

VF 2C

Webb, De E Memorial Gardens

SUN CITY CITIZEN—November 25, 1981—3

On The Town

Del Webb comes home to Sun City

By Doug Morris
Editor

It started so long ago, it's hard to recall that first committee meeting, and painful to remember the zillion meetings between then and now.

A few were determined that there would be a statue to Del E. Webb, and that it would be at the spot in the Memorial Garden of Bell Center which he had approved, before his death. "Yes, that's where I'd like to be," he said.

The first problem of course, was money. The enthusiasts said there'd be no difficulty raising the necessary \$30,000, because enough people recognized their indebtedness to Del E. Webb that such a sum would be there for the asking.

Inexplicably, it didn't work out that way. "If the Del Webb Corporation wants a statue of Del Webb, let them pay for it." "Why a statue? Why not just a simple plaque on some convenient wall?" "If there's going to be a statue, it should be at Oakmont Center, where Sun City started."

"Better to take that money and put it into the library, or Sunshine Services, or the Community Fund."

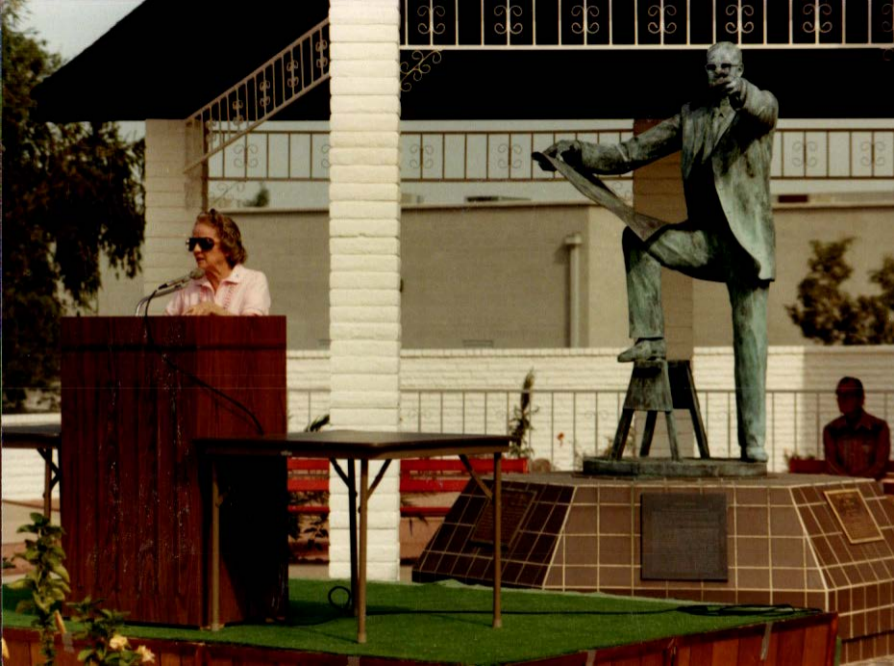
Contributions came hard, but they came — and the statue became reality. Last Saturday, Nov. 21, a hundred helium-inflated balloons lifted the cover off the statue, and a thousand Sun Citians were proud. It was Founder's Day; and November 21st will be Founder's Day every year from now into the infinity of Sun City.

And Del Webb will be there in the Garden, acquiring the patina that accrues to bronze statuary year after year, and watching affectionately over what we do with his dreams. Every July 4th will be "Ring That Bell," and every Nov. 21 will be "Founder's Day" in the Memorial Garden; and, as year piles on year, Sun City will build its heritage and develop its character.

There were 200 in the banquet room of Crestview. They were Lions. They were there to make sure John Meeker knew that his departure from the Del Webb organization didn't reflect his

continuance in the affection and appreciation of Sun Citians who know how important he was to all of us.

It was said: "This morning we dedicated a statue to Del E. Webb. Now, we acknowledge a monument to John Meeker. We call it Sun City."





RING THAT BELL!



SUN CITY, ARIZONA BELL RECREATION CENTER

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

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

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

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

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

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



WE THE PEOPLE OF SUN CITY, ARIZONA
IN 1976
THE BICENTENNIAL ANIVERSARY
OF THE BIRTH OF OUR NATION
DEDICATE THIS BELL TO THE FUTURE.
MAY WE WITH THE WISDOM OF THOSE
WHO WROTE OUR CONSTITUTION,
WITH THE FAITH OF THOSE
WHO PRESSED WESTWARD IN COVERED WAGONS,
WITH THE COURAGE OF THOSE
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR OUR FREEDOM,
BE VIGILANT
THAT WE MAY PRESERVE OUR HERITAGE.
MAY OUR LIBERTY BELL RING OUT
FOR FREEDOM IN ALL TIME TO COME.

