

Wood club seeks equipment Sawdust keeping members away

By **Mike Russo**
Independent Newspapers

For Sun Citian Bill Madsen, the past few months have been very difficult.

First, his wife passed away. Then his diversion and avocation was taken away from him, when a doctor recommended he stay away from the Fairway Woodworking Club, where he has been a member since 1969, because of potential respiratory problems caused by excessive sawdust in the air.

The suggestion to avoid the woodworking shop was an

especially tough blow to Mr. Madsen, according to Jim Koopman, another club member.

"After his wife passed away, that was Bill's release," Mr. Koopman said.

Fortunately for Mr. Madsen, who will turn 90 this fall, the purchase of a respirator device worn over his mouth and nose to prevent the inhaling of harmful substances has allowed him to return to the woodworking shop.

But while Mr. Madsen is once again able to make bread boards and other wooden household items,

several other club members are forced to remain away. The culprit is excessive sawdust resulting from antiquated dust-collection equipment.

"We have five or six members who have respiratory problems, and they can't even enter the shop," explained Jack Aasen, vice president of the club, which has 165 members.

Because the dust problem is so extreme at Fairway's woodworking shop, the club has asked the Recreation Centers of Sun City Board of

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Photo by Mike Russo/Independent Newspapers
Bill Madsen, donning his respirator, sands a bread board at the Fairway Woodworking Club shop. Mr. Madsen was one of several club members to experience respiratory problems recently, possibly due to excessive sawdust at the shop.

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Directors to consider purchasing a new dust-collection system.

"We are looking into it," said Norm Dickson, director and chairman of the board's long-range planning committee.

A state-of-the-art dust collection system, like those used at the community's two other woodworking shops — Bell and Lakeview — would cost approximately \$60,000, according to Mr. Dickson, noting that bids have yet to be solicited. "That includes all the duct work and installation," he said.

Mr. Dickson acknowledged that the Fairway Woodworking Club, the oldest such club in Sun City, chartered in 1965, has the most antiquated equipment in Sun City.

"This was the first work-



Photo by Mike Russo/Independent Newspapers
Jim Koopman runs his finger through the sawdust on woodworking equipment at the Fairway Recreation Center wood shop. Mr. Koopman said the shop is wiped down each week, but within days, sawdust coats the equipment.

shop Del Webb had," explained Jim Koopman, club member. "We still have some of the original equip-

ment." A new dust collection unit would vacuum most of the sawdust through attachments

on the woodworking equipment, according to Mr. Dickson.

Several of the recreation centers board members recently toured the club site.

"We realized this is a problem," Mr. Dickson said. "It is not a good system we have there currently."

He lauded the club officers for doing such a thorough job in preparing their request for the new system.

If it is determined that adequate electric capacity is available to support a new system, then the board will consider whether sufficient funding is available, he said.

Another consideration is the fact that the ultimate fate of Fairway Recreation Center is under review. The RCSC is currently conducting 'an internal study to determine if the center should be replaced, remodeled or renovated.

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Original club a point of pride for members

Lakeview Woodworkers put time into craft, club room

JOHN GUZZON
DAILY NEWS-SUN

In the Sun Cities there are a multitude of activities available, from Arts and Crafts to the West Valley Genealogical Society.

Ask any of the 170 people who are active in the Lakeview Woodworking Club, however, and they will say their club is one of the most rewarding activities around.

In a celebration of pride in their club, members refurbished work benches and installed new equipment during the summer.

"This summer, we cleaned it all up and painted," said Jack Hoffman, club president. "We bought a beautiful new grinder this year and a new, 20-inch delta planer. We try to keep the tools up."

Hoffman has spent many years working with wood, and said completed projects can bring much satisfaction.

"This isn't anything new to me. I had a shop back home," he said. "It's sad when people have something break and they can't

fix it. So, they bring it in here and we do fix it reasonably."

While many members are highly proficient, creating objects sold at crafts fairs and at the shop, others are beginners honing their skills.

