



Spring 2009

Volume 18 No. 2

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Odyssey of books almost complete

Bookmobile, 'clothes closet,' Lakeview, Bell ; Fairway, again

by P. Atwood Fenner

The Maricopa County Library District loaned the first 2,500 books to the fledgling Sun City Library in 1962, and has now come to its rescue again by taking over the struggling organization at the private library's request.

Dependent on private funding from fees, gifts, memorials, and donations, the library has almost always struggled financially and reluctantly had raised library card fees from \$15 to \$20 annually. They operated at a loss of \$133,000 in 2008, according to a published report. And although the Bell Library and the Fairway Branch were firmly established, it has not always been so

In the beginning, the reading materials for the active retirees were delivered weekly by the Maricopa County Library District Bookmobile. This did not satisfy many residents, however, and in 1962, Ruth Mildner became the first volunteer librarian in charge of an 820 square foot space in Town Hall Center (now Fairway).

"It was like trying to serve the public out of a clothes closet," she said.

Access to the 2,500 books on loan from the county was three days a week, and records were kept in shoeboxes. Ruth furnished the 3" x 5" cards herself. She promoted reading in her column in the Daily News-Sun, assisted by

publisher Burt Freireich's editorials, resulting in the donation of hundreds of books. In her first year she had eight volunteer helpers, and library hours were soon increased.

Former Chicago Public Library librarian Dorothy Weber answered the call to retired librarians for help. A Friends of the Library was organized and also a Library Operating Board. In 1971 a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation was formed. Free library service was provided to Sun City residents. Dorothy succeeded to the unpaid librarian post after Ruth retired in 1969; she had 30 volunteers to assist her.

By 1972, with the donation of 1,500 books by residents, the library had outgrown the shoebox-quarters at Fairway, and the Rec Centers provided 2,500 square feet of space in the new Lakeview Rec Center. Phyllis Wood served as the first paid librarian.

But the books' odyssey continued...

In April of 1976 the Bell Rec Center opened and so did the library, located in a separate building on the northeast corner of the complex. There were 10,250 square feet with room for a 6,400 square foot expansion. The facility could accommodate 100 seated readers, staffers, and 285 volunteers.

See books page 6

10801 Oakmont Dr.—Sun City, AZ—85351

Open Hours—1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday—Wednesday—Thursday—Friday

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Bette Linwood
Belva McIntosh
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Jane Wise



Message from President David Verble

Where do we go from here?

With compass in hand and the GPS receiver set for a 2010 destination, we are on course for the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Sun City! And we are going at full throttle because this year is sailing by faster than all the years before. One quarter has already elapsed and we still have a long way to travel to reach the goal on our ETA.

But lots of exciting things have been happening to make the time go fast. We had the Custom Golf Cart show in February with great attendance; a very successful Rummage Sale was held in March netting almost \$1600 thanks to all who donated items, and we are getting more PR than we have had before. Our Speakers Bureau made a number of presentations to SCHOA, the West Valley Art Museum, church groups, and to future leaders in Sun City West.

In the back room of the house, through a unique partnership with members of the Computer Club of Sun City, we have a very ambitious effort underway. Multiple computer scanning stations are producing digitized copies of our extensive collection of photos. These will be compiled on a One Terabit hard drive donated by the Retirees Association of Sun City and placed in a safe and secure location to preserve our valuable treasures. We have a good start but still have a long process to continue. When complete, we will have these images available to publish the 50th Anniversary book, supply our archive registration project started from a grant by the Arizona Historical Society, and become a database for research, as well as protect against unforeseen catastrophic events.

If you have driven past or visited the house recently, you may have noticed the rose garden established next to the carport, as well as other desert plants to add appeal to the yard area. Our thanks go to the Sun City Rose and Garden Club for their efforts in planting and caring for the roses. Also we were given special consideration by C & S Plant Specialists in planning and planting the new landscape items. We have future plans for a memorial brick walkway along the rose garden to allow members and friends to place a brick in memory or honor of a loved one.

Our visitor attendance is up, we have developed some new and repeat exhibits—golf and baseball—and we thank those of you who have brought your friends and guests to check us out. Please keep up your interest in this unique historical collection. We appeal to our readers, members as well as other interested parties, seeking ideas of how we might generate added interest in our displays, programs, or other events that would make our purpose more attractive. I would be pleased to hear from any and all who would offer suggestions for increasing our prominence and attraction to the public. Call me at 623-214-0053 or e-mail zswede@cox.net to convey your ideas and comments.

Docents enjoy their museum 'jobs'

Compiled by P. Atwood Fenner

The public face of any museum is usually its docents. And it is so with the 12 women and men who meet and give tours to the public at the model home that houses the archives of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society at 10801 Oakmont Drive.

They all agree that conducting the tours, especially for foreign visitors, is the most interesting part of volunteering.

Docent Belva McIntosh, a six-year veteran, recalls when a busload of Koreans showed up asking, "Did the government make you move here?" and "Would the government let you sell your house here?" "Why are there so many homes with flags flying?" was another question.

And the highlight of her duties here was the opportunity to be a tour guide on the Korean tour bus after they left the museum. She also doesn't mind the mundane clipping and filing duties.

Mary Ellen Danley, three-year volunteer, enjoys filing the most and loves doing research to answer questions as well as reading the interviews with original homeowners in the 1960s.

Rosemary Scully, two years, likes people and learning the unique history of Sun City. She admits that compared to other volunteer jobs, "this is a little more intellectual ... a little bit of a challenge to learn the facts." She also enjoys meeting relatives of early residents and the grad students that use the SCAHS archived materials.

Jane Wise, three years, also enjoys helping the "enthusiastic" grad students and learns something new every day she is here. "It is a constant learning process for the history of the area," she says.

Bette Linwood, two years, agrees that one must be people-oriented to be a docent here, and that the SCAHS museum is a "totally different environment" from other places.

Dorothy Rucker, four years, enjoys meeting the people and sharing the history of Del

Webb's dream and the beginning of the Arizona Sun Cities. Her high point was helping to decorate the house as a 1960 Model Home. Seasonal decorations are also put in place by docents.

"The time goes fast. It is fun even with the reading and research to do," says Karen Bunsness, a new docent.

"The volunteering is 99 percent fun," says Judy Sciola, three years, who with Belva, is serving on the Society's 50th Anniversary Committee.

Recently all the docents helped with the first ever custom golf car show held in Sun City and the SCAHS rummage sale.

"It's something different each day," says Marcia Case, one year. She enjoys getting to know the other docents and the trustees and learning from them. "All volunteer jobs demand a commitment," she added.

Those interested in joining the ranks of the Historical Society Docents, who usually work only from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, may phone 623- 974-2568.



DOCENT BELVA McIntosh shows visitors the displays in the living room during the February Custom Golf Car Show. Several years ago, following a visit of a busload of Koreans to the Museum, Belva was asked to serve as their bus tour guide of Sun City. It was one of the highlights of her career as a Model Home docent.

Six roses and more now blooming here

*Spring has sprung,
and the grass has riz*...
And so have six rose bushes
west of where the house is.*



New trustee Arlene Macy enlisted the help of the Rose and Garden Club of Sun City. And in time for spring, the SCAHS now has beautiful tea rose bushes--red, pink, orange, lavender, and gold--blooming away on the west side of the Model Home. In addition, at either side of the driveway in front are a Red Valentine and a Gopher plant. And there are three Bottlebrush plants now in the backyard.

The Society employed the services of Charlotte and Suzanne, owners of C&S Plant Specialists, to design our planting layout. As well, they have donated and placed a variety of cacti within a diamond shape with the Museum sign in the center. And Ed and Regina Cirillo have donated and planted some succulents in the back to complete the improvements.

A total of \$334.40 was spent on the project, which was completed in time for the plants to get established properly before summer. Board members offset some of the cost with \$110 toward the expenditure. Edson and Loretta Allen helped to lay out the rose plantings, which straddle the existing irrigation piping. The Rose and Garden Club planted the roses and will continue to take care of them.

*Arizona pebble landscaping is used at the Model Home, not grass.



A CARNIVAL ATMOSPHERE, providing a cacophony of sounds and the splash of brightly enameled colors, attracted 250 visitors to the SCAHS Custom Golf Car Show Feb. 7 in the parking lot of the Oakmont Center next door. As clouds scudded overhead, folks chatted with the owners of 16 golf cars while others also enjoyed refreshments and tours of the Model Home.

Spring Meeting in Sun City West features golf history

Bob Lucas shares collections, experiences along with clubs, niblicks, mashies, leather balls

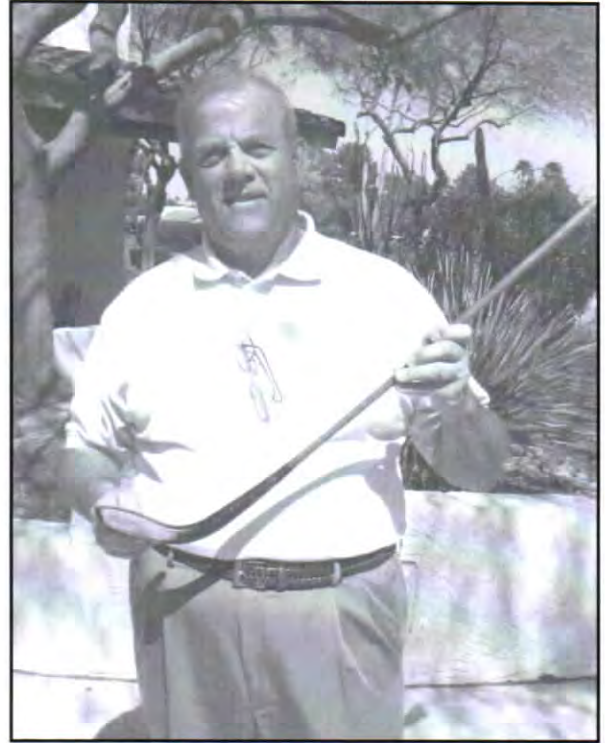
Story and photos by Edson Allen

It was a beautiful April 1 afternoon at the Hillcrest Golf Club in Sun City West. At the Spring Meeting Society members and guests learned some of the history of golf and the tools with which it has been played, from collector Bob Lucas, a resident of Sun City Grand.

Bob started collecting antique clubs in the late 1970s when he bought a wood-shaft putter for \$1.50 at a flea market. At one time, his collection consisted of more than 9,000 clubs, balls, and other golfing memorabilia.

The club at right is a “long nose” all wood club. The head is beech, the shaft hickory. The two woods are spliced together, glued, and a filament winding secures the two parts.

The first metal clubs did not appear until about 1875 and carried names instead of numbers. There were the “Mid Iron” (comparable to a #2 iron), “Mashie” (#5), and “Niblick” (#8). It wasn’t until about 1925 that clubs began to carry the numbers as we now know them.



Bob Lucas displays a long nose wooden putter at the April 1 Spring Meeting in Sun City West.



The first balls were wood. Next came leather balls stuffed with goose feathers. A wet leather pouch was sewn and filled with wet feathers. As the ball dried, the leather shrank and the feathers expanded making a tight, round sphere.



The first “tee” was probably a small pile of sand. This led to a small “press” that could be filled with moist sand and yield a uniform height “tee” with a shallow depression on top for the ball. Over the years, golfers have experimented with all shapes and sizes of tees, balls, and clubs in the pursuit of a lower score.



In the 1850s, a doctor in England experimented with Gutapercha—sap from an Indonesian tree. The hard balls could be driven further but they often went crooked. As they became nicked by club contact, they flew straighter—leading to the dimples on today’s balls.

Maricopa County to end book odyssey soon

From page 1

The Rec Center continued to furnish only the physical plant; the library paid all other expenses.

Sun City Wester Alice Gardner took over in 1984, and the library instituted the library team concept of part-time librarians. There were now 275 volunteers (Sun City is the city of volunteers) who logged almost 50,000 hours in 1983.

Four thousand books were transferred in June of 1986 to the branch library, back where it had all begun. The Fairway Branch (50 percent larger than when it first opened) now had a paid librarian and 24 volunteers.

Library services now included puzzles, large print books, and Books-on-Wheels. Polaroid cameras, audio cassettes, videos, and DVDs were on loan. Computers for public use were added. At Bell, a small children's section and an annual Christmas program were provided for grandchildren who visit in Sun City.

In 1991, there were 14 employees, 250 volunteers, and it cost \$210,000 annually to operate the libraries. The annual library membership fee was \$10.

Through the years, the Friends organized fund raising events; the Sun City Community Fund donated generously as did the Sundial Men's Club and other organizations. An annual fund raising campaign was conducted by mail. People were encouraged to make donations and set up memorials.

Eventually, Bell Library space was expanded at two different times; first to include more bookshelves, then offices, restrooms, and the versatile Hoover Room, a source of income as a rental. They survived roof problems and a deluge which partially flooded the bookstacks.

But by 2009, with the huge deficit, drastic measures had to be taken. The Sun City's Friends of the Library merged with the Library Board of Directors as a necessary step

for the Maricopa County Library District to take over the operation of the two Sun City libraries.

Lease negotiations of the library facility at Bell were completed and signed by the Recreation Centers of Sun City. Because the Fairway Branch is under construction, the separate lease for it was negotiated later. Work began on the transition, which included conversion of the Hoover Room as a permanent bookstore for The Friends. Residents are being encouraged to join the Friends whose membership fee is \$2.

The County Library District will begin a massive wiring project; lighting will be updated, and the facility will be redecorated. Sun City Library, Inc.'s primary purpose now will be to support the library through the bookshop and a Community Outreach Program that will serve the homebound population.

In February the library discontinued charging for new cards (eventually, everyone will need a free Maricopa County Library card), and many new people began to apply for the familiar and now free, blue Sun City Library Card.

Bar codes are being added to all materials to be loaned, a process which includes entering information into the computerized records, which will be turned over to the county. There will be no friendly, great-to-set-books-upon card catalogue with pull-out shelves.

Volunteers will be trained to help residents use the computerized system to find books or order from other county libraries. Professional librarians will scan materials to be loaned and print due date slips. There will be additional computers available for patrons to use. The Friends will be selling books in a neat, efficient bookstore of their own.

And voila! Sometime soon in Sun City, the newest Maricopa County Branch Library will enter the 21st Century with all its bells

SCAHS Museum hums with activity – in, out and about

Trustees and docents have been busy this spring manning tables at activity fairs in Youngtown, Sun City West, and Sun City, giving lectures and staging major events: the first ever Custom Golf Car Show and a Rummage Sale.

In addition, major colorful additions have been made to the grounds. And a special historical golf lecture was the program for the April 1 Spring Meeting in Sun City West.

And Ed Allen gave his new talk, "Fields of Dreams" at the West Valley Art Museum March 17.

Earlier, the Custom Golf Car Show was a colorful event bringing about 250 people out on a cloudy day. Music from some of the cars created a carnival atmosphere, and many visitors also toured the model home.

The Rummage Sale netted almost \$1,600 for the two days, and brought out more docents and trus-

tees to collect, tag, display, and sell items donated by members and friends of SCAHS.

Office staffers made time in March to assist a returning University of Michigan research student, Drew Meyers. And members of the Sun City Computer Club have begun the Herculean task of scanning all archives material. (Story in next issue).

Recently, a surprise appreciation party was held for newly retired Founder and Emeritus Trustee Jane Freeman by Judy Sciola, Beverly Brown, and Belva and Marsha McIntosh at the McIntosh residence. Many trustees and docents attended and shared memories with her.

Also, during April Volunteer Appreciation Month a special event will be held for those volunteers who continue to do the work that gives this organization life.

We are always on the lookout for new members. You can help SCAHS by passing this newsletter along to friends and invite them to join. NOTE: Membership is from January through December each year.

Membership form for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society – 2009

New _____ Renewal _____ Date _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City/State/Zip _____

E-mail address: _____

Check level of membership - Make checks payable to SCAHS

_____ Individual \$10

_____ Patron \$50

_____ Family \$15

_____ Organization \$25

_____ Supporting \$25

_____ Business \$50

_____ Additional Gift _____ Total enclosed _____ Check # _____

**Mail or bring to: SCAHS, 10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City, AZ, 85351
Phone 623-974-2568**

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
SPRING CALENDAR

3 p.m. Mon. April 13 - Trustees monthly meeting

3 p.m. Sat. April 18 - Volunteer Appreciation Day

3 p.m. Mon. May 11 - Trustees monthly meeting

3 p.m. Mon. June 8 - Trustees monthly meeting

***Enjoy the Memorial Day,
Mother's Day and Father's Day Holidays!***

**Museum open Tuesday—Friday 1:30 to 3:30 p. m.
or by appointment for special groups.**

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10801 Oakmont Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85351

Brett McKeand
8712 W. Tierra Buena Land
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DAILY NEWS-SUN

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Rummage for unused household items for Historical Society benefit sale

STAFF REPORT

Donated items are being accepted for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's big rummage sale, which will be from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 5 and 9 a.m. to noon March 6 at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive in Sun City.

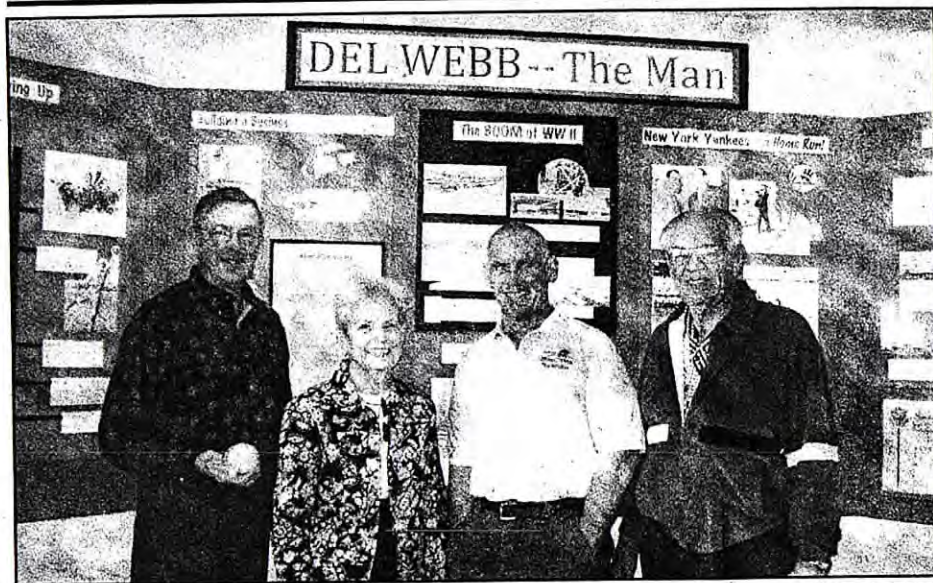
Funds raised will go toward improved security of the museum's historic contents.

With today's challenging economic conditions, many find it easier to donate used items than to give cash, and society officials said the organization benefits from the sale of these gifts. Donated items may be dropped off at the Historical Society between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through March 4, or call 623-974-2568 for pick-up. No clothing will be accepted. Sun City West and Sun City Grand residents may drop off items at Benson & Tuffs Financial Service, 13576 Camino del Sol, Sun City West, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Jane Freeman, co-author of "Jubilee," a history of Sun City published on the city's 25th anniversary, is a founder of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. Freeman invites others to join her in clearing closets and cupboards of unused household items for the upcoming benefit rummage sale.



Submitted photo

Exhibit celebrates life of Del Webb

The Del Webb Sun Cities Museum's newest exhibit celebrates the life of Del Webb, the founder of the Sun Cities. "Del Webb: The Man. The Company" features a variety of items once belonging to Mr. Webb and loaned to the museum by Mrs. Robert Johnson. The museum is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, in one of the first five model homes built in Sun City, and is open 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. On hand for the exhibit opening Dec. 9 were, from left, Ed Allen, past president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society; Mrs. Johnson, Bill Pearson, SCAHS president-elect; David Verble, current SCAHS president.