(Plaque on the front of the bell)

THIS LIBERTY BELL
COMMEMORATES THE UNITED STATES BICENTENNIAL.
SUN CITIANS DONATED THE METAL.
THE BELL WAS CAST IN ASTEN, HOLLAND.
BY SCHULMERICH CARILLIONS, INC.
THE COST WAS UNDERWRITTEN BY
THE DEL E. WEBB DEVELOPMENT CO.
AS A GIFT TO SUN CITY.
THE TIME CAPSULE SEALED UNDER THIS PLAQUE
IS TO BE OPENED
IN THE YEAR 2026.

(Plaque on the back of the bell)

Patriotism rings out in Sun City

MITCHELL VANTREASE
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Local residents got in line early to beat the heat and ring Sun City's Liberty Bell at Del Webb Memorial Garden on the Fourth of July.

More than 120 people attended this year's 25th-annual Ring That Bell ceremony at Bell Recreation Center. The 40-minute program featured singing and a keynote address.

"I look at this bell — that is a part of me and my wife," said Mike Mahoney, guest speaker and past commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. "It makes me feel really proud."

The Sun Citian said the bell represents freedom and liberty forever.

"Come ring our bell," Mahoney said. "It's a Sun City thing, and a patriotic thing."

Commander Russell Dix of American Legion Post 101, master of ceremonies, said July Fourth is a date that no one should forget. In light of the war in Iraq, he told the crowd to support our troops overseas.

"We must defend our freedom forever," Dix said. "Young men and women are still fighting, bleeding and dying as we speak."

Before the Ring That Bell ceremony, people were greeted by "Uncle Sam" and "Betsy Ross." Ray and Betty Mills of the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

The Sun City Sheriff's Posse presented the colors. Then, Mills led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Dix recognized vocalist Lucy Hays for singing at the event for 25 years.

After the benediction, the audience stood in line for the ringing of the Liberty Bell. The replica was created in 1976 through the donations

of Sun Citians. On Jan. 15, 1976, an estimated 1,500 residents gave metal items to be melted down for the bell. The metal was processed in Pennsylvania and sent to Astern, Holland.

It was cast as an exact replica of the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. The bell was unveiled in a special ceremony on July 8, 1976, at the Sun Bowl, and now is enshrined in the Del Webb Memorial Garden.

One after the other, people rang with bell — with help of Uncle Sam.

Mary Lynn Rodal of Sun City grinned as she pulled the rope of the bell's clapper. As it chimed, she remembered her friend in Iraq working for the Salvation Army.

"She's told me so many stories," Rodal said. "It's unfortunate how people over there have so little. We should be grateful and not take anything for granted."

No one knows the significance of liberty better than Del Jimenez of Sun City. Since 1935, he has lived in the United States. But he was born on a small island off the coast of Columbia and moved to this country at 16, working to make a better life for himself.

During World War II, Jimenez served in the Army.

"It's good to hear the sound of independence and those warm feelings," he said. "This gives a sense and taste of being yourself."

Mahoney encouraged people to ring the Liberty Bell throughout the year, not just during July Fourth festivities.

"It's a tradition," Mahoney said. "Ring it today, ring it tomorrow and ring it all times to come."

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MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ray Mills, also known as "Uncle Sam," helps Mike and Marion Mahoney ring Sun City's Liberty Bell in Del Webb Memorial Garden on the Fourth of July. More photos A2

OVER

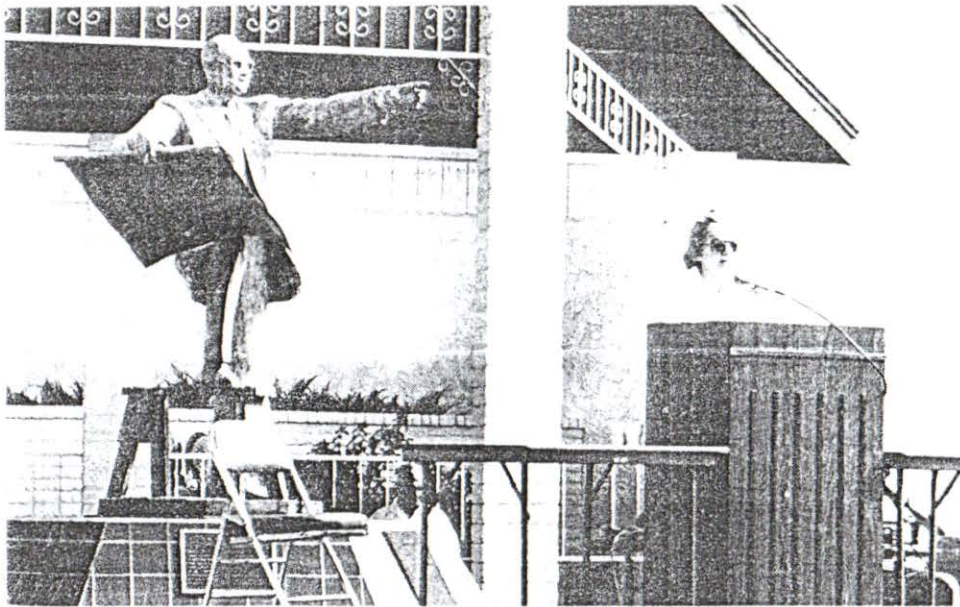
LET FREEDOM RING!



