

# 'She was and is an outstanding person'

## Colleagues praise efforts of Emily Powell

By CHRISTINE SELIGA  
News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — At the end of the year, Emily Powell will be putting away her pens and message pad, and covering up her typewriter in the Property Owners and Residents Association office for the last time.

Since 1983, Powell has been the PORA office manager. She has overseen the daily operations of the office at 13815 Camino Del Sol and tried to maintain a professional atmosphere in the volunteer organization.

She said she set a high standard of performance from the 22 volunteers who work in the office.

"If you come in and tell me you can type . . . then prove it, honey," she said.

But now she thinks it's time to retire and hand over the responsibilities of office manager to someone new.

Ray Shrewsbury was a PORA board member in charge of office operations at the time Powell was selected. He said the office had been a disorganized operation but Powell brought a new standard of professionalism to the office.

"She was and is an outstanding person," Shrewsbury said. "And she converted the office from one in which chaos was the winner to one which was highly professional."

Bob Williams was PORA president at the time Powell became office manager.

"Emily was a blessing because she took an immediate interest in the job, is a born leader and within a few months had the

office set up to run in the most professional manner possible," Williams said.

He said Powell is totally dedicated to the concept that the community needs an organization such as PORA.

"In my mind, few people have contributed more to this community than Emily," Williams said.

Current PORA President Sandy Goldstein called Powell "tremendous."

"You never have to worry when she's there," he said.

Powell was born in Troy, N.Y., and was graduated from the University of Rochester. She worked as a secretary, ran a stenographic pool, was a sales manager of a hotel and worked many volunteer jobs. She and her husband, Allen, moved to

Sun City West in 1983.

"I have worked for volunteer organizations many times and places and I know how awful they can be," she said.

Powell said the PORA office is different because of the high standards. She said she nags the

office workers into meeting those standards.

"Not in the sense of standing over their heads but in the sense that I expect performance," she said.

She said it can be difficult to find new volunteers because of the standard of performance she requires but there is too much to do to play around.

In addition to the daily management of the office, Powell has worked on other projects that benefit all Sun City West residents.

In her spare time for about four months, Powell put together the newcomers guide, "This is Sun City West." The guide is more than 50 pages long and tells newcomers about how to get a driver's license and register their cars, where to register to vote and how to cope with the heat.

She also created a talent bank. The bank is a collection of people's names and their specialties. A person who needs the help or advice of anyone from an archeologist to a mechanic can find a person in the bank. Powell said she wishes it were used more.

In the future, Powell wishes blurbs about volunteers would be put in PORA newsletters regularly in the hopes of attracting new volunteers.

And although other office volunteers don't get paid, Powell hopes in the future PORA can perhaps give bonuses to good workers. She doesn't think that would encourage more people to volunteer but would make those who do a little happier about volunteering.

Powell doesn't have too many immediate plans for the future.

"About Jan. 10, I'll say to Cleo Powell, our cat, 'What the hell are we going to do now?' For a couple of weeks this will be fun."





News-Sun photo by Mollie J. Hoppes

**PLANS TO LEAVE PORA POST** — Emily Powell mans the telephone as other volunteers work the front desk in the Property Owners and Residents Association office, 13815

Camino Del Sol in Sun City West. Powell, who has been PORA's office manager since 1983, will be retiring at the end of the year.



Macicak, John Edward

Thursday, Mar. 6, 1997 THE WESTER

## Residents, Sheriff's Posse Mourn Death of Posse Founder-First Commander

By Stan Steciak

John Edward Macicak was born May 6, 1912, in the Town of Lake section of Chicago's South Side. John spent his lifetime in that area, until coming to Sun City in 1974. John always wanted to be a "Chicago Cop" but that didn't work out. In his family, he was the oldest of seven children and because the temper of the times, had to go to work. John hooked up with the Pennsy RR. he eventually became an engineer for the line. He worked for many years for the PRR. On November 22, 1949, after engineering happy times together, Rose and John became Mr. and Mrs. Macicak.

In 1974, Rose and her mother (Sophia Przybycn) and John came to Sun City. John finally got to be "at least like a cop" when he joined the Sun City Sheriff's Posse. No doubt, he learned all about the Posse pretty

fast.

Unfortunately, Rose's mother passed away in 1977. At that time, Sun City West started building homes. Rose and John



John Edward Macicak  
1912-1997

decided to move here in 1978 (Pioneers). Then Jerry Hill, County Sheriff and one of the "good old boys," ten-gallon hat and cowboy boots, had the fore-

sight to realize that SCW would grow rapidly. He could foresee that need of a Posse in SCW.

Hill asked John to form a SCW Posse. John did. His first recruit was found digging in a neighboring yard. When the neighbor had time to lean on his shovel, John prompted Wally Holda to join up. Wally did, and Lt. Walter Holda continued to be recruiting officer for the Posse until he retired a few years ago.

On May 15, 1979, many of the 22 original members were sworn in, including Cmdr. John Macicak. The Posse even at that time, received Posse schooling and special Red Cross training. Because of John Macicak the Posse will celebrate 18 years service to our community in May, 1997.

In past interviews with the late Captain Macicak, he often said, "When first starting, we had to kick in our own money for gaso-

line for our own family cars to go on patrol." John also spoke of the early Posse commanders, especially Capt. Neal Coffman who was the second cmdr. and is still an active Posse officer.

On Saturday, March 1, 1997, a Mass of Christian Burial was said at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. John Edward Macicak, age 84, passed away, Feb. 25, at Del Webb Hospital, Sun City West. Pall bearers were past Posse commanders. Officiating was Father Harold Graf. The church was filled with at least 200 friends, about half in Posse uniform. The choir sang Polish songs and soloist Theresa Malik sang a few of John's favorites.

Memorializing John Macicak was Wester Ethel Behnle who said she and her mother Wanda knew John since 1932, in Chica-

Founder

Continued on Page B3

## Residents, Posse Mourn Posse Founder-First Commander

Continued from Page B1

go. Ethel said, "John was a fun loving kid and up until the time Rose died, in July 1995, he loved dancing. John often reminisced about the good times they had at the Aragon and Trianon ballrooms in Chicago." Capt. Gene Young of the Posse, spoke briefly about John's excellent service to SCW. "Although the SCW Posse is only 18 years old, John Macicak including his Sun City Posse service time, had a total of 22 years. He gave over one-fourth of his life-time to the Posse and that certainly proves his dedication and devotion. On behalf of the Sun City West Posse, I salute you Captain John Edward Macicak."

Beside the SCW Posse, the former Commander was active in the various area Polish clubs. Often you would see Rose and John dancing at the Senior Polka Ass'n. monthly dances. John was active in Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, especially in its infancy and early fast growth. Macicak is survived by three sister, Berenice, Eleanor and Josephine and brother William, all from Chicago. Also surviving are good friends Ethel and Wanda Behnle. Place of rest is Rose Garden a Sunwest Cemetery in El Mirage. Arrangement by Stan Stobierski, SunWest Mortuary. Contributions in John Macicak's

memory may be made to the Sun City West Posse or SCW Lending Hands.



# A giving receiver

SCW

## Posse receptionist fixes diverse problems

By MONICA ALONZO-DUNSMOOR  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Talking on the telephone is like second nature for Helen Magnusson. A few years back, when she was a housewife, she could chat on the phone for hours.

She's retired now, but she still spends a good amount of time on the phone. However, now she does it to help her fellow Sun City West residents.

For the past nine years, Magnusson has been volunteering with the Sun City West Sheriffs' Posse as a receptionist.

Talking on the phone is her favorite part, she says with a chuckle.

Really it's the people and organization she said she feels happy being around.

The four-hour shifts she works twice a month can get pretty hectic. She has three phone lines to handle, calls to screen, vacation watch cards to give out and check. She also helps anyone who walks into the posse's office, 20450 Stardust Blvd.

Receptionist can receive between 20 and 75 calls per shift.

"The little bit of stress is I get is when I have a lot of call and I can't seem to answer them fast enough," she said.

Phone lines usually get flooded when residents hear sirens or helicopters and call in to find out what is going on. But she doesn't always have that information for people and she doesn't like to bother the dispatcher unless it's a serious call.

Although she encounters an array of personalities through her work as an auxiliary posse member, she always tries to empathize with her callers.

"Sometimes people get upset with me, but I can understand that because they are in a precarious situation," she said. "Sometimes they have a sick person or it's a widow (calling) that's afraid."

She landed in her position with the posse after another member recruited her and a couple other retirees. The other two moved on, but she has stayed because she enjoys it so much, she said.

No matter what the call, Magnusson said she goes all out to help the caller.

One time she recalls getting a call from a man who said there were about five dead ducks in his neighbors yard. She suggested that the



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Helen Magnusson volunteers as a receptionist for the Sun City West Posse. She usually works four-hour shift twice a month.

man just pick them up and throw them away. The neighbor wasn't keen on the suggestion, so Magnusson, ready to do her duty, started trying to find someone to handle the problem.

"I called animal control, I called Del Webb, I called rec centers," she said. "I called everyone."

It didn't get resolved that night, but the next morning the Commander of the Posse and someone from Del Webb Corporation and the went out to pick up the ducks.

It isn't only dead ducks she deals with. Sometimes she accidentally gets mixed up with poultry.

A home security system had gone off and a neighbor called to report the irritating noise, she said. The homeowner couldn't be reached so

she called the security company. so she thought.

She intended to report the alarm and ask the company if they could call the owners and tell them the alarm was on.

Anxious over the situation, and filled with a desire to help the person calling, she hastily dialed the number and called a Poultry Processing Plant in Georgia — three different times.

She still laughs a little as she recalls the incident.

"The lady didn't know what I was talking about. She told me I better double-check the number," she said.

The Sheriff's Posse of Sun City West will have an open house from 1 to 4 p.m. May 22 at 20450 Stardust Blvd.

**National**  
**Volunteer**  
**week**

Saluting America's volunteers

**L**oving thy neighbor and community spurs the volunteer spirit in the Sun Cities. Thousands of residents give thousands of hours each year to making life better for their neighbors. While the Daily News-Sun recognizes these people every day, we will be focusing on several volunteers and organizations during this National Volunteer Week.

HELEN MAGNUSSON



May/June 2000



Mike Mahoney

## COLD HELPED SURVIVAL

There, near France's Moselle River, the cold November 1944 night was closing in quickly. Fortunately, no moon shone on the lone figure lying severely wounded in the snow, bleeding profusely, far from his own troops.

First Lt. Mike Mahoney had no idea whether he would make it through the night, or ever again see the smiling face of his childhood sweetheart. Undoubtedly, the previous five years kept running through a haze of pain. Something like:

*It seems so long ago when I met Marion Riccio at East Greenwich Academy. Should I have taken*

*those college basketball and football scholarships in 1939, instead of joining a National Guard unit that was soon federalized?*

*After making sergeant, it only seemed natural to try for Officers Candidate School. What a December 1942 that was – getting commissioned and marrying Marion the same month!*

*Then, our 80th Infantry Division left Camp Dix on July 4, 1944, for France, landing on Omaha Beach. D-Day plus 60. Only 13 days later, a bullet in my thigh meant evacuation.*

*Today, after crossing the Moselle, we came under intense fire. As my orderly and I crawled forward, I took mortar shrapnel to my arms and chest.*

*I ordered Pvt. Anderson to pinpoint the enemy fire and radio the location, then to return to Company A. I never expected them to find me before dark. If I can just hold on till daybreak!*

## Cold saved his life

Mike Mahoney survived, assured by medics the next morning that the snow and cold congealed his blood and saved his life. For his bravery on Nov. 8, 200 yards ahead of his troops, the 23-year-old rifle

company commander was awarded the Silver Star. Two years later, after numerous operations, he retired from the U.S. Army with physical disabilities.

Thus prevented from becoming a Rhode Island state trooper, his boyhood ambition, Mike completed a year of college and joined American Airlines. Most of his 31 years with them were as a flight dispatcher at La Guardia in New York City.



## Patriotism burned brightly

He and Marion retired to Sun City West in 1982, with the fire of patriotism still burning brightly.

Since then he has served as commander of American Legion Post 94 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10695. He was first commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Chapter 691 (and currently Dept. of Arizona Purple Heart Senior Vice Commander), and is a member of the Sun Cities Disabled American Veterans, Star 24.

Even though operations and remaining shrapnel restrict arm and wrist movements, Mike still swims and bikes and is very active with Marion at Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Maybe more important is his outlook on life:

"I'm proud to be a member of the 'greatest generation' and to



# All sewn up

## Sundome wardrobe mistress patents jumpsuit design

By Betty Latty  
Special to Community

SUN CITY WEST — No hooks. No snaps. No Velcro.

Fran Martin has built a better jumpsuit without those aids.

So good, in fact, that she patented its design, which speaks to the love/hate relationship most women have with a jumpsuit. They love its comfort but hate to remove it completely during trips to the restroom.

"There's always a better way," said Martin, 68, whose jumpsuits, culottes, and short sets will be marketed under the trademark Escapeze, once she completes negotiations with a manufacturer.

Her innovative design, admittedly difficult to describe, incorporates an inner lining of elasticized fabric, eliminating the need for the wearer to remove the garment.

"The jumpsuits can be made up in any kind of fabric, glamorous or casual," she said. "I prefer them because I don't have the extra concern of choosing the right colors and blouses to wear with pants or skirts."

However, for blouse lovers, Martin has designed what she calls a "body blouse," which stays tucked in.

Martin, who also serves as wardrobe mistress for the Sundome Center for the



Peter Schwepker / Staff photographer

Fran Martin's sewing projects require a pair of rooms in her home. She learned how to sew in Indiana by the time she was 8 years old.

Performing Arts, has been designing dresses and sewing costumes for local dancers ever since she and her husband, Jack, moved here 14 years ago.

Her projects require two sewing rooms

in their Sun City West home, and on at least one occasion, took up the whole house.

"I was making 'firebird' costumes for See SEWING, Page 3



# SEWING

the Rhythm Tappers, and a feathered trim wasn't working out," she explained. "So Jack and I strung 600 yards of flame-colored fabric clear across the house, then folded it and cut it into fringe with a razor — and then I sewed it, yard after yard, on elastic, and onto the garment."

Martin continued, "I've always loved fashion, and I started sewing when I was 6 or 8 years old, back in Indiana." The show business bent developed about the same time, when she and her brother put on shows in the historic landmark home where they grew up.

Later, she operated a dance studio in Chesterton, Ind., for 36 years, finally turning it over to one of the couple's five sons.

The sons are another part of the Martin story. All dancers and musicians, they toured as "Me and My Brothers" for 10 years. The Sun City West couple hopes to get the family together next year, when the couple, who were high school sweethearts, celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Also skilled in oils and watercolors, Martin used that talent to overcome loneliness after the move to Sun City West.

"I just painted a portrait of my husband and sons, and hung it on the wall so I could see them everyday," she said.

Martin finds her duties among the celebrities at the Sundome interesting and exciting.

"I press clothes, help them dress. And when they get onstage, my heart goes a mile a minute because I feel like they're my kids."

"I can't help looking them over and rearranging their ties, or earrings or whatever just before they go on. Just an automatic reflex. But they all seem so appreciative, Marie Osmond, Perry Como, all of them."

Martin was out of town when



Peter Schwepker / Staff photographer

**Fran Martin's creations include a body blouse (left), a jumpsuit she is wearing and a leotard.**

Dolly Parton recently performed.

"I really wished I could have been here for that," she said. But Martin was on hand a few weeks ago to press casual wear for the Righteous Brothers, whom she

described as real nice.

From time to time, Martin offers fashion shows and videos featuring her designs. For information, call 584-6321.



# The light of smiles

## Local puppeteer recalls four decades of entertaining children

By TERI CARNICELLI  
Sun Cities Independent

In 1952 a young mother living in Virginia decided to put on a puppet show with a friend for her son's first grade class, never dreaming it would develop into a career that would take her all over the world.

"It was a great hit," says Sun City West resident Doris McBride, now 74. "We had never done puppets before. They invited us to come back and do it for the kindergarten classes. All of a sudden we were puppeteers without knowing very much about it."

Mrs. McBride, a retired puppeteer, saw something special in those children's faces — and in what she calls "one of the oldest entertainment art forms in the world."

After Mrs. McBride and her family moved to Washington D.C., in 1961, she learned about the Puppeteers of America, a national organization devoted to the art of puppeteering.

"They have a festival every year, and all the puppeteers gather and trade secrets and talk about techniques," Mrs. McBride says. She joined and attended many festivals, complete with a large variety of workshops.

Her husband, Don, was a great support and a great help to her. "He didn't do any performing, but he was my best critic," Mrs. McBride says.

"I have a very nice stage that my husband designed so I could sit down and perform and still have a lot of freedom (of movement)," she says.

"He solved my mechanical and logistical problems, like when I did Rumpelstiltskin and I had to change straw into gold, he made a nice magical spinning wheel for me," Mrs. McBride laughs.

Mrs. McBride performed several stories she wrote specifically for the puppets.

"I had a few fairy tales, like the Three Billy Goats Gruff and Rumpelstiltskin, that I had to adapt for two hands," she explains. "But many of them I just wrote from scratch, like The Blue Gloomy and The Greedy Galoop."

She sold some of her original stories to a book of drama for children to use for their own plays and puppet shows.

Mrs. McBride liked to encourage her audience to participate in the puppet shows by offering advice or encouragement to some of her characters.

For example, in her original story about the Greedy Galoop, a creature



Photo by TYSON KUERT/Sun Cities Independent

Doris McBride with some of the puppets she has used during her career. Many of her puppets are her own creations, made to tell fairy tales she had written herself.

that eats practically everything in sight, Mathilda the Mouse tries to find a way to stop him from eating.

While he naps, she decides to sprinkle baking powder on some marshmallows. But when the Galoop awakens, he doesn't want to eat the marshmallows. So Mathilda encourages children in the audience to tell the Galoop how tasty and marvelous the marshmallows are.

After he eats them, he begins to expand via a balloon and a foot pump also operated by Mrs. McBride, and he eventually pops, much to the delight of the children.

"They love to be part of the show," she says. "I try and get them involved and talking to the puppets."