KODAK SAFETY FILM

Melcher Media

Season's Gleamings

Remembering Manitowoc's Aluminum Christmas Trees



Christmas Season 1993

At first only one or two people stopped in front of the nineteenth-century distillery and peered into its massive storefront windows. Word spread, and soon carloads of the curious descended on the building. Armed with cameras, they began taking pictures through the windows. The number of people who congregated outside every evening surprised John Shimon and Julie Lindemann, professional photographers who own the building, which was a studio at the time, and live upstairs. They had never anticipated that their latest project—a surreal forest of forty gleaming aluminum Christmas trees—would cause so much commotion.

The forest was set up in what until recently had been their storefront art gallery—the Neo-Post-Now Gallery. The vintage trees they used came from fifteen years of scouring yard sales and antique stores. Lindemann describes the aluminum tree as “a peculiar form of representational sculpture” that they found “worth dragging back to our studio.” Completing the forest took hours. Lindemann assembled the trees, bloodying her hands in the process, and Shimon painstakingly did the lighting. Once set up, the trees filled the entire ground floor. The trees were devoid of Christmas decorations, but the shimmering aluminum, highlighted by rotating color wheels, was decoration enough.

According to *The New York Times*, aluminum trees are “now considered the ultimate in Christmas camp by collectors.” *Money* magazine reports that these collectors are paying around \$100 for six-foot vintage trees, and colored trees are more expensive than their silver counterparts. An eight-foot pink aluminum tree recently sold for \$1,200.

It wasn't collectors who flocked to see Lindemann and Shimon's trees. Instead, their sparkling forest captured the imagination of local residents, young and old alike. The trees also rekindled memories for many who had either owned aluminum trees or who had worked at the American Specialty Company, a Manitowoc firm that had mass-produced the trees between 1959 and 1969.

by Victoria Goff

Some former Specialty workers paid visits and shared stories with Shimon and Lindemann. Most of the workers had been women who worked there to save money to buy their children Christmas presents. Lindemann says the women ironically weren't able to spend much time with their children during the holidays.

Another former employee, a 92-year-old woman, told Shimon and Lindemann how three shifts of ten women glued and wound strips of aluminum foil needles on wire rods to form branches. Meanwhile, one or two men drilled precisely angled holes for the branches that were inserted into wooden trunks.

Another former employee, Specialty's chief engineer Richard Thomsen, showed up at the distillery with his wife one day. Thomsen, now retired and in his eighties, was responsible for what was called the Evergleam project. Thomsen told Shimon and Lindemann that the company's sales chief had requested an aluminum tree for a Ben Franklin store in Illinois.

When Thomsen found a way to produce the trees for what he called “a reasonable price,” Aluminum Specialty made between 100,000 and 150,000 Evergleam aluminum trees a year for stores like Ben Franklin, S. S. Kresge, and Western Auto. The trees, ranging from two-foot miniatures to eight-foot models, came in several colors.

“Get the biggest aluminum tree you can find...maybe painted pink!”

Lucy to Charlie Brown in “A Charlie Brown Christmas” (1965)

Manitowoc, the self-proclaimed aluminum cookware capital of the country, was a logical place for aluminum tree manufacturing because aluminum foundries had flourished in Manitowoc since the late nineteenth century and the aluminum cookware industry had come into its own there after World War II.



Melcher Media

Each of the 100 branches on this tree came wrapped separately and was supposed to be stored that way after Christmas.

Right: “Foot Massage Christmas” This seven-foot Star Brand Co. Sparkler Pom-Pom Aluminum Christmas tree, with its one hundred branches, had a dozen Shiny Brite ornaments and was illuminated by a Holly Time Tree Turner.

Melcher Media

Manitowoc’s Claims to Fame

A fragment of the Sputnik IV satellite fell from the sky in downtown Manitowoc in 1962.

It’s the self-proclaimed aluminum cookware capital of the country.

Until recently it claimed to have the world’s biggest kitchen store.

It manufactured hundreds of thousands of aluminum Christmas trees.



Melcher Media

This seven-foot (100 branch) Evergleam Deluxe Silver Aluminum Christmas Tree had a Tri-Lite electric revolving light stand with a musical unit that played “Silent Night.”

As Shimon and Lindemann learned more from Thomsen and others, they became experts on their hometown product. Despite their continuing interest, they decided 1999 would be the aluminum forest’s last year. Inspired by their conversations with locals, the two collaborative photographers used an 8-by-10 view camera to take formal portraits of each tree before they packed the trees up for the last time. They also decided to write and illustrate a magazine article about the trees. David Brown, the magazine editor they worked with, later became a book editor at Melcher Media. When he was asked at his new job to come up with ideas for books, he immediately thought of their Christmas trees. The resulting book, *Season’s Gleamings, The Art of the Aluminum Christmas Tree* (Melcher Media, \$16.95) came out in 2004, and received a great deal of national attention since then. The well-respected photographers and Lawrence University professors have been interviewed by CNN, “CBS Sunday Morning,” *USA TODAY*, and *The New York Times*, among others.

Season’s Gleamings plus the original photographs their book is based on were natural outgrowths of Shimon and Lindemann’s approach to their photographic art. Their long-term photography projects focus on people or things that are often overlooked by society. The trees fit neatly into that category. While the trees were trendy for a decade or so, they came into disfavor and were forgotten, or as one writer puts it, the trees were exiled to “the attic of Christmas history.”



KORAN ELEVOR 0801
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KORAN ELEVOR 0801



Left: Richard Thomsen, the retired chief engineer on Aluminum Specialty Company's Evergleam project, sits next to his eight-foot prototype tree. Eight-foot trees were not popular at the time because ceilings in most homes were too low. Thomsen lives with his wife in Manitowoc and puts up his Christmas tree every year.

Melcher Media

'Tis the Season

The Manitowoc County Historical Society's exhibit of aluminum Christmas trees runs from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m., Tuesday through Friday at the Heritage Center. It will also be open from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. every other Saturday until February 2, 2007. Adult admission is \$5, and children are \$4. There is no charge for Manitowoc County Historical Society members. The Society can be reached at (920) 684-4445 for more information.

Lindemann says the book's publication has stimulated increased interest in Manitowoc about this homegrown product. "People in time came to appreciate the aluminum tree's place in Manitowoc history," she says. Before the book, "it was just kind of taken for granted." The local history society is one group who is now interested in taking a closer look at the aluminum tree and its role in the development of Manitowoc. In November 2006, the Manitowoc County Historical Society opened an exhibit, "'Tis the Season," at the Heritage Center to show off the trees and the stories of the people who made them. The exhibit features six aluminum trees loaned from private collectors. Visitors can also read interviews from people who created the trees.

Season's Greetings has also stimulated discussion about the need for histories of manufacturing in general. As the rust belt has been dramatically changing, Lindemann thinks remembering the histories of other manufacturing enterprises is an excellent idea.

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Melcher Media

"Pink Glitter Peace" The Revolving Motorized Rainbo-Lite next to this four-foot Evergleam Fountain Stainless Aluminum Christmas tree accented the tree's peace movement ornaments.



Melcher Media

"Viewing 1961 in 1959" This photo juxtaposes a 1958 Philco Predicata Penthouse television with a 1961 four-foot Evergleam Stainless Aluminum Christmas Tree.



Melcher Media

“Go-Go Christmas” This playful photo features a 6-foot Aluminum Taper Tree with 82 branches and one dozen Shiny Brite ornaments. In the background are an Evergleam Sata-Lite, Seeburg 100 Select-O-Matic jukebox, and aluminum wreath.

Exhibit highlight
SC greeting cards

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has opened an exhibit featuring Sun City Christmas cards designed by the Del E. Webb Corporation in the 1960s and sent to residents living in the community during that time.

In the early years of the community, the holiday cards were only sent to residents living in Sun City. In the mid-60s, the Webb Corporation printed cards that residents could send to friends and family at Christmas — and thereby helping to promote the Sun City lifestyle to those living outside the community.

A limited number of these nearly 40-year-old cards are available

for purchase. Cards are available for \$1 each as long as supplies last.

The Historical Society is located at 10801 Oakmont Ave., Sun City, in one of the first five original model homes that opened Jan. 1, 1960 in Sun City. The society is open 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

A Taste of Sun City History *presented by the Sun Cities Historical Society* **Ghosts of Sun City Christmases Past**

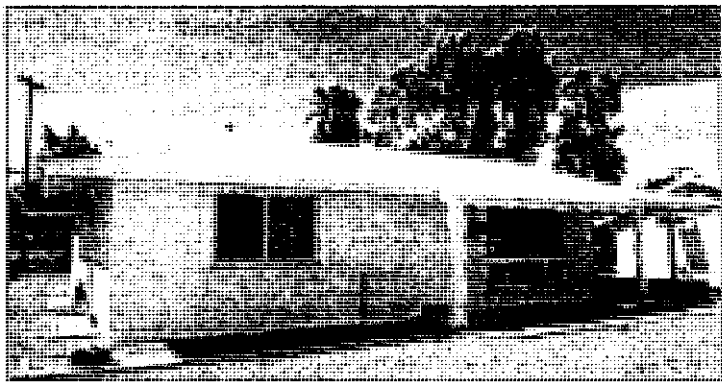
Do your thoughts go back to the Christmases of long ago? If so, allow your thoughts to drift back to the first Christmas celebrated in Sun City in December 1960. How do you picture the Sun Citians getting ready? Had they brought all the tree trimmings? If they had a saguaro, was it large enough to trim? Did they know about luminaries? Were they having guests or were they "going home" for the holidays?

We know from the Sun City Directory of early 1961 that there were 337 people here from California, 300 from Arizona, 170 from Illinois and 160 from Colorado. Others came from Washington, Minnesota, Iowa, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Missouri.

Typical of the "togetherness" of those early days were pot luck suppers, barbecues, and holiday parties for one and all held in the Commu-

nity Center (now Oakmont Center). In the fall of 1960, Otto Highman organized a Sun City Chorus and in less than two months, the Chorus gave its first Christmas Concert on the patio of the Community Center. Add to all this the fact that the Community Center was used for all activities and religious programs, and surely you can picture how busy that first Christmas was.

Visit the Sun Cities Historical Society, located at 10801 Oakmont Dr., for further information on these early "settlers" and their amazing activities. The Society is open from Tuesday through Friday from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and other hours by appointment. Speakers are available for groups desiring a program. For more information, call 974-2568. Happy Holidays from all of us at 10801 Oakmont.



Sun City's first model home now serves as a museum for the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

CHERYL EVANS/THE REPUBLIC

Group to show off restored digs

THE REPUBLIC

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society this weekend will offer a free preview of the first phase of renovations to its headquarters, which is housed in Sun City's first model home built by Del Webb nearly 50 years ago.

The preview will be from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive. Refreshments will be served.

The headquarters is filled with early Sun City and Sun City West historical items, memorabilia and photographs, including an exhibit about Sun City's

Opening Day on Jan. 1, 1960. The model home has served as the historical society base since it was purchased by the society in May 1989.

Recent renovations were made possible by donations from local businesses, organizations and individuals. Plumbing repairs, for example, were donated by Palmer's Construction and Remodel of Youngtown.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society headquarters is normally open Tuesdays through Fridays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., or by special appointment. For more information, visit www.scazhistory.org.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, NOV 18, 2006

Revamped original Del Webb house debuts

Historical society welcomes members to an open house this weekend

STAFF REPORT

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society debuts its authentic 1960s interior to members Sunday.

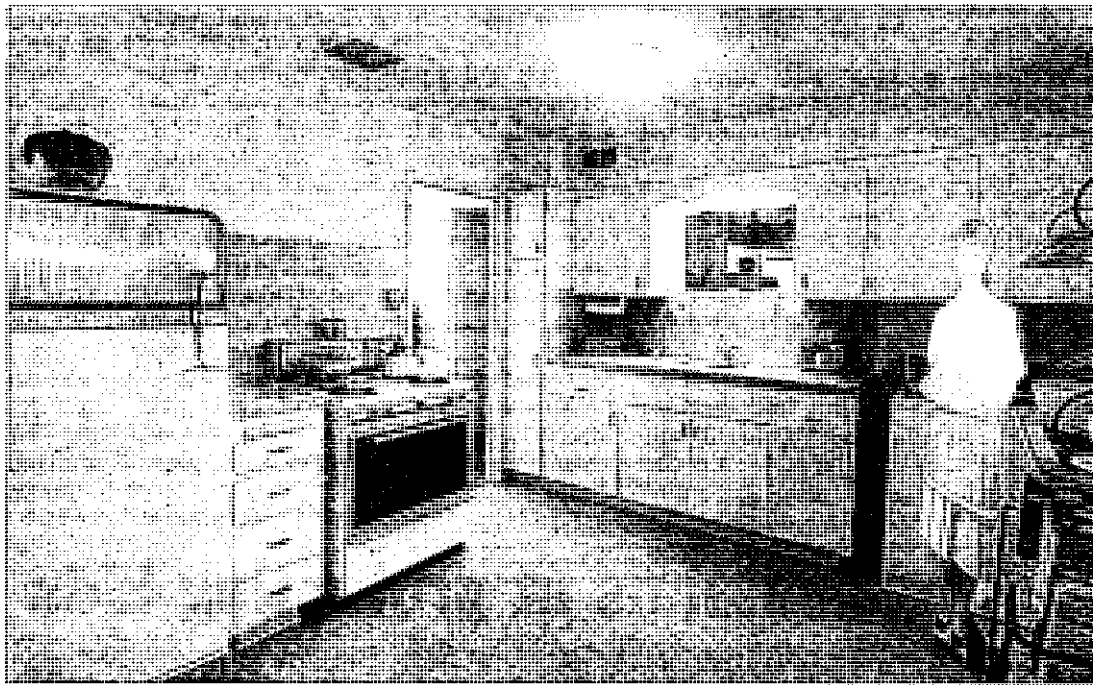
Phase one of the "Ahead to the Past" renovation project is nearly complete, and donations are being accepted to continue into phase two. The society's headquarters, an original Del Webb home at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, is being revamped to give visitors a feel for how Sun City and Sun City West looked at the outset of the developments.

It features Sun Cities memorabilia, a life-sized cutout of Del Webb in the living room and a cutout of a typical 1960s housewife in the kitchen.

The historical society would like to thank Palmers Plumbing, the Fan Doctor, Denny's TV, Marcella's Interiors and Geno's Carpets for their contributions to the project.

Only historical society members and contributing businesses are invited to Sunday's open house, but an open house for the general public will be announced later this month.

For information about the society or to become a member, call 974-2568.



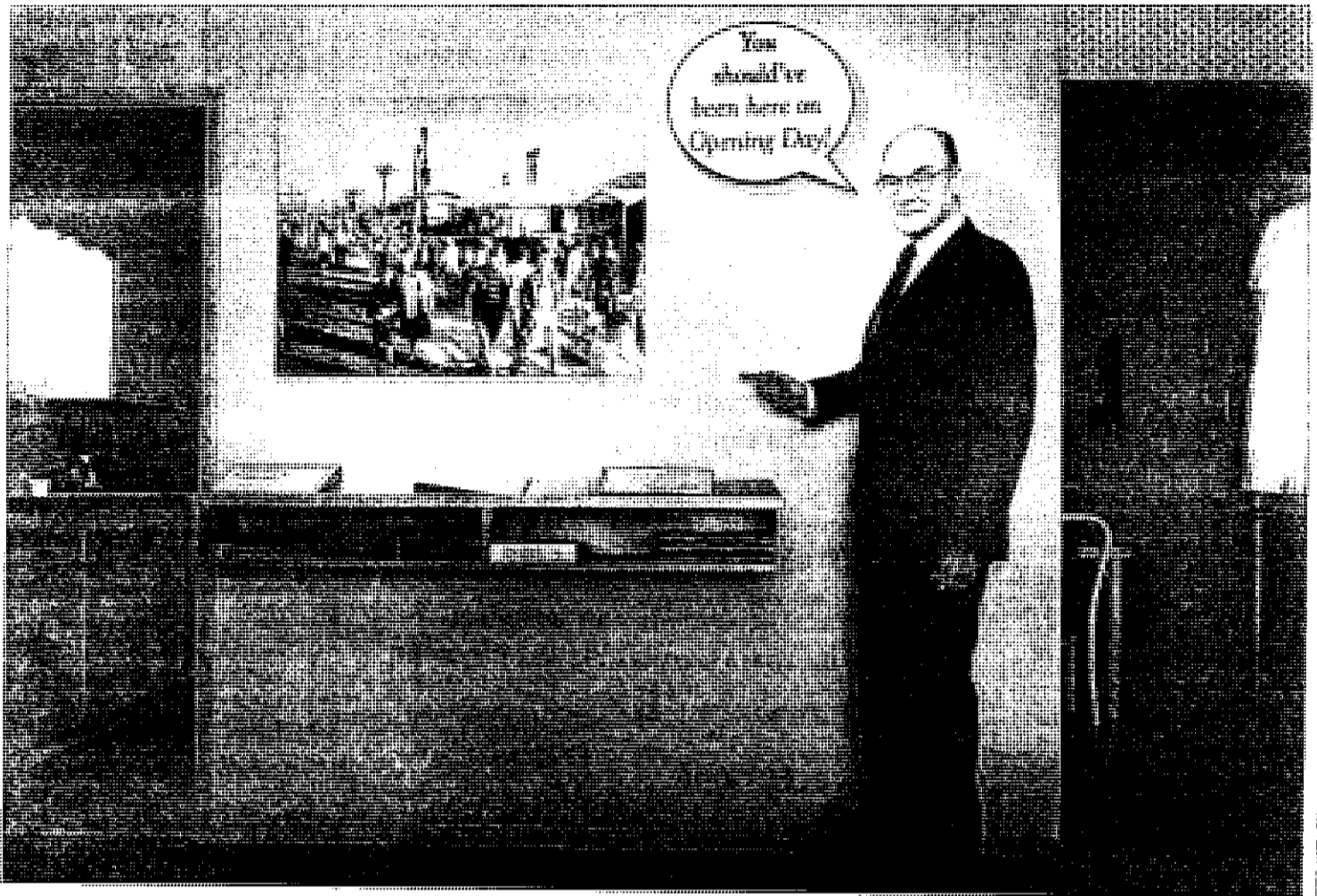
PHOTOS BY PETE PALLAGI/DAILY NEWS-SUN



Sun Cities Area Historical Society will have an open house Sunday to show off the revamped original model home style of its headquarters. Above, the kitchen has original appliances and fixtures, along with a cut-out of a 1960s housewife. At left is a renovated bathroom, now resembling what it may have looked like when the community was first established. The historical society headquarters is at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, Sun City. An open house for the general public will be announced soon.

