting and preserving. All area residents are invited to hear the men who remember Del E. Webb as a mentor and a friend. As they tell their

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### NEWS-SUN OPINION

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stories, many early residents who attend will be reminded of their own experiences during the community's first few years.

Formed last year, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society had its origins in the work done by a volunteer group on the Sun City 25th anniversary publication, Jubilee. The society's expressed purpose, as a "guardian of the past," is to remind the public, through programs, special exhibits and an occasional publication, that the retirement communities of this Northwest Valley area are pioneering communities, and unique.

The "Do You Remember When" chat is one that anyone interested in the beginnings of retirement communities ought to hear. So, mark April 15 down as an important date — not just because it's income tax day but because it's a day when you can hear history relived by those who helped shape it.

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1987

**NEWS-SUN A6**

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# Sun City founders reminisce

By DAN BURNETTE  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — How many acres originally were purchased for the development of Sun City?

Does the community have any custom homes, and, if so, where?

How did Sun City get its name?

These and other questions were answered Wednesday as three executives involved in the founding and early development of Sun City met to reminisce at a meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

John Meeker and Owen Childress were president and executive vice president of Del E. Webb Development Co., better known as DEVCO. James Boswell was president of J.G. Boswell Co., partner with the Webb company in the venture that eventually opened in 1960 as Sun City.

Glenn Sanberg, vice president of the Historical Society, moderated the hour-long session, attended by about 250 people at Swain Hall, First Presbyterian Church.

Childress said he vividly remembers going out for a drink with Meeker very late in the evening before opening day. While the drinks were being served, the two looked at each other and at the same moment asked, "Now that we've done all this, do you think anyone will show up?"

Sun City wasn't the first retirement community in the United States (neighboring Youngtown claims that title), but it was one of the more unusual, the three men said. After all the planning and initial construction, they still weren't positive the place was going to sell.

It wasn't just the desert environment and the relatively new concept of an "active-lifestyle" com-



FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1987 NEWS-SUN A3

Three executives who played key roles in the founding of Sun City met recently to talk over old times before the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. From left are John Meeker, former president of Del E. Webb Development Co.

community that had the developers concerned about whether Sun City

Meeker said previous retirement communities, such as those in Florida, wouldn't build the amenities like recreation centers until a number of homes were bought.

"You would walk around and see signs that would say, 'future golf course' or 'future library.'"

Meeker said. "So many other projects just never panned out. We wanted the facilities in from the would be a hit. Previous efforts in other parts of the country to sell homes to retirees left much to be desired.

beginning so people would be assured they were really going to be there. I think it was that commitment to doing it right that set

(DEVCO); James G. Boswell II, recently retired chairman of J.G. Boswell Co., and Owen Childress, former DEVCO executive vice president.

(News-Sun photo)

Webb apart from others," Meeker said.

Meeker said he felt more confident about the prospects of Sun City when one man put \$500 down on a home before the lots were even laid out.

After reminiscences from the panel, Sanberg opened the discussion to questions from the audience.

# 'Remember when?'

## Webb: 'To hell with the contest, I like the name Sun City'

A panel of judges was trying to select the winning name for a soon-to-open retirement community northwest of Phoenix on Dec. 8, 1959.

"As I remember, Mr. (Del E.) Webb walked through and said, 'To hell with the contest, I like the name Sun City,' and that was it," James G. Boswell II said.

Boswell, John Meeker and Owen Childress — three men who were instrumental in creating and building Sun City — were speakers at a "Remember When" panel discussion at the April 15 meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Webb and Boswell, former chairman of the board of the James G. Boswell Co., jointly developed Sun City by forming a Webb Corp. subsidiary called the Del E.

Webb Development Co., or DEVCO.

DEVCO was controlled by a five-member board, three members from the Webb Corp. and two from the Boswell Co.

"It took four out of five votes to do anything, and I always called that our Russian veto," Boswell said.

The night before Sun City opened to the public on Jan. 1, 1960, is the most vivid memory for Childress, former DEVCO executive vice president.

"We finished getting everything ready the night before, on New Year's Eve, and we finished about 8 o'clock," Childress said.

Meeker, former DEVCO president, and Childress stopped at a Peoria bar before going home.

"I remember sitting there

and asking if he (Meeker) thought anyone would show up," Childress said.

Sun City opened Thursday, Jan. 1, 1960, and by Sunday, more than 100,000 people had visited the retirement community and 237 homes had been sold.

The concept of Sun City as an "active retirement" community wasn't new. DEVCO officials were determined, however, to improve on the ideas already implemented in some Florida communities, Meeker said.

"In many parts of Florida, the practice was to put up signs saying the future shopping center will be here, the future recreation center will be here and so on," Meeker said. "Our philosophy was to put the facilities in first."

Boswell said homes and

recreation-center facilities deliberately were built at the same time in sections of Sun City.

"We tried to create the small-community idea," he said.

The Sun Bowl, an open-air amphitheater, was built as a sales tool for DEVCO, and the idea was duplicated in Sun City West with the Sundome, Meeker said.

"We used it as a sales tool," he said.

DEVCO sponsored shows and entertainment, such as Lawrence Welk, to attract potential buyers into the community.

Many groups expressed a desire for a similar indoor facility, Meeker said, "and out of that evolved the Sundome."

# Sun City / Sun City West

Wed., May 6, 1987

The Phoenix Gazette

NW-A

## Sun City quickly surpassed dreams of originators

By Karen Kirk  
The Phoenix Gazette

SUN CITY — It was New Year's Eve 1959, John Meeker and Owen Childress had worked well into the night putting the final touches on model homes in what was little more than a patch of farm land northwest of Phoenix.

The next day they would unveil developer Del E. Webb's plans to turn the 10,000 acres of cotton fields into a thriving retirement community.

Before making these plans, Webb's company had done its homework. It commissioned studies in Florida to find out what retirees want in a community and designed its facilities accordingly.

Webb then flooded the market with ads heralding the beginning of a new concept in retirement living. It even sponsored a name-the-community contest in which first prize was a house.

But the question remained: Would the concept sell?

On the way home that night Childress and Meeker stopped at a nearby watering hole to unwind.

"It was like a magic moment," Childress said. "I said, 'Now that we have done all this, do you think anyone will show up?'"

To their surprise — and most everyone else's — an estimated crowd of 10,000 attended the grand opening of what is now Sun City.

Sun City's planners did not expect such a turnout, nor did they expect their project to grow into a community of 46,000 residents that would gain international attention for the opportunities it offers senior citizens.

"It exceeded my expectations in size and in facilities. I was surprised at what evolved out of the growth — the hospitals and the recreation facilities," Meeker said during a recent visit to Sun City.

He, along with Childress and Jim Boswell, former chairman of the board of the Boswell Corp.



John Meeker

California; returned to the community recently for a panel discussion sponsored by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

For nearly an hour they fielded



Owen Childress

questions about Sun City's history and shared stories of building the community's foundation.

Meeker attributed Sun City's success to the opening of Boswell

Hospital at 10401 Thunderbird Blvd.

"When we started planning the hospital, we had plans for a modest 50-bed facility. Boswell called me one day and said he had a proposition for me. They would contribute \$1.2 million if the community would match that. The community raised it, he gave us the money and the hospital was built," he said.

Since that time, Boswell Hospital has grown into a 355-bed facility, which not only offers crisis care, but preventive health programs as well. Its campus also includes a research center that has attracted nationally-known scientists who are working to discover cures for diseases affecting the elderly.

Boswell said his company got involved with Sun City because it was intrigued by the size of Webb's project and by the success of the nearby retirement community of Youngtown, created by Elmer Johns.

"Elmer had established that you could have active retirement. I had a concern about creating a geriatric community. I thought if we could push active, active, active, Sun City could avoid the stigma that plagued some retirement places that did not succeed.

"But none of us could foresee the growth of this active retirement," Boswell said.

Before Webb and Boswell could make the Sun City dream a reality, however, they had to overcome a number of roadblocks, not the least of which was financial. Webb officials were at first concerned that they would not be able to sell retirees on a 30-year home loan.