"That's a delicate line to tread,

because you don't want them to get too rambunctious," she cautions. "It's so real to the children," Mr. McBride explains.

Mrs. McBride's career began to flourish after she moved. "Washington D.C., was a wonderful place to live doing puppets because it was such a party town," Mrs. McBride says.

She started out working through a party shop in Georgetown, and eventually went out on her own. And she went out in style.

She performed at a Christmas party given for the children of all the Washington-based embassy residents.

Several of her performances during the 1960s were also attended by Caroline and John Kennedy Jr.

On a sprawling estate in Virginia

also owned by the Kennedys, a charity pet show would take place nearly every year.

"I always went over and did a puppet show for them," she says. "It was great fun. I really enjoyed it. Washington was a great experience."

One of her more cherished memories is her friendship with the late puppet master, Jim Henson.

"He lived in Washington D.C., at the same time that we did — from about 1962 to 1965," she says.

"We were quite good friends with him. He was a very gracious, cordial, lovely man — so talented. What a loss."

Other memorable events include helping in 1980 to organize a world puppet festival in Washington, D.C., which was attended by representatives from nearly 50 countries.

"You don't think of puppets being an international art, but they're used all around the world," Mr. McBride says.

Mrs. McBride hasn't performed for about five years. She sold many of her puppets, but kept most of the ones she made herself, "and some of the real treasures in the collections that I have," she says.

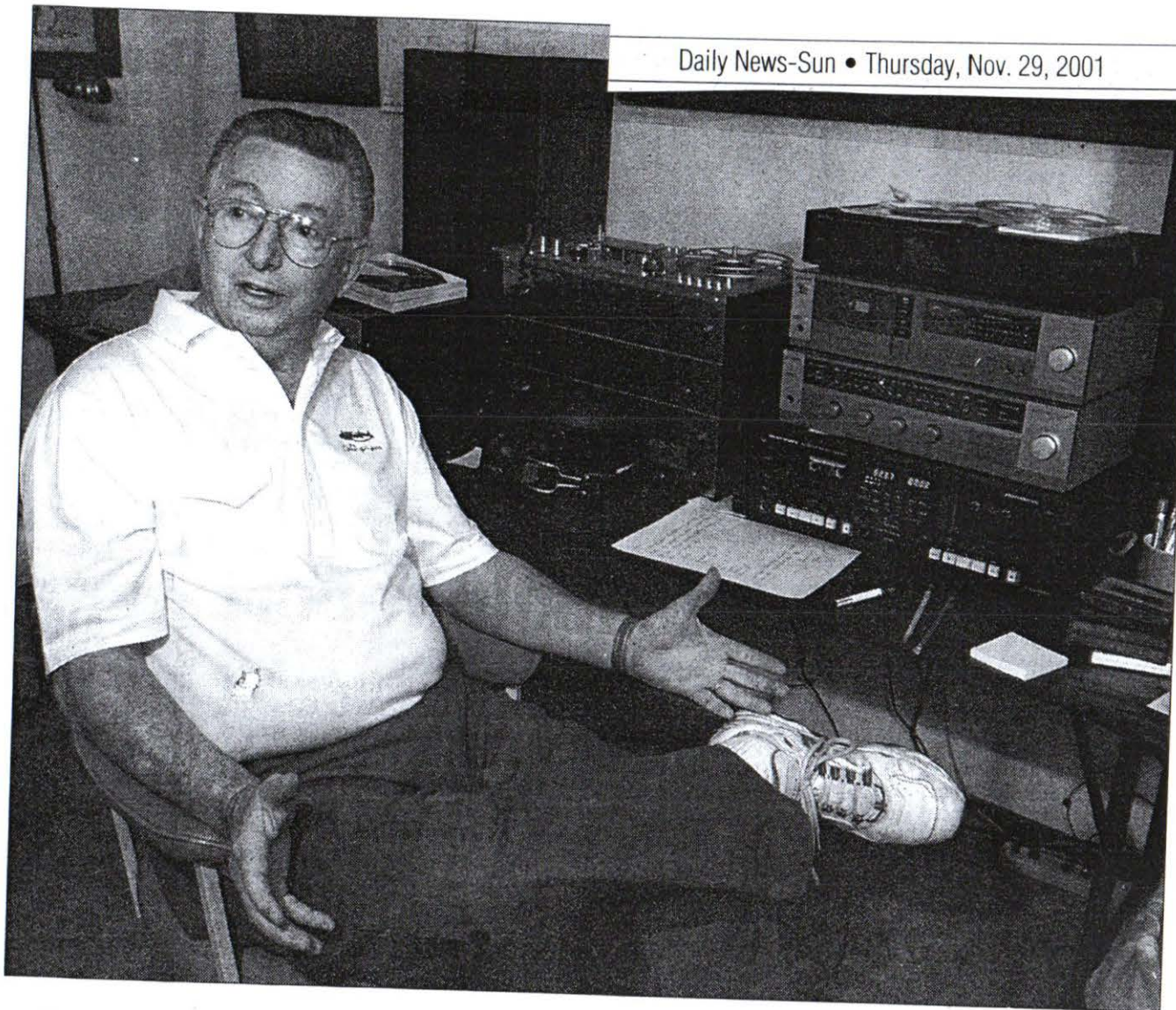
Perhaps the greatest treasures of all are her memories, and those she gave to hundreds of children across the country.

McBRIDE, DORIS



# RECORDING HISTORY

McCoy PAT



Daily News-Sun • Thursday, Nov. 29, 2001

Pat McCoy of Sun City West made a career of his love for "the good ol' days" of radio by taping and cataloging thousands of radio shows from as far back as the '20s.

MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

## 'REEL MCCOY': Sun City West man donates radio recording to university

MICHAEL MARESH  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Old-time radio shows that Sun Citians fondly remember never die.

One Sun City West resident has been finding reel-to-reel tapes of these radio recordings for more than three decades and now says he has more old radio-show tapes than anyone else in the world.

Pat McCoy has been taking old reels of radio tapes and converting them to cassettes for the past 35 years as he turned his hobby into a thriving business.

McCoy, who spends six months of the year in Washington state, where his main studio is, has a tape of the first-ever Jack Benny radio show, broadcast in May of 1932, as well as every other Benny radio show, including Benny's last radio performance on May 22, 1955.

"We came down (to Sun City West) and decided to cut masters of all the shows," McCoy said.

He also published 12 catalogs, listing all the shows.

The hobby that turned into his career was unexpected, McCoy said.

The Sun City West resident started recording different musical groups when he was approached about trading some of his recordings for radio reels. Now McCoy has more than 50,000 radio shows to his credit.

In addition to Jack Benny, McCoy has reel tapes of Amos and Andy, The Whistler and Superman, along

with many more.

"When you've got 50,000 shows, you collect everything," he said.

"That is what they listened to."

The majority of Sun Citians, he said, remember the simpler times, when there was no television.

"I really enjoyed these old shows, and I listened to them all the time," he said. "That is what people used to do all day. All they had was radio."

And what they heard, he said, is far better than what today's media put out. People back then had to use their minds when listening to frightening shows such as the "Creaking Door" or "The Whistler."

"They remember all these shows," he said, adding that all shows are 30 minutes long.

"We are the 'Reel McCoys,'" he continued. "We deal with audios only, with no video, but have been doing it for 35 years."

The catalogs, called "How Well I Remember," attract seniors who want to relive some past memories.

"It's just quite unique," he said. "It's reel time."

It takes McCoy one hour to convert one hour of reel tape into one hour of cassette time, and the reason he has converted thousands of tapes is to let other people hear the classics once again.

"That was the biggest part of their lives," McCoy said in talking about seniors who listened to these old-radio shows. "I decided there are other people out there who want something like this."

Now with 12 catalogs, 50,000 old-radio shows and 250,000 old songs, McCoy is donating his tapes to Washington State University.

For information, call 975-2216 or visit [www.old/time.com](http://www.old/time.com) on the Internet.

Michael Maresch can be reached at [mmaresch@aztrib.com](mailto:mmaresch@aztrib.com) or 876-2513.



SCW

# PORA director cooks up winner for Sun City West

By TINA SCHADE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

**W**hen Elaine McCraith-Anderson of Sun City West joins local organizations, she makes her intentions very clear.

"I let them know up front that I will not be the secretary and I will not make the cookies," said the former home economics teacher who is more bent on accomplishing a task than writing about it or noodling it over refreshments.

And, it's a theory that has appeared to work. After serving nearly three terms as a director with the Property Owners and Residents Association, McCraith-Anderson has much to her credit.

She was on the ground level of Sun City West Visitor's Center, which boasts 9,000 visitors so far this year. Under McCraith-Anderson's watchful eye, 700 local volunteers were trained and legions of foreign visitors have been given an inside view of Sun City West through the center's numerous tours.

McCraith-Anderson said that most of the time, foreigners are amazed with the volunteer organizations like the PRIDES.

"It just boggles their minds that someone who's retired would get out and sweep the street," she said.

But McCraith-Anderson is the first to concede that the Visitor's Center doesn't enlighten and profit only a few outsiders.

The visitor's center is the marketing hub for Sun City West. McCraith-Anderson said she took her cue from the Sun City Visitor's Center, whose members advised Sun City West to start up something similar once Del Webb pulled out of the community.

"There was no one around to promote Sun City anymore and businesses began to close and property rates dropped," she said.

But the visitor's center turned the trend around.

In addition to her work with the Visitor's Center, McCraith-Anderson is entrenched in her role at the helm of the Consumer Services division of PORA.

She said the organization started out in a closet office with one volunteer and was open a few mornings a week. The division has exploded, however, into a full-time operation with two volunteers and one paid coordinator.

McCraith-Anderson said she is proud of the reputation the organization has earned under her guidance.

"The community has learned we are a reliable source," she said of the division that people can call to get references for household or landscaping work.

The program has been so successful in Sun City West, that Sun City Grand now uses the service with the help of a Del Webb stipend.

Another project close to McCraith-Anderson's heart is her work with the American Association of University Women.

"Our main thrust is to provide scholarships to girls that want to go to college," she said.

The organization also encourages women to pursue careers in math and science by taking young women on tours of local industries to make them aware of career opportunities, she said.

Through a mentor program, AAUW also works to boost girls' confidence in their technical and analytical abilities.

She said the program is so popular, that once a woman jumps on board, their husbands soon follow suit.

"So many people in Sun City West help the school system," she said.

To nominate a Doer, call Tina Schade at 876-2514.

Monday, July 12, 1999

## DOERS PROFILE



**Elaine McCraith-Anderson**

**Hometown:** Ames, Iowa

**Family:** Husband, Charlie, two children, three step-children and two grandchildren.

**Inspiration:** "It's just in my nature to be active in the community."

**Greatest Accomplishment:** Consumer Services at PORA. "It's nice to know I help set up an organization known to be dependable and reliable."



# Briarwood Country Club woman wins state award

**RICH BOLAS**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jackie McInturff has successfully taught Briarwood Country Club golfers how to hit and giggle for the past nine years.

Now the rest of the golfers from around the state are letting the Sun City West resident get the last laugh.

McInturff's efforts at the Sun City West country club as well as her work throughout the state have led to her being named the Arizona Women's Golf Association outstanding state representative for 2001.

The 68-year-old McInturff was selected from 250 candidates for the first-time award.

"I thought I was doing something that was just part of my job," McInturff said of her work with the AWGA. "It's nice that they thought I did something special and to be recognized for that work."

McInturff has volunteered with the AWGA since 1995 and has served in various capacities, from her work with the rules committee to helping run various tournaments.

Last year, she was instrumental

in bringing the AWGA's Thank You Tournament to the Sun City West country club, said Tom Ralce of Briarwood. The event showcased the country club for players around the state.

"Jackie is a very active volunteer," Ralce said. "Not only can she pick up a cause, but she can shoulder it."

"She showed the AWGA what an active senior club we have and I think they came away very impressed."

Briarwood members may be more familiar with McInturff's efforts in starting the Hit and Giggle tournament.

The alternate-shot event is played six times during the summer and is designed to be more social than competitive. Approximately 100 players from various club leagues play nine holes of golf followed by dinner at the country club.

McInturff brought the tournament to Briarwood from her previous club in Pleasanton, Calif.

"It's a lot of fun because you get to meet a lot of people that you wouldn't normally be able to," McInturff said. "You have people from

the 18-hole leagues and the nine-hole leagues getting together and even some of the tennis players join us."

McInturff's volunteer efforts have cut into the time she's been able to work on her own golf game.

She didn't begin playing golf until she was in her 40s and the right-handed player carries a 18 handicap.

"Until I was in my 40s, bowling was my activity," said McInturff, who carried a 180 average in California. "I didn't start playing golf until my children were older."

Her husband introduced her to the game, stressing rules and etiquette.

"I played nine-hole courses for two years before he'd let me play a regulation course," she said. "I think his emphasis on the rules helped me develop a better appreciation for the game."

McInturff attributed her willingness to volunteer to an unwillingness to be a couch potato.

"I don't like to sit at home," McInturff said. "I'm a doer, not a sitter."

OVER



## LOCAL GOLF



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jackie McInturff has been an active volunteer promoting golf at Briarwood Country Club as well as throughout the state. The Arizona Women's Golf Association named the Sun City West woman as its outstanding state representative for 2001.



## DOERS PROFILE



***Anne and Harry Meehan***

**Hometown:** Scotland and Trenton, N.J.

**Philosophy:** One of the ways to stay young is to stay active

**Greatest feat:** Anne: Our daughter  
Harry: Being married to a wonderful woman for all these years

## Helping out helps couple stay young

By TINA SCHADE  
Staff writer

**A**nne and Harry Meehan can remember the time when Sun City West was still a sparkle in Del Webb's eye.

The Meehans were among the first spectators as the city's recreation centers were on the fast track to completion and they witnessed the rise of religion as churches ascended skyward.

But with Sun City West's growth came, well, growth, and the Meehans were also among the first people to drag a rake across a Sun City West median strip and pull weeds from pavement cracks as members of the Sun City West PRIDES.

Even though the couple is no longer involved in the back-breaking labor of the PRIDES, they remain charter members and still recommend the organization to friends looking to volunteer.

Instead, the two now devote their energy to delivering hot meals to homebound seniors one day a week for Meals on Wheels. They compare the feeling to delivering presents at Christmas-time.

"You can see it in their face and hear it in their voice. It's rewarding. Sometimes you can see people waiting for you in their front window," Harry said.

The Meehans do a little welcoming of their own at the Del Webb Memorial Hospital information desk.

True to form, they attended the hospital's groundbreaking ceremony and were among the first to traverse the hospital halls as volunteers.

They have delivered flowers and done errands for the labs. They have even served as surrogate parents to orphaned luggage left by visiting sons and daughters of patients in the hospital.

"They're just beaming that someone cares about something like that," Harry said.

The Meehans said that volunteering is a continuum of hard work.

Before moving to Sun City West, Mrs. Meehan worked for the telephone company. Mr. Meehan is a former employee of IBM, and also spent 12 years working in the funeral business, including three years at Sunland.

But volunteering is more fun and instead of money, they are rewarded with friendships.

"Volunteers work hard and they play hard. The people you associate with volunteering are the same type of people as you, people who care," he said.

The couple is also active at Faith Presbyterian church in Sun City. Anne has served as a deacon and elder and worked with Women of Faith. As head of the Property Management Committee, Harry was in charge of keeping the church grounds clean.

When not volunteering, Mrs. Meehan enjoys sewing, reading and doing crossword puzzles. Mr. Meehan likes golf, swimming and fishing, but they still find that volunteering is the most rewarding of all their activities.

"We always felt that anyone who has lived their life and didn't volunteer has missed a large part of their life ... I think one of the things you can do to stay young is stay active," Mr. Meehan said.

MS

Meehan - Anne & Harry



## Sun City West woman honored by MDA

Jean Meinecke of Sun City West has been named recipient of the Muscular Dystrophy Association's 2002 Personal Achievement Award for Arizona.

Ms. Meinecke, 81, was selected for the honor because of her community involvement and willingness to help others.

The honor is part of MDA's annual national award program recognizing the personal and professional accomplishments and community service of people with any of the neuromuscular diseases in MDA's program.

Ms. Meinecke has been a dedicated volunteer for several health-related organizations, including MDA, for more than three decades in the four states where she has lived. Her efforts have included working on fundraising projects and events, writing newsletters, and coordinating and facilitating support groups.

"Jean Meinecke provides a wonderful example of the personal accomplishments and community contributions being made by thousands of people with neuromuscular diseases across the country," said MDA President & CEO Robert Ross. "We're proud to honor her as Arizona MDA Personal Achievement Award recipient for 2002. It's our hope that recognition of her achievements will help to raise awareness of the vital, constructive roles that people with disabilities play in our society."

Ms. Meinecke's efforts for MDA include organizing a Hawaiian luau fund-raiser in January. She's also taken part in lock-ups and the great Sun City Garage Sale, which benefited the Association.

In 1949, Ms. Meinecke was diagnosed as having myasthenia gravis, a disorder of the neuromuscular junction that causes weakness and fatigue, most commonly in the muscles of the eyes, face, throat and limbs. It's an autoimmune disease, mean-

ing it's caused by an attack by the body's own immune system.

Each of MDA's 150-plus chapters nationwide selected an achievement award recipient from local nominees this year. Ms. Meinecke received the award from MDA's Greater Arizona Chapter and was then chosen for the state award from among all local honorees in Arizona.

One of the state award recipients will be selected to receive MDA's 2003 National Personal Achievement Award. The national honoree will be

announced on the Jerry Lewis MDA Telethon Sept. 1-2.

MDA is a voluntary health agency working to defeat more than 40 neuromuscular diseases through programs of worldwide research, comprehensive services, and far-reaching professional and public health education. MDA maintains a clinic for area adults and children affected by neuromuscular diseases at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix.

The Association's programs are funded almost entirely by individual private contributors.



# SCW resident vaults into college hall of distinction

**RICH BOLAS**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Warren Melchert may have never become a pole vaulter if it hadn't been for his grandmother's laundry.