Sweet home Sun City

DAILY NEWS SUN NOV. 4, 2006



A 6-foot-4-inch cutout of Del Webb greets visitors at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society headquarters in Sun City. The newly remodeled home was made to look the way it did in the 1960s when the community first began. PHOTO BY THOMAS HODGANKA/STAFF REPORTER

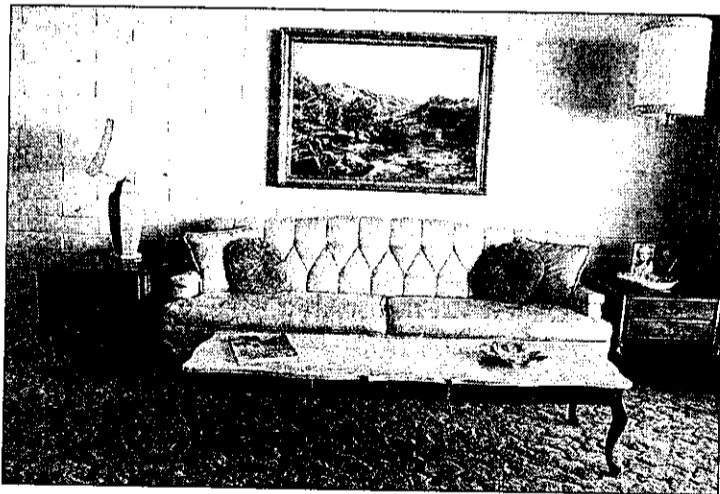
Historical society looks forward to upgrades

ANNIE BOON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Visitors to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society home are now greeted by a life-sized cutout of Del E. Webb as they enter the living room that, while newly remodeled, looks about 46 years old.

"We tried to keep things as close to the beginnings as we could," said Sandy Goldstein, historical society vice president. "We restored the living room to how it looked in the 1960s. We're looking 'Ahead to the Past.'"

The first phase of the remodel to the historical society's headquarters, a home at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive, is nearly completed. The \$4,500 cost is paid for by grants



The interior of the the Sun City Area Historical Society House in Sun City, photographed Friday, was restored to resemble an original 1960s model home. The society will soon have a public open house to show the changes.

from the Arizona Historical Society, donations from individuals and fund-raisers, said society President Edson Allen at the annual meet-

ing Thursday. However, additional donations are needed to continue improvements, he said.

Improvements include track lighting, inter-

changeable display areas and authentic 1960s-era furniture, found at thrift stores by society volunteers, Allen said.

Possibilities for phase 2 include a flat-screen television to play Sun City educational DVDs and some improvements to the back yard.

A preview open house tour of the remodeled areas will be for society members only Nov. 19.

A public open house will be announced at a later date.

For information about the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, to become a member or to donate to the "Ahead to the Past" improvement project, call 974-2568.

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

SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Historical Society puts
archives into rummage**

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is offering a rummage sale on Oct. 6 and 7.

Much of the merchandise is unneeded archival material accumulated after 20 years of documenting the Sun Cities. Proceeds will assist in the renovation of the Society's headquarters. The sale will be at the headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive. The sale will run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on both days.

The society will be closed Thursday to prepare for the sale.

PAGE 2 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT — APRIL 8-14, 1998

Community News

Historical society slates spring lunch

The Sun Cities Historical Society will hold its annual spring meeting at noon April 15 at the Sun City West Community Services Building, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

A picnic lunch will be served. Cost is \$6.

Amanda Durand of Sun City will be the guest speaker. Mrs. Durand grew up in the town of Marinette, the town that once existed where Sun City now exists. Her father managed the Marinette Mercantile Store and her mother was the town's postmaster.

She will talk about her life in Marinette and discuss the town's rise and fall, as well as its eventual sale to Del E. Webb in 1959.

Reservations may be made by sending a check to the society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, 85351, by April 10.

Call 974-2568. The meeting is open to the public.

● New officers of the Sun
Cities Area Historical
Society are Edson Allen,
president; Sandy Goldstein,

secretary; David Verble,
secretary; and Paul Graf,
treasurer. The Society
displays pictures and
artifacts of local history at its
headquarters, 10801
Oakmont Drive, Sun City, in
the first home built in the
community. It is open from
1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday
through Friday.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2006



Submitted to the Independent

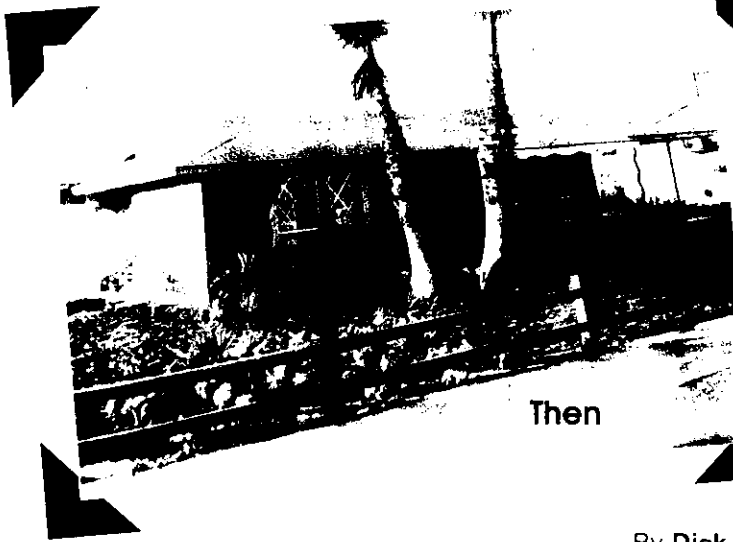
New leaders

Newly elected officers of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society are, standing, from left: David Verble, secretary; Edson Allen, president. Seated, from left: Sandy Goldstein, vice president; and Paul Graf, treasurer. The society displays pictures and artifacts of local history at its headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, in the first home built in the community, which is open 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday.

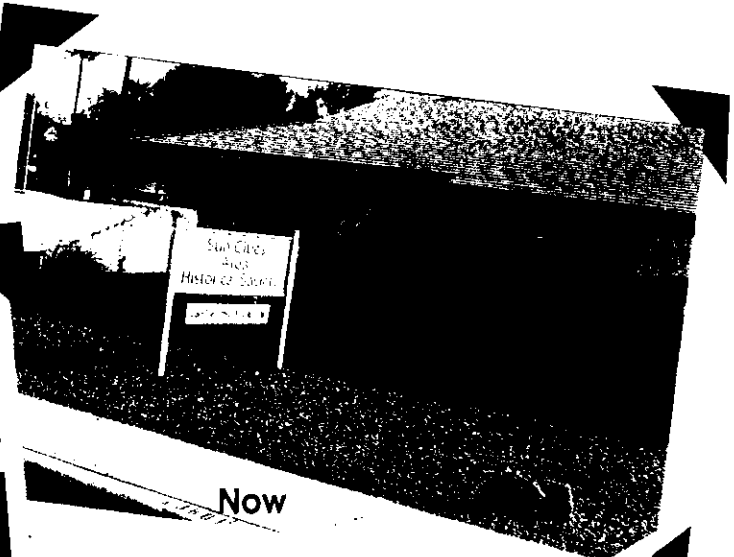
SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

March 15, 2006

Sun Cities Area Historical Society...



Then



Now

Something to Celebrate!



By Dick Kemp

The history of every country begins in the heart of a man or a woman.

Willa Cather

In its 45 short years, Sun City has compiled a treasure trove of traditions:

- A concept so appealing that 237 homes were sold its opening weekend.
- A beginning so successful that it was featured in such magazines as *Life*, *Look* and *Time*.
- A citizenry so giving it could honestly bill itself the City of Volunteers.
- A legacy so valuable that the name of its founder—Del Webb-- is attached to 32 current developments nationwide, and a dozen or so which have been "built out."

With such a glorious start, but with no elected government, Sun City's history had to begin in someone's heart.

That someone is the Sun Cities Area Historical Society (SCAHS) which celebrates a 15th anniversary in January – centralizing its amazing collection of facts, photos and displays at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City's first model home.

Enthusiastic founder, supporter Jane Freeman, a SCAHS founder who has served multiple terms as president, is currently secretary and publicist. She



believes Sun Citians are proud of their communities, yet many are unaware of the Oakmont facility.

"This land had a rich history before the Sun Cities. It was a stage stop between Wickenburg and Phoenix, then beet and cotton ranches and the Lizard Acres feed lot," she says.

"These we depict, along with photos of Sun City formation and early resident activities. We have books, pamphlets, displays, maps, memorabilia, obituaries, oral histories and photographs."

Many residents are curious about the man whose name is attached to the Sun Cities. Jane Freeman and Glenn Sandberg, another SCAHS founder, co-authored *Jubilee, The 25th Anniversary of Sun City, Arizona*. Published in 1985, 11 years after the death of Del Webb, its dedication read:

To Delbert Eugene Webb, a man of genius, who, together with men of competence, courage and foresight, explored and conquered untried frontiers that opened new vistas for thousands of retired Americans.

SCAHS has a wealth of material on this fascinating semi-pro pitcher turned carpenter, contractor, New York Yankee co-owner and Phoenix-based developer.

Hail to the pioneer spirit

Jubilee was also dedicated to those Sun City Pioneers who dared to leave

DVER

IF YOU GO

OPEN: Tuesday through Friday, 1:30-3:30 p.m. (Sept. thru May); Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m.-noon (June, July, August)

LOCATION: 10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City (just west of Oakmont Rec Center) Parking directly across the street

MEMBERSHIP: Individual, \$10, Family, \$15; Organization, \$25; Business, \$50

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Phone: 623-974-2568
Email: scahs@frys.com, Web site: scazhistory.org

old ties to establish new homes, new friends and a whole new way of life.

"I know of only one resident still alive who moved here in 1960-'62," says Jane Freeman. "But we have oral histories from many pioneers, along with many items donated by their estates.

"It's that Del Webb-early residents spirit that we want to keep alive.

"Even though the Sun City idea has been copied all over America, how many communities can boast groups like the PRIDES and Sheriff's Posse? And how many have hospitals with more volunteers per bed than any other hospital in America?"

Society has a history, too

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a pretty compelling story itself.

Its genesis was in 1985, at the Sun City Press Council, interested citizens gathered to decide "who should write a history of Sun City." After publication of the 272-page Jubilee, attention turned to preserving the town's history.

SCAHS incorporated in 1986. It began collecting memorabilia housed in several locations until a "stroke of luck" occurred in early 1989, when the smallest of Sun City's first model homes was for sale.

Rita Wright, who with husband Eugene helped start SCAHS and edit Jubilee, says the Kentworth, only 858 square feet, sold in 1960 for \$8,500.

"Air conditioning was \$600 extra, and a golf course lot \$1,250. After an expansion, it went on sale in 1989, for \$41,500. We all saw the value of housing our displays in this home, but didn't have the funds to buy it."

Stepping up with needed donations were the Webb Corporation, Del E. Webb Foundation and the J.G. Boswell Co., Webb partner and owner of the farm land on which Sun City is built.

"We know that many residents of our three Sun Cities are curious about how and who started the first community in the world tied to active retirement," says Rita Wright. "Once they visit us, I believe they'll return with friends and visitors."



Satisfying a need

There is no bigger booster of the SCAHS than Mary Anne Leyshon, editor of the Daily News-Sun.

"Not only does this organization serve a distinct need for the Sun Cities, it helps our newspaper immeasurably with background material for daily reporting on the three communities.

"I use Jubilee, and Silver Celebration, the 25-year history of Sun City West, as an invaluable reference sources.

"The Society's displays and materials are probably under used and under appreciated. People moving here from all over America need to feel connected to their new home town," says Mary Anne. "The Historical Society provides these roots."

In addition to satisfying their intellectual curiosity, visitors to the Society's "museum" will be treated to visual reminders of the '60s.

Melmac dinnerware, refrigerator, stove, coffee pot and toaster are among the early 1960s items on display in the small kitchen.

Volunteering, membership opportunities

SCAHS reaches out to the Sun Cities, with semi-annual public programs. Also, it offers speakers and programs (call 623-974-2568).

"Not only are we seeking more members, but volunteers as well," says Jane Freeman. She listed skills needed as:

- 1) Hosts and hostesses.
- 2) Graphic and organization skills to help construct better displays of materials
- 3) Planners of special events and programs.
- 4) Publicity specialists.

"If it's been a while since you've visited us, you'll be amazed at our progress. We're a great way to entertain visitors, too.

"If you have never been here, I think you have a treat in store."

Family Matters

April 2005**Meet Jack Swilling, Founder of Phoenix**

History will come to vibrant life when noted actor, teacher and historian Sam Ferguson II portrays Jack Swilling, the founder of Phoenix. Hosted by *The Madison*, 18626 Spanish Garden Drive, in Sun City West, this living history event takes place on Wednesday, April 6th at 12:30 PM. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Guests will step back in time to 1867 to meet the pioneer visionary who began the process of turning a barren stretch of Arizona desert into a flourishing agricultural area. They will hear the tales of the early days—clearing ancient Hohokam canals, naming the new city—from the perspective of Jack Swilling, Civil War veteran.

This entertaining, enlightening program is presented by the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. For additional information contact the Historical Society at 623-974-5268.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, OCT. 9, AND SUNDAY, OCT. 10, 2004

Historian debates state's name origin

STAFF REPORT

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will have its annual meeting and luncheon Nov. 3 in Palmbrook Country Club, 9315 Greenway Road, Sun City.

The public is invited. A social period begins at 11:30 a.m., with lunch at noon and the program at 1.

Lunch is \$15, and reservations are required by Oct. 27. Checks made out to SCAHS can be mailed to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351.

Jim Turner, community outreach historian with the Arizona Historical Society in Tucson, will discuss the much debated topic of "How

Arizona Did and Did Not Get Its Name."

Turner moved to Tucson in 1951 and began studying Arizona in 1984. Many of his historical articles have appeared in the Journal of Arizona History, as well as other publications. He also has given presentations, conducted tours and taught Arizona history at the University of Arizona, Pima Community College and the Arizona Historical Society.

Turner's duties as community outreach coordinator allow him to visit more than 60 history museums in the state.

For information about the annual meeting and luncheon, call 974-2568 or 974-5377.

SUNVIEWS

JUNE 2004



Sun Cities Area Historical Society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's summer hours will be effective beginning Friday, June 4. The Society will be open to the public on Fridays and Saturdays only, from 10 a.m. to noon. Summer hours are effective June through August.

Private tours may be arranged on other days and times however, by calling the Society. One of the Society's friendly hosts or hostesses will be glad to conduct tours of the museum for you.

The Society's Speakers Bureau also is available throughout the summer for presentations to your club, group or organization. Call the Speakers Bureau chairman to make arrangements.

This year mark's the Society's 15th year at its location. In May of 1989, the Society purchased the first model home built by the Del Webb Corporation, located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City, and established it as its headquarters.

Today the model home is filled with exhibits, memorabilia and historical pamphlets and books that capture the stories of Marinette and Del Webb's "sister cities" Sun City and Sun City West.

The model home is air conditioned, so stay cool, learn some history and stop by your Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the history of the Sun Cities.

For more information call 623 974-2568 or log onto the Society's web site located at <http://www.scazhistory.org> and "visit" the Society via the web.

May 12, 2004

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT



Photo submitted by David Verble/Special to the Independent

Poms pump up crowd

The Sun City Poms celebrated their 25th anniversary by doing what they are famous for — their Signature Poms Routine. The acrobatic routine, which includes headstands, handstands, cartwheels and splits, was performed at the Sun Cities Historical Society, where the silver celebration was held April 21. Visitors enjoyed watching the routine, eating carrot cake and sipping punch, and viewing the Poms memorabilia on display at the Society. Three original Poms (now retired) shared their experiences about what it was like to be a Pom "back in 1979." Current Poms range in age from 62 to 80 years. For more information about the Sun City Poms, call (602) 392-4242.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

January 7, 2004



Submitted photo

Reminiscing

Former Del E. Webb Development Company vice presidents Ann Phillips and Jerry Svendsen reminisced about the "good old days" at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's holiday get-together in December. The society's collection of early Sun City Christmas cards (1960-1969) was on display and an aluminum Christmas tree graced the front room of the first model home built by Del Webb and opened to the public Jan. 1, 1960. The society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. Mr. Svendsen later was the founder and original publisher of Sun Life Magazine. Call 974-25678.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Members of the Sun City Poms, dressed in costumes from the group's history, pose for a photo during the 25th anniversary celebration Wednesday at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Poms show silver style

ANNIE KARSTENS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Alverta Hanson remembers the days when the famed Sun City Poms started brightening the community with dynamic dance routines and sequined costumes 25 years ago.

Little did the original group know that by the Poms' 25th anniversary, the team would be a national sensation credited with unveiling the new face of senior vitality.

"Back then, we had no idea that we'd come to do over 50 shows a year," Hanson said, remembering the growth of Pom popularity. "It just got to be more and more fun and more and more ladies wanted to join."

Hanson was one of three original Poms who attended the 25th anniversary afternoon tea at the Sun City Area Historical Society Wednesday. The home was packed

with costumed Poms, retired Poms, ladies in the marching unit and proud Pom fans. The public was invited to the event, which featured a live Poms performance.

The internationally acclaimed acrobatic, pom, dance and marching group began as a simple dance class and made their debut at a community softball game in 1979. The original choreographers, the late Ray and Corena Leslie, were fondly remembered at the tea. Since their beginnings, the Poms performed on national television, traveled the country, appeared in countless parades and events and have been featured in several publications.

Vera Kraker, an original member who retired 10 years ago, toured the historical society's displays of past Pom costumes, clippings and pom-poms. Through the

years she's kept the sunny Pom attitude and is forever grateful for the Pom's roots.

"Many of us were out here without family and we poms became our family and filled that vacant spot. They are lifelong friends," Kraker said. "The routines have change and it's always nice to see new faces. Now I think they're celebrities, but it wasn't like that back then. We just had a lot of fun."

Pom Director Lois Strong said the group aims to be ambassadors of good health and fitness.

"We try to show older people that they don't have to retire to the rocking chair," she said. "Not all of them can do splits and dance like we do, but they can stay active."

The Pom's latest number is "All That Jazz" from the hit musical and movie, "Chicago." Three-year pom Annie Keller wore the costume from the routine to the event, and explained why she's proud to be a member of the group.

"A great part is the social life, getting to meet all kinds of people and go places you wouldn't normally go," Keller said, adding that she loves performing for nursing home residents. "When we're in our traveling outfits, people gather around, ask for autographs and take our picture. It's a lot of fun."

Betty Andrews joined the poms a year ago and is the group's oldest active member. She knew it would be a fun activity, but she quickly discovered that the Poms would truly enriched her life.

"They're the original performers," she said. "They've really held their good reputation through the years — it's just a good organization and it will always be that way."



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Paul McDonald, left, and Vera Kraker look at photos and costumes from the Sun City Poms' history.

Things to Do in the West Valley

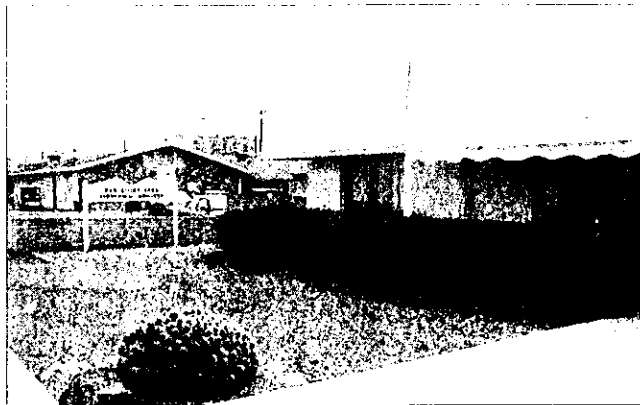
of the Arts, Surprise. Call (623)974-1562.

Del Webb Center for Performing Arts, 1090 S. Vulture Mine Road, Wickenburg. A 600-seat auditorium on the campus of Wickenburg High School. Home to musical performances, as well as stage shows and live theater. Call (928) 684-6639.

Mountain Shadows Theatre Company, a newly created non-profit corporation, presents stage shows at Willow Canyon High School, Citrus Road and W. Bell Road, Surprise. Call (623)556-2585. www.mstc.ws

Sun Bowl, 107th Avenue and Clair Drive, Sun City. An outdoor amphitheater owned by the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. The facility is home to concerts, festivals and club events. Call (623)876-3000.

Sun Cities Chamber Music Society, 10451 W.