Above, Irene McNutt shows her husband Bill the grip she used Friday morning to Ring the Bell at the annual ceremony at the Bell Recreation Center in Sun City. Right, from left, Ben Strasser of Sun City West joins Sun Citizens Donna Ebeling, Jean Nesonski and Arthur Martin, along with Martin's daughter Lynn of Michigan and others, singing the national anthem. Lower right, Michael Smith's all smiles after ringing the freedom bell assisted by John Cardozo, service commander of American Legion Post 96. Michael is the son of Beth Smith of Surprise. Below, Michael Mahoney implores gathered patriots to ring the replica Liberty Bell every time they visit Bell Center as Uncle Sam, portrayed by Ray Mills, listens.



OVER



TRIBUTE TO SUN CITY FOUNDER. Sun Citian Jane Freeman was one of many residents who participated in a dedication ceremony honoring Del E. Webb and the newly renovated Memorial Garden Sept. 17. The garden, located at Bell Center, is the home of the Del Webb Memorial Statue

Bret McKeand/Independent

Sept 28 - 1989

Of-forgotten Webb facts recounted at garden dedication

OVER

By BRET McKEAND

Del E. Webb, founder of the Sun Cities, is known throughout the world as a master craftsman and an astute businessman who started with nothing and proceeded to build an empire.

But according to one local historian, most people know very little about the private man behind the legend. Contrary to his public persona, Webb was a quiet and shy man, dubbed by one writer the "Bashful Barnum."

Sun Citian Jane Freeman, co-author of "Jubilee," a book detailing the history of Sun City, says most residents would have liked Delbert Eugene Webb.

She says he was a congenial man who was "equally at home with presidents and kings as he was with carpenters and construction workers."

Speaking before a crowd of Sun City residents at a Constitution Day celebration, held Sept. 17 at Bell Recreation Center, Freeman called Webb "a man worth remembering" and reacquainted residents with the man who developed the nation's most successful retirement communities.

"Did you know that during World War II, his company built in record time some of the West's biggest military installations, air fields including our own Luke and Williams (air bases)?" asked Freeman.

She says Webb's "passion for honesty" won him the distinction of being the only builder awarded government contracts on the basis of his word and a handshake.

Although Webb's business interests extended into several different industries, such as oil, banking, hotels and airlines, it

was his home-building empire which gained him worldwide recognition and fame.

"Mr. Webb controlled one of the nation's largest construction operations in the country," says Freeman.

"He headed or sat on boards of 31 corporations and had partnerships or major interests in innumerable companies.

"Not bad for a man who started out with a hammer and a wheelbarrow."

Behind the public man, says Freeman, was a quiet and unassuming person who actually tried to avoid publicity. She says Webb was a common man who "had his human side too."

"He could drive his secretaries up the wall," says Freeman.

"He was forever losing papers, plane tickets, forgetting where his next appointment was, misplacing keys and he never had enough money in his pocket to buy a cup of coffee."

He was also an avid sports fan. And, says Freeman, his quest for perfection in his business ventures also carried over into his hobbies.

As co-owner of the New York Yankees for 20 years, Webb's teams never had a losing season financially. Throughout his reign as owner, the Yankees won 15 league championships and 10 World Series.

Freeman also told the crowd that the Sun City founder was also a humanitarian who supported many worthy causes.

"He gave generously but quietly and without fanfare -- especially if it would help a boy or girl," she says.

At the time of his death, says Freeman, the bulk of his estate went to a foundation which today is dedicated to "the furtherance of good health and science."