Melchert's grandmother used to hang clothes from a line outside of her Iowa home.

During a visit, Melchert spotted some wooden poles his grandmother used to keep the clothes hanging on the line.

"I'm not sure how I came up with the idea, but I was 10 or 12 years old at the time," said Melchert, a Sun City West resident. "Pretty soon, my friends and I built a jumping pit and were using the poles to vault."

Melchert reached new heights through the pole vault and landed a piece of history last month at his college alma mater.

The University of Dubuque inducted Melchert into its Athletic Hall of Distinction during ceremonies on Oct. 7.

"The event brought a tear to my eyes," said Melchert, who graduated from college in 1955. "It's one of the highest achievements I've been honored for in my life."

Melchert never intended to attend



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Warren Melchert of Sun City West received this medal when he was inducted into the University of Dubuque Athletic Hall of Distinction.

the University of Dubuque and never figured pole vaulting would be his ticket to college.

That all changed when the Dubuque track and field coach made a recruiting trip after Melchert's first year of junior college.

Kenneth "Moco" Mercer traveled 70 miles to Melchert's Clinton home

and offered him a chance to be on the track and field team at the University of Dubuque.

"He gave me \$75 a semester and set up a job for me," Melchert said. "I thought I had a scholarship."

The Dubuque coach had another surprise in store for his newest athlete.

"I get to the campus in August and the coach came up to me and told me he wanted me to run cross country," Melchert recalled. "I hate running, I just hate it, but what are you going to say when the coach tells you you're running cross country."

"I ran. I didn't run well, but I ran."

There was a method to the madness for Melchert's coach.

He wanted Melchert to build leg strength through cross country and then told him to build arm strength by going out for the wrestling team.

Even in wrestling-crazed Iowa, Melchert had never gone out for the sport until college.

Melchert wrestled as a 167-pounder for two years and then at 177 as a senior. He built arm strength through the wrestling meets as well as through Mercer's

training methods.

"One of his drills was to climb a rope with your arms only," Melchert said. "Then you had to climb down the same way."

Melchert thrived once track and field season arrived in the spring and helped Dubuque continue a streak of six consecutive Iowa Conference titles.

As a senior, Melchert set a conference pole vault record of 12 feet, 4 inches.

"They can practically high jump that now," Melchert said with a laugh.

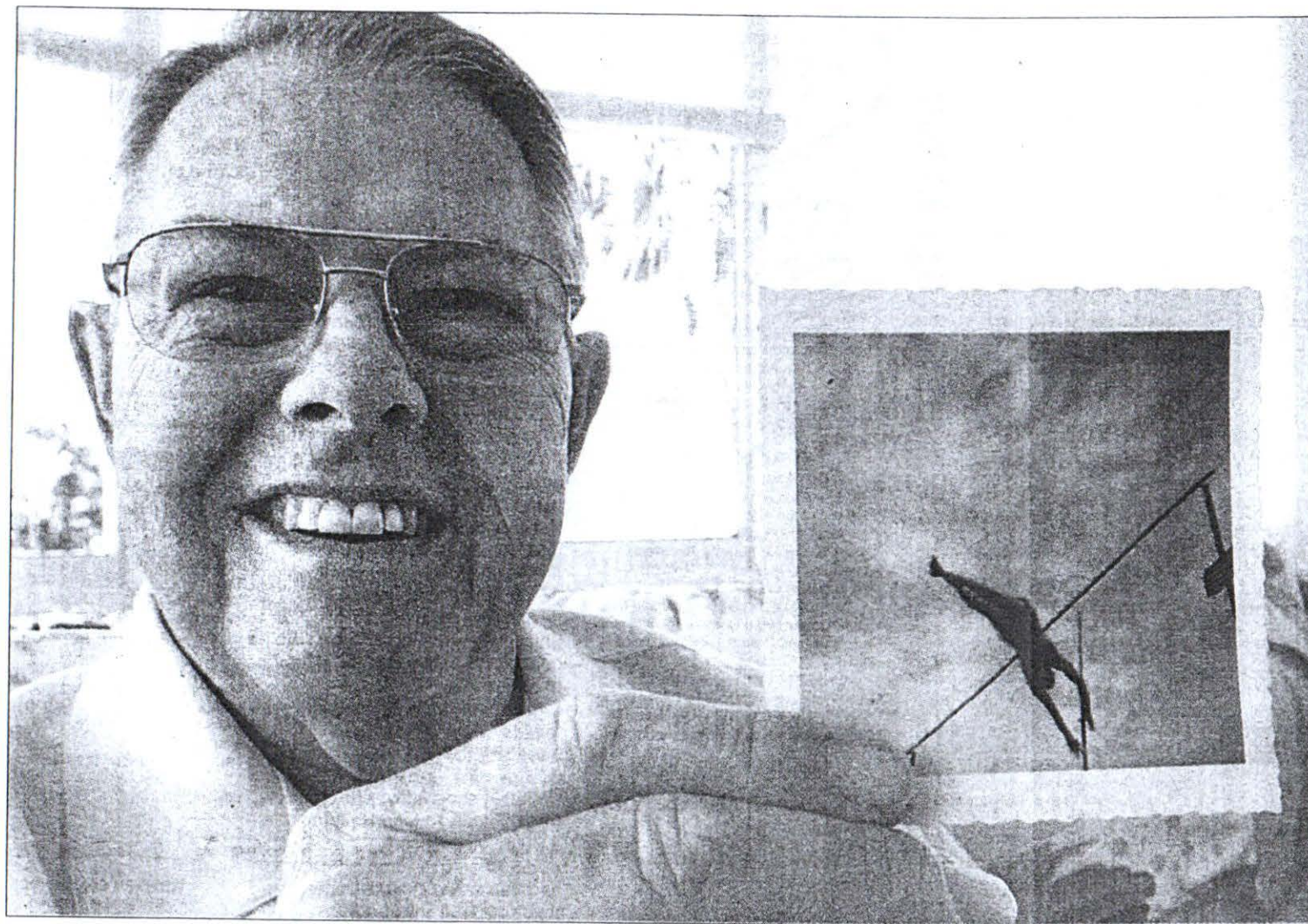
Even though pole vaulters routinely scale 19 feet these days, Melchert never had access to the technological advances used by modern-day pole vaulters.

Melchert's first competitive pole was made of bamboo, a far cry from today's poles, which are constructed from carbon fiber and fiberglass materials.

"The landing pits are a lot better today, too," Melchert said. "They have nice, soft, landing areas compared to the hard pits we landed in back then."

Fifty years after his record vault, Melchert made his smoothest landing in Dubuque university history.





Warren Melchert holds a photo taken in 1955, when he cleared 12 feet, 4 inches in the pole vault at the University of Dubuque in Iowa. The university inducted Melchert into its athletic hall of distinction last month.

MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN



December 4, 2002

## ■ A Name to Know

**Del Miksis** might be the Property Owners and Residents Association's biggest fan — and it's not because they employ her.

First coming to PORA's building lost and looking for directions back to her home shortly after moving to Sun City West in 1989, Ms. Miksis left PORA that day with a map and a volunteer job.

A member of the quasi-governmental organization ever since, Ms. Miksis became the organization's office manager seven years ago.

"I think the main thing I like about this organization and why I believe so wholeheartedly in it, is what they do," Ms. Miksis said. "It isn't just the controversial issues you see in the newspaper, it's the every day problems they help with."

PORA represents the community on a number of issues, including: water, street maintenance, property development, environmental concerns, utilities and deed restriction compliance.

"I don't know any other organizations that handle as many facets in the community as PORA does, and they do it well," Ms. Miksis said.



MIKSYS, DEL

VF

PERSONALITIES

SCW



January 8, 2003

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

# A passion for hockey

## SCW resident dedicated to teaching sport

By **Jeremy Pearlman**  
Independent Newspapers

A lifetime of dedication to the sport of hockey and a commitment to teaching the fundamentals of the game have earned one local resident a well-deserved honor in a Wisconsin hall of fame.

A unique sport similar to life itself, hockey is a mish-mash of contradictions that when combined creates an awesome spectacle.

At moments hockey can be played in a brutish, chaotic and mean-spirited way, but the sport can quickly become a graceful sight of precision skating and stick-handling and classy sportsmanship.

While perhaps not as popular in the United States as baseball, football or basket-

ball, hockey does have its dedicated followers. One of these followers is Sun City West resident Dr. Bill Mitchell.

Growing up in Chicago, Dr. Mitchell spent much of his youth in and around hockey rinks.

Although he grew up to become a college professor at the University of Wisconsin/Eau Claire, where he taught business education for 32 years, Dr. Mitchell's first love has always been hockey.

Playing the sport throughout his youth and part of his adulthood, Dr. Mitchell found that his greatest gift in hockey was not a thunderous slap shot, but his ability to teach the game to others.

Since the late 1960s, Dr. Mitchell has coached vari-

ous levels of youth hockey — from first-time skaters through the collegiate level.

"Coaching is something I've always enjoyed," Dr. Mitchell said. "Especially with the little kids because they improve so fast.

"For (the players) it was something to do, not to become professional at it, but to enjoy it as a pastime that would keep them off the streets," Dr. Mitchell added about the benefits of the sport for players.

Not only did he coach numerous individuals in Wisconsin and more recently in Arizona, Dr. Mitchell was also able to teach the game to his son and his grandson.

"Hockey is a family thing,"

See Hockey — Page 3



Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Independent Newspapers

**SCW resident Dr. Bill Mitchell poses with various hockey equipment. Dr. Mitchell will soon be honored for his contribution to the sport.**

Continued From Page 1  
Dr. Mitchell said.

Nicknamed "Doc" because he taught at the university, Dr. Mitchell is believed to have coached more players than any other person in Eau Claire.

In addition to his coaching, Dr. Mitchell helped persuade secondary schools to add ice hockey to their athletic programs, helped start the University of Wisconsin/Eau Claire's hockey program, helped begin youth leagues and traveling teams in the area.

Dr. Mitchell believes it is essential to tie hockey participation to the schools, because it motivated players to take their education seriously.

"In Wisconsin and Minnesota, hockey is part of the school program. To me that's where it should be," Dr. Mitchell said. "Education should come first."

To honor all of his contributions to the sport's development in Eau Claire, Dr. Mitchell will soon be inducted in the inaugural class of

the Center Ice Foundation's Hockey Wall of Fame at the Hobbs Ice Center.

The ceremony will take place Jan. 18, between games played by the University of Wisconsin/Eau Claire's women's and men's ice hockey teams.

"It's going to be a humbling experience," Dr. Mitchell said. "They told me 400 people are expected to attend and that I'm expected to say a few words."

Moving to Sun City West in 1996, Dr. Mitchell continued to coach hockey — first

at Oceanside Ice Arena in Tempe and then at Polar Ice Den in Peoria.

While he no longer coaches, he set for himself the goal to skate for at least 30 minutes on in-line skates in all 50 states. He has skated in all but 10 states.



# Acclaimed conductor infuses spirit for life in work

JANICE TARLETON/SPECIAL TO DAILY NEWS-SUN

**W**all and shelf space is at a premium in the Sun City West home office of Maestro Walter Moeck. Busts of Brahms, Beethoven and Bach may be feeling the squeeze as the retired conductor makes room among a half-century of photos, mementos and awards, for a few more accolades.

Long-time leader of the Sun City Concert Band until his retirement in 1997, Moeck was recently named "Outstanding Man of the 21st Century" by the American Biographical Institute, and profiled in the 2000 editions of Who's Who in Entertainment, Who's Who in Classical Music in America and the Cambridge, England, edition of Who's Who in International Music. The life-long Republican Party leader was also named among Community Leaders of America.

The awards are a pleasant surprise to the unassuming man who simply shared his life's passion with countless audiences, first as a child protege on the trumpet, but mostly as a critically acclaimed conductor.

Music was an integral part of Moeck's childhood in Milwaukee, Wis., where his parents organized an orchestra as a hobby. At age 4 he picked up a concertina accordion and played it by ear, and began formal training with piano lessons at age 7. But he found his niche at 9, playing trumpet in the elementary school band. By sixth grade he was winning state championships, and at 15 was named national champion on the trumpet, earning him a scholarship to the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, N.Y.

"I wanted to make it my profession," he said, searching for words to explain. "Music reflects your feelings, your emotions. It's very satisfying."

World War II interrupted his studies, but in 1947 he graduated with honors from Eastman



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Sun City West resident Walter Moeck, long-time conductor of the Sun City Concert Band until his retirement in 1997, continues to amass accolades for his contributions to the music world. Music became a life-passion for Walter Moeck, shown, upper left, in a 1950s photo.

and later received a master's degree in conducting from the University of Iowa.

He became a protege of the world-renowned French conductor, Pierre Monteux, and in 1963 was one of only two conductors in the world to be named a "Life Fellow" by the International Institute of Arts and Letters in Zurich, Switzerland.

"Conducting is a science all of its own," explains the composer and arranger. "You have to get the musicians to feel what you're feeling, and when the musicians feel it, the audience feels it. That's when you get goose bumps."

That was always his goal, he said, to "elevate the audience's spirits and emotions above everyday life."

Moeck spent several years in Alabama, where he was musical director and conductor of the University of Alabama Symphony Orches-



tra, the Alabama Pops Symphony Orchestra and the Birmingham Ballet. In 1968, he moved to Los Angeles, where he conducted for the Los Angeles Repertoire Symphony, Westlake Symphony, San Fernando Valley Theatre of Performing Arts, San Carlo Opera Company and American Philharmonic. Guest stints included the Philadelphia Symphony, New Orleans Philharmonic, Burbank Symphony, Bakersfield Symphony and more.

A long-time educator, as well, many of Moeck's brass students play in major symphonies throughout the United States and Europe. He's adamant that music should remain part of school curriculum.

"The arts are usually the first thing to go and they should be one of the last," he said, adding that he never saw children who were involved in a music program get into trouble. "Music plays such a large part in building character. It's the discipline of it."

Moeck and his wife Bobbie, a soloist in the Sun City Congregational Church and at two other Catholic churches, have three children.

The couple retired to Sun City West in 1988, and, almost immediately Moeck was back to work conducting the Sun City Concert Band, a charter club of the Recreation Centers of Sun City.

"It was in bad shape, to be very frank," Moeck said.

In his more than eight years as conductor, the group grew to 80 members and attained professional status. Back problems, however, led Moeck to relinquish the baton in the midst of the spring 1997 season. He also served as musical director and conductor of the Fine Arts Orchestra

in Scottsdale/Phoenix.

Currently, he is helping establish a band in Sun City West. Practices are 1 p.m. Fridays in R.H. Johnson Hall.

Moeck also continues to be active in the Republican Party — his other lifelong passion — serving on the President's Task Force and Republican Congressional Committee. He's been named Republican of the Year from Arizona, and in 1990 received a Medal of Merit from then President George Bush.

His love of music and politics merged for one brief moment when his college band performed at the inauguration of Harry Truman. Through the years, there were invitations to play at White House dinners.

"I never went," Moeck said, with a modest wave of his hand. "I'm not much for that sort of thing."





# SLICE OF LIFE

## When Lady Luck Comes Calling

September 1996

SUN LIFE

by Bill Turner

**A** wag once said, "I know that Luck is a woman because she has always been *Misfortune* to me.

Whether one addresses luck as Mr., Mrs. or even Ms. makes little difference, but it is an indisputable fact that most people believe in luck, both good and bad. And whether luck is good or bad depends on how each of us puts a spin on it.

Or, at least, that is the contention of Mr. Will Munson, an author from Sun City West. He has written a book titled, *How Lucky Can You Get?*

Will has cut a unique slice of life for himself. "I'm really not a writer," he declares, yet his book denies the declaration.

For example, a bit of Munson's description reads, "You can see shadows... wiping up spilled sunshine." Not bad for a guy who is not a writer. The book contains scores of other impressive bits of exposition, narration and description.

Based on literary output, Munson may not be a writer, but

he possesses a full spectrum of creative skills.

As a design engineer, he spent

groups. In the "spare" hours of retirement years, he writes lyrics and music for solo performances and for the country western band he plays with throughout the Valley.

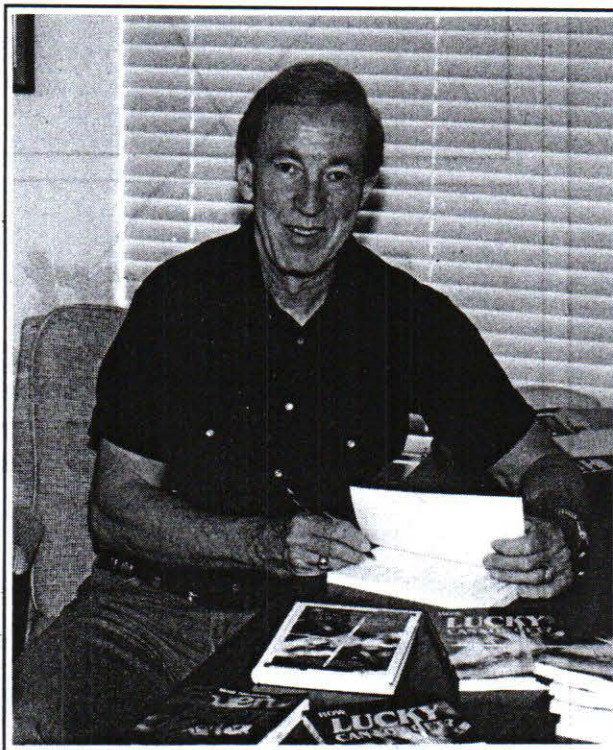
A couple of years ago Will wrote a ballad titled "Sun City West." Accompanying himself on guitar, he recorded the song on cassette tape and, subsequently, sang it during the annual Sun City West Variety Show at the Sundome.

Will has appeared in the variety program each of the last two years and, in a third appearance in 1996, will premiere his new number, "A Tribute to the Volunteers."

This writer and entertainer is referred to by many as "a walking, singing ambassador for Sun City West." The chorus of his song echoes his feelings:

"Sun City West is the place we love to be; our community is beautiful to

see. We're one big happy family. We rank above the rest. We're proud and loyal residents of Sun City West."