The Sun Cities Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Ave., Sun City, offers visitors a glimpse into the past of the Sun Cities — the nation's first active-adult retirement communities. The museum is located in the first home ever built in Sun City.

Palmeras Drive, Ste. 126A, Sun City. A concert series featuring the finest in chamber music performers and performances. Concerts are held in Sun City. Call (623)972-047. www.sccm-

[sonline.com](http://www.sccm-sonline.com).
Sun City Model Railroad Club, Fairway Rec. Center 10600 W. Peoria Ave., Sun City. The club maintains a large miniature railroad display. Open to the public. Call

(623) 815-0255.

Sundome Center for Performing Arts, 19403 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West. The largest single-level indoor theater in the southwest, the Sundome is home to some of entertainment's biggest names as well as seasonal travelogue series, local variety shows and the Symphony of the West Valley. Call (623) 975-1900 for schedules and ticket information.

Symphony of the West Valley, 10451 W. Palmeras Drive, No. 210, Sun City, offers a season of symphonic concerts featuring some of the world's best-known artists performing with one of the top symphony orchestras in the Southwest. Concerts are held at the Sundome Center for Performing Arts in Sun City West. Call (623) 972-4484. www.westvalleysymphony.org.

SUNVIEWS

March 2004

Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Ever wonder just how Del Webb's Sun Cities all began? Then come to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the history of the Sun Cities. Located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City, the Society is housed in the first model home built by the Del Webb Corporation.

Come see the carefully designed exhibits that chronicle the history of the "sister cities" — Sun City and Sun City West. After your tour, you may want to take home one of the following books for further study. All are available for sale at the Society:

- *Jubilee*, a book commemorating the 25th anniversary of Sun City
- *Along the Old Vulture Road*, by local author Al Tudor
- *Del Webb; A Man, A Company*, by Margaret Finnerty
- *SUN CITY WEST Silver Celebration, The First Twenty-five Years*, the newly published 25-year history of Sun City West. This book also may be purchased at the Sun City West Visitors Center or at Wagner Books in the Promenade Shopping Center.

For a peak into the past, and for a greater appreciation of Del Webb's innovative concept of "active retirement communities," visit the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. The Society's hours

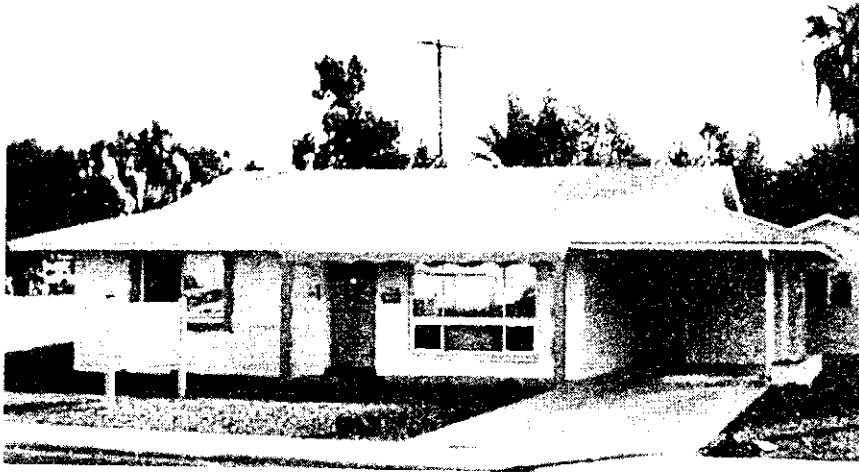


(September through May) are 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Private tours can be arranged. For more information call 623 974-2568.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's annual spring meeting will be held on April 14, at 1 p.m., at the Sun City West Foundation Building. This year's theme will be "Cultural Arts in the Sun Cities."

The Society will host a 25th Anniversary Tea for the Sun City Poms from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. on April 21 at the Society.

SunViews



Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Flashbacks in history can be found in the historical pamphlets and books at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving, and presenting the history of the Sun Cities. Located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City since 1989, the Society is housed in the first model home built by the Del Webb Corporation.

Today, exhibits at the Society trace the 44-year history of Sun City and the 26-year history of Sun City West. A photo exhibit tells the story of Marinette, a town that preceded Sun City. Historical pamphlets and books tell about Marinette, Del Webb, Sun City, Sun City West, Lizard Acres, and Vulture Road. Memorabilia of the Sun City PRIDES, the Sun City Saints, and the Sun City Poms are all on display.

The Society's hours are 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Private tours can be arranged. For more information call 623 974-2568.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's *Annual Spring Meeting* will be held on April 14, at 1 p.m., in the Quail/Coyote Room at the Sun City West Foundation Building. The guest speaker will be Nancy Gilkeson Root, a long-time devotee and supporter of the arts in the Sun Cities. Her topic will be "Cultural Arts in the Sun Cities."

On April 21, the Society will host a *25th Anniversary Tea* for the Sun City Poms from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the Society headquarters. The Poms are an internationally acclaimed acrobatic pom/dance group and marching unit. They made their debut at a community softball game in 1979.



Photo by Jane Freeman/
Special to the Independent

History Hunt winner

Pat Sheldon, right, of Sun City West, was the winner of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society's History Hunt on Halloween. Ms. Sheldon correctly answered all 13 questions on the Society's questionnaire about the Sun Cities. She accepted her prize — a copy of the book, "Del Webb: A Man. A Company," from Society Board member Barbara Brozman. For more information about the Society, call 974-2568.

MANSPEAKER, Julia McNeil

Julia McNeil Manspeaker, 87, passed away Monday, September 1, 2003 in Sun City, Arizona.



She was born in Henderson, North Carolina on September 11, 1915. Her family was in the military and she lived in various towns in the East and the South. She moved to Fort Riley, Kansas after high school and attended Kansas State University, where she met her husband, Frank Manspeaker. She graduated in 1938 with a degree in journalism and worked as a secretary for the family business. She also had a secretarial business in Sun City.

She and her husband retired to Sun City, Arizona, 31 years ago after living and raising their family in Topeka, Kansas. In Sun City she was a member of PEO, Alpha Delta Pi, The Sun City Historical Society, The Questers and one of the original founders of The National Alliance For The Mentally Ill in Sun City.

Julia is survived by her husband of 62 years, Frank Manspeaker; her children: Susan Romero of San Leandro, California; Charles Manspeaker of Estes Park, Colorado; Chris Manspeaker of Garberville, California and Marc Manspeaker of Glendale Arizona. She also has six grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

We would like to thank the Sun Health Care Centers and Hospice for all their excellent care and concern.

Services will be at The Congregational Church of Sun City, Arizona on Monday, September 8, 2003 at 2:00 P.M.

The family requests that donations be sent to the NAMI West Valley, P.O. Box 5216, Sun City, Arizona 85376.

Arrangements handled by Regency, 623-875-7501.

Visit this person's Guest Book at www.dailynews-sun.com.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

October 22, 2003

**Historical Society
hosts history hunt**

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society dares residents to attend its Halloween House and Scavenger Hunt planned from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Oct. 31.

The "spooktacular" event will be held at the society's headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, in the first model home built by Del Webb.

Those who attend may tour the model home, view the exhibits then use a questionnaire to take part in a scavenger hunt in the model home, looking for answers to questions about the Sun Cities.

Those who deposit their completed questionnaire with correct answers in a Halloween box by 3:30 p.m. Oct. 31 will be eligible to win a prize.

Admission is free. Call 974-2568.

Independent
12/3/2003

2

Community News

Society remembers Christmas

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society invites the public to a free program, "Tis the Season to be Jolly" 1:30-3:30 p.m. Dec. 10 at the Society's headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City.

Nostalgia will be the focus as Jerry Svendsen, former Del Webb Corp. Vice President of Public Relations, reminisces with visitors about how the holidays were spent in the early days of Sun City and Sun City West.

The Society's Sun City Christmas Card Collection will be on display. These are cards given by Del Webb to early Sun City residents to send to family and friends. The collection includes cards from 1960 to 1969.

Amanda Durand, one of the Society's founders, will be on hand to help the society celebrate its "new look" with new signage and a new trim color.

Christmas carols will be played, refreshments will be served and memories from holidays past will be shared.

Call 974-2568.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, AND SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2003

How the Northwest Valley was

Editor's note: This is the first in a three-part series about the Northwest Valley's early development, and a brief glimpse into the changes that have transformed the area since then.

TODAY: YULI & CREOSOTE — In the late 1800s, Peoria had just a couple dozen residents, and Sun City was still a community called Marinette.

FIELD DAYS: Pair of lifelong residents remember farm towns

KATY O'GRADY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Amanda Durand, 79, and Mike Bejarano, 81, remember when almost everyone knew everyone in the Northwest Valley.

Today, they watch new houses and more traffic continue to sprout on land that once held agricultural fields or creosote and sagebrush. They visit historical societies housed in Bejarano's old school and the Del Webb Corp.'s first home.

Memories of people like Bejarano and Durand, along with some old black-and-white photos, are just

about all that remain of the communities that preceded today's Northwest Valley.

In 1888, Peoria's population was 27. By 1929, when Bejarano was attending Peoria Central School, there were fewer than 300 in the community. Today, Peoria's population is estimated at about 107,000.

Bejarano commuted to school in Peoria but lived in Marinette. For years, the communities grew up together, but by 1957 they were headed down opposite paths. While Peoria continues to expand, Marinette died quietly and made room for Del E. Webb's first master-planned retirement community, Sun City — now home to about 38,300.

MARINETTE'S HEYDAY

In 1957, the "Arizona Telephone

Street Guide and Householders Directory" for Marinette contained 35 names, including Durand's father. The town was already dying by that time, giving way to plans for Del Webb retirement havens while its neighboring communities later boomed into the municipalities that are the Northwest Valley.

But decades earlier, Marinette — centered roughly around 105th Avenue, running two or three miles long between Olive Avenue and Beardsley Road — was an agricultural hub. The community was established in 1915 when R.P. Davie cleared the land to start growing cotton and "yuli," which was a sort of tumbleweed that contained a milky substance he believed could help make a rubber compound for better tires.

1912-1913. See OVERFLOW, A6
1903



MOLLIE J. KOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

From A1

"He came from New York. He was a mining engineer. He had a dream for gold," Durand said. "So coming through the area here, he found that this was pretty good level ground."

At picking time, from about July to April, the population in the one-mile townsite grew to more than 500 people, said Durand, an Arizona native. The surrounding well sites and their accompanying tent cities also snowballed with hundreds more people, mostly Mexican nationals coming to the area for work, she said.

"Not every well had a big population. The others had, I would say, 25 year-round framed homes. When they didn't have the little framed homes, they would set up tent cities because they could set them up really quickly," Durand said.

The tents were relatively nice, with wooden floors and canvas sides, she recalled. They were clustered around more than a dozen wells and became impromptu communities with names such as El Norte, which was north of Grand Avenue; El Verde, which means The Green; Las Botas, The Boots; Sal Si Puedes, Come Out If You Can; and Hollywood, named for the pretty girls who lived there.

NEW GAME IN TOWN

In 1920, Davie sold his holdings in Marinette to the Southwest Cotton Co., a subsidiary of Goodyear Tire and



KATY O'GRADY/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Mike Bejarano, right, and his son Juan read about some of Peoria's pioneers in the Peoria Historical Society, housed in Peoria Central School — where Bejarano went to school in 1929. Rubber Co. He had lost money in a sugar beet gamble and left town soon thereafter.

"He went bankrupt. He was trying to raise sugar beets," said Phyllis Street, a volunteer with the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

"He had boots that were curled up like a mining engineer's," said Durand, demonstrating the kneeling position of an engineer that would cause the ends of his boots to curl. "And those boots he walked in with, he walked out with those same boots on."

The community continued without him.

"El Mirage was the tailgate of Marinette, Arizona. We have as high as five generations in El Mirage and Surprise — that's the square mile of Surprise," said Durand, who moved from

Phoenix to Marinette in 1928 when she was 4.

Durand's father, Oswald Perez Monreal, thought 1920s Phoenix was too rough and tumble for his young family. The western town held the promise of a job at Marinette General Mercantile, just north of 105th and Grand avenues when Grand was still known as Vulture Road but before it was called the Wickenburg Highway. Monreal bought the mercantile and his wife, Isabel, became Marinette's postmaster, a position she held for 27 years before moving on to become Youngtown's postmaster.

"That was the congregation point. That's where I lived, in the grocery store — the post office was in the grocery store," Durand said.

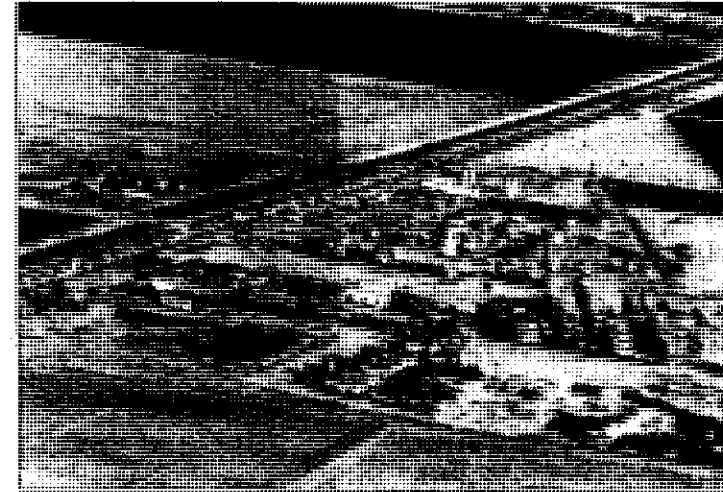


PHOTO COURTESY SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Del Webb Corp.'s first five model homes on Oakmont Avenue, in the photo above, started transforming the agricultural fields surrounding Marinette, the small development in the background along Grand Avenue. The homes were the first in what would become Sun City. Amanda Durand, left, grew up amongst the cotton fields of the West Valley in Marinette.



Sun Cities Historical Society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is featuring a display of Sun City Christmas cards for the holidays. The cards were given by Del Webb to early Sun City residents to send to family and friends. Cards from 1960 - the very first cards - to 1969 - the last of the series - can be viewed at the Society. Extra copies of the later cards are available for sale. The cards will be on display throughout December. Put a little nostalgia into your holidays and stop in to see them!

The Society is housed in the first model home built by the Del Webb Corporation at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. It is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the history of the Sun Cities - Sun City and its sister city Sun City West.

Exhibits at the Society chronicle the almost 44-year history of Sun City and the 25-year history of Sun City West. A photo exhibit of Marinette shows the cotton fields, mule teams and tent cities that were all part of a town that preceded Sun City.

History buffs will enjoy reading the Society's historical pamphlets and books. Stories about Del Webb, Marinette, Sun City, Sun City West, Lizard Acres and Vulture Road can be purchased at the Society.

The Society's other resources include model home information, maps, memorabilia, oral histories, photos, vertical files, an obituary and homeowner telephone directories from 1961.

The society is open from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. For more information call 623 974-2568.

Sun Cities 2003

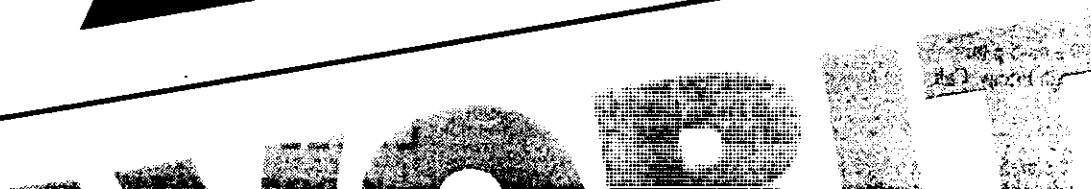
favorites

The Best of The Sun Cities as Chosen by Our Readers

A Special Supplement by **INDEPENDENT** Published October 29, 2003
NEWSPAPERS

SUN CITIES 2003

-OVER-



Favorite Community Places.....

Favorite Local Landmark

Sun Cities Historical Society
10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City

Located in the very first model home ever built for Sun City by Del E. Webb, the historical society offers visitors a "living history" of the nation's first, most popular and most successful active-adult retirement community. The historical society also doubles as a museum and is home to memorabilia from Sun City, Sun City West and now Sun City Grand. The headquarters is open to the public 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Call 974-2568.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

October 29, 2003

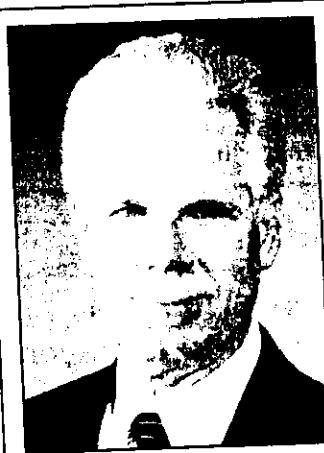
**Historical group
plans annual event**

The Sun Cities Historical Society will hold its annual meeting and luncheon Nov. 5 at the West Valley Art Museum, 17420 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise.

A social hour begins at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch at noon and the meeting at 1 p.m.

Guest speaker is Chuck Roach, long-time Del E. Webb employee and former general manager for Sun City West. He will present a talk entitled, "Things Remembered."

Cost is \$12. Reservations are due by Oct. 31. Call 974-2568.

**A look back**

The Sun Cities Historical Society will hold its annual meeting and luncheon Nov. 5 at the West Valley Art Museum, 17420 N. Avenue of the Arts, Surprise. Guest speaker is Chuck Roach, long-time Del E. Webb employee and former general manager for Sun City West. Call 974-2568.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, OCT. 25, AND SUNDAY, OCT. 26, 2003

Webb stalwart speaks to society

Chuck Roach, a longtime Del Webb employee and former general manager of Sun City West, will be keynote speaker for the annual meeting and luncheon of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Nov. 5.

Cost is \$12 and reservations are required by Friday by calling the society, 974-2569.

The event at the West Valley Art Museum, 17420 North Avenue of the Arts, Surprise, begins with a social at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon and the program at 1 p.m.

Roach was instrumental in the development of Sun City West and the startup and development of Sun City Grand. He joined the company in 1979 and held key positions, including vice president of finance and administration for DEVCO, which was then the Del E. Webb Development Company.

Along with his talk, "Things Remembered," board members Jo Ruck and David Verble will preview the society's Web site.



MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Barbara Bozeman of the Historical Society of the Sun Cities shows Jim Fitzsimmons some Sun City Saints memorabilia during the society's scavenger hunt Friday.

Historical Society remembers Marinette

ERIN REEP
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Although she was only a baby at the time, Nancy Watson O'Neal still recalls moments of her early childhood in Marinette, the town once located on land that is now part of Sun City.

"I was lying on a cotton sack, and my mother was picking cotton," O'Neal said. "And my brother was playing in the cotton rows."

O'Neal estimates she was just a year old at the time, but recalls the vivid blue of the sky. The memory is distinctive in her mind, she said.

O'Neal and another native of Marinette, Amanda Durand, shared their memories of the days before Del Webb at a special presentation Saturday at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

"Growing up in Marinette" featured the two women sharing their memories with residents, in addition to photo displays. The event was meant to reach out to the community, allowing people to get a glimpse inside the Historical Society and to learn the history of the area, said board member Phyllis Street.

"We just wanted some special events that show people the history," she said.

O'Neal sat in the front room, pointing out black and white photographs on a display, while Durand shared her memories in a larger back room filled with guests.

O'Neal was born in Marinette in 1932. She pointed to photos of her original home and her family's car.

"This is my family. We came here from Louisiana in 1917," she said. O'Neal was one of nine cousins born in Marinette.

O'Neal's father — Elzer "Slim" Watson — was a mechanic, who later worked as a foreman on the Marinette Cotton Ranch. O'Neal pointed to photographs of large tractors and construction equipment used in clearing the land.