SEP. 17 1967

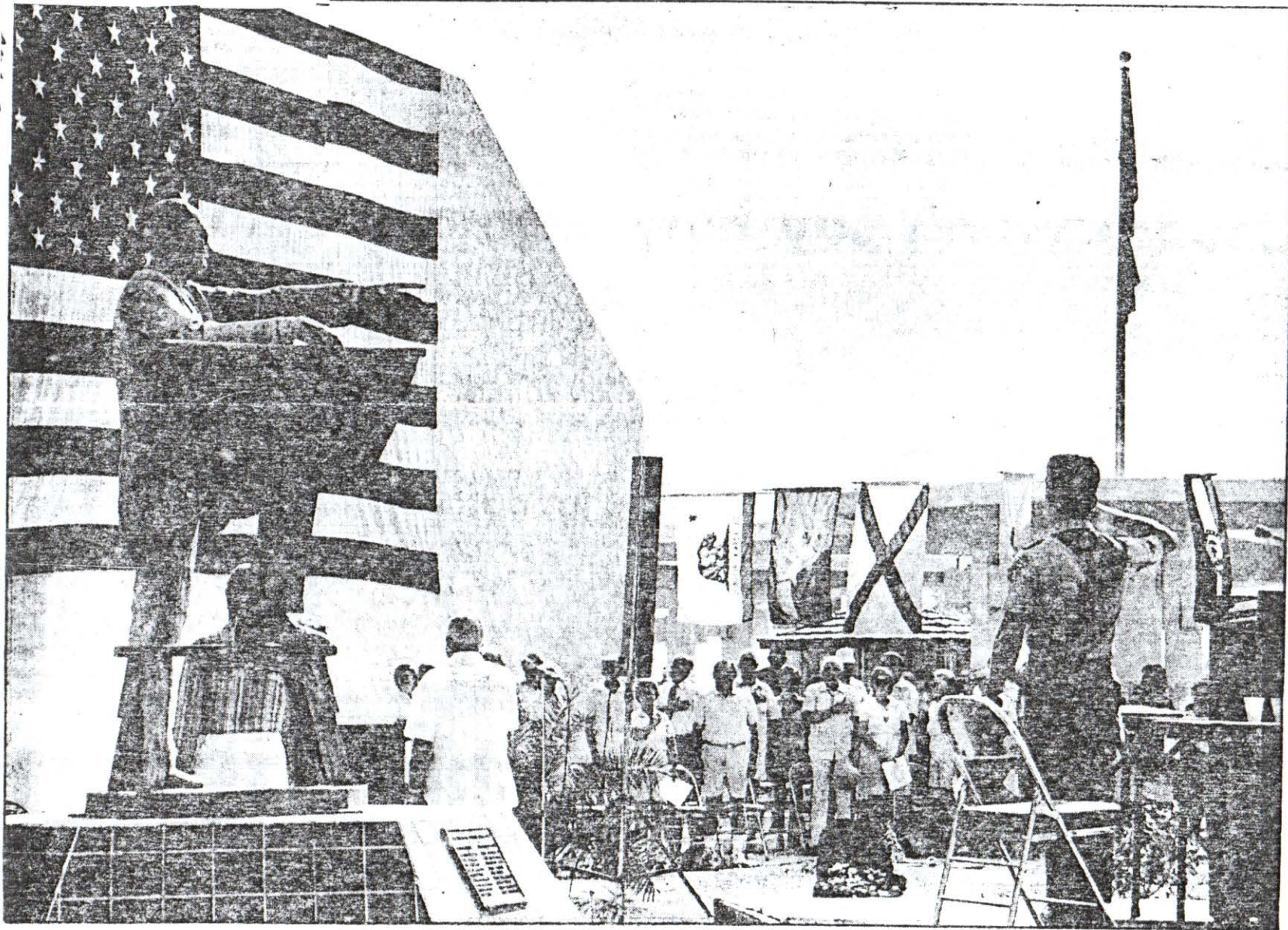
VF WEBB (DEL E.) MEMORIAL GARDEN

NEWS — SUN

Sun City, AZ

Cir: 17,500

MAR-JON

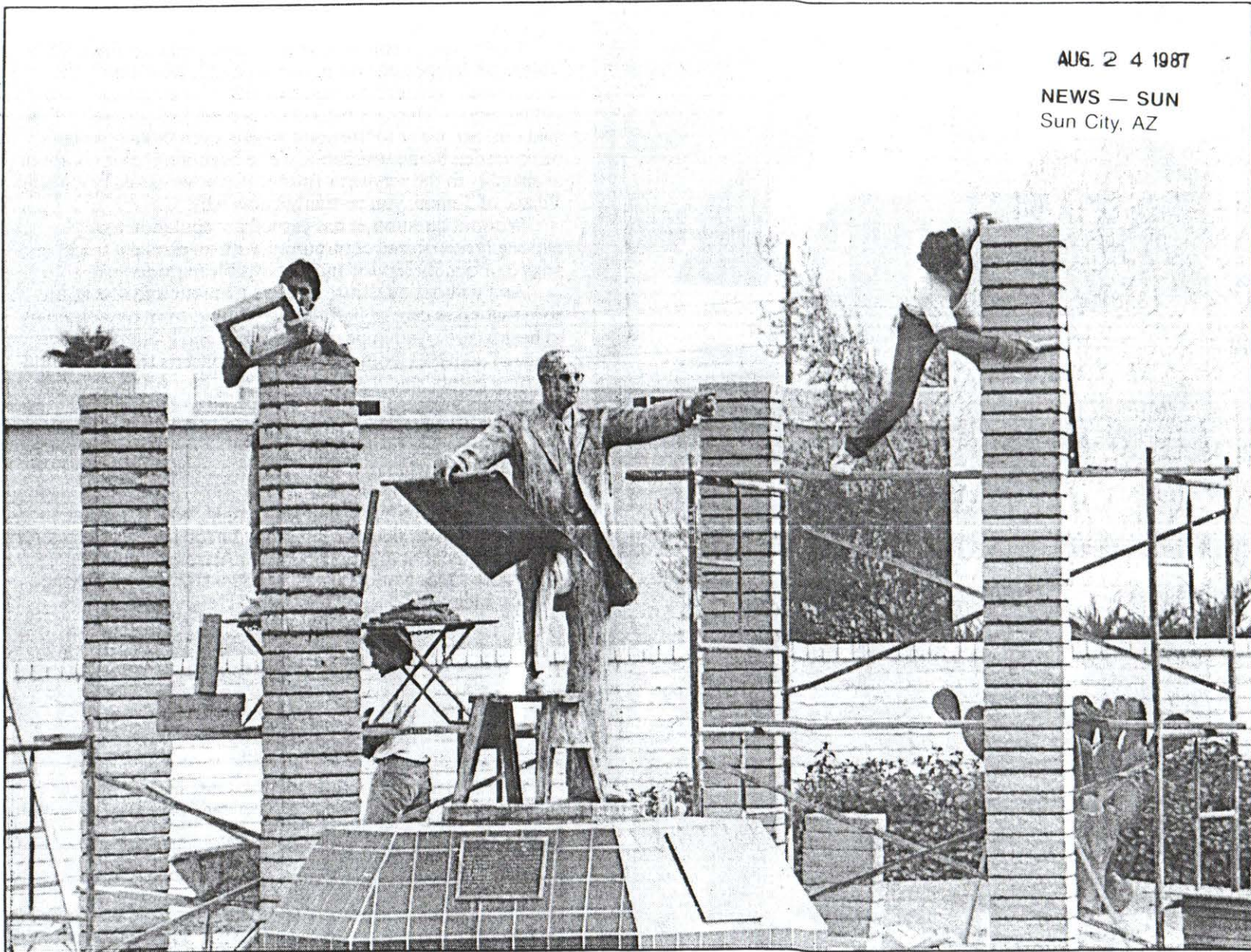


WEBB MEMORIAL — A statue of Del Webb peers down on the events as Jim Lyon, an Eagle Scout with Peoria Troop 462 leads nearly 300 Sun Citians and Sun City Westers in the Pledge of Allegiance at the dedication of the new Del Webb Memorial

Garden at the Bell Recreation Center this morning. Speakers included Doug Morris, Jane Freeman and retired Army Col. Paul Morrill.

(News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherneke)

AUG. 24 1987

NEWS — SUN
Sun City, AZ

Memorial Garden takes shape

Long lens compresses action and makes it appear statue of Del E. Webb is supervising construction of the ramada shelter behind him in the newly landscaped Memorial Garden behind the Bell Library.