"In those days they originally had to get an FHA mortgage which had strict requirements. For example, they considered refrigeration as a luxury, and so people who bought houses here had to make that much

See ■ Return, NW-B

MISSING

## Dr. Ross Peterson Addresses SC Area Historical Society

A nationally prominent expert in the field of Contemporary United States History will be the principal speaker at the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society open to the public at 2 p.m. November 19 at Lakeview United Methodist Church, Sun City.

Dr. F. Ross Peterson, popular Professor of History at Utah State University, Logan, Utah will discuss the background of recent critical social and economic changes taking place nationally under the subject: "Everyone is Important — Why We Study

Local History."

Well-known by residents of the Sun Cities who spend summers in Logan Peterson is a favorite lecturer whose overflow summer classes attract hundreds of Sun Citians each year. The author of three major historical books, and scores of articles in professional publications, Peterson is also in demand as a lecturer at home and abroad. This summer he was guest lecturer at Victoria University, New Zealand.

An additional feature of the meeting will be the presentation of Emil Fischer's illustrated book "The

Churches of Sun City." New churches have been added to the collection and modifications in the older ones updated by the artist. Published in book form for the first time it will be offered at a nominal price with proceeds going to the Society. The artist will be on hand to autograph copies.

A short business meeting will precede the program which will start promptly at 2 p.m. in Smoot Hall, Lakeview United Methodist Church, 103 and Thunderbird. A special invitation to new residents was issued by Jane Freeman, Society president.

## Famed historian speaks to society

Nationally-known historian Dr. F. Ross Peterson will be the guest speaker at the next meeting of the Sun Cities Historical Society.

The meeting will be held 2 p.m. Nov. 19 at Lakeview United Methodist Church, Sun City.

Dr. Peterson, a professor of history at Utah State University in Logan, Utah, will discuss the background of recent social and economic changes taking place in the United States.



Peterson is the author of three historical books.

Also during the meeting, local author and artist Emil Fisher will be on hand to autograph his book, "The Churches of Sun City."

The book will be available for sale and all proceeds will be donated to the Historical Society.

The meeting is open to the public.

Page 10-THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT, Nov. 11-17, 1987

### Historical society to hear from expert

Dr. F. Ross Peterson, professor of history at Utah State University in Logan, will be the principal speaker at the second annual meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society on Nov. 19 at 2 p.m. at Lakeview United Methodist Church, 103rd Avenue and Thunderbird Boulevard, Sun City.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will include a presentation of *The Churches of Sun City*, a book of pen-and-ink sketches by Emil Fischer. Fischer will be available to autograph the book.

Proceeds from sales of the book go to benefit the historical society. More information is available at 977-9961.

EXTRA D THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC NW WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1987



THE SUN CITIES HISTORICAL SOCIETY's first meeting featured Jane Freeman and Glenn Sanberg presenting life memberships to Sun City legends Jim Boswell, John Mecker and Owen Childress.

## Sun Cities Area Historical Society

By Jane Freeman

**E**ver since the publication of *Jubilee*, the chronicle of Sun City's first 25 years, a small group of dedicated residents have been busy sorting and recording documents to form the nucleus of a permanent historical collection. Out of this endeavor, the non-profit Sun Cities Area Historical Society, Inc. (SCAHS) was born and is now incorporated under the laws of Arizona.

Because of its unique nature, the Sun Cities have become an object of great interest on the part of social scientists and researchers. Indeed, these twin communities are now considered one of the most important gerontological laboratories in the world.

Caught up in the importance of retaining a storehouse of historical information about their place of residence, many locals contributed invaluable memorabilia such as photographs, key chains, postcards, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, etc., during the writing of *Jubilee*. Del E. Webb Communities, Inc. (formerly DEVCO) generously turned over many of its files and records as well.

Underscoring the Society's motto, "Today Is Tomorrow's History," Webb President Paul Tatz noted, "It's important that these documents be compiled now while they are still available. Every resident within the Sun Cities is a valuable part of this process and I hope they continue to provide items that are part of the communities' history."

SCAHS' next meeting is slated for November 19, at which time there will be a well-known speaker. Interested parties are encouraged to attend and SCAHS memberships will be available.

September/October 1987      SUN CITIES LIFE

## Community notes

### Historical group needs volunteers

SUN CITY—Volunteers having experience in preserving historical documents, cataloging and storing are being sought by the Sun Cities Historical Group.

The group will meet at 9 a.m. Jan. 17 in Menke Sun City Room on Coggins Drive. For additional information, call 977-9961 or 974-5377.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1986 NEWS-SUN A3

### Historical group seeks help

The Sun Cities Historical Group is in need of volunteers with expertise in preserving historical documents, cataloging, storing, etc., and is asking for help from area residents.

The group will meet 9 a.m. Jan. 17 in the Sun City Room at Menke Funeral Home, on Coggins and 103rd drives. Interested volunteers are welcome to attend. Call 977-9961 or 974-5377.

Page B-10—January 15-21, 1986—THE SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

**175 Public Notice**

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**

The undersigned, acting as incorporators of a non-profit corporation under Chapter Five of Title 10, Arizona Revised Statutes, adopt the following Articles of Incorporation.

**ARTICLE I - NAME**

The name of this organization shall be The Sun Cities Area Historical Society, Inc.

**ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

The corporation is organized and is to be operated as a non-profit corporation exclusively for civic and educational purposes and to promote the common cultural interests of the residents of the Sun Cities area comprising Sun City, Sun City West and Youngtown, and to this end shall

**175 Public Notice**

have the power to further its purposes and affairs including any and all lawful affairs for which non-profit corporations may be incorporated under the laws of the State of Arizona.

**ARTICLE III - PLACE OF BUSINESS**

The known place of business shall be 16828 99th Avenue, Sun City, Arizona, 85351.

**ARTICLE IV - INITIAL BUSINESS**

The business and purpose of this corporation shall be to collect and preserve historical data relating to the geographic area of the Sun Cities and to carry out such endeavors by educational, literary, scientific and charitable applications of its assets within its tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of

**175 Public Notice**

1954.

**ARTICLE V - PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES**

This corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future law). No part of the net earnings of this corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that this corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its exempt purposes and powers.

**175 Public Notice**

**ARTICLE VI - MEMBERS**  
Any individual or business organization interested in the activities and purposes of the corporation shall be eligible to become a member of the corporation on such terms and conditions as provided in the Bylaws.

**ARTICLE VII - PERPETUAL EXISTENCE**

This corporation shall have perpetual existence.

**ARTICLE VIII - DISSOLUTION AND LIQUIDATION**

In the event of the dissolution or liquidation of this corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of this corporation, distribute any and all surplus, capital, or assets thereof to one or more domestic non-profit (as de-

**175 Public Notice**

finied under the then existing Arizona Revised Statutes) corporations, societies, or organizations engaged in activities and having purposes substantially similar to those of this corporation and which are tax-exempt under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future law), or if none exists, to one or more funds, foundations, or corporations located in the State of Arizona, conducted solely and exclusively for civic, charitable or education purpose, no part of the net earnings of which shall inure to the benefit of any private member, trustee, officer, or individual of that entity. Any such assets not so distributed by the Board of Directors shall be distrib-

**175 Public Notice**

uted by the Superior Court of the State of Arizona, in and for the County of Maricopa, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as such court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

**ARTICLE IX - BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The business and affairs of this corporation shall be conducted by a Board of Trustees who may exercise on behalf of the corporation all powers of a non-profit corporation. The initial number of trustees shall be twelve (12). The following individuals shall be the corporation's trustees until the first annual meeting or until their successors are elected.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
Loise Copes, 12808 Castle-

**175 Public Notice**

bar Drive, Sun City West, AZ  
Burton Davis, 9706 Alabama Ave., Sun City, AZ  
Amanda Durand, 14244 Sarabande Way, Sun City, AZ  
Emil C. Fischer, 15201 Rosewood Drive, Sun City, AZ  
Jane J. Freeman, 10516 Prairie Hills Circle, Sun City, AZ  
Dorothy L. Koehn, 10515 Roundelay Circle, Sun City, AZ  
Wesley Matthews, 11409 110th Drive, Sun City, AZ  
Lester Merydith, 9915 Royal Oak Road, #1075, Sun City, AZ  
Paul M. Morrill, 10901 El Capitan Circle, Sun City, AZ  
Helen H. Randall, 9915 Royal Oak Road, #1061, Sun City, AZ  
Glenn Sanberg, 11003 Cam-