Photos of O'Neal's family home showed heavy canvas hanging over the windows, which could be rolled up to let light in. "This is how they kept cool," she said.

Marinette was located south of the Santa Fe Railroad,

approximately halfway between 99th and 107th avenues, according to Historical Society research. R.P. Davie, a businessman from Marinette, Wis., bought and leased thousands of acres between New River and the Agua Fria River, according to the society. The town was named after Davie's native town in the Midwest.

Durand, whose family moved to Marinette from Phoenix in 1928, recalled how people kept cool despite the lack of air conditioning: They wrapped themselves in wet sheets and slept outside.

"We slept on canvas, cotton cots, or on Army cots," she said.

The wet sheets also caused pneumonia, she recalled. "August was known for pneumonia — on account of wrapping ourselves in the sheets, with the moisture," Durand said.

It wasn't as hot in those days as it is now, and cotton fields were irrigated, she said. Flooding happened occasionally, but the houses were built on stilts and the water didn't get into the houses.

Davie developed deep well-pumping systems to irrigate the crops, according to the Historical Society. He took a risk by trying growth of sugar beets in the area, but the soil was not suited for it. Davie sold his holdings to Southwest Cotton Co. in 1920 and the town became a company compound, the information said.

In 1936, the Marinette Ranch was sold to the J.G. Boswell Co., cotton farmers from Georgia, according to the society. By the late 1950s, Del E. Webb Development Co. was beginning to develop its first master-planned retirement community, Sun City, and Marinette began to die.

Durand now lives in Sun City, which she moved into as it was being built. She has worked as a real estate agent in the area. O'Neal lived in California and Oregon before returning to the Northwest Valley in 2001. She is a licensed psychiatric nurse and lives in Glendale. As one of few in the area with memories of the early days in Marinette, O'Neal feels close ties to the society.

"I've kind of adopted Sun Cities Area Historical Society as my own," she said.



Nancy Watson O'Neal, left, talks with visitors about her childhood in Marinette before there was a Sun City, at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Saturday.

Sun Cities Area Historical Society

Ever wonder just how Del Webb's Sun Cities all began? Then come to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the history of the Sun Cities. Located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City, the Society is housed in the first model home built by the Del Webb Corporation.

Come see the carefully designed exhibits that chronicle the history of the "sister cities" — Sun City and Sun City West. See the exhibits that trace the more than 40-year history of Sun City and feature the well-known Sun City Prides, the Sun City Poms and the Sun City Saints (an all girl championship softball team from the past). See, too, the special exhibit that will be in place all year commemorating the 25th anniversary of Sun City West in 2003.

After your tour, you may want to take home one of the following books for further study. All are available for sale at the Society:

- *Jubilee*
Commemorates the 25th anniversary of Sun City
- *Along the Old Vulture Road*
By local author Al Tudor
- *Del Webb, A Man, A Company*
By Margaret Finnerty
- *Sun City West Silver Celebration, The First Twenty-five Years*
Recently published 25-year history of Sun City West

For a peak into the past, and for a greater appreciation of Del Webb's innovative concept of "active retirement communities," come visit the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. The Society's summer hours (June, July and August) are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Private tours can be arranged. For more information call 623 974-2568.



Photo Courtesy of Sun Cities Area Historical Society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has received certification for 2003 awarded by the Arizona Historical Society. This is the second year the Society has received this recognition.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society also is part of a long-term exhibit at the Arizona Historical Society called "Desert Cities". The exhibit can be viewed from 10 a.m to 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and from noon to 4 p.m., on Sundays, at the Arizona Historical Society's headquarters located at 1300 N. College Avenue, in Tempe. Admission is \$4 for seniors and \$5 for adults. For more information call 480 929-0292.



Photo by Harold McKisson/Peoria Historical Society

Sharing ideas

Representatives of various area historical societies meet to discuss ideas for increasing membership and fundraising at a roundtable exchange hosted by Sun Cities Area Historical Society President Jane Freeman on July 9. Pictured standing, from left, are Ms. Freeman; Phyllis Street, Sun Cities Area Historical Society; Rosina Bria, Sunnyslope Historical Society; Lee Turner, Peoria Historical Society; Connie McMillin, Sun Cities Area Historical Society; Carol St.Clair, Glendale Historical Society; and Lucille Rethford, Youngtown Historical Society. Seated are, from left, Barbara Krauer, Sunnyslope Historical Society; Mary Hawthorne, Sun Cities Area Historical Society; and Connie Kremer, Sunnyslope Historical Society.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2003 **A3**

Notebook

Marinette residents discuss life before Webb

Mule teams, cotton gins, tent cities and talk of life before Sun City will be featured during a discussion about "Growing Up in Marinette" at 2 p.m. Saturday in the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Amanda Durand, who grew up in Marinette, and Nancy Watson O'Neal, who was born in the community, will talk about their early childhoods in the community that preceded Del Webb Corp.'s Sun City.

The event is free, the community is invited, and refreshments will be provided. For information, call 974-2568.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, MAY 24, AND SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2003

Historical Society reduces hours

The Sun Cities Historical Society will change its hours for June, July and August beginning June 6. Summer hours will be 10 a.m. to noon Fridays and Saturdays. Private tours can be arranged by appointment.

The society is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the histories of Sun City and Sun City West. The society is located in Del Webb's first model home, at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. For information, call 974-2568.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14, AND SUNDAY, JUNE 15, 2003

DAILY NEWS-SUN

Historical Society needs hosts

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is seeking hosts and hostesses.

Training will be provided. Summer hours are 10 a.m. to noon Friday and Saturday. Winter hours are 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

The society is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the history of Sun City and Sun City West. It is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City, in Del Webb's first model home.

For information, call the society at 974-2568.

SUN CITY WEST INDEPENDENT

Other volunteer opportunities include:

4/11/23
The Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, needs hosts and hostesses. Training is provided.

Hours are 10 a.m. to noon Friday and Saturday in the summer.

For more information, call 974-2568.

Historical Society seeks volunteers

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society needs hosts and hostesses. Training is provided. The Society is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and pre-

senting the history of the Sun Cities which include Sun City and its sister city, Sun City West. For more information, call (623) 974-2568.

Wester 4/5/23

Volunteer corner

● Sun Cities Area Historical Society

The society needs hosts and hostesses. Training is provided. The society is a nonprofit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the history of the Sun Cities. The society is at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, in the first model home built by Del Webb Corp. To volunteer, call 974-2568.

Help is needed in all Sun Cities area nonprofit

organizations. If you are interested in any of the listed opportunities or would like to find out how to volunteer, contact the Sun Cities Area Volunteer Committee at the Sun

City Home Owners Association at 583-8099, or at the Property Owners and Residents Association of Sun City West at 584-4288. Please leave your name and number.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

SATURDAY, MAY 24, AND SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2003

Historical Society reduces hours

The Sun Cities Historical Society will change its hours for June, July and August beginning June 6. Summer hours will be 10 a.m. to noon Fridays and Saturdays. Private tours can be arranged by appointment.

The society is a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the histories of Sun City and Sun City West. The society is located in Del Webb's first model home, at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. For information, call 974-2568.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

May 28, 2003

Historical Society sets summer hours

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will observe its summer hours beginning June 6.

During June, July and August, the Historical Society's open hours will be from 10 a.m. to noon Fridays and Saturdays.

Private tours can also be arranged.

The Historical Society is a non-profit, educational organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and presenting the history of Sun City and Sun City West. It is located at 10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City, in the first model home built by Del Webb.

For more information, call 974-2568.

 DAILY NEWS-SUN

 SATURDAY, MAY 17, AND SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2003

Historical society reviews Marinette

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society invites the public to a special program about growing up in Marinette, the area that became Sun City.

The program will begin at 2 p.m. May 31, in the society's headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Presenters will be Amanda Durand, who grew up in Marinette, and Nancy Watson O'Neal, who was born in Marinette. They will discuss mule teams, cotton gins and tent cities in life before Sun City.

For information, call the society at 974-2568.

 SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

 May 21, 2003 *FR*

Marinette explored in May 31 program

The Sun Cities Historical Society invites area residents to a special upcoming program about growing up in Marinette, Ariz., the area that became Sun City.

Presenters will be Armanda Durand, who grew up in Marinette, and Nancy Watson O'Neal, who was born in Marinette.

The program is scheduled for 2 p.m. May 31 at the society's headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

For more information, call 974-2568.

'Mrs. Sun City' wins Minnie Harlow award



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jane Freeman, right, won the ninth annual Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award, presented by Interfaith Community Care. She shows her award to Muriel Rose.

KATY O'GRADY
DAILY NEWS-SUN

It's only fitting Jane Freeman was honored with this year's Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award.

"I feel very humble and yet very honored because I knew Minnie and had the privilege and honor of working with her," said Freeman, who received the award recently from Interfaith Community Care.

Among her many community contributions since moving to Sun City in 1970, Freeman served with Harlow during the early years of the Sun Cities Area Community Council, which later became the Northwest Valley Community Council before disbanding due to financial constraints at the end of 2001.

"(Harlow) was such a great asset," Freeman said. "She was on what later came to be known as the Community Council where we were exploring needs that could be met in the community."

Like Harlow, Freeman has spent her years in Sun City identifying and filling needs, but she shies away from attention for her many contributions. "It beats doing housework," she says matter-of-factly.

Along with the Community Council, Freeman, known "Mrs. Sun City" by some of her neighbors, served on the Sun City Volunteer Bureau board of directors during its beginnings, and headed up a paper drive to gather funds to build the Lions' Community Services building.

In 1985, Freeman and the late Glenn Sandberg co-authored "Jubilee — a 25-Year History of Sun City" for the community's anniversary. She also helped start the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, now housed in Del Webb Corp.'s first model home, to help store the historical documents and items from the

community's past. This year, she is again president of the society's board of trustees.

"We are just thrilled to have her again as president because she was one of the very early organizers and served as president before," said Historical Society volunteer Phyllis Street, also a former president of the society's board.

"She's wonderful to work with, and she's very efficient. She really gets things organized," Street said. "She's really a very caring person and she's so capable."

In addition to her other contributions, Freeman has worked with Meals on Wheels for about 23 years, making sure the area's home-bound residents are eating nutritious meals. She also is active with the Sun City Community Fund and the Sun Health Foundation.

Freeman was honored with the Hon Kachina Award in 1990 and as Woman of the Year in 1991.

The Community Council began recognizing individuals with the Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award following Harlow's death in 1994. It is given each year to a dedicated individual who volunteers his or her time in the West Valley making significant contributions toward the betterment of the West Valley communities.

When the Community Council disbanded, Interfaith took over with the award.

"We've taken it on this year and we're going to be presenting it from now on and keep that one going because it's a very important humanitarian award," said Chelsea Evans with Interfaith.

Freeman said she was "totally surprised" to be honored with the award, but is happy to be associated with her late friend. "She really was quite a lady," Freeman said.

Former manager charts history of Sundome

MICHAEL MARESH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When Sun City West was just a blip on the radar screen, developers knew it needed something that would set it apart from the already established Sun City.



Tuffs

Donald Tuffs, former and first general manager of the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts, gave residents a look behind the scenes of the center as it opened in 1980.

Tuffs was the guest speaker at the 17th-annual spring meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society. He said the Sundome originated partly because Sun City West needed a jewel to attract residents to the retirement community.

"When you talk about the Sundome, you must talk about Sun City," Tuffs said. "We had to figure out how to beat our competition, and that competition was Sun City."

Developer Del Webb realized the challenge and started to embrace it by building R.H. Johnson Recreation Center, which turned out to be the largest rec center in the Sun Cities. Webb then built Hillcrest Golf Course before undertaking the construction of the Sundome.

Tuffs said Webb officials looked at the Sun Bowl, located at 107th and Olive

avenues in Sun City, as a model of what was to come in Sun City West.

When designing the Sundome, Webb thought of building an amphitheater similar to the Sun Bowl with an inflatable roof. A permanent roof structure replaced the inflatable concept because it was more feasible, Tuffs said.

But even before construction of the center started, Tuffs was working behind the scenes in an attempt to line up future acts.

Tuffs said he had to get the word out that there was a place in Sun City West where performers could stop and entertain instead of bypassing the venue when traveling to and from Southern California.

In the Sundome's first year of existence, 110 events were held in an attempt to offer residents a variety of choices.

"A lot of work went into it," he said. "It was just a tremendous amount of work. We needed 110 performances every year."

A lot of entertainers, he said, have come and gone, and added his favorite entertainer without question is Red Skelton.

The entertainer performed at the Sundome several times and always came out to the community several days in advance to meet and talk to residents.

Tuffs said Skelton never asked for anything out of the

ordinary. Other performers requested some ludicrous things, but he declined to say what some of those requests entailed.

Twenty years ago, Tuffs said, Arizona State University was considered a big player in the performing arts, with its Gammage Auditorium already up and running.

At the time, ASU was ready to kick off a \$100 million fund-raising campaign.

Tuffs said he thought it would be good synergy for Webb to donate the \$14 million Sundome to ASU to kick off the fund-raiser, and the developer agreed.

Tuffs said the Sundome was and is still expensive to maintain, and ASU is better equipped to handle and schedule shows for the venue.

Listening to Tuffs Wednesday afternoon were the seven original members of the Sun City West Variety Show. The variety shows were some of the first performances at the Sundome in 1980.

Since 1980, variety performances have raised more than \$1 million for Sun Health.

Variety performer Bess Porterfield said it is good to see residents are still visiting the Sundome after 23 years.

"It is amazing," she said, adding that the cooperation of the residents made the



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Betsy Bennet listens to the guest speaker at the Sun Cities Area Historical Society meeting in Sun City West Wednesday.

Sundome and her group's performances a smashing success.

Marilyn Friebolin, also a variety performer, said Sun City West can boast of having something other communities

do not have.

"I think it was the greatest thing we have ever had," she said. "I could not believe how large and beautiful it was."

Michael Maresch can be reached at 876-2513 or mmaresch@aztrib.com.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dick Elton and Theda Vickers take a Sun City West history quiz at the spring meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society in Sun City West Wednesday.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

MONDAY, MARCH 31, 2003

Historical Society has spring event

STAFF REPORT

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its annual spring meeting at 1 p.m. April 9 in the Quail Room of the Community Services Building, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West.

The guest speaker will be Don Tufts, former vice president of public affairs and community relations at DEVCO, the former Del E. Webb Development Co. Tufts also was a former manager of the Sundome.

Several of Sun City West's early residents, members of the Pioneers of Sun City West Club, will be on hand.

The society's historical books will be on sale, including the recently published Sun City West history book. Reservations are requested and can be made by calling the society at 974-2568.

DAILY NEWS-SUN MONDAY, FEB. 24, 2003



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jane Freeman of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, and Beverly Sherman of Sun City discuss the society's headquarters in Sun City's first model home during an open house Saturday. Sherman said her home is the same model as the society office.

DAILY NEWS-SUN MONDAY, FEB. 17, 2003

Historical Society features SCW at upcoming open house

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society elected officers for 2003.

They are: **Jane Freeman**, president; **Paul Graff**, vice president; **Don Seigel**, treasurer; **David Verble**, assistant treasurer; and **Virginia Simmons**, secretary.

The society, at 10801 Oakmont Ave., is featuring Sun City West as part of the community's 25th anniversary celebration, but also features a realm of historical material for Sun City, and the area's early settlements as well.

The organization also is having an open house

from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. The public is invited.

The society is selling copies of "**Sun City West Silver Celebration: The First 25 Years.**" a history book about the community; as well as "**Del Webb: A Man, A Company**" by **Margaret Finnerty**; "**Along the Old Vulture Road**" by local author **Al Tudor**; and "**Jubilee**," a book commemorating Sun City's 25th anniversary.

The society, housed in Del Webb

Corp.'s first Sun City home, is open to the public from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. To arrange a private tour of the society for your club or group, call 974-2568 or 584-0323.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society officers for 2003 are: back row from left, Virginia Simmons, secretary and Jane Freeman, president; front from left, Paul Graff, vice president; Don Seigel, treasurer and David Verble, assistant treasurer.

Historical society opens house

STAFF REPORT

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will host its annual open house from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Feb. 22 at the society, 10801 Oakmont Ave.

Oakmont Recreation Center will have its annual Fun Fair the same day, and both events are free and open to the community.

The open house, as always, will include stories

and exhibits of Sun City and Sun City West. Sun City West's 25th anniversary officially begins Feb. 15, so special exhibits at the society will chronicle that community from its beginning in 1978 to the present.

Early Sun City West residents, many of whom are members of the Sun City West Pioneers Club, will be on hand to recall their first days in the community and

some of their more memorable adventures.

Of special note at the open house will be the sale of the newly published "Sun City West Silver Celebration: The First 25 Years," a history book about the community. The book is under the auspices of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Several society board members are on the history book committee that worked for the past two years to complete it. Proceeds from sales of the book will benefit the society.

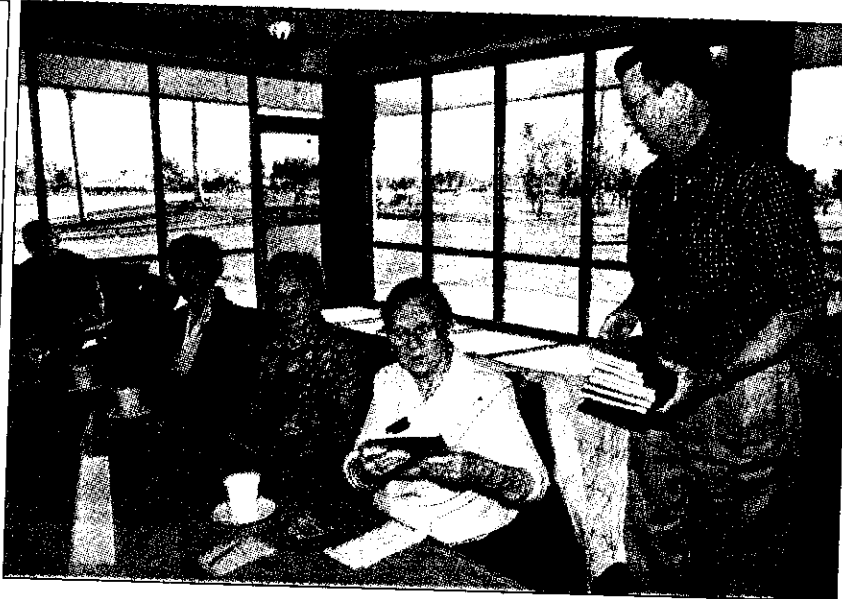
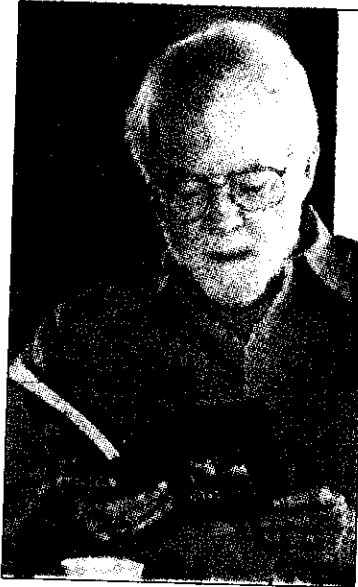
Also available for sale will be "Del Webb: A Man, A Company" by Margaret Finnerty; "Along the Old Vulture Road" by local author Al Tudor; and "Jubilee," a book commemorating Sun City's 25th anniversary.

All three books recount the rich history of the area and serve as nice gifts for history buffs or as coffee-table conversation pieces.

Daily News-Sun

THURSDAY, JAN. 30, 2003

25 and counting...