Workmen have erected eight pillars. A roof over the pillars, tables and benches and planting of roses will be added. The garden will be dedicated Sept. 17. (News-Sun photo by Morris Berman)

Construction starts on Del E. Webb Memorial Garden

By JACQUE PAPPAS
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Landscapers put their shovels into the dirt for the first time today to begin a project inspired by "the man who built Sun City."

The committee in charge of raising funds for the Del E. Webb Memorial Garden was given a financial boost for the project last Monday.

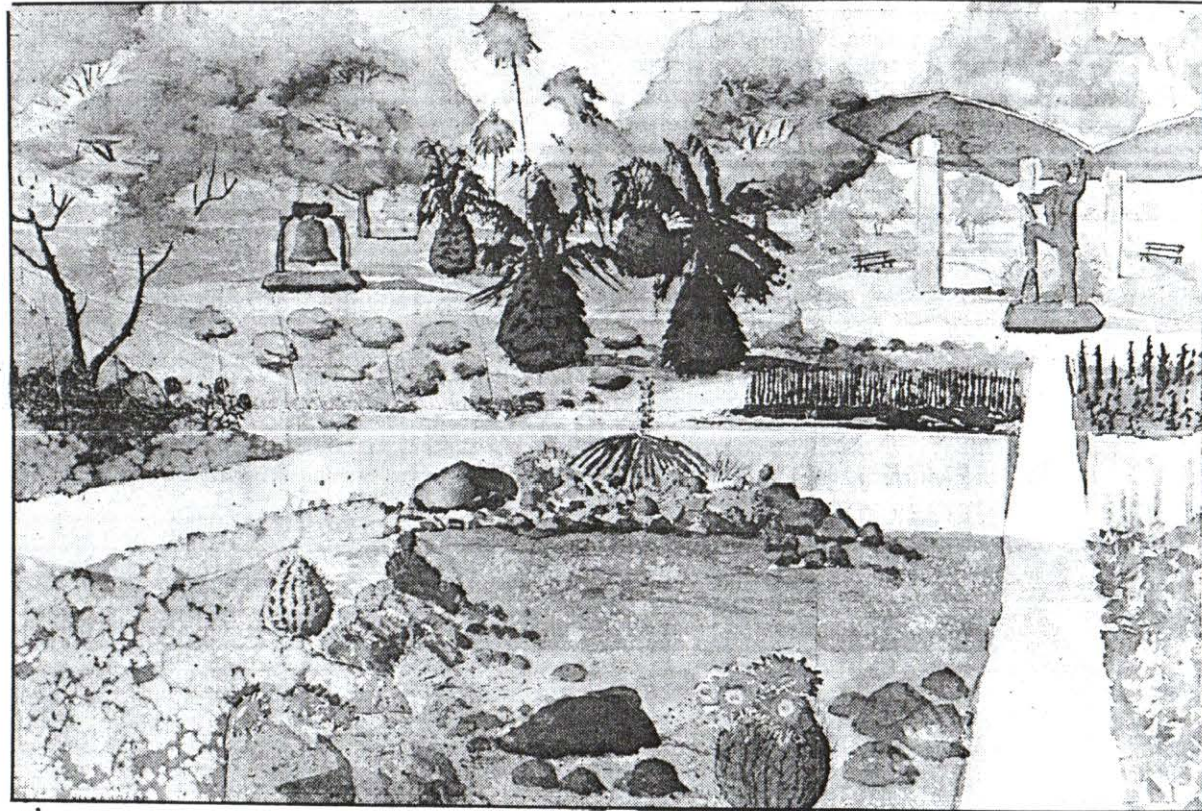
The Del E. Webb Foundation gave the committee \$20,000 to help with landscaping and building costs of the garden, said Sam Higginbotham, supervisor of the garden project.