**175 Public Notice**

eo Drive, Sun City, AZ  
Rita Z. Wright, 11029 Bluefield Court, Sun City, AZ  
**ARTICLE X - STATUTORY AGENT**  
The corporation hereby appoints Paul M. Morrill of 10901 El Capitan Circle, Sun City, Arizona 85351 who is now and has been for more than three (3) years past, a bonafide resident of the State of Arizona as the Statutory Agent of the Corporation. This appointment may be revoked at any time by the filing of an appointment of a successor agent.  
**ARTICLE XI - INCORPORATORS**  
The names and addresses of the incorporators are:  
/s/Jane J. Freeman  
Jane J. Freeman, 10516 Prairie Hills Circle, Sun City, AZ. 85351  
/s/Paul M. Morrill

**175 Public Notice**

Paul M. Morrill, 10901 El Capitan Circle, Sun City, AZ. 85351  
/s/Glenn B. Sanberg  
Glenn B. Sanberg, 11003 Cameo Drive, Sun City, AZ. 85351  
**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,**  
the above signed incorporators have hereunto set their hands as of the 24th day of March, 1986.  
STATE OF ARIZONA )  
COUNTY OF MARICOPA )  
The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this 24th day of March, 1986 by  
/s/Dorothy J. Madin  
Notary Public  
My Commission Expires June 28, 1989  
**SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
**STATUTORY AGENT**  
I, Paul M. Morrill, having been designated to act as

**175 Public Notice**

Statutory Agent for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, Inc., hereby consent to act in that capacity until removed, or resignation is submitted in accordance with the Arizona Revised Statutes and state that I am now and have been for the preceding three (3) years a bonafide resident of the State of Arizona.  
Date: March 24, 1986  
/s/Paul M. Morrill  
Paul M. Morrill  
Publish: May 12, 13 and 14, 1986.

# Historical Society to document Sun Cit

## News-Sun staff reports

**SUN CITY** — What will someone need in 25 years to understand what's happening now in the Sun Cities?

Finding answers to that question will be the task of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society as it sets out to document the unfolding story of the two retirement communities, a history professor told the group at its charter membership meeting Friday.

"Your most basic, important goal is to capture a sense of today for tomorrow," said Noel J. Stowe, co-director of Arizona State University's public history program.

The society's formation has been four years in the works. Some of the founders met working on "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona," published last year.

An historical society dedicated to collecting documents, photographs and other artifacts on the communities was a "natural outgrowth of that effort," said President Jane Freeman.

Although not incorporated until this year, members of the group have been collecting and storing documents in their homes since work began on the 25th anniversary book, Freeman said.

The society's ultimate goal is to have a home for the artifacts, "but that's a dream that will take many years to realize," Freeman said.

"We want this to be the one place people can go to for information about the history of Sun City and Sun City West," Freeman said. "Now, they've got to go to the (Del E.) Webb (Communities Inc.) offices, the local newspaper, the hospital and several other places to find the bits

and pieces of our history."

Officers and trustees for the fledgling group were announced at the noon membership luncheon Friday. They are President Freeman, Vice President Glenn Sanberg, Secretary Rita Wright and Treasurer Douglas Kennedy. All the officers also are serving three-year terms as trustees.

Two-year trustees are Emil Fischer, Dorothy Koehn, Paul Morrill and Maurice Boatman. One-year trustees are Burton Davis, Les Merydith, Helen Randall and Kay Williams.

Memberships in the society range from a \$15 annual family

membership to a \$250 life membership. Seventeen people joined the group at Friday's luncheon, including three life members, Freeman said.

Stowe, who addressed the meeting on "Today Is Tomorrow's History," said the group will make it easier for future generations to find out what life in the Sun Cities was really like.

"Most historians come to material by accident," Stowe said. "That is, they find the papers and photographs and other documents that someone just didn't get around to throwing out. So

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1986 NEWS-SUN A3

they're left with the refuse to try to decide what life was like."

He said the historical society can make an organized effort to collect "history as it occurs," but that's still not an easy task.

The group will have to be selective in choosing what to keep and what not to keep, he said. "Don't just compile statistics. Collect the stories of people living their lives."

## Historical Society to host 1st meeting Friday

SUN CITY — The charter meeting of the newly-formed Sun Cities Area Historical Society Inc., will begin at noon Friday in the Suntowner Restaurant.

The luncheon is open to all area residents interested in the plans of the society.

Residents will have an oppor-

tunity to become charter members of the society. Cost of the luncheon is \$7.50. Reservations may be made at the Sun City Libraries.

Noel Stowe, director of graduate study in the department of history at Arizona State University, will be the principal speak-

er.

The society was formed after the publication of Jubilee, a book that commemorated the 25th anniversary of Sun City. As a result of Jubilee, valuable historical information and memorabilia has been accumulated, said Jane Freeman, the society's president.

She said that for the past two years a committee has been sorting, recording and preserving documents that will form the nucleus of a permanent historical record of the area.

"It would be a tragedy not to preserve them," says Freeman.

# Perspective

## What a historical society means

### NEWS-SUN OPINION

Any community that considers its past relevant to its future ought to have a way of preserving the elements of its history so that proper pride can be taken — or valuable lessons learned.

During Sun City's observance of its 25th anniversary, one of the most popular of its expressions was a bright red softback book, "Jubilee: The 25th Anniversary of Sun City." It is a history of the world-famous retirement community, researched, compiled and written by dedicated volunteers — and cherished by many residents of both Sun Cities.

Now, a citizens committee has formed the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Inc. as a non-profit corporation to continue the work of those volunteers.

At noon Friday, the society will have its charter meeting in the Sunowner, and everybody who has an interest in the area's history is invited.

The Jubilee committee, in researching material for the book, found stacks of information about the Sun City area, hundreds of pictures and much memorabilia. Not all of it could be used, so it was saved for sorting later.

Besides all that, stacks of material has been accumulating since the book was published in 1985. The committee has been organizing it, and continuation of that task

is one of the purposes of the society.

The society's stated purpose is "as a vital guardian of the important and thrilling record of the past ... to collect, preserve, organize and display these historical gems in special exhibits from time to time (and) to acquire a permanent headquarters where permanent exhibits will be developed and maintained."

With so much organized data available on area history, it is obvious that sociologists studying the Sun Cities lifestyle and geo-social characteristics in the future will find valuable resources to use in their research.

On Friday, residents will be offered an opportunity to become charter members of the society in any one of several classifications. They will be explained at the luncheon and, of course, publicized later in the News-Sun.

This is an exciting venture, not only for the society's founders but for Sun Citians, who already know they live in a unique community.

And who, we believe, will welcome a chance to participate in perpetuating the story of the Sun Cities.

## **Society formed to examine, preserve history of Sun City**

Dr. Noel Stowe, chairman of the Department of History's Local History Project at Arizona State University, will be the principle speaker at the charter meeting of the newly-formed Sun Cities Area Historical Society, Inc., at the Suntowner Restaurant, noon Nov. 14.

The luncheon meeting is open to all area residents interested in future plans of the Society.

Formed after the publication of "Jubilee: the 25th Anniversary of Sun City," a committee of public-spirited citizens has formalized the organization as a non-profit corporation which is in the final stages of being certified by the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 as a tax-exempt corporation.

As a result of writing the history of Sun City, a vast storehouse of valuable information memorabilia has been accumulated, members say. For the past two years, the committee has been busy sorting, recording and preserving documents which will form the nucleus of a permanent historical record of the area.

Because of its unique nature, the Sun Cities area has become the object of interest to social scientists and researchers who come from all parts of the world to study the results of a new concept in retirement living. With a permanent society in place, anyone interested can have access to data that would not otherwise be available.

The complete story of the formation of the society and benefits of membership will be explained.

A temporary Board of Trustees of 12 presently oversees the society's operations. Officers currently serving are: Jane Freeman, president; Glenn Sanberg, vice president; Rita Wright, secretary; and Col. Paul Morrill, treasurer.

Cost of the luncheon is \$7.50 and reservations may be made at the Sun City libraries.

# Newly-formed group attempts to preserve Sun Cities history

By LAURIE HURD-MOORE

Although Sun City has become known as one of the most successful retirement communities in the world, few people are aware of the history of the community before it became known as Sun City.