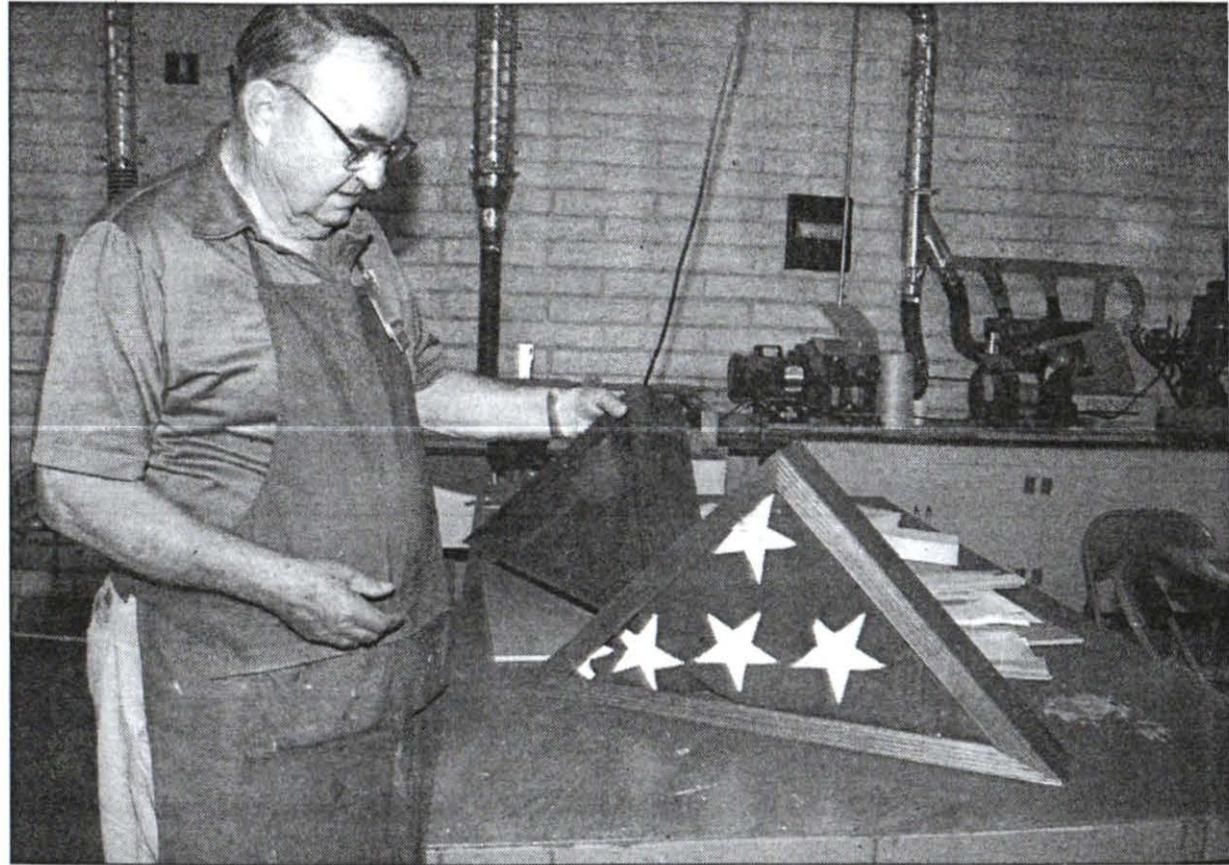
"We have a lot of members. Some of them are craftsmen, some of them are wood butchers. But we all have fun," he said. "We don't have classes, but we take people on a one-on-one basis and teach them."

Member Loren Kelley didn't take up woodworking until he retired in Sun City in 1962. He now has reached a level of proficiency to where he sells quite a few pieces each year.

"I've been doing this quite a long time, but I didn't get started until I retired," Kelley said.

Safety is also a high priority, Hoffman said. In order for any machines to be operated, two monitors are required. In order to qualify to be a monitor, the member must be able to operate every machine in the shop.

"We don't want for anyone to



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jack Hoffman of the Lakeview Woodworking Club shows off the frames the club is making for funeral flags. These frames, and other items, are for sale in the club room at Lakeview Recreation Center.

get hurt, we want everyone to come out with good projects," he said.