"We are trying to honor a man who made Sun City a wonderful place to live with a beautiful garden," Higginbotham said. "We want this to be the most beautiful garden the Valley has ever seen. But we still don't have enough money and hope that they (Sun Citizens) care enough about the garden to help us out."

Ideally, Higginbotham said, area residents need to almost match the foundation's contribution to pay for the garden, which will cost an estimated \$40,000.

The committee began the fund-raising project July 4, which marked the 13th anniversary of Webb's death.

Since that time, bids from building and landscaping companies were accepted for the garden project, Higginbotham said.



Sun Citian Warren Nieburger painted a watercolor of the Del E. Webb Memorial Garden to give residents an idea of the finished product. Land-

scaping on the project began today. Project organizers hope to have the garden completed by mid-September.

He said the committee contracted Dick's Landscaping and Sprinkler Service for about \$21,600.

The El Mirage landscaping business started installing water lines and contouring the land, Higginbotham said.

Roy Swartz & Sons Construction Co. of Glendale was contracted for about \$6,800 and will start work next Monday, he said. The construction company will build a large ramada just north of the Del Webb statue in the garden.

The ramada will be an open-

style facility with a roof to guard against the sun's heat and seating to accommodate people who visit the garden, he said.

Higginbotham said another smaller garden may be built at a later time on the west side of the garden area.

The Webb statue was unveiled in November 1981 and stands near a replica of the Liberty Bell in the garden.

Higginbotham said the location of the memorial garden is perfect because most groups visit the spot while touring Sun City.

"There is a great latent affection for Del Webb in Sun City — even by people who have never laid eyes on him," said committee chairman Doug Morris.

Morris said Webb was promised that his statue would stand in a garden honoring his name in May of 1974 — the last time Webb visited Sun City before he died later that year.

"We knocked our knuckles until they were bleeding to get the money for that statue," Morris said. "Now with the help of the (Del Webb) foundation and area residents we will have a nice, attractive oasis in the desert that people can enjoy."

Morris said the statue, which cost \$38,000, will be surrounded by an array of plants and flowers for the garden's official dedication on Constitution Day, Sept. 17.

Although the committee wants to complete the garden by the dedication day, Morris said there will always be room for growth, and individuals may at any time submit contributions and have plants or flowers dedicated in certain areas of the garden.

Morris said local residents and

organizations have donated about \$4,000 to the memorial garden fund.

The Host Lion's Club donated \$1,000 to the committee for immediate expenses, he said.

Morris said a special account for contributions of more than \$250 has been set up with the Lions Foundation.

The account money is not for the use of the foundation, but will be used to provide tax exemptions for major contributions, Morris said.

All other contributions may be sent to the Memorial Garden Committee, Valley National Bank, P.O. Box 690, Sun City 85372.

Morris said arrangements are still being made for the perpetual maintenance of the garden.

The committee was given permission by the governing board of the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. last week to build the garden.

Since the garden is on recreation center land, its upkeep will be a partial responsibility of the centers, president Louis Grunwald said.

"I think the garden is a really good idea," Grunwald said. "It will be a beautiful place filled with flowers that people can enjoy anytime of the year."

NEWS — SUN

Sun City, AZ

Cir: 17,500

JUL 7 1987

MAR-JON

Webb garden a fitting tribute

The Del Webb Memorial Committee is trying to make good on an old promise: That the statue of Webb would stand in a garden appropriate to his memory.