That history begins with R.P. Davie, a business adventurer from Wisconsin, who founded Marinette, Ariz. (the original name of the location where Sun City now exists).

From there, Davie sold his land to the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. which turned the area into a compound for its employees. Then, in 1936, J.G. Boswell purchased the land.

The land was used mainly for cotton farming until the late 1950s when it was purchased by a developer by the name of Del Webb. The rest, they say, is history.

But some local residents fear that history will be forgotten. A group of Sun Citians have joined together to form the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and begun collecting and preserving items from the community's past.

The Historical Society is an offshoot of the book "Jubilee," that was published in 1985 and that detailed the history of Sun City.

Jane Freeman president

of the society, says the group eventually hopes to raise the funds necessary to construct a museum, which would house various Sun City-type exhibits.

Currently, several of the members are acting as curators, storing and caring for boxes of historical documents and memorabilia within their own homes. Freeman's home contains dozens of boxes of photographs, newspapers and Del Webb Webb publications.

Displayed on a folding cardboard backdrop, are various Sun City postcards, advertisements and a Sun City Christmas record from 1964. The presentation is used as a sampling of the group's inventory and is taken to various meeting places for public viewing.

"A lot of these items came from what was the Del Webb Co. It is now Webb Communities, Inc. They gave us full access to their files over the last two or three years since we worked on 'Jubilee,'" says Freeman.

"We cleaned out literally thousands of pictures -- some with no dates or IDs (identifications) on them," she says.

And some the the society's collection was amassed through donations made by members of the community.

"People live here and go through their things, cleaning up. We ask them if they have anything of interest to contact us," she

adds.

The organization's next move will be to create an oral history program, whereby members of the Historical Society go out into the community and interview various people that have spent many years in the Sun Cities area.

Freeman says the collection is not so much for today, but to be preserved for tomorrow.

"Unless we collect it today -- we lose it."

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society, Inc. has issued a "Search List" for items needed for their collection. They include:

- Sun City's "HERE" magazine issues from January and February, 1977.

- A picture of the railroad highway marker sign "Marinette" and "Webb."

- A picture of the "Lizard Acres" sign -- Sun City West.

- The complete 25th anniversary supplement to the *News-Sun*, three sections, Jan. 29, 1985; The 20th anniversary supplement dated Jan. 24, 1980 and the 15th anniversary supplement dated Jan. 14, 1975.

- Early Sun City West memorabilia.

- Metal shelving for storing materials.

Residents are urged to contact a member of the society if they have any materials they wish to be preserved. Telephone 974-2569.

## History group seeks SC brochures, home plans

Home model brochures and floor plans are being sought by the Sun Cities Historical Society to complete its records of Sun City model homes.

The society is currently in the process of organizing.

Serving on the organizing committee are Loise Copes, Burton Davis, Amanda Durand, Emil Fischer, Jane Freeman, Dorothy Koehn, Wesley Matthews, Lester Merydith, Paul Morrill, Helen Randall, Glenn Sanberg and Rita Wright.

Among items being sought by the group are a brochure entitled "Active Living" and covering model homes 1-5, model home series 11-8, an original brochure of house series No. 30 introduced

in 1964, brochures of Quads-Foursomes from 1973-74, patio apartment floor plans, and a brochure of Cranbrook and Berkley models added to the 1976 Heritage series.

Also being sought by the society are materials published by the Del E. Webb Development Co.

These include price lists, newsletters, maps and promotional material.

Sun Citians able to donate these items are to call Mrs. Wright, 972-9310, or the Bell Library, 933-9619.

Sun City West residents wanting to donate model home brochures and advertising are to call Mrs. Copes, 584-1438.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1985 NEWS-SUN A7

## **Area historians plan historical society for SC**

Plans for a Sun City Historical Society edged forward last week when the group of historians which published "Jubilee" reviewed proposed articles of incorporation and bylaws needed to form an historical society.

The group has applied for membership in the American Association for State Local History and is also studying many of its publications.

The steering committee includes: Wes Matthews, Paul Morrill, Helen Randall, Dorothy Koehn, Les Merydith, Emil Fischer, Rita and Eugene Wright, Glenn Sanberg, Amanda Durand, Burt Davis

and Jane Freeman, temporary chairman.

Helen Randall and Dottie Koehn are acting secretaries.

The group meets at 10 a.m., third Thursday each month in Menke Sun City Room.

At the March 21 meeting, it is hoped bylaws and articles of incorporation will be ready. The group plans to apply for 501C3 tax-exempt status.

Problems of culling materials for archives to be located in Bell library also will be discussed.

Mrs. Freeman says residents interested in joining the group are welcome to attend.

## ***Society seeks historic data***

The Sun Cities Historical Society is looking for missing records and information concerning Sun City's model homes. The following are some of the items missing from their files:

- A brochure entitled "Active Living," (blue cover) describing model homes 1-5.

- Model home series 11-8.

- Original brochure house series, number 30, introduced in 1964.

- Brochures of the "Quad/Forsomes," from 1973-74.

- Patio apartment floor plans.

- Brochures showing addition of Cranbrook and Berkley

models to the 1976 Heritage Series.

Residents who have any of the above items and are willing to donate them to the Historical Society, are asked to call Rita Wright at 972-9310 or the Bell Library at 933-9619.

Any other materials published by DEVCO, such as price lists, newsletters, maps, promotional materials, etc., are also needed.

Sun City West residents having model home brochures, advertisements, etc., are asked to call Loise Copes at 584-1438.

Residents interested in working with the Historical Society, are welcome to call Glenn Sanberg, 977-9961.

## Historians to plan formal organization

Sun City may have a historical society and a history book in the same month.

Announcement was made Friday at a meeting of the principals of "Jubilee—A History of Sun City" that the 280-page history book will be bound and ready to distribute Thanksgiving week. The price will be \$5.

At the same meeting historian Glenn Sanberg, who chaired the Friday meeting of those involved in the history book project, signed 11 others on an ad-hoc Historical Society committee.

Those who volunteered to study the possibility of forming a real historical society are Mildred Baker, interviewed pioneers; Emil Fischer, inside line drawings; Jane Freeman, coordinator; Dorothy Koehn, volunteerism; Wesley Matthews, Devco architect in the early days; Les Merydith, self-government; and Paul Merrill, art mu-

seum; Florence Otter, churches; Helen Randall, planning committee; Sanberg, coordinator; and editors Rita and Gene Wright.

There were 23 people at the meeting. Each recounted the amazement and pleasures he/she had encountered while preparing chapters of the book, which has almost 300 photos.

The printing cost is \$3,500<sup>35,000</sup> which the group hopes to pay from sale of the 10,000 copies at \$5 each.

Distribution and sale will be handled by the Lions Foundation. Sam Higginbotham and Tom Cleves are co-chairmen for this activity.

Any profit will be divided between the Lions and the Sun City Library, which has offered to house the permanent collection of memorabilia now stored in the office at the Daily News-Sun which the researchers used as home base for the book project.

Extra D

10/24/84  
Az. Republic

## Historical club forms in Sun City

Society is sparked by authors of book

By VICTORIA M. STEVENS  
Special for The Republic

SUN CITY — Retirees who compiled the first history of Sun City plan to form a historical society to preserve the community's 25 years of memorabilia.

A 280-page book, written, edited and illustrated by Sun City residents, is providing the catalyst.

"The photos of our centers, the original agreement from the governor of the state of Arizona — these are the kinds of things that should be preserved in a formalized way," said Glenn Sanberg, chairman of the Sun City Silver Anniversary history project and a former correspondent for *The Arizona Republic*.

Several contributors to the book will form an ad hoc committee, which will set up guidelines for the historical society. A follow-up meeting has not been scheduled.

"There's tremendous interest, and I would be very surprised if there's not an immediate response to the idea (of a historical society)" Sanberg said.

"There are enough people here who have background in the city to make preserving our memorabilia attractive."

Jane Freeman, a project coordinator, said Bell Library's board of directors approved the library as a headquarters for the historical society. There, historical material will be gathered and restored, Freeman said.

The society also hopes to display historical documents in the library.

Members of the Silver Anniversary Project Committee began cleaning information for the city's historical account in 1982.

The first 10,000 copies of the soft-cover book, selling for \$5 each, will be distributed after Thanksgiving at the Sun Dial, Fairway and Bell recreation centers, Sanberg said.