**HIS PERSONAL SIGNATURE** – The author would have writer's cramp if he had autographed all 28,000 of his books, but he has gratefully affixed his name inside many book jackets.

a lifetime generating ideas for General Motors. For nearly a quarter century, as a source of joy, he sang with barbershop

### Where do I go from here?

Let's go back to luck and Will's book. After he retired from GM, he asked the question, "Where do I go from here?"

The search for an answer led him to a magazine writing course in a community college in Santa Barbara. One day, the instructor asked him to read one of his projects – an article on luck – to the rest of the class.

The students liked it, and a seed was planted in Will's creative brain for a full-length treatment of the subject. The idea

*Self-image, visualization and opportunity grasping are not just things Munson writes about. He also lives them.*

sprouted, or perhaps exploded, into the book *How Lucky Can You Get?*

I've read it, but I'm not going to review it, except to highlight certain ideas expressed by the author. I quickly discerned, for example, that *self-image, visualization and opportunity grasping* are not just things that Munson writes about. He also lives them, and squeezes them, and shapes them to pass through the archways of success.

OVER

MUNSON, WILL



Sitting at Will's desk where note-taking was comfortable, I suddenly realized the desk is an island surrounded by a sea of electronic and musical equipment, much of it tools for his contemporary avocations of writing and music-making.

On a back wall of the office is a world map filled with colored pins, each indicating where he has sold books and how many in each area.

"How many have you sold?" I asked.

"Over 28,000, counting the German and Spanish editions," he said.

I needed to learn more about this man's enterprises, the secrets for things he has accomplished.

I learned it all.



**ARTIST AS WELL** – Lyric and music writing are favorite activities for this talented writer, singer and guitar player.

## Making your own luck

He avoided the traditional publisher. Instead of wasting endless months waiting for a rejection letter, he set up a one-person company called Eden House. Then he contacted 30 printing establishments and whittled down a price he could handle.

Soon he was seeking reviews, nationally, to help with publicity and spark sales.

He joined an organization that presented copies of his work at the world's largest book fair in Frankfurt, Germany. From that exposure, publishers in Germany and Mexico bought rights for publication in their respective languages.

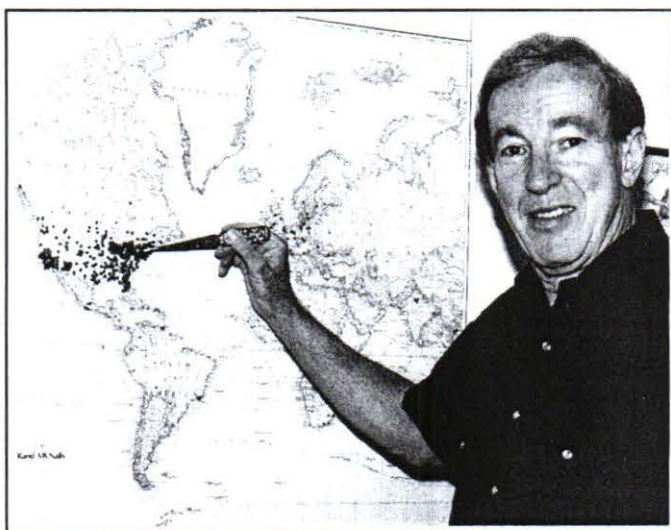
"I've had great sales in these countries," Will said. "Especially in Mexico where they distribute to Central and South America." Will informed me that a representative from the German publishing company will be in Arizona soon and wants to visit with him, possibly to discuss the writing of another book.

Luck at work? Maybe. But somehow I got the impression that much of Will's luck is of his own making. He epitomizes the old quotation that "...luck is a chance happening over which you have no control. It's how you react that determines whether it is good or bad."

Or as T.S. Eliot wrote (quoted in Will's book), "If you haven't the strength to impose your own

"Be alert" seems to be Will Munson's motto. Be alert and be aware of opportunities that present themselves, because "what you see is what you get."

Is Lady Luck on Munson's payroll? I doubt it, but he surely knows how to make her feel welcome whenever she comes calling at Eden House.



**WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION** – Colored pins on a world map tell Will Munson where his books have been sold and where his distributors are located.

terms upon life, you must accept the terms it offers you."

How Lucky Can You Get? *may be ordered from Eden House, 15714 W. Ballad Dr., Sun City West, AZ 85375, or call 546-9523. The price is \$9.95, plus \$2 postage for one book; add 75 cents for each additional book.* ❁



# Radio days

SCW

## Retiree once reigned as 'America's No. 1 Polka Jockey'

By Roberto Sánchez  
Staff writer

### Sun City West

**P**aul Nakel remembers the good old days fondly. If you don't believe it, ask him to show you his clipping books.

He will gleefully turn page after page of pictures of himself in a radio booth, notes from celebrities, news stories, programs from shows he hosted, and other memorabilia from his long career in radio broadcasting.

At 73, he still free-lances for television commercials. Though a far cry from the days when he was lauded as "America's No. 1 Polka Jockey," Nakel takes the jobs to keep himself sharp as well as busy.

"I'm not a good retiree," Nakel admits.

Nakel will be inducted into the Broadcasters' Hall of Fame this fall, 54 years after he began his broadcasting career as a free-lance announcer for WHK and WCLE radio stations in Cleveland, Ohio.

**Did you always want to work with radio, or did you have any other career goals?**

"I wanted to be a writer when I was in high school, and I wrote for the high school paper. I did pretty well. However, I took a speech course one time back in 1937 after graduation from high school, and the teacher said, 'You ought to go into broadcasting.' So he ignited a little spark in my brain. I thought, why not? So then I pursued that path."

**Did you start your career in Cleveland?**

"Yes, in Cleveland. It's ironic. They said to start with a small market. You can't

### PROFILE

**Name:** Paul Nakel  
**Birthdate:** May 30, 1919  
**Profession:** Retired radio broadcaster, corporate vice president and station manager. Free-lances as a television announcer  
**Years in Sun City West:** Seven  
**Birthplace:** Cleveland  
**Hobby:** Golf  
**Family:** married for 49 years, three grown children, three grandchildren

start with in a big market when you are beginning. The qualifications were much more stringent at that time. They were strong, because there were fewer stations, obviously. So I made the rounds, by bus, hitchhiking, whatever, through various stations through Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, and, lo and behold, I returned to Cleveland."

**I read in an article that you came be known as America's No. 1 Polka Jockey. Is that right?**

"I did many, many things on the air, including a polka program.

"The station I worked at promoted me, and the record industry, as 'America's No. 1 Polka Jockey.' You'd think Cleveland was America's polka capital and I was the top disc jockey in Cleveland, so they made me America's No. 1 Polka Jockey.

"I had family at that time. I worked full time. I went to college full time. And I also attended halfway through law school."

**So you were thinking about be-**

**coming a lawyer at that point? Why did you change your mind?**

"I thought I wanted to pursue a law degree. I was very interested.

"Keep in mind, I'm in my fifth year of college, entering my sixth, halfway through law school, again working full-time at the radio job and doing master of ceremonies jobs on the side, with the responsibilities of a family.

"One time I had three jobs, as master of ceremonies. ... I got home at 2:30 a.m. one morning. When I was driving home I thought, where am I going? I was frankly getting weary at that point.

"I came home and I told my wife, we have to make a decision: either I give up this broadcasting career and finish my law school and go into law, or just reverse it, give up the law school and just keep on working and perhaps pick it up later — which I never did.

"I did enjoy the broadcasting. I always did. So that was my decision. I never did go back to finish up and get my law degree. Who knows? I could have been a famous lawyer or a bust."

**How come you never made the switch from radio to television?**

"I did television. I stuck with radio.

"By the time television came, I was into management. I was still on the air, I cut back my on air duties when I was on management, but I still did free-lance TV. You see, I went from talent to management and I thought I was going in the right direction. I guess I was.

"Looking back, If I had to do it all over again, I think I'd have stuck with the talent. I enjoyed that more."

OVER

NAKEL, PAUL





Kelley Chinn / Staff photographer

Retired radio broadcaster Paul Nakel will be inducted into the Broadcasters' Hall of Fame this fall.



Thursday, April 3, 1997 Daily News-Sun, Sun City,



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Gus Nasmith of Sun City West once played a match with tennis greats Althea Gibson and Bobby Riggs. Nasmith will be among the competitors at the Swing into Spring tennis tournament, which will be played today through Sunday at R.H. Johnson Recreation Center.

GUS NASMITH

# Net results

## SCW man prepares to swing into spring

By DAVID R. BECK  
Staff writer

Even though at 79, Gus Nasmith is still one of the premier tennis players in Sun City West, he makes no effort to hide his weakness.

"My weakness is I've got bad legs," Nasmith said. "It's tough to get moving sometimes but my forehand is the strongest part (of my game)."

Nasmith hopes his legs move fast enough this weekend to capture a medal at the United States Tennis Association-sponsored Swing into Spring tournament at R.H. Johnson Recreation Center. The Sun City West event runs today through

Sunday.

Nasmith teamed with Sun Citian Huck Bullock to garner the age 80-84 title of the Arizona Advanced Senior Fling last month. The medal complemented Nasmith's first-place finish at another USTA-sponsored tournament in Phoenix last year.

He also hauled home a gold medal at last year's Huntsman Senior World Games in St. George, Utah. Nasmith does not turn 80 until November, but USTA rules permit players to move up to the next age group if their qualifying birthday is later in the year.

"For his age, he's a super player," said John Kennedy, who's competing in the 60s age group. "I

have to play like heck to beat him. Any time you can enter a tournament in your 80s, you're doing really well."

Nasmith got an early introduction to tennis growing up in China, where his father was a missionary.

"There weren't too many sports to play there," Nasmith recalled. "But it was a very interesting place. We went back in '88 and it had changed a lot. It was politically oppressed more than anything."

Nasmith, a retired attorney, won the New Jersey Senior Olympic title 10 years ago and was then rewarded with a memorable doubles pairing. His playing partner was tennis great Althea Gibson and

► See SCW man, C2

### ■ From C1

their opponents included Bobby Riggs.

Now Nasmith contends with more earthly opponents, including Bullock, who is nationally ranked among 80-84 year olds.

"I hope I don't draw him in the first round (of singles)," Nasmith said. "He's a good tactician, has all the shots and can spot an opponent's weak-

nesses."

Nasmith is also a frequent visitor to Trail Ridge Golf Course and maintains a 22 handicap.

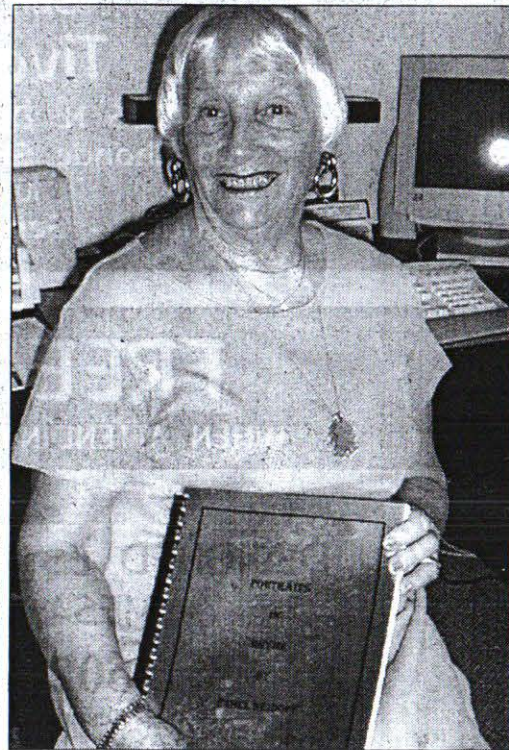
This week's tournament features men's and women's singles and doubles along with mixed doubles and is open to anyone 50 or older.

A doubles clinic will be at 3:30 p.m. Friday with instruction by Ken Walts, a Sun City West tennis pro.



Photo by  
CHRIS RASMUSSEN  
Independent  
Newspapers

Although she is not John Keats or Emily Dickenson, Sun City West resident Ethel Neidoff is a poet. Ethel recently self-published a number of insightful and humorous poems that she wrote over the past five years. The Sun City West women keeps busy reading her poems around the community and the Valley.



## It could be verse

### Sun City West woman publishes poems

*Some may consider all rhymes just doggerel.*

*These quickie verses I am compelled to tell.*

*But if in your mind just one poem will dwell, I'll be the good witch casting a magic spell.*

*Ethel Neidoff*

By CHRIS RASMUSSEN  
Independent Newspapers

Rhythm, rhymes and reason circle and swirl around Ethel Neidoff's head. So much so, the Sun City West resident decided it was time to capture her poems and corral them in a self-published book of poetry.

"This is not Keats' poetry, and I

am not Emily Dickenson," she confessed. "This is poetry and rhythm from my heart."

Mrs. Neidoff's book, "Portraits in Rhyme," covers a wide range of her life's experiences. Sometimes humorous, and at times melancholy, her poetry covers topics such as childhood, health, retirement, people who preach and the holidays.

"There is a little bit of everything in this book. I write on any topic that comes to mind. I just like to play with words."

Words may just be words, but Mrs. Neidoff insists poetry has healing powers from which seniors can benefit, whether you are writing or reading the dancing words.

"It is wonderful for your

health," she said of poetry, "because when you are concentrating on a poem, you don't think of your aches and pains. It is therapeutic and fun for me to do rhymes."

Mrs. Neidoff has been reading and entertaining seniors and children alike with her poetry around the Valley for several years. During many readings, she encounters seniors who are brimming with creativity.

"There are such bright people out here in Sun City West. Someone in one house is putting together their memoirs, while someone else might be writing a cookbook and the veteran down the street is writing a book on his

See ■ POEMS, Page 3



## ■ POEMS

From Page 1

World War II experience."

Writing and reading poetry is so good for seniors because it stimulates the brain, which in turn keeps you young, Mrs. Neidoff said.

"My grandson said, 'If my grandma can write books in her 70s, I can do anything.' That made me so proud," she said.

While Mrs. Neidoff insists it is never too late to write a book or explore a new creative endeavor, finding people to believe in you is another tale.

"Publishers just won't buy books from 70-year-old ladies, because they know you won't be around to write another. Unless you are famous, or in a scandal, you can't

sell a book."

Frustrated over the lack of interest in her work from publishing companies, Ethel decided to go it on her own.

Purchasing a computer, she set out to publish her own book and sell it to friends and anyone else who would buy it.

Clueless as to how a computer worked, she turned to the help of the Sun City West Computer Club, who helped her figure out how to write and paginate her book's copy.

As easy as driving to a printing shop, she had produced her own 100-plus page book. The book's pages are printed on heavy paper and bound between two bright sil-

ver covers.

Another aspect that makes "Portraits in Rhyme" unique is that each topic of poems is set in a different font (type style) to symbolize the tone and mood of the poems.

Printing up 100 copies, her book sells for \$12 and is available by calling 584-3668. A copy of the book is also available in the R.H. Johnson Library.

This is not her first published volume of poetry. In 1953, she self-published "Poetry to Plagiarize." However, in 1953, there were no

computers, only a standard typewriter.

"It was much faster with a computer, after I learned how to use it," she said.

Mrs. Neidoff's poetry is known fairly well around the area. An 18-year resident of Sun City West, her poems have appeared regularly in local newspapers and magazines.

"Anyone can self-publish a book," she insists. "I'll see if I get any orders and then maybe I will print up some more."



SCW

# Wester becomes pistol packin' grandma



VIRGINIA NIEKAMP

By HELEN ALLEN  
Staff Writer

Virginia Niekamp is now, officially, a "pistol-packin' grandma."

The former Michigan resident, who never handled a revolver until six months ago, recently became the first female member of the Sun City West Sheriff's Posse qualifying to be armed while on duty.

Another gun-qualified female member, Helen Brown, won her eligibility while with the Sun City Sheriff's Posse.

**NOT ONLY** are both permitted to carry weapons on duty, but each can serve as a "second man" in assisting sheriff's deputies—if called upon to do so.

The gun qualification is not required for "second man" status, but it is preferred, said Edgar Hilke, rangemaster for

the Sun City West organization.

Gun totin' is permitted Possemen only if they can attain a range score of at least 250 out of a perfect 300.

**MRS. NIEKAMP'S** actual tally, however, remains a secret where the public is concerned.

"We're not allowed to reveal scores," Hilke stated.

Mrs. Niekamp, a former retail store clerical supervisor, decided to try for qualification as her husband, Walter (also a Posseman), has always kept a gun for protection.

**"I FELT** I should learn how to handle it, use it and take care of it. Most accidents happen because people don't know how to handle a gun."

Upon winning her qualification, Mrs. Niekamp said: "I was very happy and felt I accomplished something. I've learned how to properly use a gun and respect it."

She expressed gratitude to Hilke for teaching her how to shoot and handle the .38 caliber revolver.

**ONE OF** the first things Mrs. Niekamp did after getting the required range score was to call the couple's son, Daniel, in Michigan.

"He was quite proud and said he was going to tell his children they now have a pistol-packin' grandma."

The Niekamps are the first husband and wife team on the Sun City West Posse to get the qualification.



# Technology on the move

Nelson, Bill



Gregory Harris/Daily News-Sun

Bill Nelson looks as though he's up to his waist in donated computers in the garage of his Sun City West home. Nelson has been collecting and refurbishing the equipment for students in the Dysart school district.

## Refurbished computers benefit Dysart students

By JANICE TARLETON  
Staff writer

It started last spring when Bill Nelson decided to donate a used computer to a needy student in the Dysart Unified School District.

That computer went to Yolanda Cabral, student vice president of the school's award-winning Future Business Leaders of America. It was a dream come true for Cabral, who had requested a computer in lieu of the traditional quincera, or 15th birthday celebration.

It was such a heart-warming story that a fellow member of the Sun City West Computer Club decided to donate her computer. Word spread and after an article appeared last May in the Daily News-Sun, donations poured in. In fact Nelson is still getting calls.

"I've got a full-time job," said Nelson, standing amid an array of CPUs, keyboards, printers and monitors stacked in the garage of his Sun City West home. The overflow threatens to take over a spare bedroom, as well.