Far left, contributor Larry Carlino checks the newly published "Sun City West Silver Celebration" as Ed Allen, standing at left, editor of the tome, distributes copies to Sun Cities Area Historical Society members at Briarwood Country Club Wednesday morning. Copies are available for sale at the historical society office, 10801 Oakmont Ave. in Sun City, and at the Sun City West Visitors Center, 13823 W. Camino del Sol.

PHOTOS BY STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

January 22, 2003

■ At A Glance**SCW Visitors Center
to sell history book**

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has entered into an agreement with the Sun City West Visitors Center to sell and distribute a soon-to-be-released book detailing the history of Sun City West.

The announcement was made last week by Jane Freeman, president of the historical society.

"Sun City West Silver Celebration: The First 25 Years" will sell for \$12 and is expected to be available in early February. The book was edited by Edson F. Allen of Sun City West.

Center volunteers have agreed to staff sales tables at various anniversary events and locations within Sun City West. In return, the center will receive a share of proceeds generated by the book's sales.

The Visitors Center is located at 13823 Camino del Sol. The book is also available at the historical society's headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT December 18, 2002

Early Christmas cards on display

Historical Society features cards for the 1960s

For Sun City residents who like to wax nostalgic, a visit to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, is a must. On display there are Christmas cards from the 1960s, given by Del Webb Development Co. to early Sun City residents to send to family and friends.

The cards, dating from 1960 to 1969, may be viewed by the public 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Extra copies of some of the latter cards may be purchased as well. Private tours are available by calling 974-2568 or 584-0323. The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is located in the first model home built by Del Webb, which is a little historical fact in itself.

The society also has two historical books about Sun City available as stocking stuffers or holiday gifts. "Del Webb: A Man, A Company," by Margaret Finnerty and "Along the Old Vulture Road," by local author Al Tudor may be purchased.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARBARA BROZMAN/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Members of the Sun City Grand PEO chapter enjoy a guided tour of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society in Sun City. From left are, back row, Sandy Miller, Barbara Kappas, Louisa Taylor, Mary Schmitt, Martha Henley and Kathy Beach; middle, Liz Molina, Kathy Rumpeltes and Judy Schmidtke; and front, Margie Staggs.

● The **Sun City Grand PEO** chapter enjoyed a private guided tour of the **Sun Cities Area Historical Society** recently, learning about the history of Sun City and Sun City West.

To arrange a private tour of the society for your club or group, call 974-2568 or 584-0323. The society is open to the public from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday at 10801 Oakmont Ave., which is the first model home built by **Del Webb**.

Here & Now

What's Hot and What's Happening in the Sun Cities



Submitted photo

A look at history

A P.E.O. chapter from Sun City Grand recently toured the Sun Cities Historical Society headquarters and museum in Sun City. Members were given a first-hand glimpse of the history of Sun City and Sun City West. The society is open to the public 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and is located in the very first model home built in Sun City, 10801 Oakmont Ave., Sun City.

Historical Society sets summer hours

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society, 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, has announced summer hours.

Beginning Saturday, the society will be open from 10 a.m. to noon Friday and Saturday, or by appointment. The schedule will continue through August.

Regular hours — 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday — will resume Sept. 1.

The historical society is housed in the first model home built by Del Webb Corp. in 1959. It was open for viewing, along with four other model homes, at the grand opening of Sun City on Jan. 1, 1960. It now houses the museum, which has exhibits on the history of Sun City and Sun City West. Records from the communities are being preserved as a repository for research on the retirement communities.

For information, call 974-2568 or 584-0323.

Daily News-Sun • Monday, April 1, 2002

A3

Historical society provides perspective

FUN FAIR: Open house coincided with Oakmont Rec Center event

JOHN SOKOLICH
DAILY NEWS-SUN

When Sun City was first started, the house that is home to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society cost \$8,500.

The house on Oakmont Drive was the first model home Del Webb Corp. showed potential buyers considering moving to the first-of-its-kind retirement community. Saturday afternoon, the house was shown to any resident wishing to look inside.

"We've had a modest but steady stream of people coming through here today," said Connie McMillin, president of the society. "We're open four days a week and by appointment, and we've had people from all over the world call us for information about Sun City."

The historical society opened its doors Saturday to coincide with the Oakmont Recreation Center's Fun Fair taking place down the street. The steady stream of visitors could look

through archived articles written about the Sun Cities as well as oral histories of some of Sun City's first residents.

"We were lucky to get some of the oral histories," said the society's Jane Freeman. "We have a lot of records and displays dating back to when Sun City was first started."

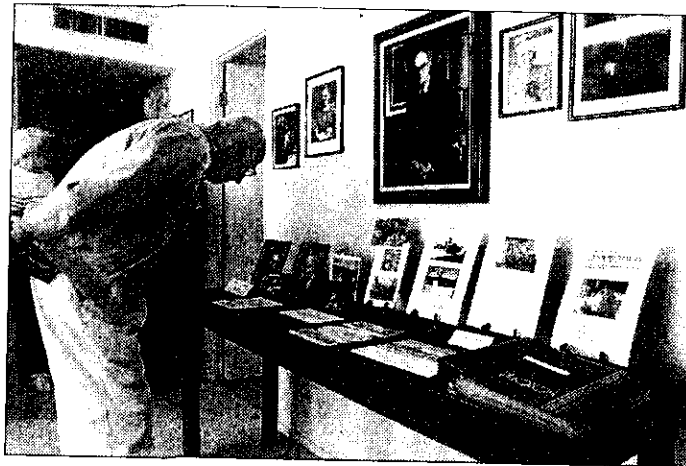
For Ken Potter of Sun City, the historical society plots a road map of his time in the community.

"I've been living here for the past 31 years," he said. "The changes happen so slowly that you don't really see it until you look back at some of these things."

Potter said when he first moved to Sun City, the area was sparsely populated, with the surrounding communities nothing more than small towns.

"Cotton fields," he said, "that's what was around here. I remember seeing them go a little at a time."

The society, though, provides a lot more than just stirring memories for



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Sun City's Harold Bryan peruses exhibits about the community's past at Saturday's Sun Cities Area Historical Society open house.

residents.

McMillin said the Sun Cities were founded based upon an active lifestyle, something unheard of across the country that remains unheard of in other countries still.

"The government didn't tell people to come here, they just did," she said. "They came down here for an active lifestyle and based their work on the help of volunteers."

Del Webb was once quoted as saying he could build houses, but the people make the community, McMillin said.

"And the Sun Cities proved that," she said. "With everything from the PRIDES to the volunteers at the hospitals and schools, volunteers are doing things that in other countries are ordered by their government."

McMillin said Asian countries are the most prominent to call the society for

research on Sun City, and she attributed the interest to the centuries of respect those countries have for their elders.

"The community is so different than what they have in the other countries," she said. "The community is not the older person sitting in a rocking chair dispensing their wisdom, it's retired people getting out and staying active."

For those who missed Saturday's open house, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society is open 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. Its annual spring meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. April 10 at the Sun City West Community Services Building, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd. in Sun City West. The meeting will feature Melanie Sturgeon, an Arizona archivist who will present "Oral History and Archives: Windows to the Past."

The event is free and open to the public, but reservations are requested by Sunday by calling 584-0323 or 974-2568.

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

Daily News-Sun • Thursday, April 5, 2001



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Bell Road entrance to Sun City Grand in this file photo may bear a nationally recognized name, but Del Webb Corp. is ready to replace it with something like "Anthem" or "Terravita." John Waldron, regional director of public relations, said the company has had to contend with stereotypes that the Sun Cities are "too old, too hot and too regimented."

Webb adjusts to market

CHANGES AFOOT: Regional director of public relations details poll, plans to Historical Society members

JEANNE WINOGRAD
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Del Webb Corp.'s recent findings about Baby Boomers, born between 1946 and 1964, may reveal as much about the company's strategic direction as it does about the needs and wants of that generation.

The nationally conducted survey compares housing needs and other views of 500 potential homebuyers aged 55 and older — Webb calls them "Zoomers" — and 500 aged 37, the tail end of the Boomer pack.

"Del Webb Corp. is planning more joint ventures with other builders, not continuing to build 4,000- to 7,000-acre properties (such as Sun City and Sun City West) in the future, which doesn't bring back a return to shareholders," said John Waldron, regional director of public relations for Del Webb Corp.

Waldron spoke Wednesday to the Sun Cities Area

Historical Society. He later qualified his remark that the company intends to tweak its concepts, as it has with changes made to the Sun City concept as it transitioned into Sun City West and Sun City Grand — and now Anthem in North Phoenix.

"Anthem country-club communities are growing; the Bodine property (being considered in the West Valley) would be a country-club model," Waldron said.

Anthem is a \$100 million investment, the fastest-growing division for the company, and an example of future smaller communities

— many of them housing families rather than seniors.

Joint ventures and stand-alone properties also are on the company's radar screen. Coventry Homes, purchased by Webb, is an example.

And while the Sun City name is recognized as a national brand in housing, Waldron said Webb's recent findings are pushing the company to consider transitioning its famous brand to another name, such as Anthem or Terravita.

The possible change is related to negative connotations with the Sun City

See Poll shows, A5

From A1

name; Waldron said Webb has had to contend with stereotypes that the Sun Cities are "too old, too hot and too regimented." He said people change their mind on this stereotype when they visit Sun City Grand — traditionally while on vacation.

Operations are changing as well, with Del Webb planning to charge service fees up front when people purchase a home. And although voluntarism is still important in Sun City Grand — as it is in the first two Sun Cities, the volunteers are changing.

"The face of (voluntarism)

is changing," Waldron said. "The interests of (those living in) Sun City Grand are not for a PRIDES group."

Among other findings, the survey revealed Boomers are:

- The largest segment of the population — currently 76.7 million, with the highest annual disposable income — averaging \$22,250.

- Technologically savvy, retiring earlier, refusing to quit and demanding challenges in their retirement years.

Similarities between older and younger Boomers are that they:

- Redefine retirement by perceiving it as a mid-life

event.

- Will not think of themselves as old for another 20 years.

- Long for no debt and an empty nest.

- Are concerned about the breakdown of the family.

- Will not engage in cosmetic surgery.

- Want more religious and spiritual devotion in their lives.

- Want simplicity and are willing to downsize for it.

Waldron said 62 percent of "Zoomers" will continue to work 20 hours a week, 25 percent will go back to school, 90 percent will be happy in retirement, and 85

percent are more financially prepared for retirement than were their parents — many of whom may not have had a retirement.

Del Webb originated the active-retirement concept with Sun City in 1960, followed by Sun City West in 1978 and Sun City Grand in 1997. The company now has 11 active-living communities, two country-club communities and two family-oriented communities. It has developed in eight major markets in Arizona, California, Nevada, Texas, Illinois, Florida and South Carolina.

Jeanne Winograd can be reached at jwinograd@aztrib.com or 876-2532.

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT MARCH 14-20, 2001

Webb official speaks at SCAHS meeting

John Waldron, director of public and community relations for Del Webb, will speak on "The Sun Cities: From Boom to Boomers" at the April 4 meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society.

Mr. Waldron will share lessons learned from the past, as well as, the results of research on baby boomers expectations for the future.

Light refreshments will be available at 1 p.m. with the program beginning at 1:30 at the Sun City West Community Service Center, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

Public is welcome but seating is limited. Reservations must be made by April 1. Call 975-1815 or 584-0323 and leave a name, phone and number attending.

THE WESTER Thursday, January 6, 2000

Historical Society celebrates anniversary with Open House

A four-day Open House will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society from Jan. 11 through 14. "We want people to experience or get reacquainted with the exciting progress made in Sun City and Sun City West during the last four decades," according to Phyllis Street, society president.

"Several new exhibits and displays will depict the diverse groups and activities that have helped make our communities

the model for active retirement throughout the world," Street said.

The Open House will be from 1 to 4 p.m. each day at the Society headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive. Known fondly as "This Old House," it was the first model home offered by Del Webb on opening day Jan. 1, 1960.

Each day will be in recognition of the various entities that contribute to the success of the Sun Cities. For example: the visionaries on Tuesday, Jan. 11; the volunteers on Wednesday, Jan. 12; the cultural scene on Thursday, Jan. 13; and leisure and sports, Friday, Jan. 14.

On display will be a classic car from the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s along with the year 2000 Cadillac donated by Lund Cadillac for the Sun City 40th Anniversary committee raffle. Light refreshments will be served.

"We hope that residents and guests will take this opportunity to become familiar with the wealth of information available to them in the Historical Society," stated Street.

1-7-2000

Daily News-Sun

Historical society shares active retirement story

OPEN HOUSE: Photo exhibit highlights community's first days

KATE FLEITAS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Phyllis Street speaks with a tone of excitement as she passes on an oral account of Chloe and John McDonald's Sun City home.

"McDonald turned the stove around to face the sink and had a galley kitchen."

"The living room had the dining room table. When they had the family over for Christmas celebrations they'd pull it out and add the leaves."

To some, the arrangement of the McDonalds' home may seem insignificant. But to history buffs like Street, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, the home characterizes the tastes of important urban pioneers — the first inhabitants of the first Sun City model home.

The society plans to display photographs of the McDonalds and their extended family at an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. The open house will be held in the McDonalds' former residence, 10801 Oakmont Drive, the current headquarters of the historical society.

The society moved into the McDonalds' home following its formation ten years ago.

"That's why we picked this week to celebrate," Street explained.

Each day of the open house, the society will honor an entity that contributed to Sun City's success — visionaries, volunteers, cultural scene, and leisure/sports activities. The visionaries exhibit includes John Meeker, R.H. Johnson and others who were integral in implementing Del Webb's plan for an active retirement community.

The open house will also feature a pictorial history of major developments in the Sun Cities from the 1960's to the present.

The first display shows Sun City's first day, including an aerial photograph of people visiting the first five model homes.

"The cars were lined up for two miles," Street said, pointing to a line of cars resting bumper to bumper. "It went all the way to Peoria."

The photographic montage includes the construction of Boswell Memorial Hospital and citizens donating bikes and other scrap metal to the Liberty Bell project. The photo exhibit also shows people lined up at the Sun City shooting range, a popular Sun City site that was wiped out in a 1980 flood.

"It's a story of the evolution of retirement," said Jim Hawks, vice president of the historical society. "We've captured a block of time from when active retirement started."

The exhibit will remain on display after the open house is over. Street said.

For information, contact the historical society at 974-2568.

Experience the Exciting Progress of Sun City and Sun City West

~ 1960 to 2000 ~

You are invited to celebrate with us

• the 10th Anniversary of the Sun Cities Area
Historical Society

• the 40th Anniversary of Sun City

~ ~ **OPEN HOUSE** ~ ~

January 11, 12, 13 & 14, 2000

1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

at the first model home offered
in Del Webb's original Sun City
10801 Oakmont Drive

~ home of your Historical Society ~

The celebration will recognize:

The *Visionaries* on Tuesday, January 11.

The *Volunteers* on Wednesday, January 12.

The *Cultural Scene* on Thursday, January 13.

Leisure and Sports on Friday, January 14.

• REFRESHMENTS •

• NEW DISPLAYS • EXHIBITS • CLASSIC CAR from 1960, 1970 & 1980

• 2000 Cadillac donated to 40th Anniversary by Lund Cadillac

Sun Cities Area Historical Society

200003

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Sun Cities Area Historical Society

PHOTO:

Sun Cities history celebrated

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is celebrating its 10th anniversary, the 40th anniversary of Sun City and the 22nd anniversary of Sun City West from 1 to 4 p.m. Jan. 11 to Jan. 14 at 10801 Oakmont Drive.

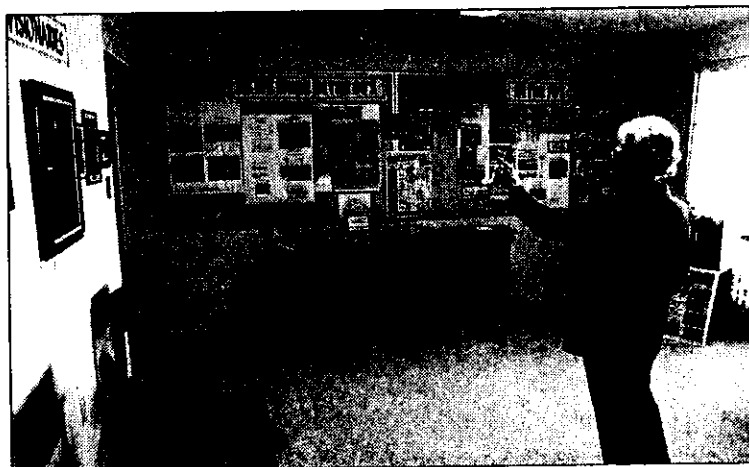
The celebration will recognize the visionaries, the volunteers, the cultural scenes and clubs and the recreation. There will also be display from the '60s to the '90s.

For information, call 974-2568.

Hometown history



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Phyllis Street, president of the Sun Cities Historical Society, above, poses in the house that is the society's headquarters, at 10801 W. Oakmont Drive. Pictured are John and Chloe McDonald, the original owner of the house. Street points out decade exhibits to a visitor, left.

Society given historic donation

FAMILIAR NAME:
Boswell benefactor
aids Sun Cities Area
Historical Society

KATE FLEITAS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Another Boswell made history in Sun City Tuesday.

Jim Boswell donated a "sizeable amount" to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, said Al Tudor, public relations coordinator for the society.

Boswell is the nephew of James G. Boswell, the man who negotiated the land transaction that was the forerunner of Sun City.

Although he would not disclose the amount of Boswell's contribution, Tudor said he can think of "plenty of uses" for the money. One of his ideas includes renovating the structure of 'This Old House,' the first model home sold in Sun City and the current headquarters of the society.

"This house has been a real headache," he said. "It's a 40-year-old house and so much work needs to be done to it."

Boswell made the contribution in the name of Jane Freeman, a Sun City resident who played an integral part in establishing the historical society. She is past president of the historical society and co-authored a book on Sun City's history in honor of the community's 25th anniversary.

"They've been friends since Jane wrote the Jubilee book," Tudor said.



E.B. McGOVERN/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Roz Boswell hugs a guest while her husband, Jim, talks during the Sun Cities Area Historical Society open house Tuesday in Sun City.

Freeman is one of seven people being honored in the society's "Visionaries" exhibit. Other honorees include Robert H. Johnson, Ed Larson, John Meeker, Delbert Eugene Webb, James G. Boswell and Glenn

Sanberg.

Society President Phyllis Street said she was grateful for Boswell's contribution.

"It is wonderful that he is still interested in the development of Sun City and wants to preserve

the society," she explained.

More than 135 people visited the society's open house, which runs from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. every day until Thursday.

For more information, contact the society at 974-2568.

- SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT—JANUARY 12-18, 2000

Historical Society celebrates with open house

Historical Society Celebrates
10th Anniversary with Open House

A four-day open house will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Jan. 11-14. "We want people to experience or get reacquainted with the exciting progress made in Sun City and Sun City West during the last four decades," said Phyllis Street, society president.

"Several new exhibits and displays will depict the diverse groups and activities that have helped make our communities the model for active retirement throughout the world," Street said.

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offered by Del Webb on opening day — Jan. 1, 1960.

Each day will be in recognition of the various entities that contribute to the success of the Sun Cities, such as the visionaries on Jan. 11; the volunteers on Jan. 12; the cultural scene on Jan. 13, and leisure and sports, Jan. 14.

On display will be a classic cars from the 1960s, 1970s, and 1980s,

along with the year 2000 Cadillac donated by Lund Cadillac for the Sun City 40th Anniversary Committee raffle.

Light refreshments will be served.

"We hope that residents and guests will take this opportunity to become familiar with the wealth of information available to them in the historical society," stated Street.