Residents unable to go to the centers can call and volunteers will deliver the book to their homes. The phone number will be released later, he said.

Revenue from the book will cover \$35,000 in printing costs and provide funding for the historical society, Sanberg said.



The Del Webb Corporation

and

Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Jointly Sponsor

**HELLO, SUN CITY WEST  
SO-LONG, LIZARD ACRES**

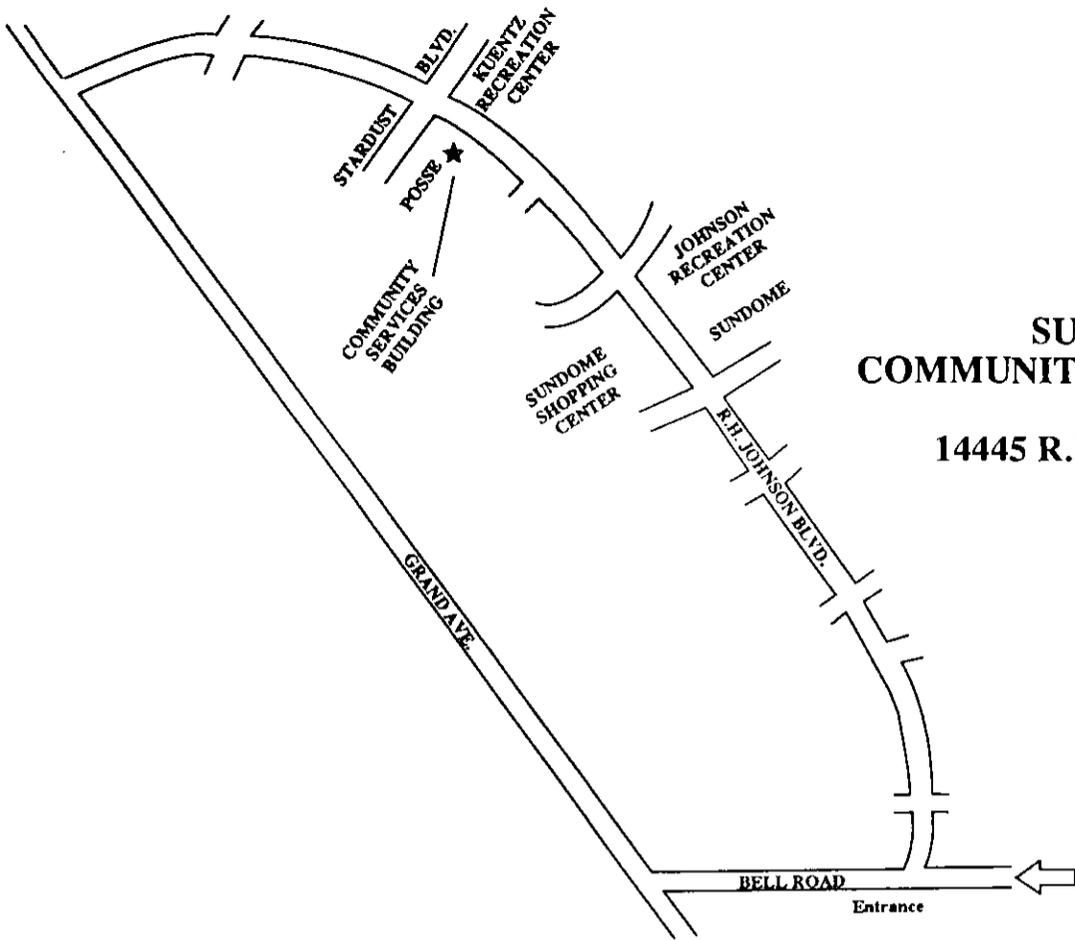
Thursday, April 26, 1990  
1:30 to 3:00 PM

Sun City West Community Services Bldg.  
*(See map on reverse)*

PROGRAM FEATURING

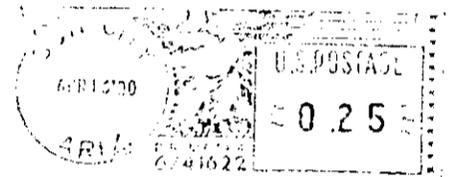
- GLORIA GEMMILL ..... *From 1947-1978 lived on the land now known as Sun City West*
- DICK MASTIN ..... *Del Webb vice president in charge of land development*
- ANN LOOS RAYMOND ..... *Del Webb Development company vice president, 1974-1987*
- ADMISSION FREE ..... THE PUBLIC IS INVITED

*The headquarters and museum of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, Inc. (SCAHS, Inc.) is open seven days a week, 1:00 to 3:00 PM. The Society occupies the first house that was built by Del Webb in Sun City thirty years ago. It is located at 10801 Oakmont Avenue. For further information call 971-2568.*



**ROUTE TO**  
**SUN CITY WEST**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES BUILDING**  
**14445 R.H. JOHNSON BLVD.**

Del Webb Corporation - Public Relations  
 P.O. Box 1705  
 Sun City West, AZ 85372-1705



JANE J. FREEMAN  
 10516 PRAIRIE HILLS CIRCLE  
 SUN CITY AZ 85351

SUN CITIES AREA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**ANNUAL MEETING**

Thursday, November 14th

PALMBROOK COUNTRY CLUB  
9350 W. Greenway Road  
Sun City

*12 NOON*

PROGRAM

THE VILLAGE OF MARINETTE

SPEAKER; K. TRIMBLE

- \* Executive Assistant on Pheonix history project
- \* Central Arizona Museum of History project
- \* Oral history interviewer and instructor

LUNCHEON; \$10.00

Reservations Required

Phone: 974-2568 or 977-5367, or leave message on recorder

PAY AT DOOR

COME AND RENEW ACQUAINTANCES AND REMINISCE ON THE INTERESTING  
PAST OF THIS AREA. PLEASE ACT TODAY. THANKS.



## SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### ANNUAL MEETING

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

1:15 P.M.

SWAIN HALL - FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
12225 103rd AVENUE

### PROGRAM FEATURING

"A Walking Tour of Marinette," by Chief Archivist  
Jane Freeman, and

"A Phoenix Carpenter Creates a New Industry,"  
by Jerry Svenson, Publisher of Sun Life Magazine

Please mark your calendar now to attend and bring a friend. It is great to meet old friends and reminisce about the thrilling beginning of this retirement paradise in Sun City and later in Sun City West.

We trust you will greet this request for your attendance and continued support of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society with the same commitment you have shown in our community in the past.

**The Public Is Invited!**

10801 Oakmont Dr. • Sun City, Arizona 85351 • (602) 975-2568

**SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY****A PROPOSAL TO THE SUN CITY PIONEERS CLUB FROM THE SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY:**

The Sun City Area Historical Society recognizes the Sun City Pioneers Club as a unique and irreplaceable source of historical data. The Society seeks to encourage and assist the Pioneers Club in its activities. The Society is therefore offered the following services to the Pioneer Club to continue as long as there is one pioneer left to participate.

- 1 - The Pioneer Club will have available for club use the Society's facilities including meeting room, kitchen, filing and copying.
- 2 - The Society will perform secretarial service for the Pioneers including: maintaining the roster and mailing.
- 3 - The Society will conduct oral history or VCR taped interviews with Pioneers who have items of historical significance to record.
- 4 - The Society will provide a permanent repository for any items of historical significance that Pioneer members wish to leave to the Society.
- 5 - Pioneer members will receive invitations to all meetings and programs.
- 6 - One or more Pioneers will be honored monthly. The public will be invited to meet them and enjoy informal programs and exhibits.

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**NOTE: THE ABOVE PROPOSAL WAS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND BY THE SUN CITY PIONEERS CLUB AT ITS ANNUAL MEETING ON OCTOBER 27, 1990.**

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OVER

## **ATTENTION SUN CITY PIONEERS !**

The Sun City Area Historical Society is committed to preserving the history of Sun City and recognizes that there are over 150 Sun City Pioneers who have knowledge and memories that should be recorded and mementoes that should be preserved for future generations.

Last year the Society purchased the first model home that Del Webb Built in Sun City and it has served as our headquarters and museum since Sun City's 30th anniversary on January 1, 1990.