So far Nelson has placed more than 20 computers in the homes of students suggested by Bill Palmer, sponsor of FBLA, and Susan Poland, head of the community service oriented Key Club.

"It's made a big difference in their communication with me. I get e-mails all the time," Palmer said. "But the biggest difference is in their own grades — the work they're turning in."

Another 13 are ready to go. When

those are installed, Nelson will have exceeded his goal of 30 computers.

"This thing has just snowballed. To be honest I don't know where it's going," Nelson said smiling.

There are only two criteria for students who receive computers: that they're "not rich" and they are ambitious.

The former Navy electronics officer has spent hours singlehandedly setting up the systems in students' homes. He has installed Windows and other software; he and others have perused thrift shops and used computer stores for components to complete the systems. Sun City West Computer Club members assisted with repairs.

In addition, he has returned to students' homes to replace a couple of defective components and to deliver more updated systems to some of the first recipients.

Bill Straith read about the program in the newspaper, and when he heard recently that Del E. Webb and Walter O. Boswell hospitals had updated their computers and donated the old equipment to thrift stores, he decided to get involved. "This guy is a prince," Nelson said.

Straith spent his own time and money browsing thrift stores picking up the computers, along with printers and monitors to complete the systems.

Nelson is still accepting donations, though he has turned down a few offers of older, slower equipment. Modems are especially needed, including ones for the PS 2. To make a donation, call 214-0112.



MAY 29-JUNE 4, 2002

## Name to Know

**Margo Newman** enjoys trying new things.

Whether it was teaching herself to sew as a child with her mother's scrap fabrics, writing a weekly column in the newspaper for a six-month period, starting her own wallpapering business or completely restoring a car, Mrs. Newman



doesn't shy away from attempting new and different kinds of challenges she wants to accomplish.

Marrying her first husband at 17, Mrs. Newman wasn't able to graduate high school. After moving to the Sun Cities, she passed the General Education Development test and took a few college courses.

"That GED can give you so much self-confidence," Mrs. Newman said.

Living in both Sun City and Sun City West, Mrs. Newman has used her sewing skills to assist in community projects. While living in Sun City, she was the wardrobe coordinator for the Sun City Players, creating many of the costumes worn on stage.

Now residing in Sun City West, she helps American Legion Post 94 repair flags used to adorn R.H. Johnson Boulevard's "Boulevard of Flags" program.

Having donated the flag she received after her first husband died to Post 94, Mrs. Newman has an affinity with the flags she mends.

"During the repair of the flags, I see the names of each serviceman and their birth date on it. Joe, Clarence, Henry, George, William and John all names," Mrs. Newman said, trying to hold back tears.

"I have a special kinship with each person when I'm fixing the flag and I wonder, when someone was fixing my husband's flag if they felt the same way."

NEWMAN, MARGO

VF

PERSONALITIES

SCW



## DOERS PROFILE

**Anna  
O'Connor**

- Vita:** *Homemaker, volunteer, interviewer, tax collector and accounting clerk*
- Hometown:** *Milford, Conn.*
- Family:** *Married to Matthew, now deceased, 46 years; one daughter; two grandsons*
- Self-portrait:** *"Easy to get to know; outgoing."*
- Inspiration:** *Parents, husband and now my daughter. Being a psychologist (my daughter) helps keep me on track. She doesn't let me give into any self-defeating attitude.*
- Motto:** *"Do unto others as you would them do unto you. What goes around comes around. It really does. I've seen it over and over again."*

## PORA volunteer knows the scene in Sun City West

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Senior staff writer

Outside of being a mother, grandmother and homemaker, Anna O'Connor hasn't held a job longer than eight or nine years.

Until she was recruited to work for Consumer Services in Sun City West, that is.

That was 15 years ago, when the Property Owners and Residents Association of Sun City West was organizing the Consumer Services office.

"One of my neighbors was chairman of the office. He recruited me and I loved it. And I've been in it ever since," O'Connor said.

The Consumer Services office is a referral source for Sun City West residents who need landscaping, painting, car repairs or any other consumer service.

At the touch of a computer key, O'Connor can call up a list of businesses that have been carefully scrutinized by Consumer Services personnel and find at least three that will meet specified criteria.

Monday, April 29, 1996

The Daily News-Sun

O'Connor relays consumer information over the phone or in person on Monday mornings from her desk inside the PORA office. Sometimes she fills extra shifts when the number of available volunteers grows short, especially during the summer. Often, she obliges callers to her home with consumer referrals.

"I have some of the lists in my head," she said.

O'Connor said she has kept her volunteer post with Consumer Services for 15 years because she enjoys the personal contact with people and the opportunity to use a computer and learn state laws.

"I love the work," O'Connor said. "It isn't a Mother Teresa thing that I'm dedicated that much. The rewards, since my husband died, have been in the way of meeting people and getting out and talking to people in the community."

O'Connor also likes staying informed about all the scams being perpetrated on elderly consumers in the area. "There are a lot of them," she said.

For the record, O'Connor has not been the victim of a scam since moving to Sun City West 18 years ago from Connecticut.

When she's not aiding consumers, O'Connor is acting as the sounding board for the spouses and family members of patients in the critical-care unit at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital.

Often, she is the person asked for advice on how to handle the loss of a spouse or loved one. O'Connor counsels people to get involved in volunteer work.

"I say the best thing you can do is get interested in helping somebody else. ..."

O'Connor is a hostess in the hospital CCU on Saturdays. "Weekends are long for a single person," she said.

Fund raising and sales, for the American Heart Association and the annual Sun City West Luminaria campaign, are among O'Connor's previous volunteer activities.

Her favorite recreational pursuits include arranging luncheon/card parties for current and former lawn bowlers in the Sun Cities and, reading.

*Do you know a Doer? Send nominations to J.J. McCormack, P.O. Box 1779, Sun City, 85372, or call, 977-8351, Ext. 208.*

O'CONNOR, ANN



# Odes can't forget

By RICHARD MOORE  
Staff Writer

## DAYS OF CAPTIVITY

As much as they would like to, Bob and Rita Ode of Sun City West won't ever forget how their lives turned upside down two years ago today.

In fact, most Americans well remember their own reactions to the mass confusion and the possibility of all-out war after militant Iranian students, supported by the Ayatollah Khomeini, overthrew the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and held 53 Americans hostage.

Initially, no one dreamed the ordeal would dominate the news for 444 days, jeopardize the re-election efforts of President Carter and arouse a new sense of awareness among American people for the need to strengthen military capacities.

**THE ODES MAINTAINED** their now familiar gracious poise and calm attitude while talking with reporters in their home Sunday afternoon.

There was that same sense of dignity and stability insiders remember from Mrs. Ode when she first began talking with the media about the hostage situation a year ago and from Bob at his homecoming celebration and during his many Valley appearances.

Ode, who will celebrate his 66th birthday next month, still corrects people when they call him a "hero."

"I'VE ALWAYS SAID that we (the hostages) weren't heroes at all," he said. "If there were any heroes throughout the whole thing, it was the families of the captives."

Ode remembered that during his captivity, he never worried much about his wife's welfare.

"I knew that the government, family and friends and the American people in general were helping Rita and would continue to do so if anything would have happened to us," he continued. "But for Rita and the other families ... they never really knew what was happening with us."

**WHILE THE HOOPLA** seems to have dissipated for many of the former captives, the Odes remain on a tight schedule which consists of Valley, regional and nationwide appearances.

"There have been speeches across the country in front of clubs, banquets, graduation ceremonies, trips, etc.," Ode said. "It isn't exactly the kind of retirement life Rita and I planned."

Ode attributes part of his popularity to his accessibility.

**"MANY OF THE FORMER** hostages live in the Washington, D.C., area and for them, the publicity living in the nation's capital isn't so great," he said. "Many of the diplomats have been reassigned to overseas posts, as well as have been some of the military personnel such as (Marine Sgt.) Jimmy Lopez. I guess since I'm retired and living in the

(Continued on A2)



Robert and Rita Ode of Sun City West relax in the Arizona sunshine on the second anniversary of the takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran by Iranian

militants. Ode was one of 53 Americans + hostage. He was confined 444 days. He was released last January. 11-4-81 News-Sun Photo by Bill Dost





BOB ODE



Mr. and Mrs. Bob Ode in Sun City West, 1978.



# Happy Mrs. Ode awaits husband

By RICHARD MOORE  
Staff Writer

"Not until the hostages have cleared Iranian airspace will I comment on the situation."

That was the standard reply that Rita Ode has given to media representatives who have been telephoning her frequently in the last 48 hours.

Her husband, Robert, 65, was the oldest of the captives who are en route to a U.S. military hospital in West Germany.

**MRS. ODE WAS** patient with everyone who called—from Newsweek magazine writers to the producers of the Good Morning America television show.

For more than 14 months, Mrs. Ode maintained her cool. She did, at times, become frustrated with the media over the way they have handled coverage of the hostage crisis. But she promised to talk to everyone after her husband and the others were free.

To say that Mrs. Ode is happy today is an understatement. She, like the families of the

other 51 prisoners in Iran, never thought this day would come.

**"A NUMBNESS HAS** grown," she admitted. "I think after the first couple of ups and downs, I just got tired of hoping ... of the anticipation."

Mrs. Ode was one of the few family members of the captives who chose to hold her feelings and grief inside.

"It's like the song, 'Laughing on the Outside, Crying on the Inside,'" she said. "You function from day to day, but you're just numb and in a sort of daze."

**SHE SAYS THAT WHEN** she sees her husband, which she hopes will be sometime later in the week, in Washington, D.C., it probably will hit her then.

"I think when I finally see him and realize he's back, a lot of it will go away," she admitted.

Asked if she feels resentment toward Iran over the last 14 months, Mrs. Ode said she really does not.

**"MY HEART TELLS ME** to retaliate, but my head tells me better," she said. "That part of the world is too important for us to ignore."

Mrs. Ode says she does not have any bitterness toward the Iranian people—in fact, she never has held the hostage crisis against them.

"I do have negative feelings toward the religious element which inspired much of this. Yes," she said. "But as for the people, no, not at all."

**SHE BELIEVES THE** United States eventually will re-establish some type of relationship with Iran—maybe not as strong as were previous ties, but something such as how the United States is represented in other Arab nations, such as Iraq.

Mrs. Ode says she isn't too concerned about her husband's readjustment to retirement living in Sun City West.

"He has a lot of interests and I'm not worried about him keeping busy," she added.

"He likes to swim and I'm sure he'll want to lie in the sun, since he probably hasn't gotten to do that in the last 14 months. He may want to do some gardening and play golf. I'm not worried about him getting bored."

**MRS. ODE IS CONCERNED** with the well-being of the younger hostages, but believes once they realize what has been going on in the United States these past 14 months—how the American people have supported the cause for their freedom—that some of the bitterness and hostility will dissipate.

Asked whether she thinks her husband will write a book or lecture, she said she doesn't know.

"He may write a book, who knows," she answered.

One thing is for sure. The retired diplomat probably will not accept another special assignment for the U.S. State Department. He definitely will enter the world of retirement living in Sun City West.

"What a way to go out!" Mrs. Ode chuckled.



# Foreign service proved intriguing to Odes

Former U.S. hostage Robert Ode, soon to be a resident of Sun City West, was born in Plano, Ill., Dec. 10, 1915—one of four children of a combustion engineer.

The family moved to Manistee, Mich., when Bob was a small child. He graduated from Manistee High School in 1933 and worked at various jobs before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1941.

His two brothers and sister still live in Michigan. Donald resides in St. Louis, Mich., and Howard, who suffered a heart attack last fall, lives in Midland. His sister, Marjorie Keon, also lives in St. Louis.

**ODE SERVED AS** a chief petty officer in the South Pacific during World War II. After his discharge in 1946, he worked in a chemical plant in Michigan for about a year before accepting a position with the U.S. State Department in 1947.

He retired in 1976 after nearly 30 years in foreign service in various parts of the world.

His first overseas assignment with the State Department was in Warsaw, Poland, where he was general services officer.

**"HE WAS IN** charge of housekeeping, the motorpool and the general maintenance and operation of the embassy compound," said his wife, Rita, who moved to Sun City West last April.

He served in Warsaw for two years before going to London. His stay in the United Kingdom was brief—only three months. He then was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Reykjavik, Iceland, where he served as administrative officer for two years.

"After that, he was on home leave and was

transferred to Palermo, Sicily, in March, 1952," Mrs. Ode continued.

**THAT WAS WHERE** the couple first met. Rita Muth from Croghan, in upstate New York, was secretary to the consul general—her first post with the State Department, but they did not marry until 1957 when both were assigned to posts in Canada.

"Bob was an administrative officer in Palermo until July 1955 and then was transferred to the U.S. Consulate in Montreal," Mrs. Ode said.

Meanwhile, Rita was sent to Burma where she served as a secretary for a year.

**"MY FATHER WAS** ill at the time, so I returned home and accepted an assignment at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa in 1956," she said.

After the couple married, they lived in Montreal where Bob continued in his capacity as visa officer. Mrs. Ode was forced to resign her position.

"Back in those days, wives weren't permitted to keep their jobs with the State Department," she explained. "Of course, that's changed today."

**MRS. ODE,** however, did work at the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia, for the two years the couple was attached there, but mostly served in volunteer and charity positions.

The Odes stayed in Montreal until December 1958, when Bob was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Mrs. Ode said.

They stayed in West Africa for four years. After the Liberia assignment, the Odes went to Bern, Switzerland, from 1961 to 1967.

**"BEFORE GOING TO** Switzerland, we had home leave," Mrs. Ode said. "Bob also attended the Language Institute in Rosslyn, Va., where he studied German."

In 1967, the couple returned to Washington, D.C., where Bob worked in consular affairs for three years. Their next foreign post was in the U.S. Consulate in Hamburg, West Germany, for two years.

Then, from 1972 to 1976, the couple lived in Genoa, Italy, where Ode was attached to the U.S. Consulate.

**"BOB WORKED AS** chief of the consular section in our last four foreign posts (Monrovia, Bern, Hamburg and Genoa)," Mrs. Ode explained. "When he retired five years ago, it was hard for us to leave."

Mrs. Ode said they did not have a favorite place. "Each country has something to offer," Mrs. Ode said. "We enjoyed all of our assignments. We've always been intrigued with other places—that's probably why we stayed in foreign service."

**ODE NEVER** received a university education, yet the positions in which he later served rarely are held by personnel without a college degree.

"Bob had a knack for learning languages; better than I did," Mrs. Ode admitted.

He is fluent in German and Italian, and has a working knowledge of French, Mrs. Ode continued.

**"EVEN DURING HIS** captivity in Iran, he was learning Spanish," she said.

After retirement, Ode continued to work for the State Department on various special assignments.

"He went to Jamaica for three months in 1978 because the U.S. Embassy was understaffed," Mrs. Ode said. "Then he went to Georgetown, Guyana, in March 1979, for three months, to help complete paperwork on the People's Temple mass suicide."

**THE COUPLE** visited Sun City West, where they purchased a home, before he went to Guyana. They were going to call it quits.

Then the situation flared up in Iran—the shah's departure, the return of the ayatollah and continued resentment of the U.S. presence in the country.

"At the time, our embassy in Iran was understaffed and needed help," Mrs. Ode said. "We talked about his going on this last assignment before moving to Arizona and Bob felt the situation was dangerous, so he decided to accept the six-week assignment."

**ODE ARRIVED IN** Tehran one month before militant students seized the embassy and took hostages.

The Odes were to have moved to Sun City West when the house was finished in April 1980 from their home in Falls Church, Va.

Even with the hostage crisis and the extraordinary pressures that followed, Mrs. Ode continued their plan.

"I moved here last April," she said. "In fact, I was in the Kings Inn the morning after the attempted rescue mission failed."



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I never felt  
like a hero,  
unless the  
definition of  
hero has  
changed to  
someone  
being in the wrong place at  
the wrong time.



ROBERT C. ODE  
IN A 1989 INTERVIEW

# R.C. Ode dies, was hostage in Iran

By Anne O'Rourke  
Staff writer

Robert C. Ode, who survived a 444-day ordeal as a hostage at the U.S. Embassy in Iran, died Friday. He was 79.

The Sun City West resident was one of 52 U.S. citizens locked away in the embassy in Tehran by Iranian militants on Nov. 4, 1979. Ode, a retired State Department Foreign Service officer, had accepted a six-week assignment that landed him in Tehran just before the militants seized the embassy.

He endured four months of keeping silent and being blindfolded by the terrorists. Ode, who was the oldest of the 52 hostages, later maintained his composure by reading books, studying Spanish and writing letters to his wife, Rita.

In April 1980, the United States sent a military mission to rescue the hostages out, but it failed. His captivity would last more than a year.

Ode and the 51 other hostages were freed on Jan. 20, 1981, and he was in the limelight for months, downplaying talk that the hostages were heroes.

"I never felt like a hero, unless the definition of hero has changed to someone being in the wrong place at the wrong time," Ode said in a 1989 interview.

Although the details of his imprisonment remained vivid in Ode's mind, he said the experience didn't have any negative effect on his life.

— See R.C. ODE, page B4

## R.C. Ode, former U.S. hostage in Tehran, dies at 79

— R.C. ODE, from page B1

"I never had any problems with the experience that haunted me," Ode said in the interview. "I don't have any emotional problems or physical problems from it. I sleep well."

Perhaps it was because he attacked his retirement with energy. He regularly golfed, sang in his church choir and enjoyed square-dancing with his wife. In June 1989, Ode went to Washington for a reunion with 27 of the other former hostages.

He is survived by his wife, a sister, Marjorie Keon; and a brother, Howard. Services will be held Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at the Church of the Advent, 13150 Spanish Garden Drive, Sun City West. In lieu of flowers, the family

requests memorial contributions to the church or to the Parkinson Foundation, 222 W. Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013. Camino del Sol Funeral Chapel and Cremation Center handled the arrangements.

Ode, R.C.