As one of the original Sun City clubs, the Lakeview Woodworking Club has established several traditions over the years, including

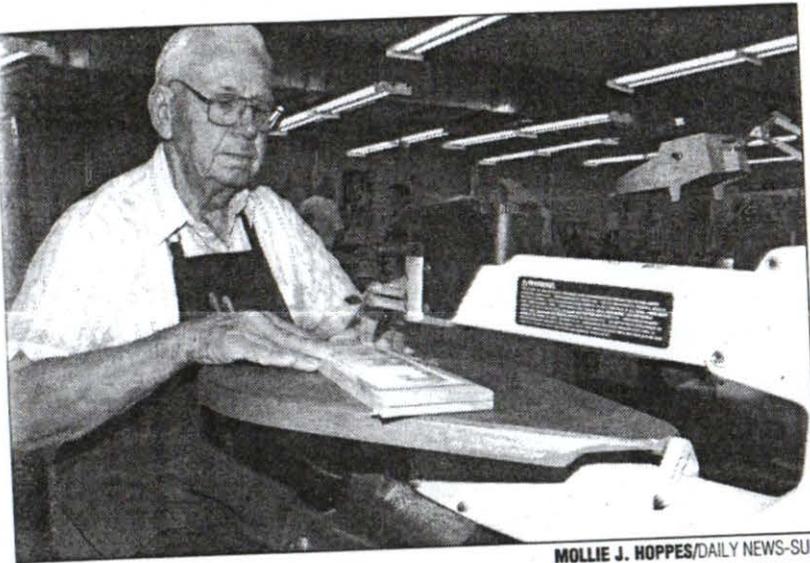
selling chances on a club member-built grandfather clock and more recently, making braille blocks for the blind.

Dues are \$10 per year. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., or if no one is around after 4 p.m.

"If there is no one here, we'll lock it up," Hoffman said.

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(OVER)



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Loren Kelley cuts a Nativity scene from two slabs of wood. When finished, it will be three-dimensional. The Lakeview Woodworking Club refurbished its room, cleaned up dust and painted this summer while most Sun Citians were away.

Persistence pays off for SC man

Lakeview woodworker earns first-place prize

By JULI NESSETT
Independent Newspapers

Sun City resident and Lakeview Woodworking Club member Clem Nowak has been crafting items from wood since the outbreak of World War II and his persistence recently paid off in a first-place award.

At the insistence of his children, Mr. Nowak entered a walnut bowl, which he designed and crafted, into a contest at a woodworking store in his hometown of Milwaukee, Wis.

The contest offered five categories and Mr. Nowak entered his bowl into the wood-turning category.

The bowl is made out of wood which Mr. Nowak obtained from walnut trees from his apple orchard in Wisconsin.

A ring of sliced black walnuts



The prize-winning bowl designed and crafted by Mr. Nowak is made of walnut wood, which he obtained from his apple orchard in Wisconsin. The bowl is separated by walnuts Mr. Nowak sliced using a band saw.

separates the bottom from the top of the bowl, which was turned on a lathe. Mr. Nowak estimates the bowl took 10 to 12 hours to create.

The contest ran for the entire

month of January and Mr. Nowak heard the news at the beginning of February.

The prize for taking first place was \$100 and Mr. Nowak is now selling the bowl at the club's shop for \$75.

Although Mr. Nowak is an experienced woodworker, the Lakeview Woodworking Club, chartered in 1970, accepts members of all levels of experience.

Last year the club's roster consisted of 187 members. The club is currently holding its 2001 membership drive and has 122 members.

Members pay a \$10 annual fee, which includes use of the shop and all tools. According to Jack Hoffman, members need only bring their own wood and ideas, although mem-

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bers do share many of their plans.

The shop is open 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday mornings. Two monitors are on staff for assistance at all times.

Virginia Richardson, who has been a member for one year, says she would like to see more women join the club.

Currently the club has only two female members.

"These guys are really great to work with. They welcomed me right away and they were all very helpful," she said.

"I enjoy being here," Ms. Richardson added. "They are just a great group of guys and they give



Photo by JULI NESSETT/Independent Newspapers

Sun City resident Clem Nowak shows off a few of the items he has made recently as a member of the Lakeview Woodworking Club. Mr. Nowak recently won first prize for a walnut bowl he designed and made.

you credit for what you are doing."