We want you to know that the Society's home is also the Pioneer's home and we want you to make yourself at home at the Society's headquarters on Oakmont Ave. next door to the Oakmont Recreation Center.

--The welcome mat is out. Pay us a visit.

If you have not already done so, we suggest you pay a visit to the museum and get acquainted with our personnel and our facilities. We are open every day from one to three in the afternoon and we will be happy to show you around and answer any questions you may have regarding our aims and our operations.

--Tell us about the Pioneer days.

You know what happened in the early sixties when Sun City was just getting started. Your stories added to those of other pioneers will provide authentic historical information for future residents and scholars. We will be happy to make appointments to record your recollections of interesting things that were going on when you first moved to town. How about fires, floods, parades, rallies and celebrations?

--Bring us your items of historical interest.

Don't throw away those old pictures, newspaper clippings, brochures and souvenirs. For example, the dates when the various Sun City organizations were founded and the names of the founders have historical significance and should be preserved.

--Register as a Pioneer with the Historical Society.

Please fill out and return the enclosed Pioneer Registration form. This information will be part of the permanent records of the Society and will insure that you will receive future mailings from the Society.

lem 11/1/90

OVER

*You are Cordially Invited to Join*

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
of  
Sun Cities Area Historical Society**

in a

**PREVIEW OPEN HOUSE  
*and*  
RIBBON CUTTING**

**Friday, January 12, 1990  
from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

**10801 Oakmont Drive  
Sun City, Arizona**

***R.S.V.P. 974-2568  
before January 8, 1990***

# Sun Cities Area Historical Society

## Headquarters Acquisition and Renovation

### Year 1989



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## FIRST RESIDENTS W/PHOTO

The first people to live in the 1960 model home at 10801 Oakmont Ave. were retired businessman John MacDonald and his wife Chloe of Denver. They bought it in 1962 from the second of two owners who had never occupied the building. The original price was \$8,500 plus \$600 for air conditioning and \$1,250 for the golf course location near the ninth hole.

The 1,332 square-foot home, the first of Sun City's five model homes built in 1959 of masonry blocks, featured pale pink tile in both kitchen and bathroom. The Frigidaire had a pale pink exterior aluminum panel; the Kentworth model originally had two bedrooms, one bath, a patio, a car port and shallow front porch with alpine scalloped trim on the overhang and windows.

The MacDonalds added a third bedroom and bath on the south side with lattice concrete blocks shading the entire south side. They enclosed the patio area, which was opened to the kitchen through double glass doors replacing a window. There was also a small storage building in the back yard and a boxy hedge across the front of the building.

From their new Arizona room they enjoyed a private view of the Oakmont golf course ninth tee. The room was furnished with a pair of comfortable chaises and a small round dining table.

They planted roses and posed for pictures next to the grapefruit tree they had planted on the south side, and drove around Sun City in a three-wheeled Cushman golf cart. They could walk to the original Community Center, later named Oakmont, next door on the east.

The MacDonalds, like many other Sun Citians, climbed to their new flat roof to watch July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks and star gaze, and they built a short railing around the roof on the back of the house.

After John's death in 1983, the building was sold to Vera Jean Painter, who owned a sports togs shop in nearby Grand Center and later in Surprise. The three-year old Sun Cities Area Historical Society purchased the house for \$41,500 in 1989.

A vigorous charter membership campaign had produced a \$30,000 donation from the James G. Boswell Foundation, and other donations from the Del E. Webb Foundation and Del Webb Corp.; 14 Generous Contributors; nine Officers and Trustees; seven Patrons; six Sponsors; 14 Family Members and 17 Individual Members.

Following extensive remodeling, the first of Sun City's five model homes on Oakmont Avenue would soon become the headquarters of the SCAHS formed in 1986. This would signal the beginning of the home's new life as a museum with historical displays, docents giving tours, climate controlled archives established and tended, a speakers' bureau, outside displays and local history events.

Compiled by P. Atwood Fenner

## **A HISTORY OF OUR HISTORICAL HOUSE**

**Built in 1959, the first of five model homes on Oakmont Drive, it was furnished and ready for showing on opening day, January 1, 1960.**

**By January, 1961 a new group of models were ready and the five models on Oakmont were offered for sale. In the first Home Owners Directory, published in Summer, 1961, Robert E. Lodge was listed as the owner of 10801 Oakmont Drive. There was no phone listing and his address was in Phoenix. Later, according to the daughter of the MacDonalds, the Wagers family purchased the house and sold it to John and Chloe MacDonald, who moved there in 1962.**

**After John MacDonald died in 1983, the house was sold to Jean Painter who used it as a rental property.**

**In May of 1989, the house was purchased by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society with the help of many very generous donors. Renovations began and the house was officially opened as the headquarters of the Society in January, 1990.**

# Sun Cities Area Historical Society

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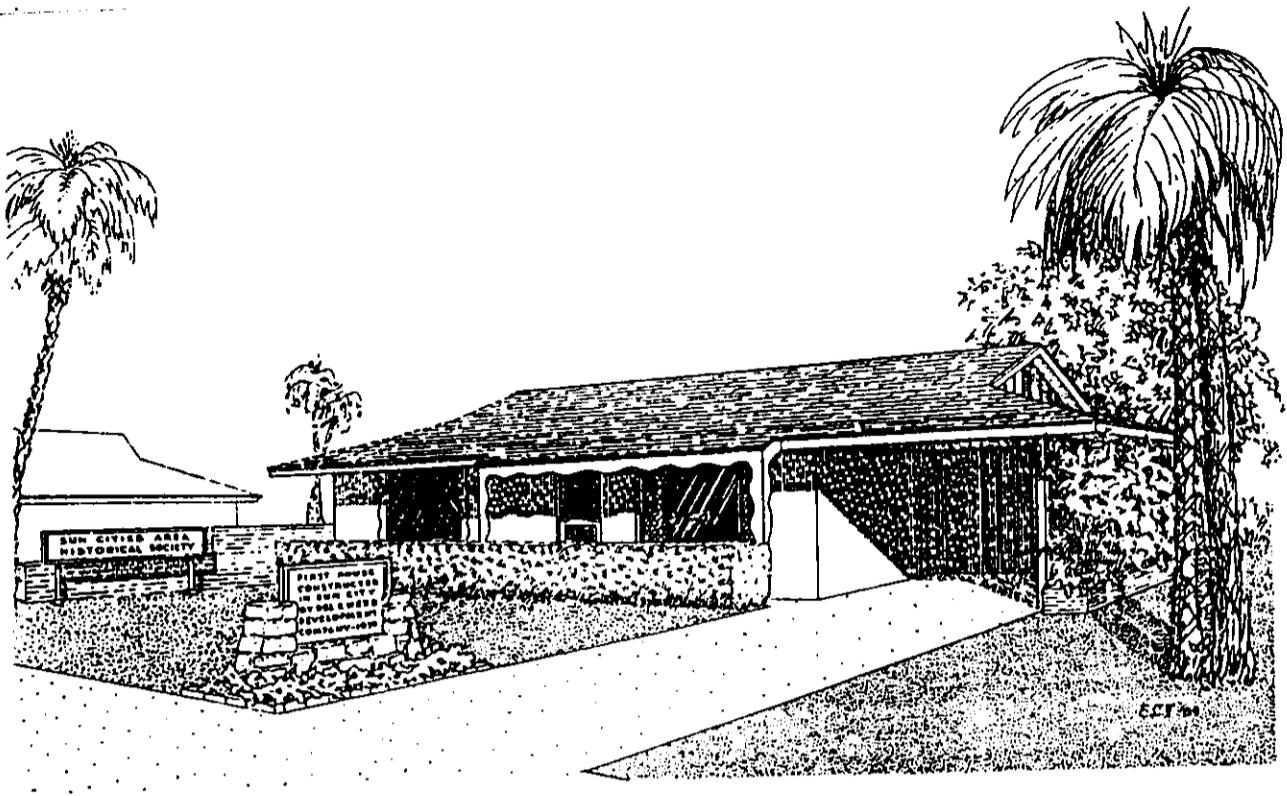
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#### FAMILY MEMBERS