Business Association gets Historical Society facts

By Marie Scott

The SCW Business & Professional Association learned all about the Sun Cities Area Historical Society at its January membership meeting held at The Madison in Sun City West.

Constance McMillin, Sun Cities Area Historical Society vice president was the guest speaker. "The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is organized as a non-profit corporation exclusively for civic and educational purposes. Its task is to collect and preserve the historical data of the Sun cities area," she said.

To carry out its endeavors, the Society was incorporated in 1986 and is a tax-exempt corporate corporation under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. This qualifies contributions and membership support for tax exempt status.

Through the generous support of the J.G. Boswell Foundation, Del Webb Corporation and other groups and individuals, the Society purchased Sun City's first model home as its headquarters. The home is located at 10801 Oakmont Avenue in Sun City. It opened to the public on Jan. 1,



Constance McMillin, Sun Cities Area Historical Society vice president addressed member of the SCW Business & Professional Association at its January membership meeting.

1960, the beginning day for the unique active retirement community. This site serves as museum, exhibition space and multi-faceted resource center for residents of the Sun Cities and visitors from throughout the United States and overseas.

It is open to visitors September through May, Tuesday through Friday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. During June, July, August, Friday & Saturday 10 to 12 noon. Group tours are welcome by appointment.

There is Sun City and Sun City West memorabilia on display,

including early maps, model home site plans, photos, and data which are part of extensive archival records. Current exhibits on view are: The Old Vulture Road (now Grand Avenue)—hidden treasures along the trail; Town of

Marinette-unusual photos and news articles-the area before the Sun Cities and The Sun City Saints, championship ladies softball team, and the Pro teams who trained in Sun City.

THE WESTER Thursday, February 17, 2000

Historical Society invites public to anniversary fete

By Chet Lacy

In a three-way anniversary, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society is celebrating its 10th "birthday" as an organization in the 22nd year of Sun City West, and the 40th year of Sun City.

The public is invited to this year-long celebration which the Area Historical Society located in the first Sun City model home features many unusual displays, pictorial montages, and historic artifacts from the beginning of Del Webb's Sun Cities.

Phyllis Street, of SCW, presi-

dent of the Historical Society, urges area residents to visit the original home at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, the Society's headquarters called "This Old House" which opened Jan. 1, 1960.

"The displays tell an exciting story of the evolution of active

Sun Cities Area Historical Society leaders extending an invitation to the public are (top, l.-r.) Phyllis Street, SCW, president; Mary Hawthorne, SCW, and (seated) Ina Dodt, settler of Sun City since 1960 and one of Del Webb's first hostesses.



retirement started by Del Webb and up the present," she said.

Although the headquarters was open daily for the public celebration the first week in January, it is still open Tuesdays through Fridays, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For further information call 974-2568 or 584-0323 or 923-2979.

November 2001

SunViews

A Publication of the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc.

Sun City Areas Museum and Historical Society

Everyone talks about how time flies but do you know what has happened in Sun City as time has been flying during the last forty years?

A visit to the Sun City Areas Museum and Historical Society could help to explain what has happened and how Sun City came into being from just an idea to the finest senior retirement community, not only in the United States, but the world. Sun City is an unincorporated, self-governed community, guided by the Homeowners Association and the Recreation Centers of Sun City, Inc. with no political parties to create schisms among our citizens.

The Sun City Areas Museum and Historical Society is located next to the Oakmont Recreation Center at 10801 Oakmont Dr. in the first home built in Sun City. Volunteer staff can provide you with considerable information about the museum.

Time goes by; things change like the seasons and history is made daily. Events of today are the history of tomorrow. Whether we realize it or not, we are making history today. Visiting and volunteering for the Historical Society may peak your interests as well as help to preserve our past for those future citizens of our community who are yet to come.

**LOOKING BACK 25 YEARS!
ARIZONA P & R PROJECTS
FROM CRADLES TO A CABOOSE**

Over the past twenty-five years, Arizona Questers have taken on many interesting restoration/preservation projects. They have ranged from the purchase of a few small artifacts to the moving of a railroad caboose. Below is a list of some of the projects that Arizona Questers have undertaken in the past.

X A. YOUNGSTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY by Tumbleweed #914 in the restoration of a historic log building, ramp and plaque. The log cabin was originally located on the Greer Ranch and moved in 1989 to become the headquarters for the Youngstown Historical Society.

B. TUTHILL RAILROAD PARK in Flagstaff by Tuzigoot #603 with the moving and installation of #999455 Caboose (circa 1969). The historical significance in saving the caboose was due to the fact that railroads were doing away with them.

C. SUPERSTITION MOUNTAIN MUSEUM by Apache Tears #944. A large screen television and VCR were purchased for the museum. Many chapters have also donated money for this ongoing project.

X D. SUN CITIES AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY was sponsored by Palo Verde #540. Arizona Questers helped in the cost of reroofing and with the purchase of sunscreens. This is the first house built in the Sun City area in 1960. The house was the "Kentworth" model.

E. JORDAN HISTORICAL PARK in Sedona is a current state project of Tuzigoot #603. Our Questers helped with the roof repair of the packing shed. A cook stove was purchased for display. Also posters of movies that were filmed in Sedona were purchased and framed.

F. ELLIS-SHACKLEFORD HOUSE was helped in the restoration and installation of the dining room light fixture by Phoenix Firebird #629. The house is located by the Margaret Hance Park in downtown Phoenix.

G. DUPPA HOUSE by Phoenix Firebird #629. This house is probably one of the oldest structures still remaining in Phoenix. The house was built in 1868-1872. Our Questers helped in the cost of reinforcing the roof and the installation of an ocotillo fence.

H. ARIZONA DOLL AND TOY MUSEUM received a showcase purchased by Kiva #1008. The museum is located in Heritage Square.

I. CITIZEN'S CEMETERY in Prescott is a current project of Thumb Butte #1283. They have raised funds for the fence surrounding the cemetery. The cemetery has many beautiful markers and contains the graves of early pioneers.

The Cactus Bloom

J. SIRRINE HOUSE was a project of Apache Tears #944. Arizona Questers funded some of the restoration cost. A baby cradle (circa 1850) was also purchased. This house was built in 1902 and is located in Mesa.

K. SILVER KING HOTEL in Florence is a project of Kokopelli #1308. A state grant was given for help in the restoration of the outside stairwell and porch. This is a current state project.

L. SHARLOT HALL MUSEUM is a project of Granite Mountain #1250. Several items have been purchased for the museum. A roughrider uniform and roof repair at Fort Misery were funded by Questers.

M. ROSSON HOUSE by Echoes From Past of Prescott. This chapter is now disbanded, but helped in preserving a valuable part of Phoenix. Kitchen antiques were donated, as well as a kitchen stove, refrigerator and period dining table.

N. PETERSON HOUSE (Tempe Historical Society Museum) is a project of Hayden's Ferry #1245. Two area rugs have been purchased. The chapter has an antique seminar lecture series each spring to raise funds.

O. MARINETTE MARKER was sponsored by Marinette #554. A bronze plaque was purchased to mark the site of the lost town of Marinette. The plaque is located at 105th and Grand Avenue. X

P. LITTLE RED SCHOOL HOUSE in Scottsdale is sponsored by Ho-Ho-Kam #622. Many items ranging from a clock, cooler and schoolhouse memorabilia have been purchased for museum displays. A light fixture and audio system were installed. Other chapters have donated to this project.

Q. FLORENCE WOMAN'S CLUB is a project of the Superstition Seekers #1249. The building is a point of pride in Florence with the complete restoration of this building. See the article elsewhere in this newsletter about the Woman's Club.

R. CHANDLER HISTORICAL SOCIETY is a project of Peridot #1175. Historic photos were reproduced for the museum. The Tumbleweed Ranch is now a new goal. The purpose is to provide a living history museum.

*From the list above, you can see that Arizona Questers were and still are an active group in historic preservation and restoration projects. All chapters over the years have donated funds to individual projects, the State Fund and the International P & R Fund. Many members have been docents or volunteers at the museums. A huge **THANK YOU** must be given to everyone.*

Eugene Serbus, P & R Chairman

"Welcome New Chapters"

Prescott Pines #1345

Chartered: October 13, 1999
 President, Eloise Esser
 Vice President, Doris Lyman
 Secretary, Beverly Wright
 Treasurer, Rockie Eisenman

Members: Sandra Allen, Joycelyn Schmid, Clairann Cordes, Joan Woods, Marilyn Jenkins, Jeanette Ferguson, Dean Ferguson, Joe Eisenman, Eleanor Sigmon and Eleanor Gilley

Congratulations and welcome to Arizona's newest Questers!

CHAPTER NEWS

FOUR PEAKS #1207

Our members do not take the summer off. No sir, we are right out there antiquing as good Questers should. The results of our efforts were apparent when we had "show and tell" at our September meeting. Members showed the wonderful goodies they had found on their summer travels.

Our programs have been varied and interesting. We had an informative and fun program on hats of yesteryear with many examples presented by Arizona's "Hat Lady," Linda Starr.



Jean Peskin spent the summer in Europe and gave a program on "Painters of Light in Provence." This involved not only art appreciation, but also much history. At our December meeting we were treated to a lovely luncheon and gift exchange at Betty Honath's home that was beautifully decorated for the holidays.

The Cactus Bloom

Our monthly basket raffle has helped fill our coffers, and we are pleased that we will be able to contribute substantially to Quester projects.

We're very proud to have two of our members involved at the state level. Elaine Zellers is First Vice President and State Organizer, and Pat Rinebarger is Editor of the Cactus Bloom.

On a sad note, we lost two of our dear members last year. Barbara Nyberg passed away and Terry Marx moved to southern California. We will miss them very much. On a high note, we welcomed three new members to Four Peaks: Kay Edvartsen, Marilyn Attinger and Dorothy Campbell, former Pennsylvania State President.

Dawn Howell, President

HAYDEN'S FERRY #1245

We have held a series of antique seminars the past four years at the Pyle Center, Rural and Southern in Tempe raising funds for P & R. We are again proud to announce the seminars will be held there every Tuesday night from February 29 through March 21. This year's seminars include speakers on Unique Victorian Flatware Pieces, Antique Pine Furniture, Appraising of Antiques and Art, Majolica, Indian Trading Posts-1850-1950, Heisey Glass and Current Trends in Toys and Furniture. Advance registration fee is \$40.00 for the entire series, \$45 at the door and \$15 for an individual class. Please call Ruth Lancaster at 480-839-1729 or May Baker 480-657-9786 to register.

Esther Gardner

MILE HI TREASURES #1309

Friends, fun and food...it was all at the Fall Council Meeting held at the beautiful Arrowhead Country Club in Sun City on November 12, 1999. For those of you who were not there, we can report it was a busy, fun-filled and memorable meeting. The weather was perfect and our membership more than filled the grand meeting room.

Jean Swanson presented a marvelous program on Ladies Beaded Bags. Who could ever imagine a collection of this magnitude? It is doubtful there was ever a handbag made that Jean didn't know about. This fantastic program

Museums bring life, light to dusty history

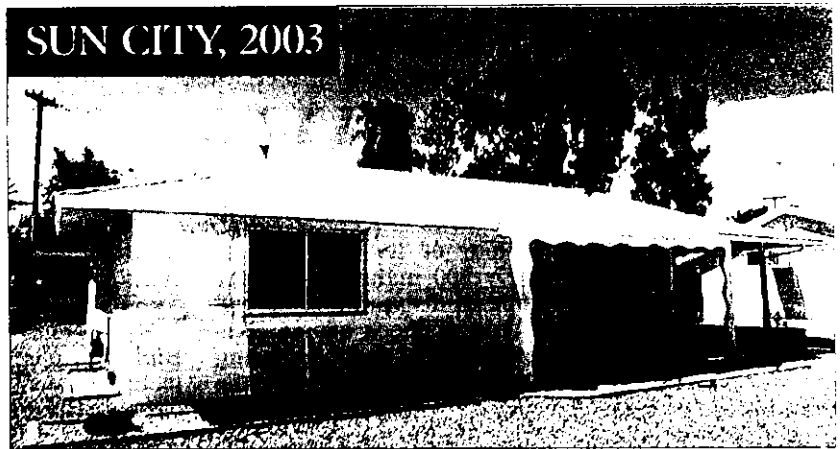
By Pat Flannery
The Arizona Republic

To muse is to become absorbed in thought, the dictionary says. To amuse is to entertain in a light, playful or pleasant manner.

Museums are a splendid combination of both, and they dot the West Valley landscape, giving local residents plenty of choices for thoughtful fun.

In the dog days of late summer, or especially when the Valley's 115-degree heat starts giving way to gentler afternoons and the soft orange glow of fall, nothing can beat a museum to get you out of the house for a relaxing jaunt.

There is enough variety west of Interstate 17 to sate most any appetite. There's art for the artsy, and local lore for those interested in the past. There's also a spicy sprinkling of unique specialties ranging from bugs to beads, from petroglyphs to plants.



Cheryl Evans/The Arizona Republic

One of the first model homes in Sun City now serves as a museum that documents the transformation of the town of Marinette from a cotton-farming community to the world's most copied retirement village.

Sun Cities Area Historical Society Museum

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society, for example, uses photos, old real estate records and 43-year-old sales brochures to show how Del Webb's pioneering vision of an active retirement community was brought to life in 1960. Housed in the Kentworth House, one of the first five model homes built by Del Webb in 1959, the Historical Society museum documents the transformation of the town of Marinette from an old-time cotton-farming community to the world's most copied leisure retirement village.

To emphasize how novel the concept was when homes went on sale in 1960, society President Jane Freeman noted that the model homes attracted more than 100,000 people during their grand opening weekend. At the time, a recreation center and golf course surrounded

the models — but beyond that there was not much more than dusty fields and desert mountains for miles.

A two-bedroom home of 858 square feet, with an extra 306 square feet of storage rooms and carport, sold for \$8,500 in those days. Air-conditioning added \$600 to the price. To live on the golf course: another \$1,250.

The area today is a far cry from what it was in the early decades of the last century. Back then, a general store just north of Grand Avenue, where Boswell Hospital now stands, was the focal point of activity in the tiny agricultural village. Photos on display show what life was like when passing trains were the only regular visitors.

See **MUSEUMS** Page 2

OVER

Exhibits from more recent years graphically depict Sun City's popularity as a haven for seniors: Visitors ranging from Liberace to President Ronald Reagan graced the Sun Bowl stage, while a new community of Sun City West sprouted up to the north.

While the museum offers a quick lesson to those of casual interest, Freeman said it also houses local obituary files and area historic records, offering a good reference point for researchers.

SUN CITY, 1960



The five model homes in Sun City attracted more than 100,000 people during its grand opening weekend. A two-bedroom home of 858 square feet, with carport, sold for \$8,500 in those days.

Sun Cities Area Historical Society seeks area history items for archives

By Chet Lacy

In seeking historical items on the area, the Sun Cities Area Historical Society announces its summer hours at its headquarters, the "Old House" located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, are from 10 a.m. till Noon, Fridays and Saturday, June, July and August.

"We encourage anyone with any historical records and memorabilia relating to our area to bring them in for our archives,"

said Pres. Phyllis Street.

"We appreciated the 20-year history of the Energetic Exercise Club of SCW, which was chartered in 1979 which was written by Eleanor Parks," Ms. Street mentioned.

"We also appreciated the local newspapers dated July, 1974, the time of Del Webb's death with wonderful information and photos, brought in by an anonymous donor.

"And the 1961-98 history of the Windsor Belles, original residents of Windsor Drive in Sun City."

Ms. Street encourages anyone who might be moving or house cleaning and can't save old items to let any of the officers of the Historical Society know or bring the memorabilia in to the "Old House" Historical Society offices and museum. You just might have some valuable items that should go in the archives. Don't throw them out!

Officers of the Historical Society are Phyllis Street, president, office phone 974-2568, or residence, 584-0323; Jim Hawks, vice president; Virginia Simmons, treasurer, and Al France, secretary.

"If anyone would like to serve as a volunteer at the offices and museum, there is a wide variety of opportunities to help," Ms. Street invited. "This could include typing, clipping, filing, and sorting or hosting, making displays and other services."

"Just call any of the officers for information."



Phyllis Street, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, is seeking records and memorabilia.

Photo, Chet Lacy

Thursday, May 20, 1999 THE WESTER

Sun Cities Historical Society seeks volunteers

By Chet Lacy

Phyllis Street, president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, has made an appeal for volunteers, men and women, to help in a variety of ways in the Society's offices in "This Old House," at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

"We are staffed entirely by volunteers," she said. "We have no paid employees. We do have many dedicated men and women who volunteer their time, talent, and energy, who enjoy the essential services of preserving the history and heritage of this region.

"However, we need more help in a variety of services, such as hosting, tour guiding, typing, filing, sorting, making displays.

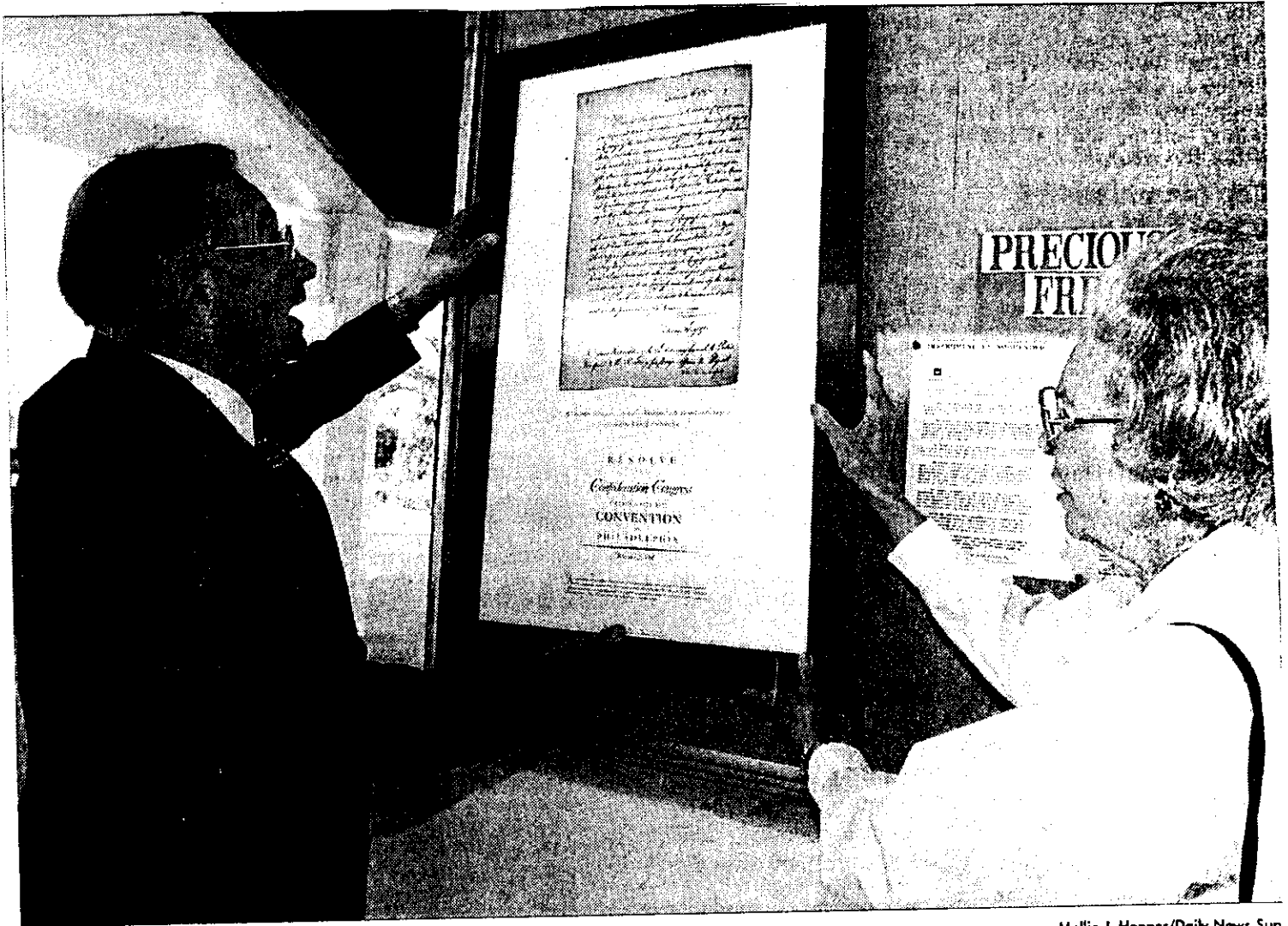
"The hours you would work would be entirely up to you," she explained. You don't have to put in a great amount of time. Please come and visit about it. You will find it a pleasant and fun place to work and a rewarding way to serve in preserving our history,

which is so important."