On average, members of Lakeview Woodworking Club spend 10 to 15 hours in the shop a week. Although there are those who are in everyday and spend in excess of 20 hours a week at the shop.

New members need not worry about a lack of skill because experienced members are always willing to help.

"We welcome them and we teach them," said Mr. Hoffman.

Those interested in joining the club can stop by the shop at Lakeview or call 933-2355. The only requirement for membership is a recreation card.

SOUNDING BOARDS

Wood club fashions toys for blind kids

By GINGER SCOTT
DAILY NEWS-SUN

The planking sound of the marble as it drops from one wooden ramp to the next brings bright smiles to the children's faces, said Billie Boyle, a Sun City resident who volunteers at The Foundation for Blind Children in Phoenix.

The simple oak game rarely sits unused during the day.

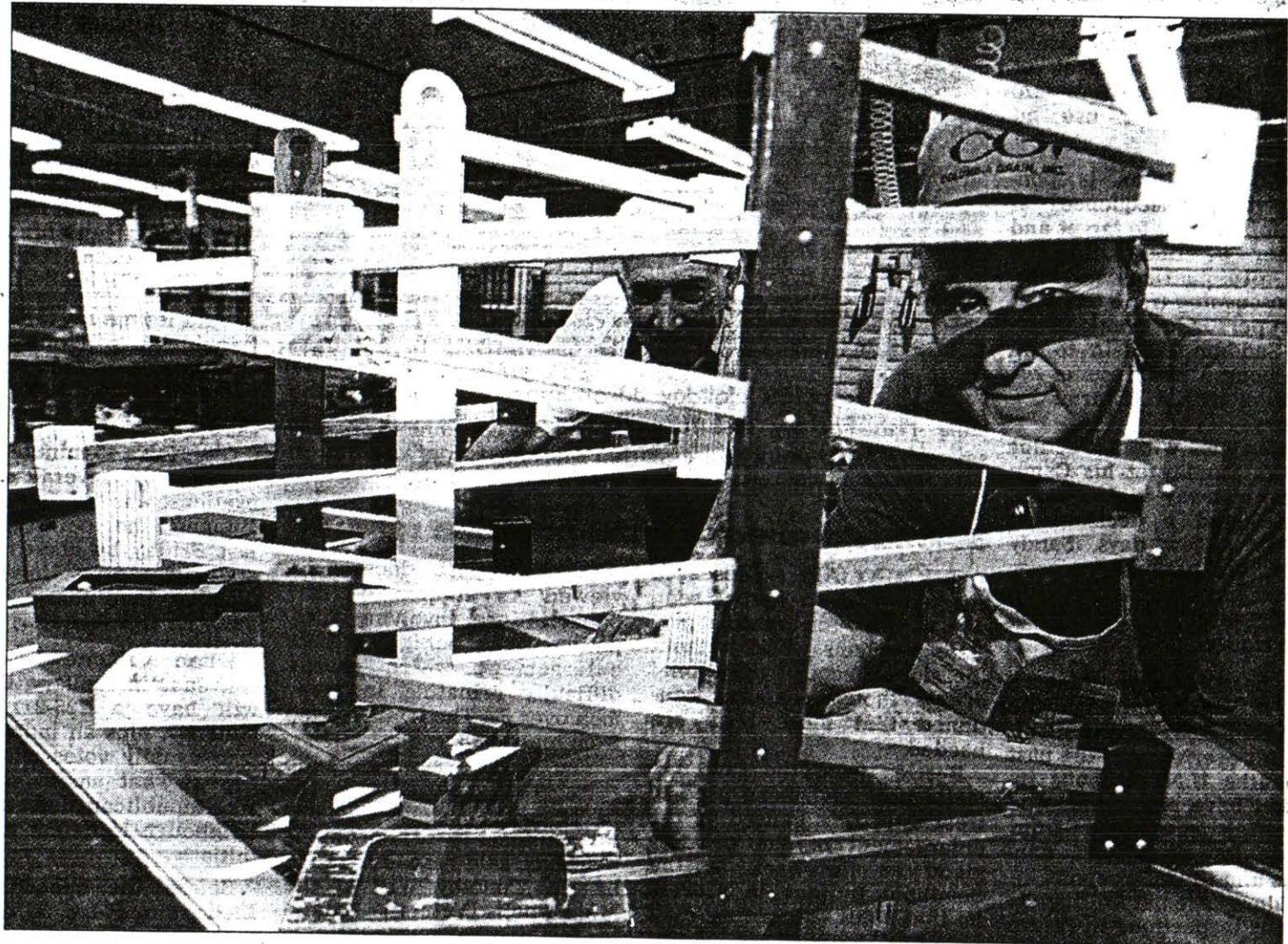
So, when the only one the foundation owned began to fall apart from frequent use, Boyle turned to the Lakeview Wood Club in Sun City.