Gordon J. Armbruster	Robert & Geraldine Bell
Dave & Fran Berninghausen	Clayton & Dorothy Brower
John & Louise Byrne	Priscilla L. Claybrook
Doris M. Coffman	George & Loise Copes
Milton R. Crider	William & Anna Daniels
Bruce & Mildred Dunbar	Henry & Dorothy Fokens
Byron & Bertha Guernsey	Douglas & Arpena Kennedy
William F. Lewis	Frank & Julia Manspeaker
Edwin & Dorothy Martin	Mary M. Miller
Miner & Constance Patton	Roy & Clara Rylander
Charles & Rosella Sackett	Jack Stolp
Paul & Sara Stutsman	Andy Wagner
Claire N. Wheadon	William & Vivian Whitehead
Wm. & Jeann Woodford	Kay Williams Woolard

#### INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Grace Arentsen	Patricia DeBellis
Teresa F. Detar	Norma S. Ericson
Jean M. Ericson	Sarah G. Fleming
Doris Foster	Frank A. Gerig
Helen P. Hale	Michael Irvin
Mary T. Lind	J. Marshall McWilliams
Hilda L. Sademan	Connie M. Smith
George W. Swanson	Frances C. Thompson
Pricilla Williams	



S.C.A.H.S. HEADQUARTERS

*We have a home !!*

ON APRIL 26, 1989 WE SIGNED A PURCHASE AGREEMENT TO BUY THE VERY FIRST HOME BUILT IN SUN CITY LOCATED AT 10801 OAKMONT DRIVE.

MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE AND YOU WILL BE HEARING MORE ABOUT IT.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT MORE THAN EVER AND WE WILL BE MOUNTING A FULL FLEDGED CAMPAIGN IN THE FALL.

WITH YOUR HELP, WE'RE ON OUR WAY!!!!!!

  
Glenn Sanberg  
President

S. C. Historical Soc.  
16828 99th Ave.  
Sun City, AZ 85351



SOMETHING  
to

CROW

ABOUT





## YOU ARE INVITED

to meet with friends, enjoy good fellowship and hear a program that will be of special interest to you. Hear about Sun City, past, present and future.

### Date

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1989

### Place

EL DORADO - Thunderbird Blvd.  
(Between the Lakes Club &  
Valley National Bank)

### Time

2:00 P.M.



DON TUFFS, Sr. Vice President  
Del Webb Corp.

"Sun Cities Future - the  
Del Webb Point of View"

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

**Sun Cities Area**



**Historical Society**

**SUN CITIES AREA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



**ANNUAL MEETING**

Wednesday, November 8  
2:00 P.M.  
Swain Hall - First Presbyterian Church  
12225 103rd Avenue

**PROGRAM FEATURING**

*James G. Boswell II — Henry (Hank) Raymond*

Who operated the Boswell Ranches long before Sun City Began . . .

- Marinette - how it grew and why it died
- The partnership with Del Webb in the Sun City project
- What about the future?

*Come hear these two outstanding leaders reminisce and perhaps reveal some new stories about the thrilling beginnings of this retirement paradise . . .*

**The Public Is Invited!**

SUN CITIES AREA



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1988

SPRING PROGRAM

APRIL 14, 1988

2:00 P.M.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

12225 N. 103rd Ave.

PROGRAM

THE J. G. BOSWELL RANCHING OPERATION IN MARINETTE

SPEAKER: MR. "HANK" RAYMOND \*

\*\*\*\*\*

ANYONE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE  
EARLY HISTORY OF THE SUN CITIES AREA IS  
CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND.

*\* unable to make it.*

*Ken Parker, V.S. Sales, Webb was speaker*

SUN CITIES AREA



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LET'S GO!

1988

FALL PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 17, 1988

12:00 NOON LUNCHEON

SUN RIDGE

12221 W. Bell Road

PROGRAM

"HISTORICALLY SPEAKING.."

SPEAKER: Mr. James E. Cooke

ARIZONA REPUBLIC Columnist

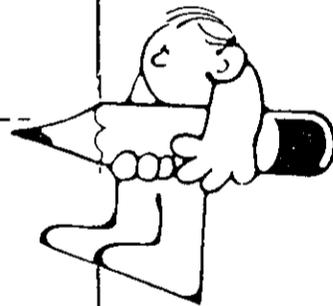
This should be a most interesting program as Mr. Cooke is well versed in local history.

LUNCHEON RESERVATION

Please reserve \_\_\_ places for the luncheon at \$7.50 each. Check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

(Make check payable to SCAHS (Sun Cities Area Historical Society))

MAIL TO: Mr. Douglas Kennedy, Treasurer  
13806 Gunstone Drive  
Sun City, AZ 85351



SUN CITIES AREA



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## 1987 SPRING PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY APRIL 15, 1987 2:30 P.M.

SWAIN HALL FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
12225 N. 103rd Avenue  
Sun CityPROGRAM

" DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN...?"

PANELJames G. Boswell, II  
Chairman of the Board  
James G. Boswell CompanyJohn Meeker  
Former President, DEVCOOwen Childress  
Former Executive Vice President  
DEVCO

YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD ENTITLES YOU TO RESERVED SEATING

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

16828 99th Avenue • Sun City, Arizona 85351 • (602) 974-2569

*Mailed to members*

SUN CITIES AREA



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL PROGRAM

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 19, 1987

2:00 P.M.

SMOOT HALL LAKEVIEW UNITED-METHODIST CHURCH

103rd Ave. & Thunderbird Blvd.

PROGRAM\*

"EVERYONE IS IMPORTANT - WHY WE STUDY LOCAL HISTORY"

DR. ROSS PETERSON, HISTORIAN

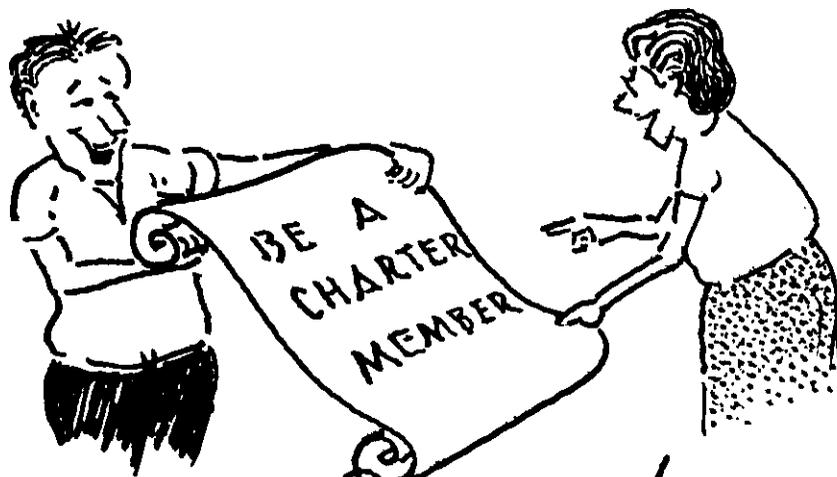
UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY

#####

AVAILABLE FOR THE FIRST TIME - Emil Fischer's  
beautifully illustrated book, THE CHURCHES OF  
THE SUN CITIES. \$5.00 for members; \$8:00  
for non-members.

\*There will be a SHORT annual meeting preceding  
the speaker.

*Come-Join the*  
**SUN CITIES AREA  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



*Charter Membership  
and  
First Annual Meeting*

**FRIDAY NOV.14, 12 NOON**

**SUNTOWNER RESTAURANT**

**\$ 7.50**

TICKETS AVAILABLE  
SUN CITY LIBRARY : BELL REC. CENTER.  
SUN CITY LIBRARY : FAIRWAY REC. CENTER.

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BASEBALL  
EXHIBIT

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# DEL WEBB Lifelong Baseball Fan



**1942 - A Baseball Profile**

Del Webb, a young boy from Phoenix, Arizona, is shown in a baseball uniform, swinging a bat. He is a member of the Phoenix Little League team. The photo was taken in 1942, during the height of his baseball career. He was a star player and a fan favorite.



**1947-1951 - A Baseball Hero**

Del Webb, a young boy from Phoenix, Arizona, is shown in a baseball uniform, sitting on a bench. He is a member of the Phoenix Little League team. The photo was taken in 1947-1951, during the height of his baseball career. He was a star player and a fan favorite.