## DOERS PROFILE

**Judy  
Off**



**Hometown:** Chicago

**Family:** Husband, Bob, of 22 years

**Inspiration:** *I just hope I live a long time and am able to keep up.*

**Philosophy:** *Whatever works for you, do it.*

**Greatest accomplishments:** *I just love people.*

## Interest in kids, culture has her Off 'n running

By TINA SCHADE  
Staff writer

**L**ike a lot of people, Judy Off of Sun City West likes to dress up for Halloween.

She slips on a mask, feathers, unusual jewelry and a long brightly colored dress and of course, hands out goodies to children.

But unlike most, Off dons the strange costume, not to win first prize at a neighborhood party, but rather for the sake of cultural awareness.

See, what Off is actually commemorating is the Spanish version of Halloween, otherwise known as Dia del los Muertos or the day of the dead.

"It's the one day where a person can come back and do all the strange things they wanted to do in life. But you only come back one day a year to do it," she said.

And instead of going to a party, Off is actually going to school, Surprise Elementary school that is, where she will teach young school children a thing or two about Mexican history.

And part of that lesson involves Off's costume.

In costume, Off is portraying Katrina, known in Spanish folklore as a woman who possesses powers bordering on the supernatural.

Monday, March 23, 1998 Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz.

Off has been playing Katrina for the past three years, as part of a personal quest to advance cultural awareness.

Off likes to teach children in other ways, as well. As a tutor at the Surprise Community Center, she has taught third-through fifth-graders the three R's.

Following a hip replacement about three years ago, Off decided to bury her head in the books and shadow her husband, who was also a tutor at the center.

Today, while her husband has gone on to pursue other interests, Off is still tutoring youngsters two to three times a week.

She said the children are grateful for her help and she said she feels the work is important.

"They're going to take care of us some day. No matter what people say. Black, white or green, they will be taking care of us," she said.

And even though she has had a request to tutor college-level adults, she said she'll just stick to tutoring the children for the time being.

"Children just need a lot of tender care, because some of their mothers are working ... so I kind of just help them out," she said.

Off is also a member at St. Theresa in El Mirage.

When not volunteering or involving herself in Sun City West's bordering communities, Off likes to write poetry.

The Chicago native has had poems published by small colleges on the East Coast and she said she likes to write about the lighter things in life.

"Health, life, trees, children, nothing bad, just the good stuff," she said.

In her spare time, Off likes to cook "just about anything."

To nominate a Doer, call Tina Schade at the Daily News-Sun, 876-2514.

SCM

Off, Judy



## SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

MARCH 28-APRIL 3, 2001

**A Name to Know**

Sun City West resident **Peggy O'Neil** loves working with numbers. After spending a career working with ledger sheets and calculators, Mrs. O'Neil retired and moved to the Valley to pursue her passion — golf.

However, Mrs. O'Neil quickly realized she needed something that worked not only her body but her mind,



and began volunteering for AARP's tax assistance program.

Mrs. O'Neil is now in her sixth year with the program and has served as local coordinator for the last five years.

She begins working in November of each year to prepare for the upcoming tax season. Recruiting and advertising for new volunteers keeps her busy for the first month or two and then she moves onto training and preparing paperwork.

Then from Feb. 1 to April 12, Mrs. O'Neil spends at least 40 hours a week running the Sun City West program, which operates in a room donated by the Sun City West Foundation.

Mrs. O'Neil is quick to point out that she could not possibly service the 3,000 people who come through the doors each season without her wonderful staff.

"I have such a nice group of counselors. They really make this thing happen," she said.

Mrs. O'Neil says she volunteers because she likes working with people and thinks it is a good cause.

"It's a very worthwhile service in the community and it is something I was trained to do in my work life, so now I can give back in my retirement."



# SCW man records Arizona milestone

## Retiree tops list of blood donors

By TRACY CHARUHAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST— Sun City West is the home of many great World War II heroes, but retired Army Air Corps Sgt. Joseph Opalek, 75, has spent his life being a hero to those in need.

Opalek is not a doctor or a paramedic. He's a blood donor. United Blood Services and American Red Cross records confirm that Opalek has donated more than 36 gallons of his blood during his lifetime. His blood has been used to help 860 people, United Blood Services records say.

"I first gave blood in 1936 right after I graduated from high school," Opalek said. "My mother's best friend had some health troubles. I went to the hospital and found out my blood type was O-positive. The doctor said he could use me. I've been giving blood ever since."

Opalek said he has given more blood during his life than any other Arizona resident and blood bank records back up his claim.

"There's a Phoenix man who wants to beat my record, and I hope he does it," Opalek said. "He's 38 years old and is at the 20-gallon mark. He's got 30 years left to catch up with me."

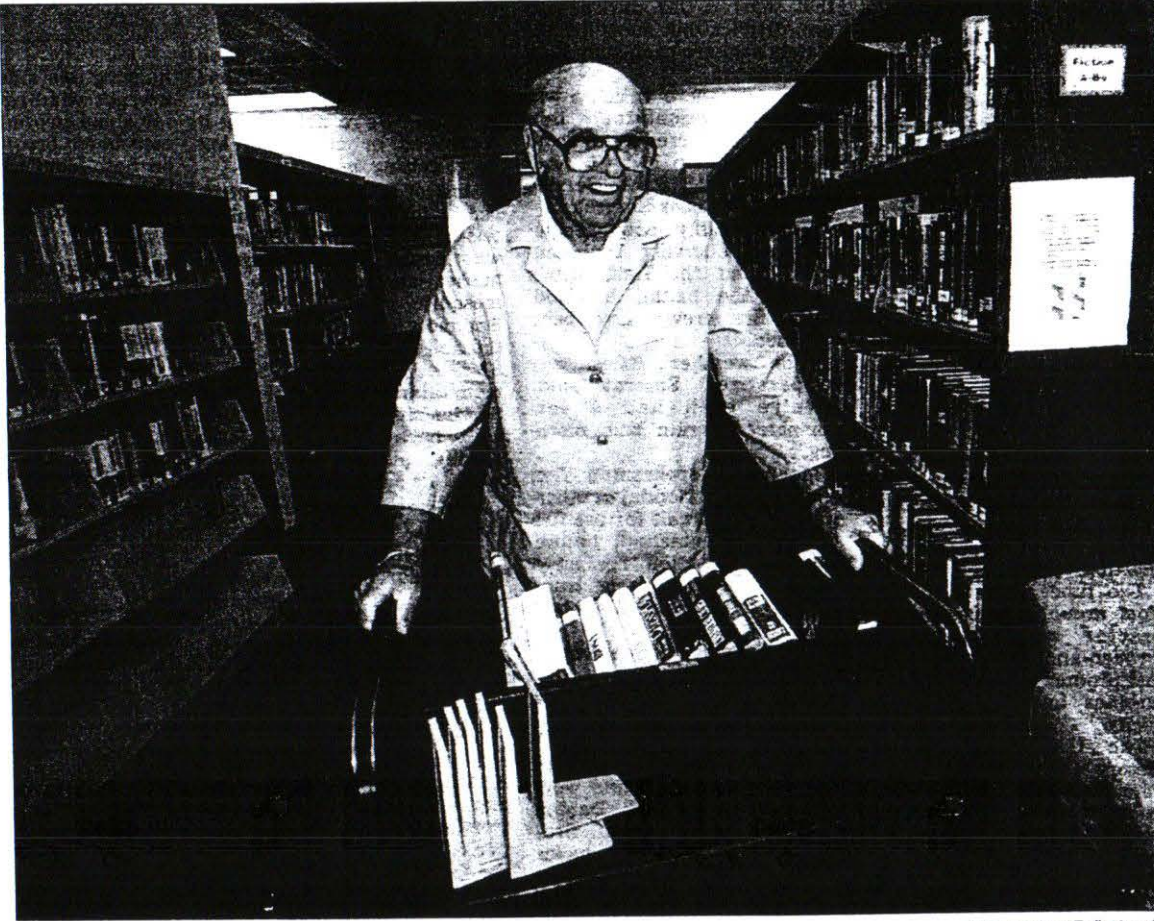
Opalek's value as a blood donor was realized by military doctors during his Army Air Corps service in World War II.

In July 1945, Opalek was stationed at Grafton Army Base in Kettering, England. When doctors found out he had O-positive blood, they took him down to sick bay where he spent several weeks giving all the blood he could.

O-positive blood type is a universal type that can be used by most people regardless of their blood type.

Opalek, a former Sun City West Posse commander, moved to Arizona in 1957 with his wife, Angela, and their two children. He joined the U.S. Post Office in 1957 and retired from his job as a letter carrier in 1984.

The walls of his Sun City West



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

Joseph Opalek shelves books at the R.H. Johnson Library, where he volunteers each week. Helping

home are covered with plaques and awards from United Blood Services commemorating his donations. When Opalek reached the 20-gallon mark, United Blood Services sent him a wooden plaque with a clock and a barometer. But Opalek said he never gave blood to earn trophies. He gave his blood for the satisfaction of knowing he had helped people.

"There are so few people who take the time to give their blood," Opalek said. "A lot of people are just thinking of themselves and don't feel sorry for other people. Luckily, there

others is nothing new for the Sun City Wester who has donated 36 gallons of blood during his life.

is a small percentage of us who do give our blood. Many people think they don't have the time to give their blood or that it is too painful. That's too bad," he said.

Opalek's wife has followed her husband's example and has donated 18 gallons of blood.

"She can't donate blood anymore and she's mad because she wanted to hit the 20-gallon mark. If she were able to donate blood, she'd be doing it right now and so would I. I really miss it."

Opalek can no longer donate blood

for others because of health problems. But he continues to build his donation total by donating blood for himself in the event he needs to have additional surgery.

"I had surgery in January, and the doctor said I couldn't accept anyone's blood but my own," he said. "We had to use my blood. I saved my own life," he said.

Opalek said his doctor is keeping a record of the blood he takes from Opalek and submits the information to United Blood Services.



SCW

# Music reviewer 'feels' his work

By DOUG DOLLEMORE

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Frank Oppenheimer believes that music isn't something you understand, it's something that you feel.

He has believed that for 74 years.

"I went to a concert in 1915 with a friend and his grandmother," Oppenheimer said and then recalled the conversation at intermission. "His grandmother looked at me and asked, 'Well, do you understand it?' I said, 'What is there to understand? I think it's more important that music gives you a feeling or produces a picture in your mind. Isn't that more important than understanding what techniques the composer or musicians used?' I still believe that today."

Oppenheimer, 84, is the Daily News-Sun classical concert reviewer. For the last three years, he has reviewed Sun Cities Fine Arts Society performances. Beginning this season, he also will review Sun Cities Symphony Orchestra concerts.

"We're happy with Frank's reviews. They're very knowledgeable and intelligently done," said Ronald Stetzel, past president of Sun Cities Fine Arts Society. "He knows what he's talking about."

Oppenheimer began playing the violin when he was a child in Mannheim, Germany. Eventually, he joined an orchestra there.

Later, he became an actor.

"Actually, I wanted to study psychology, but my parents didn't want me to become a psychologist. My brother was already in college and they couldn't afford to send me, too," Oppenheimer said. "So I did the next best thing, I became an actor."

Oppenheimer did take a few psychology classes from famed psychoanalyst Carl Jung in Heidelberg, Germany.

"He was really interested in character," Oppenheimer said. "He had this theory that the way a person walks, talks and moves are absolute characteristics. Those classes really helped me study people and become a better actor."

Oppenheimer performed regularly in stage productions throughout Germany from 1926 to 1938. He also wrote reviews of plays and concerts for a German newspaper.

But in 1939, Oppenheimer, who is Jewish, lost his jobs.

"There were signs of discrimination against Jews in the

late 1920s, but they didn't come out in the open until Hitler came to power," Oppenheimer said. "I was lucky. I wasn't touched by it until the late 1930s."

Oppenheimer discovered he had a distant relative living in the United States and received permission to emigrate in January 1939.

After he arrived in New York, he worked as an actor for a short time. During World War II, he worked in several factories, including a plant that made zippers.

After the war, Oppenheimer became an importer of precision German engineering tools.

He and his wife, Gladys, moved to Denver in 1962. After he retired in 1976, the couple moved to Germany.

"We were only going to stay a few months, but we wound up staying nine years because my wife loved it so much," Oppenheimer said.

The couple moved to Sun City West in 1985. After he retired, Oppenheimer began playing the violin again, but had to give it up because of arthritis.

He began reviewing SCFA concerts in 1986.

"A good reviewer is fair and reasonable," said Bob Roberts, who plays principal trumpet in the Sun Cities Symphony. "If he has something unkind to say he says it in a way that it doesn't sound nasty. It's not good for a reviewer to sound as if he knows everything. He's modest."

"That's exactly my feeling," Oppenheimer said. "I don't want to sound superior. When I go to a concert, I want to be completely open. I don't want to have any preconceived notions."

Oppenheimer said he does research before each concert to try to get to know the composer.

"A good reviewer tries to understand the personality of the composer," Oppenheimer said. "It's also important to understand the circumstances in which he wrote the piece."

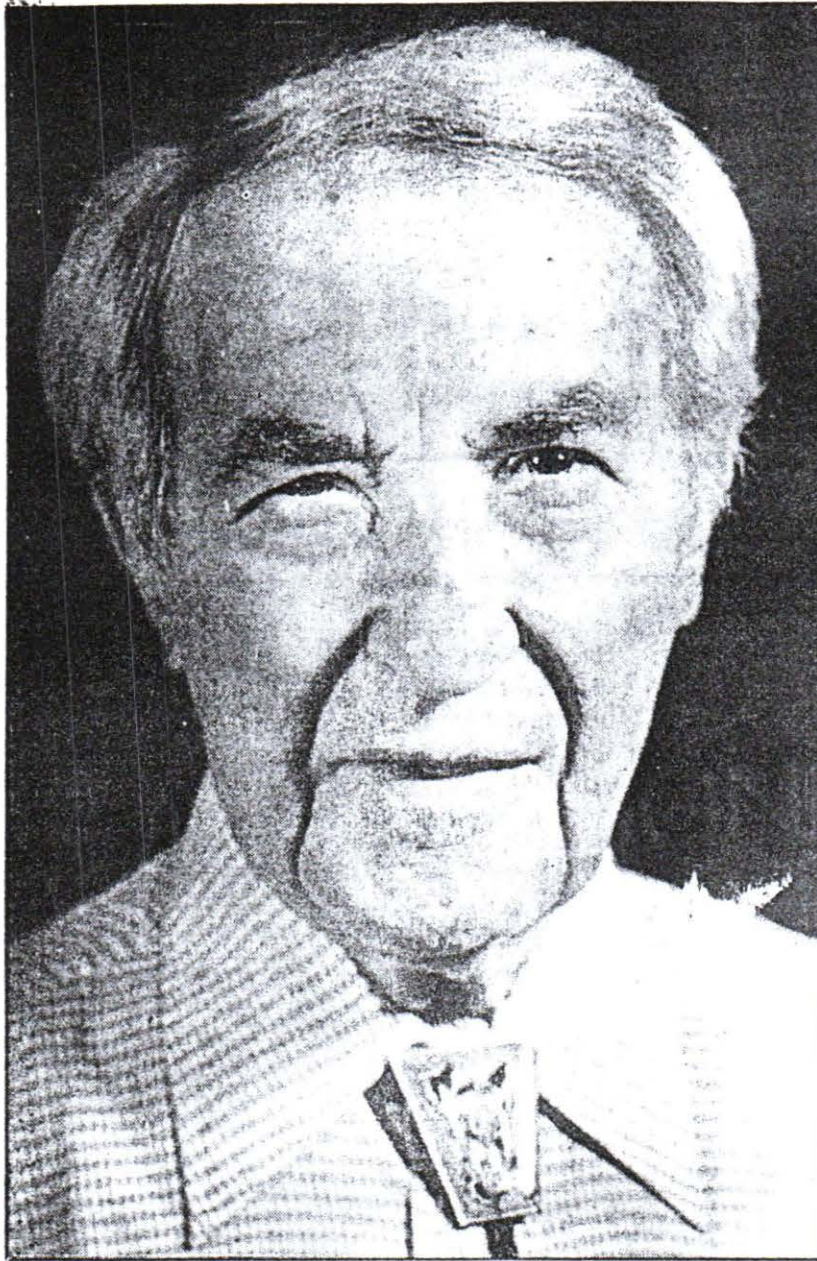
Oppenheimer also listens to recordings of pieces that will be performed.

"Although I listen to recordings, I try to shut that out," Oppenheimer said. "I try not to get too analytical. I'm much more interested in the feeling of the piece."

"I seem to have a good instinct about whether the orchestra has caught the overall feeling of the music or if they're just playing notes."

*Oppenheimer, Frank*





Daily News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherek

**FRANK OPPENHEIMER** — The Sun City West resident has been reviewing classical music in the Daily News-Sun for three years. He says "it's more important that music gives you a feeling or produces a picture in your mind."



'I've been so lucky'

# Adieu, illness — hello, Follies

By Pamela Manson  
The Arizona Republic

Two years ago, Jane Orbik, 53, used a wheelchair when she left her home because her arthritis made movement painful.

This week, she's kicking up her heels as one of the leads in *Hooray for Hollywood*, this year's Sun City West Variety Show.

"It's a dream come true," said Orbik, who will be the lead Ziegfeld Follies dancer.

"It's the next best thing to being Miss America. Not everyone gets to be a showgirl."

Orbik said a combination of medication and exercise has made her show-business efforts possible.