For further information call Street, 584-0323, or any of the board members namely Jim Hawks, vice president; Virginia Simmons, treasurer, or Al France, secretary.

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 1999 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

Freedom Shrine shines



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Jim Hawks and Phyllis Street of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society replace documents in the Freedom Shrine kiosk at Bell Recreation Center. A dedication celebration took place at 10:45 this morning outside the Bell Library.

Refurbished kiosk houses historic documents

By JEFF OWENS
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The Founding Fathers sought a more perfect Union.

Mostly satisfied with the Union, Jim Hawks of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society sought a more perfect kiosk at the entrance to the Bell Library.

After much hard work on his part, the large white kiosk — dubbed "The Freedom Shrine" is being rededicated today at a 10:45 a.m. ceremony by members of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society and Recreation Centers of Sun City.

The 16-year-old kiosk suffered years of neglect and sun, but has been refurbished with copies of some of America's most famous and cherished documents, plus a few which aren't as famous but are no less historic and interesting.

It's like having a little slice of the National Archives right here in Sun City: Hawks has fitted the Freedom Shrine with copies of a first draft of the U.S. Constitution, Arizona's 1912 women's suffrage amendment and governor's proclamation, the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Bill of Rights, the Japanese surrender of 1945, and two documents from the Confederation Congress of the 1780s.

Plans call for new documents to be posted every six months. Hawks has already collected enough archival material for 18 panels — enough to last more than a year.

The documents are mounted under glass on the hexagonal kiosk's six panels.

Hawks, vice president of the Historical Society, said his goal was to make the display more interesting.

"I'm going to try to get some things a lot of people have never seen."

Many probably haven't seen documents such as those from the Confederation Congress or the World War II Japanese surrender. Hawks said he plans to display copies of the Mayflower Compact, Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and the presidential oath of office.

There will be some local color too, because Hawks said he felt that old state, county and even Sun City documents would be of interest to area residents. Imagine the Rec Center bylaws posted elegantly next to George Washington's farewell address.

Because of the archaic language, syntax and penmanship, Hawks has

provided "translations" for several of the more difficult to read documents.

"When I first got involved with this, I thought it would be easy," he said with a slight laugh. "It's not."

Renovating the kiosk was a joint venture — the Historical Society provided the documents, and the Rec Centers footed the bill.

Rec Centers President Bob Briscoe said it was a pleasure.

"They did an excellent job," Briscoe said. "I think it's really nice. They put a lot of time and effort into it. I don't think a lot of people are aware of it, but it's a nice little gift, basically, from the Historical Society."

The Freedom Shrine was originally dedicated on Oct. 11, 1982 by guest speaker Sen. Barry Goldwater. It was built by the now-defunct Sun City and Sun City West Exchange clubs. After that, the kiosk fell into disrepair in the Arizona heat.

"It just sat there and got sun-burned," Hawks said. "It was looking pretty tired."

Thursday, July 22, 1999 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

Historical Society readies for millennium

Summer is rushing by and while we are open to visitors at our historical house only on Friday and Saturday mornings, activity has not stopped other days of the week. This is a time for looking critically at our facilities and operations. Not only are we busy carpet cleaning, filing and reorganizing storage space, but we must move forward by creating new displays and exhibits, reviewing our policies and strategic planning as we move into the millennium year 2000.

Mark your calendar for the following special SCAHS events:

- Nov. 10 (Wednesday) — Annual Fall Membership Luncheon, Lakes Club.
- Jan. 12, 2000 (Wednesday) — Anniversary Celebration.

On Jan. 12, 1990, an official ribbon cutting ceremony was held at 10801 Oakmont Drive, opening this location as the headquarters of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society which had been established as a not-for-profit organization four years earlier. Thus, in January 2000 we will celebrate Sun City's 40th anniversary, Sun City West's 22nd anniversary, and SCAHS

will celebrate 10 years in our headquarters.

We also plan to hold several other special events in the coming year. We would enjoy hearing from you if you would like to assist in planning or hosting at special events of during regular visiting hours.

Sadly we relate the loss of our faithful hostess, Doris Foster, who welcomed visitors for more than 10 years. She was a willing helper at so many events and a valued assistant to her husband, Albert Foster, when he served as our treasurer. Doris died in May and we will long remember her dedication to our society.

We appreciate the many Sun Cities items of historical interest which members and area residents bring to us. Why not stop by to visit and see our new displays and work in progress?

We're located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City.

Phyllis Street, President
Sun Cities Area Historical Society

SEPTEMBER 15-21, 1999 — SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT —

Poms donate display case

Formal dedication of a display case donated to the Sun Cities Area Historical Society will be at 1:30 p.m. Nov. 10 at society headquarters, 10801 Oakmont Drive, which is also the site of Sun City's first model home.

The display case was purchased and donated by the Sun City Poms dance group. The Poms have also donated memorabilia to the society.

The Poms will give a dance performance at Oakmont Recreation Center, near the society, following the dedication.

The event is free and open to the public.

11-4-98

Copper Enamellers exhibit in Sun City

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has opened an exhibit featuring art pieces by members of the Copper Enamellers Club of Sun City West.

Founded in 1980, the club was among the first chartered clubs in Sun City West. The club lists among its accomplishments murals on each side of the main entry to Beardsley Park Recreation Center and the mural entitled, "Arizona Reflections," installed in the lobby of the Del Webb Hospital.

An opening day reception will be held at the Historical Society 1:30 p.m. Sept. 24. Refreshments will be served.

The exhibit continues through Nov. 19. The public is invited.

The society is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive, Sun City. Hours are 1:30-3:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

THE WESTER Thursday, November 4, 1999

Sun Cities Historical Society to hear talk on new Millennium

By Chet Lacy

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society has scheduled its annual Fall Membership Luncheon to which the public is invited at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 10, at the Lakes Club in Sun City, 10484 Thunderbird Dr.

The speaker will be Jerry Svendsen, publisher of Sun Life magazine and former vice president and director of public relations for Del E. Webb Corp. His subject will be "The Sun Cities: Prologue to the New Millennium."

Commented Phyllis Street, president of the Historical Society, "You will want to hear what Jerry has to say about the Sun Cities and the part they will play

in the future of the American culture. It will be most interesting and revealing.

"The public is invited. Come and bring a friend. Social hour will begin at 11:30 a.m. This will give you a chance to meet with others members and with our speaker of whom you might want to ask questions even before he speaks at the luncheon."

Cost will be \$14 per person for the luncheon to be held in the Parlor room, north side of the banquet center. Deadline for reservations is Nov. 5. Make check payable to Sun Cities Area Historical Society, and mail it to the Society at 10881 Oakmont Drive, Sun City, AZ., 85351, phone 974-2568.

Sun City caught fire on promotional spark

By DAVID MILLER
Staff writer

The builders of homes along Sun City's Oakmont Drive were worried — they didn't know if their development would register with buyers, settled as they were in the middle of nowhere.

Advertising posters screamed of a good deal: "The nation's first and only planned community," they said, listing home styles like "The Montecello" and "The Pickford."

Prices in those days were pretty fantastic — for little more than \$8,000 you could be the first on your block to own a prime Sun City lot.

The promotional push came on New Year's Day, 1960. Five homes stood in the 10000 block of Oakmont, along with a grocery store, a few other amenities and a whole lotta cotton.

The ads had been placed and the embryonic community of Sun City was publicized to the rest of the country. Now the developers had to hold their breath and wonder if their planned city would catch fire or become a footnote in Phoenix history.

They needn't have worried. Fortunately for the Del Webb organization, history smiled on their burgeoning business. The developers who planted themselves eight miles from Peoria learned that if you build a retirement community, they will come. And they will buy sight unseen.

"It took three days," said Jim Hawks, vice president of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society, a group headquartered in one of the original homes, at 10801 Oakmont Drive.

"They advertised their five homes," he said, "and 100,000 people showed up."

When the smoke cleared, buyers from across the country had ordered more than 230 homes, leading to a development rush.

Hawks calls the first Sun Citians "early pioneers," and in many ways they were, though they also proved to be astute investors: that original home listed for \$41,000 in 1989, when the historical society picked it up.

Sun City also expanded at the seams, growing from a literal cow town to a city with a population near 40,000.

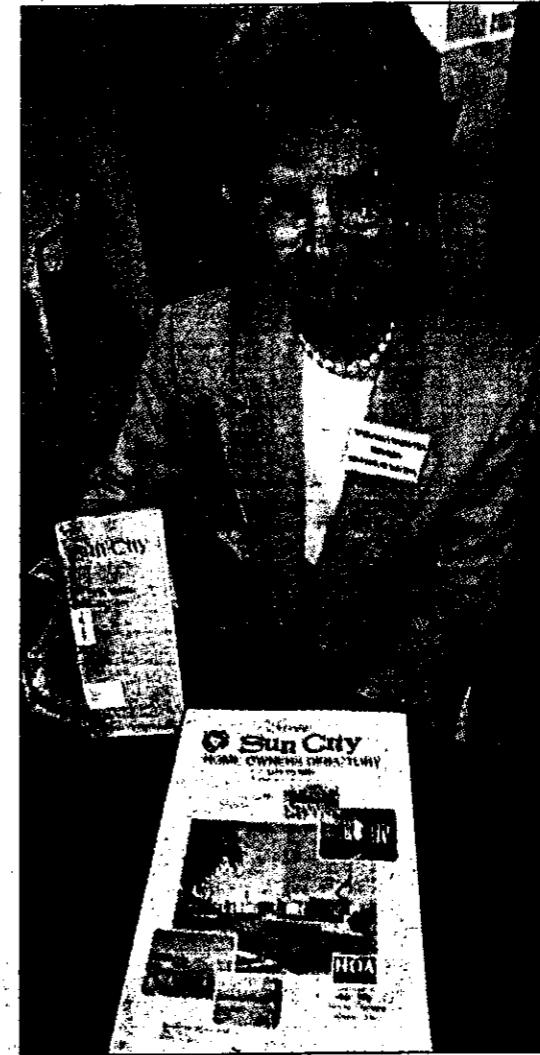
That boom began in a home measuring about 662 square feet, with two bedrooms, a kitchen and a carport. Its cost was \$8,500, though for \$600 more you could get an air conditioner — one of the swamp coolers prevalent in those days. An additional \$1,250 put you on the golf course.

Hawks points out, though, that while Del Webb eagerly promoted Sun City as the retirement burg of the future, he was careful not to push the sales pitch too far.

"He didn't sell on the basis of what he was trying to do," said Hawks. "He sold on the basis of what he had."

What Webb and the developers didn't have were some basic amenities, like a sewer system. But that soon changed. Seeing the incredible demand, he quickly ordered construction of a "lagoon-style" system, along with a host of other homes. A nine-hole golf course, naturally, was already in place.

The family of Margaret Hazelton, a hostess with the historical society, was one of those that bought into Sun City's development. She still lives in the "second phase," a wave of homes that went in after the initial rush. It's now within the city of Peoria.



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Margaret Hazelton holds up the first Sun City phone book from 1961 where the phone numbers and addresses of 3,500 kindred spirits are listed. Next to her is the phone book from 1988.

Manning the society's office, she's happy to have a hand — and a home — in local history. "We kept it in the family," she said.

Sun Cities Area Historical Society holds annual meeting

Thursday, November 20, 1997 THE WESTER Page B

By Marie Scotti

The 12th annual fall membership meeting of the Sun Cities Area Historical Society was held recently at the Lakes Club. It was on November 14, 1986, that the first annual meeting of the organization met at the Sunowner Restaurant in Sun City.

Pamela Meyerhoffer, executive vice president/chief executive officer of Sun Health Foundation, was the guest speaker. She presented a historical point of view of Sun Health as she sees it—the past, the Present and the Future.

Phyllis Street, president of the Historical Society summarized

See **HISTORICAL**, Page B12



At the Sun Cities Area Historical Society Annual Meeting are Phyllis Street (l.), president, Historical Society, and Pamela Meyerhoffer, executive vice president/chief executive officer of Sun Health Foundation.

Photo, Marie Scotti

HISTORICAL: Holds annual meeting, from Page B7

the year's activities. She said, "The Sun Cities have achieved International fame, not just because of the Pom Poms and Rhythm Tappers have served as our best Ambassadors and given us International advertising. It is because the whole concept amazes the rest of the world. We have had visitors from Japan, Korea, France, Germany and Denmark. Worth magazine a publishing an article about the Del Webb Corporation and have asked for materials from our archives. And just this past month two young women spent time researching in our resource center—one from Salzburg University in Austria, the other from Kenyon College in Gambier, Ohio. Both were trying to discover what makes the Sun Cities such a success."

"Just trying to keep up with the ever-increasing amount of material we are accessing and to organize and file it is a never ending task," said Street. "We welcome volunteers to help with this. And then there is also the maintenance and preservation of the first Model House Del Webb built. 1959 doesn't seem like such a long time ago to some of us. But in 38 years things can happen to plumbing and major repairs had to be made last summer," said Street.

"As we approach the year 2000 and the 1st model home passes a 40th anniversary, we have dreams of it qualifying for status as a state historical society site, and eventually it will become a national historical site. We can dream of a nice boulder in the front yard with an impressive bronze plaque on it. We will keep on dreaming," said Street.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society is located in the first model home built by Del Webb, opened to the public on January 1, 1960, the beginning day for the Sun City active retirement community. Through the generous support of the J.G. Boswell Foundation, Del Webb Corporation and other groups and individuals, the Historical Society purchased Sun City's first model home as headquarters in 1989. The home is located at 10801 Oakmont Drive in Sun City. It is open to visitors September thru May, Tuesday thru Friday 1:30-3:30 p.m., June, July and August, Friday & Saturday 10-12 noon. Group tours are welcome.

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society was incorporated in 1986. It is organized as a non-profit corporation exclusively for civic and educational purposes. Its task is to collect and preserve the historical data of the S

Society discusses wildlife

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society's spring meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. April 9 in the Sun City West Community Service Center, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd., Sun City West.

Joe Yarchin, urban wildlife specialist, and Randy Babb, information and education program manager of Arizona Game and Fish Department, will discuss "Urban Wildlife: An Historical Perspective."

For information, call 974-2568.

Thursday, Apr. 3, 1997 THE WESTER Page C3

Sun Cities Historical Society

The Sun Cities Area Historical Society will hold its annual spring meeting at 1:30 p.m., April 9, at the Sun City West Community Service Center, Phyllis Street, Society president announced.

Joe Yarchin, urban wildlife specialist and Randy Babb, information and education program manager, Arizona Game and Fish Department, will discuss "Urban Wildlife: An Historical Perspective."

The Community Service Center is located at 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd. (at the intersection of Stardust Blvd., across from the

Fred P. Kuentz Recreation Center).

What kind of wild creatures roamed the Northwest Valley before Sun City and Sun City West came on the scene? Can we share our environment with reptiles, mammals, amphibians, birds and other wildlife that lived here long before we did? These and other questions about our wild neighbors will be answered at this meeting.

The meeting is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

02/11/1997

NOTES ON VISIT OF DOROTHEA WAGERS AND HER DAUGHTERS BARBARA WAGERS AND SUSAN MILLER, APRIL 1, 1997

Barbara Wagers had telephoned the previous week from her home in Colorado, to arrange to bring her mother to visit the house at 10801 Oakmont Dr, which was the home of Barbara's grandparents, John and Chloe McDonald.

The following persons were there for part of the visit: Evelyn Parry, Florence Sears, Doris Foster, Viola Spease, Rita Wright, Julia Manspeaker, Ann Russ, Betty Green, Phyllis Street, Al Foster, Jim Hawks.

The following information was learned. The house was originally purchased by N. C. Wagers, Dorothea Wagers' father-in-law, as an investment. N.C. Wagers and his wife, Marie, lived in a house across the golf course on Augusta. The McDonalds bought the house from the Wagers in 1962.

The Wagers families and the McDonalds enjoyed many family reunions at Christmas. Pictures taken of the family in 1963 show the extension of the patio all across the back of the house. By 1965 the patio was all enclosed, providing a family room and an extension of the bedroom, with a bath between the two rooms, according to the way Susan remembered it.

Chloe died in Oct. 1971. John remarried. He died in Nov. 83. His second wife was placed in a nursing home in Glendale by her son. Dorothea Wagers and her sister were given a short time to come and take a few things that had been in the house. She has a small desk which belonged to her mother. She indicated she would like for the Historical Society to have the desk, if she could arrange to have it sent here.

They described the house and some of the arrangements. The living room had a floral patterned sofa along the west wall with lamp tables at each end. Mr. Mc Donald had made the lamps. There was an landscape picture above the sofa. There were two lounge chairs in front of the window with a round oak table cut down to coffee table height. The TV was on the wall opposite the sofa. A drop leaf dining table stood against the wall opposite the front door. When they had family dinners they stretched the table into the room. The kitchen was divided by a wall to separate the eating area. The stove and the counter with the bread board were lined up opposite the sink. The refrigerator was near the washing machine. There was a TV in the southwest corner of the kitchen, the table stood against the dividing wall with a chair at each end.

The second bedroom was used as a library, with bookcases on both walls. The small desk stood between bookshelves on the east wall. The extension of the room became the bedroom area and was adjacent to the 2nd bath which had been built when the bedroom was extended.

Barabara presented five by seven inch copies of portraits of her grandparents, each framed in decorative gray frames. She also had copies of two snapshots which were taken of the

Wagers and McDonald families taken at Christmas, 1963. They identified each person in the pictures.

After she went home, Dorothea Wagers found a picture of the patio that her father added to the back of the house. She sent this to us. (See Wagers photographs of the McDonald home.)



Christmas, 1963, the McDonald and Wagers families

Taken in front of the McDonald's back patio
10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City, AZ 85351

Back row: The Wagers and McDonald grandchildren
Numbers indicate child's father.*

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-------|--------|------|-----|------|-------|-------|-------|
| Barbara | Judy | Susan | Debbie | Greg | Jan | Mark | Scott | Kenny | David |
| 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 1 |

Middle row

| | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-------------------|
| Marie | Jane | Chloe McDonald | Joyce | Dorothea McDonald |
| Mrs. N.C. | Mrs. Jack | | Mrs. John | Mrs. Bob Wagers |
| Wagers | Wagers | | Wagers | |

Front row

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| John McDonald | N.C. Wagers | John Wagers | Jack Wagers | Bob Wagers |
| | | 2 | 1 | 3 |

*(Sons of N.C. and Marie Wagers)



Family of Bob and Dorothea McDonald Wagers
Christmas, 1963

Taken in front of the McDonald's back patio
10801 Oakmont Dr., Sun City, AZ 85351

Bob Wagers Dorothea McDonald Wagers
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