**1958 - Giving Up Baseball**

Del Webb, a young boy from Phoenix, Arizona, is shown in a baseball uniform, standing on a field. He is a member of the Phoenix Little League team. The photo was taken in 1958, during the height of his baseball career. He was a star player and a fan favorite.



**1960-1962 - Baseball Entrepreneur**

Del Webb, a young boy from Phoenix, Arizona, is shown in a baseball uniform, standing on a field. He is a member of the Phoenix Little League team. The photo was taken in 1960-1962, during the height of his baseball career. He was a star player and a fan favorite.



**1964 - Success in the Arizona Sun**

Del Webb, a young boy from Phoenix, Arizona, is shown in a baseball uniform, standing on a field. He is a member of the Phoenix Little League team. The photo was taken in 1964, during the height of his baseball career. He was a star player and a fan favorite.



**Always Up For a Game**

Del Webb, a young boy from Phoenix, Arizona, is shown in a baseball uniform, standing on a field. He is a member of the Phoenix Little League team. The photo was taken in 1964, during the height of his baseball career. He was a star player and a fan favorite.





# THE EARLY YEARS

## Fields of Dreams



1962

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1963

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...



...

1965



1971

...



...



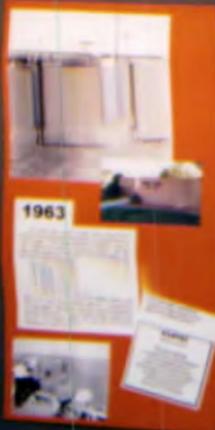
**Sun Cities' interest in baseball grows!**

Fan

## THE EARLY YEARS Fields of Dreams



1962



1963



1965

1971

The Sun City baseball field was dedicated on August 1, 1971. The field was built on a site that had been previously used for other purposes. The field is now a popular destination for baseball fans and is a key part of Sun City's history.



The Sun City baseball field was built on a site that had been previously used for other purposes. The field is now a popular destination for baseball fans and is a key part of Sun City's history.



Sun City's interest in baseball grows!

# TEARS Dreams



...

1965



1971

...



...



# THE MASH Spring Training



The ...



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# in baseball grows!

# THE MAJOR LEAGUES Spring Training in Sun City



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# Spring Training in Sun City



**Milwaukee Brewers arrive**

The Milwaukee Brewers arrived in Sun City for their spring training camp on Tuesday, Feb. 22, 1989. The team was greeted by a large crowd of fans who gathered to see the players in action. The Brewers are looking forward to a successful season in Sun City.

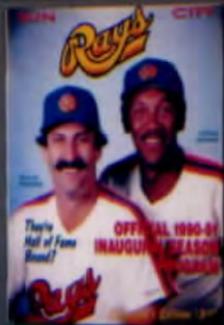
**Milwaukee Brewers Spring Training Camp**

The Milwaukee Brewers Spring Training Camp is held in Sun City, Arizona. The team practices every day and plays exhibition games. The camp is a great time for the players to get in shape and prepare for the upcoming season.



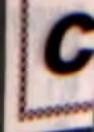
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**1989 NEW DRIVER**

The Milwaukee Brewers Spring Training Camp is held in Sun City, Arizona. The team practices every day and plays exhibition games. The camp is a great time for the players to get in shape and prepare for the upcoming season.

# Then THE SAINTS Game Marching In

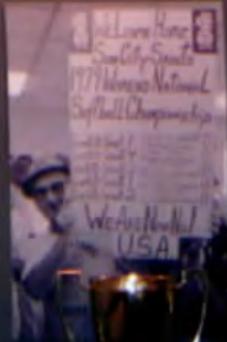
# COMING Sun Cities S



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# Then THE SAINTS Came Marching In



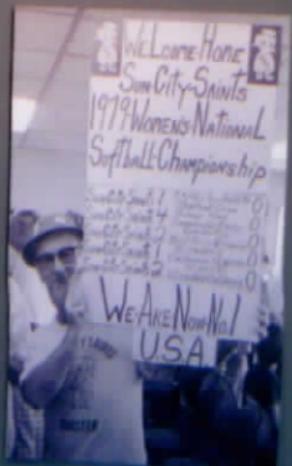
## EVERBODY HITTING IN

It was a record-breaking season for the Sun City Saints softball team. In 1977, the team set a new record for hits per game, averaging over 10 hits per game. This was a significant achievement for the team, as it demonstrated their offensive prowess and ability to consistently score runs.



## LOGOS

The Sun City Saints have a rich history of logos. One of the most iconic is the 'SUN CITY SAINTS' logo, which features a cartoon mascot. Another logo is a circular emblem with a face and the words 'SUN CITY SAINTS' around it.



## Women's National

1978 Women's National Softball Championship. The Sun City Saints team participated in this prestigious event, showcasing their skills on a national stage. The team's performance was a testament to their hard work and dedication throughout the season.

## A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT

The Sun City Saints achieved a remarkable feat in 1977 by setting a new record for hits per game. This achievement was a result of the team's consistent offensive play and their ability to adapt to different pitching strategies.

## 1977: THE LONGEST GAME

The longest game in Sun City Saints history was played in 1977. The game lasted for an extraordinary amount of time, with both teams displaying incredible endurance and skill. The game was a thrilling contest that captured the hearts of fans and players alike.

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## 1978: THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

The Sun City Saints team won the 1978 Women's National Softball Championship, a historic achievement for the team. This victory was the result of their exceptional performance throughout the season and their ability to perform under pressure.

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# COMING OF AGE

## Sun Cities Senior Softball



### 1979 - Senior Softball League Begins

The first Senior Softball League was organized in 1979. It was a 12-team league that played on the Sun City Sports Center. The league was organized by the Sun City Sports Center and the Sun City Senior Center. The league was a success and it has been a popular sport ever since.

In 1980, the league expanded to 16 teams. The league was a success and it has been a popular sport ever since.

### 1980 - Sun City Sports Center Liberty Plaza

The Sun City Sports Center was built in 1980. It was a multi-use facility that included a softball field, a tennis court, and a swimming pool. The center was a success and it has been a popular facility ever since.



### 1981 - Sun City Softball

The Sun City Softball team was formed in 1981. The team was a success and it has been a popular team ever since.

### THE FIELDS

The Sun City Sports Center has two softball fields. One is a regulation size field and the other is a smaller field. Both fields are well-maintained and provide a great playing surface.

### JOIN THE CLUB

Join the Sun City Senior Softball Club today. The club is a great way to stay active and meet new people. The club has a great coach and a great team.



SUN CITY  
SAINTS

# SUN CITY OF AGE Sun Cities Senior Softball



## 1974 - Senior Softball League Begins

The Sun City Senior Softball League was organized in 1974. The league was formed by a group of senior citizens who wanted to play softball. The league has since grown and now has many teams. The league is a great way for seniors to stay active and socialize.

In 2008, the Sun City Senior Softball League was awarded the title of National Senior Softball League. This was a great achievement for the league and its members. The league has since continued to grow and has many more teams.

## 1981 Sun Bowl Belongs

The Sun Bowl Belongs trophy was awarded to the Sun City Senior Softball League in 1981. This was a great honor for the league and its members. The trophy is a symbol of the league's success and the dedication of its members.



## THE FIELDS

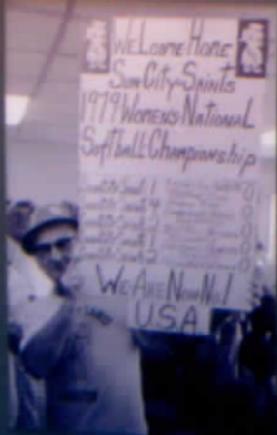
The Sun City Senior Softball League has several fields where they play. These fields are well-maintained and provide a great environment for the players. The league is grateful for the support of the community and the city of Sun City.

## JOIN THE CLUB

Join the Sun City Senior Softball League today! There are many benefits to being a member, including the opportunity to play softball, socialize with other seniors, and stay active. Contact the league for more information.

## 1988 Nancy Field, now Liberty Field

The Sun City Senior Softball League has a long history of playing at Nancy Field, which is now known as Liberty Field. The field has been a great venue for the league and its members. The league is grateful for the support of the community and the city of Sun City.



Welcome Home  
Sun City Saints  
1979 Women's National  
Softball Championship

1979 Women's National Softball Championship

We Are Now No. 1 USA

1979 Women's National Softball Championship