She brought the popular toy to Jack Hoffman and Tom Culligan, two members of the wood club. Less than a week later, she said, they produced a replica. The men have since made two of the games for the children and are planning to make many more.

"We're going to make as many as the children want," said the 77-year-old Culligan, who has been in the wood club for five years. "If this gives them enjoyment then we sure want to give enjoyment."

The biggest obstacle in making the toys, he said, is the price of oak. He said the club is looking for people who may have oak scraps they can use for the toys.

The club is making the toys for free. Boyle said they even offered to repair other wooden toys at the foundation at no charge.



Tom Culligan, left, Jack Hoffman and other members of the Lakeview Recreation Center Wood Club make these wooden marble games for blind children.

Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

"That's what we do," said Jack Hoffman, 78. "We make things for people."

The children play with the marble game by touch, Boyle said. Bright colors are painted on the oak for

those with partial sight.

The foundation has about seven classes for all types of disabilities, said Boyle, who has been volunteering at the center once a week for about seven years. The joy the

kids give her, she said, makes the work worthwhile.

"The reward is seeing their faces light up," she said. "They're just so special. They're remarkable, those youngsters. They just amaze me."



Each Christmas, members of the Bell Recreation Center woodworking club in Sun City make toys for youngsters in Surprise, such as Ana, who is learning to spin a top. Mac Rudman, (lower left) 84, who has led the toymaking effort for the past seven years, holds another example of what the hobbyists have crafted.

Photos by Tom Tingle/The Arizona Republic

Wooden the kids love it?

Sun City hobbyists make toys to bring joy to needy children



By Lori Baker
The Arizona Republic

SUN CITY — Kneeling on the floor, Mac Rudman spun a top and pulled wooden animals on wheels.

Youngsters flocked around the 84-year-old Sun City resident, who donned a red furry cap to get everyone in the holiday spirit.

"There you go. It's easy once you get the hang of it," Rudman said as he showed a 7-year-old girl how to spin the top that he designed.

Rudman and 12 other members of the Bell Recreation Center woodworking club crafted about 75 wooden toys for children of needy families in Surprise.

There were doll cradles, basketball games, miniature cars, blocks, trucks, airplanes, pull toys and trains made of wood and cans.

"These toys are fabulous," said Rosemary Ybarra-Hernandez, deputy city manager for Surprise, who came with a group of children and their mothers to pick up the toys last week at the woodworking shop in Sun City.

Rudman has been leading the toymaking effort for his club the past seven years.

"We enjoy making the toys, and these people need something for Christmas," he said. "It only takes a couple of hours to make a small toy."

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Victor Yates, a club member who moved to Sun City about a year ago, made 10 wooden airplanes.

"I'm proud of my work," Yates said. "The work that the club members do is absolutely beautiful."

Briana Grand, Surprise recreation coordinator, said the toys will be special.

"You can't buy toys like these in the store," she said. "They are very durable."

The toys will be among packages distributed to 100 low-income families this week by Surprise's Community Services Office. Besides the toys, there are food packages and wrapped gifts for the kids, many of whom are children of migrant workers.

Among the groups that donated food and toys are: Pueblo El Mirage Resort; the Rose Garden retirement development; Sun Village; and Sunflower RV Resort. The Surprise Fire Department helped collect food by placing boxes in stores and recreation centers for donations.

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