Webb died 13 years ago on the Fourth of July. It was fitting that the fundraising effort started Saturday on the anniversary of his death, in front of the statue at the Bell Center.

No doubt, the idea of the memorial garden was not forgotten over the years. But it has taken the efforts of the volunteer committee to decide that now is the time to do something. And it is.

The committee is seeking contributions to create a garden park that will be a place to be in, not just to look at.

Plans call for extensive landscaping. Trees and ornamentals will be transplanted; a four-section social colonnade will be built and illuminated; walk paths will be

NEWS-SUN EDITORIALS

patterned; conversation benches placed; rose arbors and white-sand cactus plots will be placed.

The committee is planning to dedicate the garden on Constitution Day, Sept. 17. That's a short time away, considering the work that needs to be done.

None of this can be done without money. That's where you can help the committee. Your checks may be made out to the Memorial Garden Committee and sent to the committee in care of the Valley National Bank, Box 690, Sun City, 85372.

You didn't have to know Del Webb or even to have moved here during his lifetime to contribute. It's enough to live here now and enjoy the lifestyle of his dream and the fruits of his company's labors.

NEWS — SUN

Sun City, AZ

Cir: 17,500

JUL 6 1987

MAR-JON

Committee seeks to fulfill promise of garden in honor of Del Webb

By JACQUE PAPPAS

News-Sun staff

SUN CITY — Before he died, Del E. Webb was promised that his statue would stand in a garden honoring his name.

Today, the Del E. Webb Memorial Garden has a statue, but lacks flowers, trees and greenery.

That will change, though, if a Memorial Garden Committee can collect enough money to build a garden the group hopes to dedicate Sept. 17.

"We promised Del Webb that he's going to have a garden and now he's going to have it," said committee chairman Doug Morris. "What we've got now is a barren place. You walk by it and you hardly know it's there."

The committee kicked off its fund-raiser Saturday, July 4, which marked the 13th anniversary of Webb's death.

Morris said the committee has 45 days to entertain bids and consult horticultural profes-

sionals for the garden's official dedication on Constitution Day.

Although the committee wants to complete the garden by the dedication, Morris said development most likely will continue throughout the year.

He said the scope of the garden project pivots on the amount of donations received.

"I think people will want to contribute to the garden fund because it's a wonderful thing," Morris said. "We don't want a memorial garden that people just look at . . . We want a garden for people to be in and enjoy."

The Webb statue was built in November 1981 and stands near a ringing replica of the Liberty Bell in the garden.

Morris said a colonnade will be built behind the statue to continue the motif of the colonnades already at Bell Recreation Center.

Morris said he and eight other committee members started planning the garden in May after the Recreation Centers of Sun City Inc. Board of Directors approved the idea.

A water color, painted by Warren Nieburger of Sun City, was displayed at the Fourth of July presentation to give residents a concept of the finished product.

Nieburger said his painting's purpose is to emphasize the prospective beauty of the garden.

"We need to get people enthusiastic so they will donate money to the fund," Nieburger said.