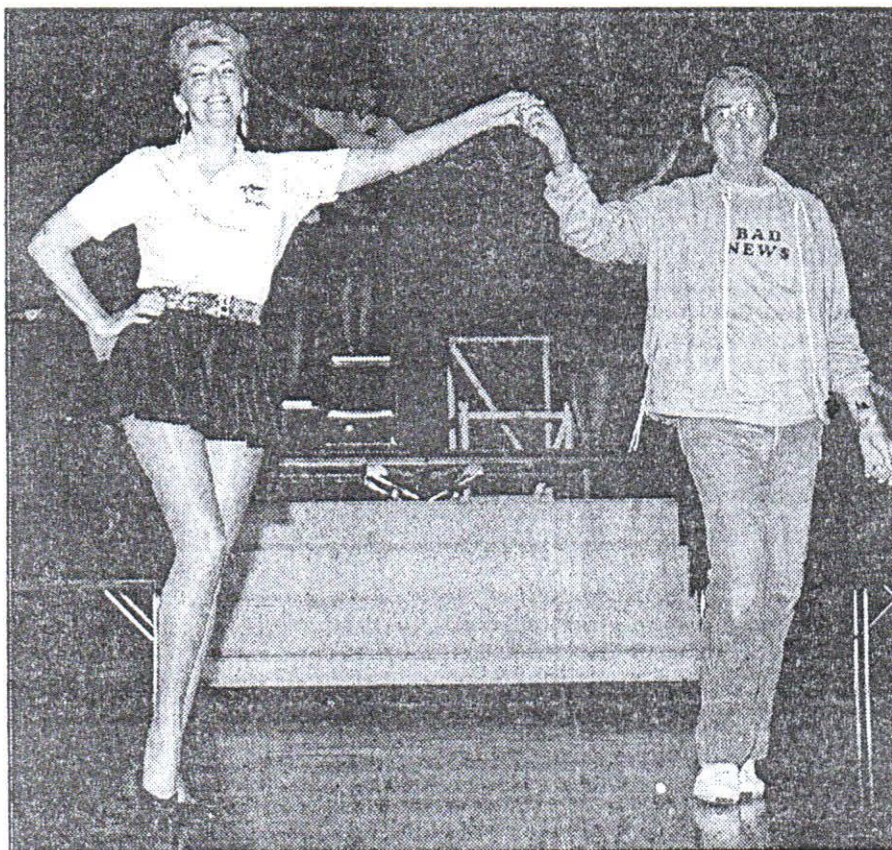
Almost three years ago, Orbik got an ulcer from the medication she was taking for arthritis, which she had developed at age 26. She was taken off the medication and eventually began using a wheelchair to get around.

After treatment for her ulcer ended, Orbik was put on a new kind of arthritis medication. She also began taking tap lessons for exercise and joined the Sun City West Rhythm Tappers.

As a member of the dance group, Orbik performed in last year's variety show. This year, she was picked for one of the leading dance roles.

"I've been so lucky the last two years," she said of her renewed health.

— See **THERAPY**, page B2



Jane Orbik (above) rests after her performance with Carlos Wilson (left) in *Hooray for Hollywood*. Orbik, who was in a wheelchair a year ago, has one of the leads in the Sun City variety show.

## IF YOU GO

### Sun City West Variety Show

**WHEN:** Performances at 8 p.m. Thursday and 2 and 8 p.m. Friday.

**WHERE:** Sundome, Sun City West.

**TICKETS:** Seats for \$4 and \$5 are available at the Sundome Box Office. Seats for \$6 are sold out.

Charles Krejcsi/The Arizona Republic



## Therapy lets woman tap way to dream

— THERAPY, from page B1

The performing has been "just fantastic," she added.

"I love it. My doctor loves it. He said just be happy and do things that make you happy," Orbik said. If you're sad all the time, your life is over."

Orbik began work on the show in January, when a theme was selected and auditions were held. She is one of 250 Sun City and Sun City West residents working on this year's show.

Proceeds from the show go to the Sun Health Foundation. This year's money is earmarked for bedside patient-monitoring equipment for Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital in Sun City West.

Everyone connected with the show, even retired professionals, works for free. That includes director Christopher Brown and the costumer Demetrius, who goes by one name. Brown is a retired actor, director, dancer and choreographer.

Demetrius, a retired costumer and former Brown business partner, sewed about 200 outfits for the show.

Demetrius, said friends in the costume business donated material and feathers. Some dresses took 10 yards of material and 30 yards of trim each, and some of the hats needed 12 yards of feathers each.

The completed articles will be sent to the donors after the show, he said.

The show began a decade ago as a amateur production that attracted fewer than 100 people to its first performance.

"The first year, people were dragged off the street" to get an audience, said Serena Sorensen, director of special projects for the Sun Health Foundation.

It's still an amateur show, but its reputation and audiences have grown.

Tickets for this year's production went on sale in April. More than 13,000 have been sold so far, and Sorensen predicts about 15,000 people will attend one of the performances.

"Each show is so wonderful," she said. "Every year, we wonder, 'How will we top it next year?'"



# Overton wins 6th Sr. Olympic gold

By WALTER DOZIER  
News-Sun staff

*News Sun 2/29*  
SUN CITY WEST — Sun Citian John Overton won his sixth Arizona Senior Olympics gold medal, Sunday morning.

Overton, 82, was first in his age group, and third overall, in the biathlon — a combined 3.3 mile run followed by a 14-mile bicycle ride. Overton covered the distance in 1:15.12.

"It was wonderful being out there," he said. "The course was well marked and monitored. There were people out there to point out the directions and keep the race going.

"I got a little tired but I said to myself that I can't let these people down. It made me work a little harder. I wanted to do well."

On Saturday, Overton won gold medals in the one and five mile bicycle criterions. And last week at Sun Angel Stadium in Tempe, he won gold medals in his age group in the 100, 200 and 400 meters races in the track and field competition.

Overton's times in the track competition were: 16.61 in the 100 meters; 34.16 in the 200; and 75.23 in the 400.

In the running portion of the biathlon, Overton covered the 3.3 miles in 26.53.

"I competed in two biathlons in Peoria last year," he said. "I'll take Monday off to rest and then I'll start preparing for this year's Fiesta and Pioneer Days in Peoria. I'll go in either the 10K or another biathlon."

Comparing Saturday's bike races to Sunday's bike portion of the biathlon, Overton said that the biathlon course had more hills and involved going through

more gears on his bike.

"On Saturday I had my bike tuned up for speed," he said. "I had it tuned differently for the hills. It can make a difference too.

Other bicycling results are: Rudy Hirsch of Peoria, won silver medals in the one and five mile criterions in the 65-69 age group; Jim Lauf of Sun City West, won a gold medal in the one mile and silver medal in the five mile criterions. Jean Brown won the women's 10-mile race in the women's 50-54 age group and also won a gold in the 1-mile criterion and a silver in the triathlon. Lou Girard won the women's 65-69 10-mile bike race and the one and five-mile criterions. Girard also won the triathlon.

Results from other Senior Olympic events from the past week are: Evelyn Arnold, overall winner in the women's 10K Sunday and winner of the 400, 800 and 3,000-meter runs in the 60-64 age group; Trudi Spencer, 75-79 age group, silver in 1,500-meter race walk, bronze in 100-meter dash and silver in 5K race walk; Andy Wagner, 70-74 age group, bronze in shotput; Ernie Leinberger, 65-69, three bronze medals in the 100 and 200-meter dashes and in the discus; Martha Kuchaes, 65-69, silver in the 50-meter dash and bronze in 100-meter dash; Mia Wilshusen, gold in 80-plus women's 10K; Marion Markey, gold in women's 80-plus 5K; Helen Miller, gold in women's 70-74 5K; Ed Deuss, gold in men's 80-plus 5K; Dawn Lawton, silver in women's 60-64 10K; and Helen Summers, bronze in women's 80-plus 5K.





**SIX-TIME GOLD MEDAL WINNER** — John Overton, 82, crosses the finish line to take first in the one-mile race for the 80-plus age group Saturday in Sun City West. (News-Sun photo by Stephen Cherek)



# Sun City resident finds volunteer work rewarding

MITCHELL VANTREASE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jim Pannkuk can't help but get emotional when families receive their homes through Habitat for Humanity.

Pannkuk has spent countless hours as a volunteer with the organization's West Valley chapter, helping dreams of owning a house come true. He's performed such jobs as roofing to electrical work.

"God wants us to take care of our own and help the less fortunate," he said.

In 1996, Pannkuk retired from his job at John Deere in Iowa and moved to Arizona. That's when he decided to

get involved with Habitat for Humanity.

"I've always heard about it,

but we never had one where I came from," he said.

In addition, the 64-year-old said he believes the program's philosophy, which is "driven by the desire to give tangible expression to the love of God through the work of eliminating poverty housing."

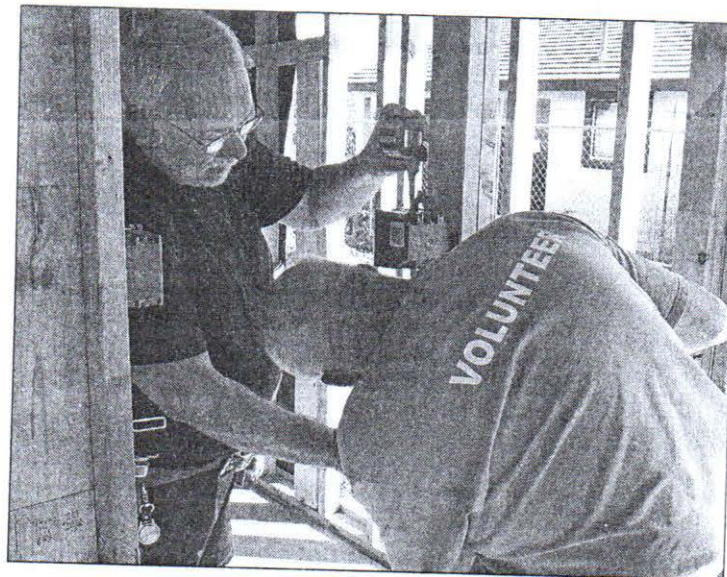
The homes are built by volunteers throughout the area with more than 2,000 hours needed per home. Families then buy the homes at cost from Habitat and pay a zero-interest, 25-year mortgage plus monthly fees to cover taxes and insurance.

Habitat houses are appraised at an estimated value of about \$126,000.

"I believe in their philosophy because this isn't just a giveaway program," he said. "These families have really worked for these homes."

For four hours a day, five days a week, Pannkuk can be seen on site at a Habitat home whether it's in Peoria, El Mirage, Surprise or any other West Valley community. He's never worked construction on a house until he volunteered with the

## VOLUNTEER: Habitat camaraderie added bonus



CHARLES WADE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jim Pannkuk, a Sun City resident, and Jim Crim, a Sun City Grand resident, measure and mark to place a backer board in a bathroom for a towel rack that will be installed in the future. Both are volunteers for Habitat for Humanity.

### From A1

nonprofit.

"You learn right here on the job and pick up things fast," he said.

Joel Colone, head site supervisor for Habitat, said Pannkuk has been a great asset to volunteer work crew, which has a number of retirees.

"He's a great guy and here all of the time," he said. "When something needs to be

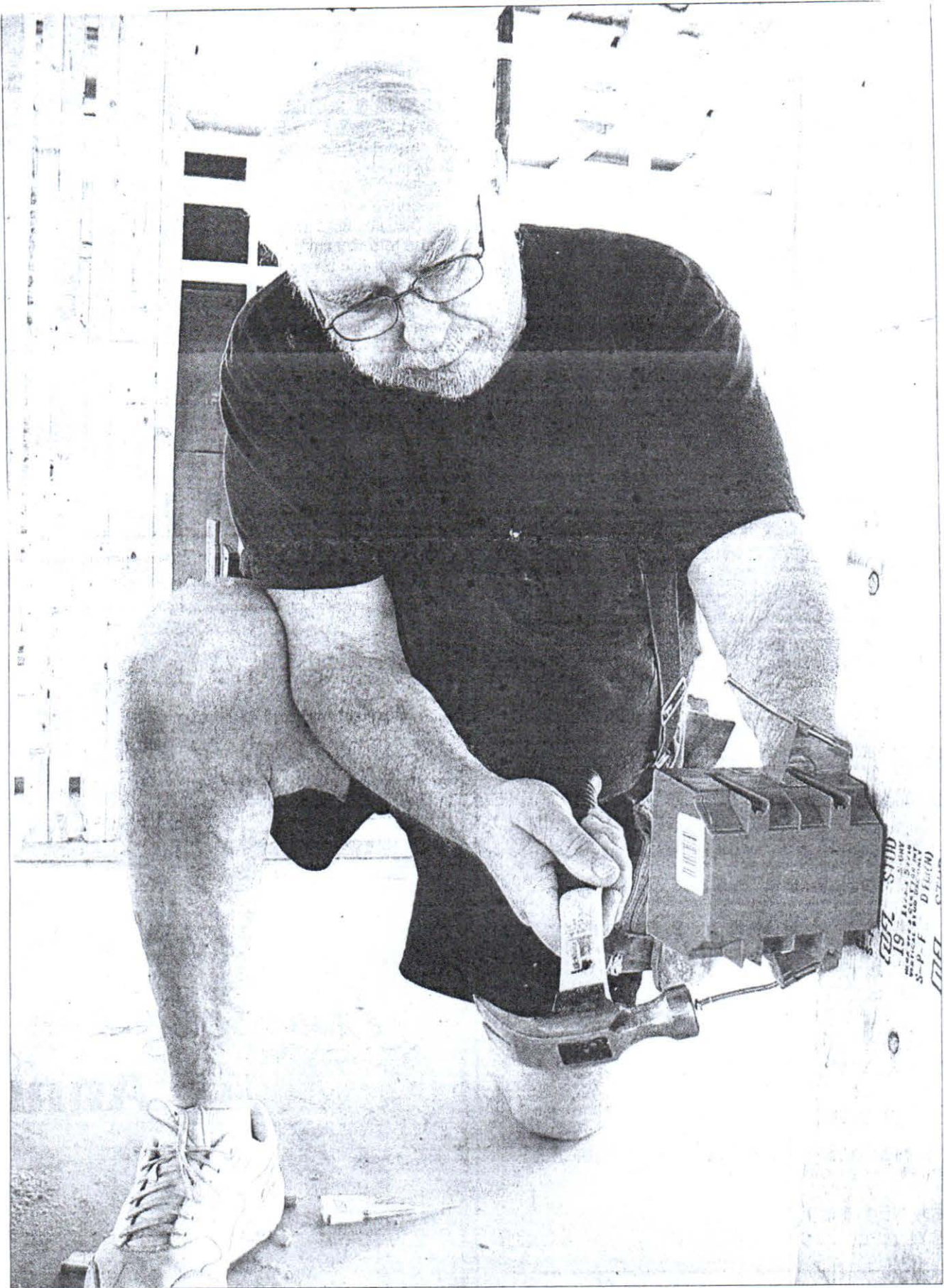
done, he's right there and we really appreciate it."

Along with helping others, Pannkuk has appreciated the camaraderie among the volunteers. He even met his wife, Beverly, through Habitat.

"I've gained some exceptional friendship through this and had fun at the same time," he said.

If you have a community service profile, call Mitchell Vantrease at 876-2526 or e-mail [mvantrease@aztrib.com](mailto:mvantrease@aztrib.com).





CHARLES WADE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Jim Pannkuk, a Sun City resident, demonstrates how and where an electrical outlet box is placed in this newly framed Habitat for Humanity home in El Mirage. Pannkuk has been a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity for about nine years. He said when it is all done, there will be 120 homes built.



## Yes, there is a super salesman in Sun City West

We constantly hear and read about super salesperson's in today's multimedia world. But—how often do you hear about a super salesman who sells everything that generates friendship and dollars that are donated to worthwhile charities.

The Pioneer Lions of Sun City West and the Crown of Life Lutheran Church has such a member. He sells tickets, entertainment, his church, his Lions Club and as a result many organizations benefit from this gentleman's salesmanship.

Larry Parker was a vice president of sales, services and finance for the Brunswick Corporation before he retired and purchased a home in Sun City West in 1989. Because of job re-

sponsibilities in his former management position, he was unable to participate as a member of a service club.

Upon coming to Sun City West, he became a member of the Pioneer Lions and the Crown of Life Lutheran Church. Little did these organizations know how fortunate they both were.

Today, each organization has two fund raising events. The Pioneers Lions Club has two major fund raising meals each year—A Hallo-weenie lunch and a Pancake Breakfast, where they serve perhaps a thousand or more people at each event. Meanwhile, the Crown of Life Lutheran Church has two fund raising meals each year; an Octoberfest Dinner (300 dinners) and a Valentine Lun-

cheon (160 lunches).

Of the roughly 2,000 tickets for the two Lions meals and the Octoberfest event, Larry has sold from 25 to 30 percent of total tickets since the inception of those events. Furthermore, the Valentine Luncheon for the church is a membership event—and guess who the ticket chairman is? Of course Larry.

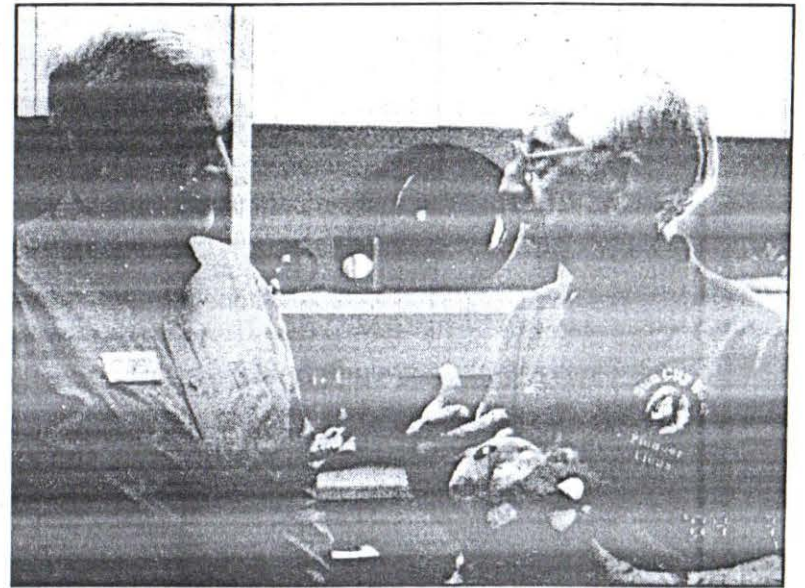
As part of Sun City West's 25th Anniversary Celebration, a raffle was conducted to benefit the Sun City West Library. This raffle gave away a 2003 fully loaded Buick with gas, two-week all-expense paid cruise and furniture from Freed's Fine Furnishings. The raffle tickets were \$50 for one ticket or \$100 for three tickets. All service clubs and

other 25th Anniversary groups sold approximately 1,746 tickets of which the Pioneer Lions Club sold 259 tickets (top producing organization) of which Larry sold 220. The ticket raffle netted \$56,000. An additional \$30,000 was received from other sources, bringing the amount of the check presented to the Sun City West Library, by Friends of the Library to \$86,000.