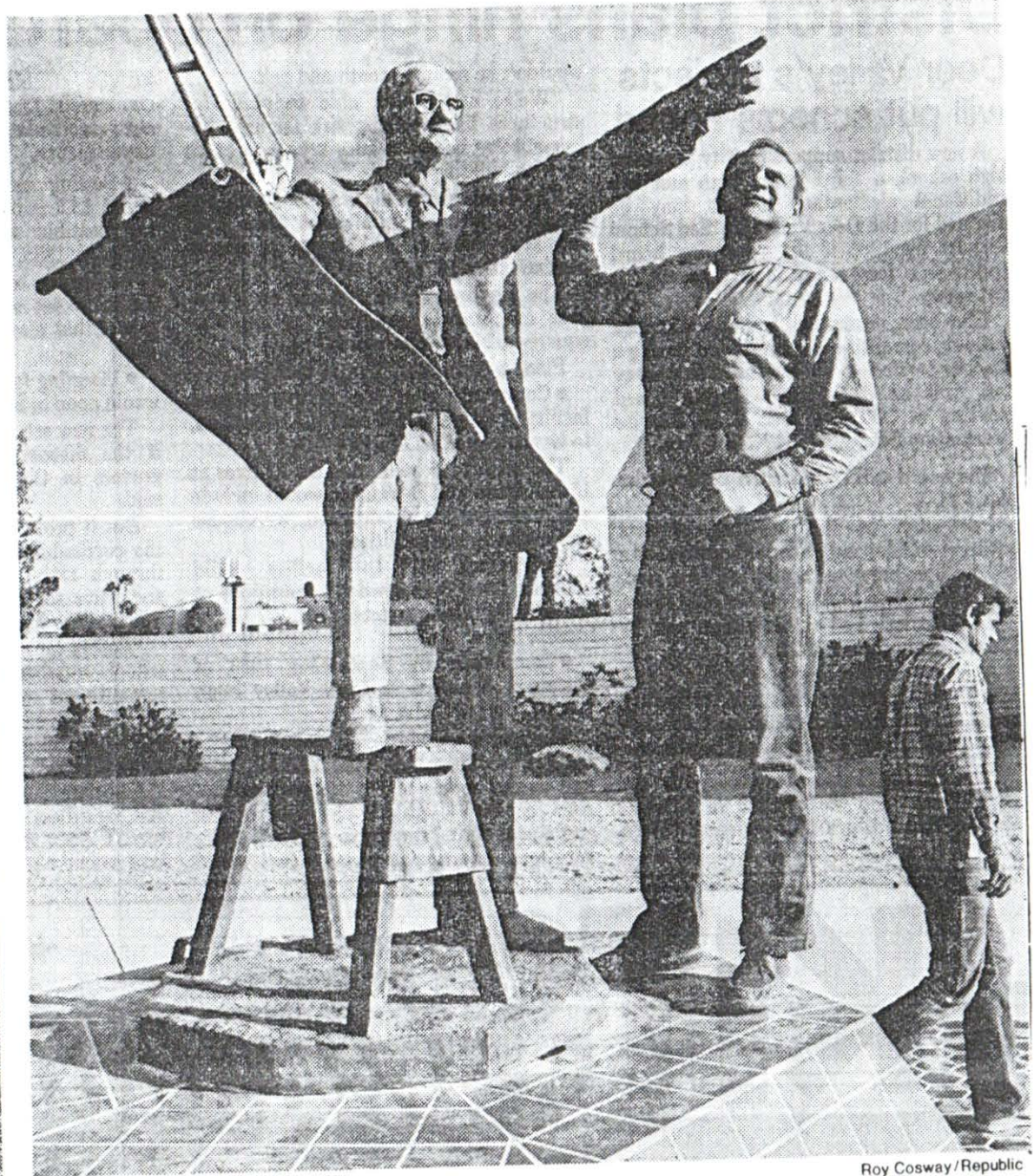
Major contributors will be permanently recognized with dedicatory plaques.

The necessary amount of such contributions is not yet established.

Contributions may be sent to Memorial Garden Committee, c/o Valley National Bank, P.O. Box 690, Sun City, Ariz. 85372.

"We are certainly pleased to finally see the first steps being made to have the garden built," said Ken Plonski, public affairs manager of Del Webb Communities. "It will be a fitting tribute to Webb himself."

NOV 26 1981



Roy Cosway / Republic

The statue of Del Webb is placed before Bell Center by (l-r) John Heisley, sculptor, James Farley, Rich Woods and Del Martensen. At right, the sculptor stands with the statue.

Del Webb statue is unveiled at Recreation Center

SUN CITY — A bronze statue of Del E. Webb, founder of Sun City, was unveiled Saturday in the flower garden of the Bell Recreation Center, 99th Avenue and Bell Road.

The 7-foot statue was set in place last week near one of only two exact replicas of the Liberty Bell, said Doug Morris, editor of the *Sun City Citizen* and one of the principal backers of the statue project.

"This is the first of what we hope will be 100 years of founder's days celebrated on November 21 every year," Morris said.

Saturday's celebration included music, speeches and appearances by local dignitaries.

The unveiling of the statue was assisted by 100 30-inch, helium-filled balloons, said Morris, who made introductory remarks at the ceremony.

Three plaques — honoring Webb, giving his life's facts and honoring a 22-member statue committee headed by Sam Higginbotham, a prime force behind many Sun City charities — are mounted at the statue's base.

The statue depicts Webb with his right foot on a saw horse, his right hand holding a map of Sun City and his left hand "pointing skyward to the future," Morris said.

"This has been three years in the making," said Morris, who breathed sighs of relief when the statue was set in place after "whirling around like a dervish" as it was lifted over the

walls of the Bell Recreation Center.

The nearly \$30,000 statue — financed by local individual and corporate donations — is intended to "memorialize the man who built Sun City, the first community of its kind in the world," Morris said.

Organizers had hoped to unveil the statue at Fourth of July ceremonies this year. But James Farley, the statue's sculptor, suffered a heart ailment June 1, delaying the project until he recovered.

Webb, who started as a carpenter at age 13, eventually became the head of one of the largest construction companies in the nation. He died July 4, 1974, at age 75.

NEWS & SUN
SUN CITY

NOV 21 1981



Statue awaits unveiling

The seven-foot bronze statue of Del E. Webb will be unveiled this morning in Bell Memorial Garden. The program will begin with entertainment at 9:30 a.m. The unveiling is set for 10 a.m. Up to 1,000 people are expected. John Rinaldi of San Carlos Tile, Phoenix, wipes dust from the statue. (News-Sun Photo by Bob Greger)