In addition to selling tickets, he has been a top recruiter for new Lion members, and is a strong evangelist for the Crown of Life Lutheran Church.

Now if that is not enough, what about this activity? Larry and his wife Mildred have arranged some 53 bus trips (20 for Lions, 15 for church and 18 for his neighborhood), throughout the Phoenix area for scenic tours, restaurants, entertainment. He never has had to cancel a trip and always goes with a full load of 50 people. Mildred and Larry purchase gifts, wrap them and raffle them during the trip to the event destination—at no cost to the winners.

In addition, he is a tireless promoter of Camp Tatiyee, a summer camp for handicapped children and adults located near



Super Salesman Larry Parker (r.) is shown raising money for the Pioneer Lions and Camp Tatiyee by selling Brian Gilgosh, owner/broker of the new Windermere West Valley Real Estate office on Grand Ave. a Rory the Lion for \$10. Rory recites the Pledge of Allegiance and sings America the Beautiful when either front paw is touched.

Pinetop, Ariz. where up to 74 individuals are given a no-cost two weeks outing at the camp during six sessions each year, paid for by the Lions of Arizona.

Several years ago Larry acquired a tour package from Holland America Lines for a two week cruise, which he used to organize a raffle conducted by the Lions Clubs of the Sun Cities. Through his leadership and

marketing skills, the raffle netted approximately \$6,000, which was given to Camp Tatiyee by The Pioneer Lions Club.

It is truly impossible to measure the financial or emotional success that Larry has provided to his community and to the members of the organization he has joined. In addition to being a super salesman he is a super human being.



AUG. 14-20, 2002

## Name to Know

Books have always been at the center of **Carole Parnell's** life.

For 30 years, Mrs. Parnell worked at middle schools in Ohio as a teacher and librarian.



"All the librarians I knew were such nice people. I thought it would make me nice too," Mrs. Parnell said laughingly, explaining why she chose her profession.

Shortly after moving to Sun City West in 1997, Mrs. Parnell began volunteering with Habitat for Humanity of the West Valley.

Mrs. Parnell currently serves as the organization's board secretary and co-chairman of its public relations committee.

"If there is one thing about Habitat that we all think is terrific, it's that we are putting kids in homes and putting them in a place where they can study," Mr. Parnell said.

A non-profit organization, Habitat for Humanity builds homes for low-income individuals with the help of numerous volunteers.

"It's such a great hands-on type of thing," Mrs. Parnell said. "It's not like just writing a check and hoping it will be used wisely."

While she has assisted in the building of several homes, Mrs. Parnell has focused on other volunteer opportunities within the organization.



## SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

OCT. 10 - 16, 2001

### Name to Know

**Andy Paul** was recently honored by the Pioneer Lions Club of Sun City West with a certificate of appreciation for his 1,500 hours of volunteering at the Recycling Center behind the Sundome Plaza in Sun City West.



Sometimes volunteering 35 hours in a week, Mr. Paul helps empty recyclable paper from the cars of residents and assists in every way possible for the Lions in their recycling effort.

His labors could be considered a remarkable feat on their own. What's more stunning is Mr. Paul is not even a Lion.

A devoted member of the Sun City West Kiwanis Club, Mr. Paul attends to the Kiwanis aluminum can recycling receptacle along with assisting the Lions. Both clubs use recycling to raise money for various charitable causes.

The 80-year-old has been a Sun City West resident since 1984, when he moved to the community from Wayne, Pa., with his wife, Charlotte.

A year and half ago, it was discovered that Mr. Paul had Alzheimer's disease.

Since he was determined to stay active and ward off the affects of the disease, he decided to assist with the Kiwanis aluminum collection station and maintain the facility.

PAUL,

ANDY

vf

Personalities

SCW



# After 43 years of reel world, real drama defines life

By TINA SCHADE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

**W**hen Armand Paul retired to Sun City West 10 years ago, he left behind the larger than life images of the motion picture industry.

After 43 years of working for major movie studios like Disney and Warner Brothers, Paul had his fill of Hollywood-generated stories played out by silver-screen starlets.

These days, Paul prefers to spend his time with real people living through real drama.

For the last nine years, Paul, a member of the Ocotillo Kiwanis Club, has donated his time and money to Nadaberg Elementary School in Wittmann. Just this weekend, Paul wrapped up a stint delivering Easter bouquets for Lavender and Lace Flower shop in Surprise. The money Paul makes in deliveries is funneled into the Kiwanis club's kitty, which helps the school buy new books and computers.

"The money just goes to pretty much anything they need that they can't get funding for themselves," he said.

Paul also co-chaired the club's pancake breakfast, another school fund-raiser, served as the Kiwanis Club's president and sat on the board of directors.

The soft-spoken Paul also pioneered the club's gleaning project, where excess fruit growing on locals' trees is plucked and given to children at the school.

Paul has hung a few bookshelves in the school's library and labeled books, as well.

Other volunteer projects for Paul include working as a handyman for Interfaith Services Inc. "Anybody can just call and say 'I need a lightbulb changed, but I can't reach it' and someone will come right out," Paul said.

In addition to his volunteer work with Nadaberg, Paul is an enthusiastic member of the Computer Club, which boasts nearly 3,500 members.

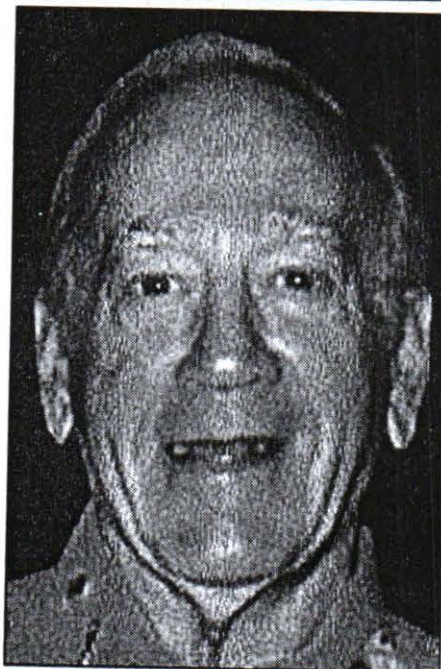
"I was involved with computers through work and never intended to get involved with them since I retired ... but it was just so interesting," he said. Paul said his favorite places to browse are health and travel Websites.

But Paul doesn't spend all his free time in front of a computer. He spends an hour and a half each morning working out on the rec centers' rowing machines, nordic tracks, exercise bikes and weights.

The 75-year-old is a member of Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, as well.

To nominate a Doer, call Tina Schade at 876-2514.

## DOERS PROFILE



**Armand Paul**

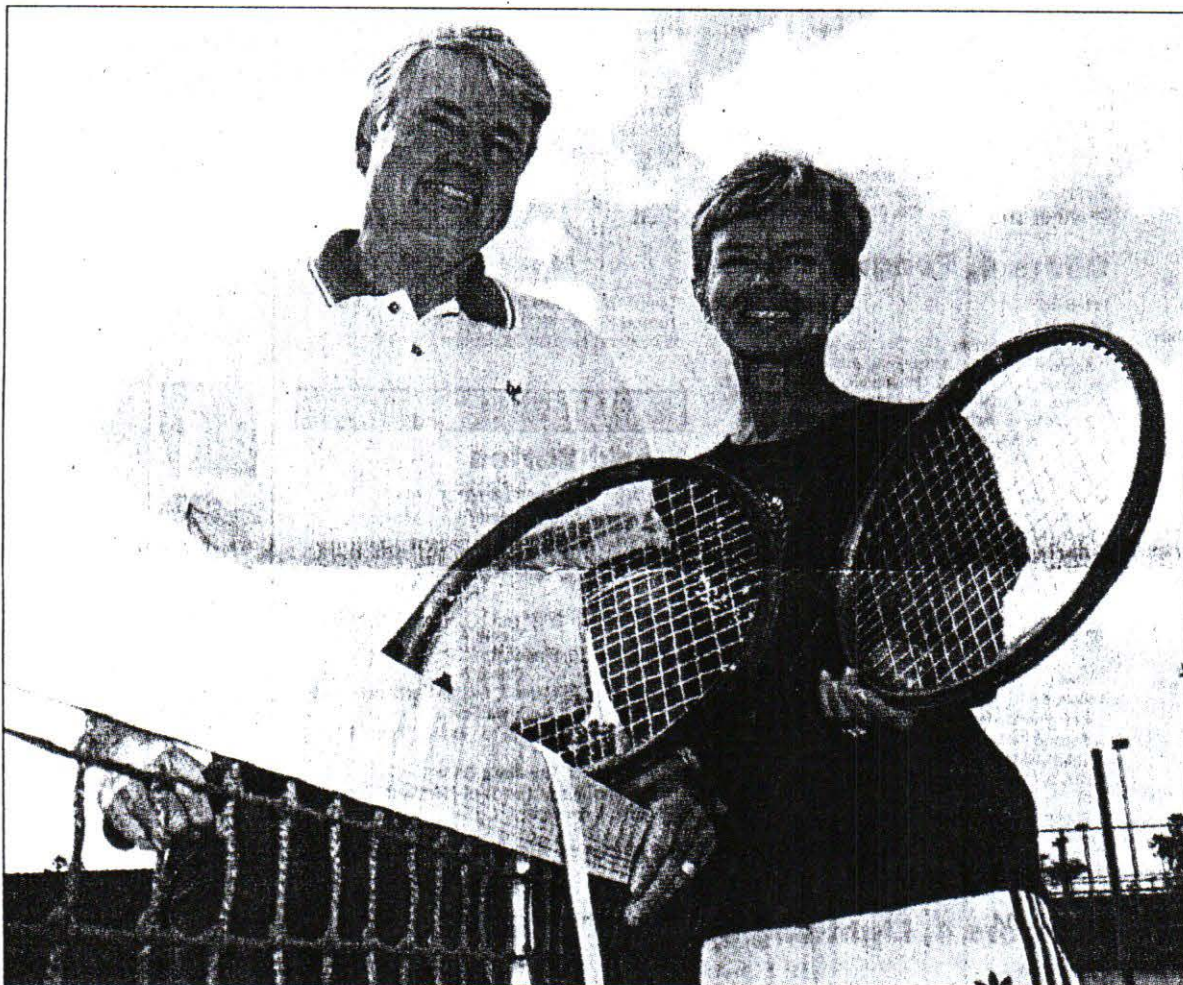
**Hometown:** San Fernando Valley, Calif.

**Family:** Wife of 50 years, Susan; two children.

**Greatest Accomplishment:** "Helping bring sound to movies."



SCW



Bill and Jeani Paulson of Sun City West are the defending mixed doubles champs in the Shine in the Sun tennis tournament, which will be played Nov. 8 through Nov. 10 at the Bell Recreation Center in Sun City.

Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

# Love game

## Sun City West couple met on tennis court

By DAVID R. BECK  
Staff writer

Perhaps it is appropriate that Bill and Jeani Paulson met on a tennis court 30 years ago, considering their passion for the sport.

"Tennis was part of our courtship," Jeani Paulson said. "We found out we both played tennis and that we play tennis a lot like our marriage."

"We expect the best of each other, and use teamwork, so they're pretty much the same."

### FYI

**WHAT:** Shine in the Sun tennis tournament

**WHEN:** Nov. 8 through Nov. 10

**WHERE:** Bell Recreation Center

**INFO:** 815-9855

On the day of their meeting, the Paulsons were playing in separate matches in Medford, Ore., and became friends, but did not marry until 1983.

The Paulsons, who live in Sun

City West, are set to defend their mixed doubles title at the Shine in the Sun tennis tournament on Nov. 8, 9 and 10 at Bell Recreation Center in Sun City.

In 1995, Bill Paulson teamed with John Kennedy to win the Shine in the Sun men's doubles title.

"We play pretty good together," Bill Paulson said. "We enjoy playing together and she's a good player for a girl. I hit a hard serve

► See Tennis remains, C3

## Tennis remains passion for SCW couple

◀ From C1

and Jeani gets all the balls I miss. She's a real scrapper."

Bill Paulson, 58, had arthroscopic knee surgery this week, but vows he will be ready for next month's tournament.

"Since I had an operation on my knee, my wife is gonna have to run extra hard," Paulson said. "She'll cover everything. I'm not worried, but she is."

Jeani Paulson, who was on the bowling team at Oregon State University, attributed

much of the couple's success to Bill.

"I have a wonderful down the line shot, which is both of ours' best weapon," said 54-year-old Jeani Paulson. "My husband is a fabulous player; I'm a good support player. I run everything down."

While living in Hawaii, the duo decided to move to Arizona after Bill Paulson placed third in a United States Tennis Association national tournament in Tempe in 1993.

The Paulsons, who are both Oregon natives, play tennis about three times per week

together and make occasional ski trips to Sun Valley, Idaho.

The Paulsons are also employed by the same company, Prudential Real Estate. Bill is an assistant broker and Jeani is a realtor assistant.

Yet tennis is the Paulson's dual passion. None of the couple's combined six children play tennis, but Jeani said their grandchildren are learning the sport.

"I just love the sport," Bill Paulson said. "It doesn't take a lot of time like golf. You can play 1 ½ hours and get a lot of exercise."

*Paulson, Bill and Jeani*



## Softballer remained cool while playing hot corner

The Senior Saints softball team is looking for more than just a recreational pastime, they want World Series rings.

Karen Peterson, one of four Sun City West residents on the team roster, said they mean business.

"We've put too much time and effort into this; we want to win the championship," Peterson said.

After qualifying for the Senior Softball World Series and the Senior Olympics national tournament, Peterson said she was doing things that she hadn't done in a long time.

"I've been lifting weights, strength training my arm, buying new equipment," Peterson said. "It's like nothing has changed mentally, just physically."

She explains that even though the body might not want to do things as fast as the mind wants it to, the game has stayed the same in her mind. "I love to compete, and I still have the desire to do so," she said.

Peterson and her fellow Saints will travel to Detroit Sept. 14 for the World Series, and then to Baton Rouge, La., next July for the Senior Olympics. According to Peterson, the Saints are ready to take on the role of ambassadors of the state as well as seniors around the nation. "We want to look good and do it right," said Peterson.

The biggest thing she is looking to accomplish during the competition is senior awareness. "I want individuals to be aware that their desire to follow dreams of competition can be achieved — life isn't over at 50," she said.

Peterson explained that she had missed the day and age when young female athletes would have the choice of competing in sports; a time when young women could receive full scholarships to universities of their choice.

"I want to see women who might

have stayed away from sports — because other people put them down — to get involved and enjoy," Peterson said.

When Peterson was 12 she realized her interest in baseball but there was no opportunity for a young girl to play the sport.

She soon found a farm team for a semi-pro female softball league. At 12 years old, Peterson was starting for a team that had mostly post-high school players. At 17 she was playing for a semi-pro team.

Peterson said the fondest memories of her career — before shoulder injuries forced her to retire at 24 — was having the opportunity to play in Arizona with the greatest softball players in the world.

Dot Wilkinson, a former teammate of Peterson, was named eighth on a local newspaper's top 100 Arizona athletes of the century, according to Peterson.

This talent has flowed over to the Saints.

Since there is a lack of competitive tournaments for the Saints, they often enter city league events. Peterson said playing against teams of 20-year-olds is good practice. "Sometimes we lose, sometimes we win. I'm just glad we're competing," she added.

During the years after her softball days, Peterson was a teacher and coach, and is currently finishing up her career at Farmers Insurance.

She plans on staying with the team as long as she is around the Valley.

The Saints are sponsored by Ramada Express Hotel-Casino in Laughlin, Nev.



Submitted photo

Karen Peterson began her softball career in earnest when she joined the Wranglers, a semi-pro team, at age 17. She was a fixture at third base for the team for several seasons.



Photo by TODD FARRAN  
Independent Newspapers

Today, Karen Peterson is a major contributor to the success of the Senior Saints softball team, which will be playing in the Senior World Series in Detroit starting Sept. 14.



# Taking command

## Woman heads American Legion post

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

### Sun City West

**A**s a youngster growing up during World War II, Mary Ellen Piotrowski was raised in an atmosphere of patriotism.

Like her two older brothers, she volunteered to join the Navy when she was old enough — 20.

She served under Hyman Rickover before he began working on the first nuclear submarine.

Piotrowski left the Navy after 16 months to get married, but her ties to veterans have lasted for 41 years through her activities in the American Legion.

This year, the 63-year-old Sun City West resident has achieved a special honor. She is the first female commander of the American Legion Post 94 in Sun City West.

"I was thrilled to become the first woman commander," Piotrowski said. "Of our 275 members, only 13 are women, including me."

Although Piotrowski is making history in the Sun Cities, there have been several female commanders at Arizona posts, including Yuma, Flagstaff, Tucson, Prescott and Sun Lakes, said Al Tercero, administrative officer for the state American Legion.

"Our current state commander is a woman," Tercero said.

There are two all-women posts in Arizona — one in Phoenix and one in Mesa.

Women have been allowed to be members of the American Legion since it started 75 years ago. The only requirement to be a member is to serve in the armed services during war.

American Legion has 3.1 million members, including 37,000 in Arizona, who served from World War I to Desert Storm.

**How did you get involved in the American Legion?**

"I joined with my late husband, Vernon, who was discharged from the Navy in 1952, like I was. We were members in Stevens Point, Wisconsin, for 38 years before we transferred to Post 94 when we moved to Sun City West in 1985. I remarried after my first husband died, and my current husband also is in the American Legion."

**Why did you move to Sun City West?**

"My first husband injured his back on the job, and he felt better in hotter weather. We picked Sun City West because of its cleanliness and peacefulness."

**What activities have you been involved in with the American Legion in Sun City West?**

"I've been involved with the memorial boulevard of flags along R.H. Johnson Boulevard, where we fly American flags that had been flown over the nation's Capitol and burial flags that were donated to us. Flags are flown on major holidays."

**What type of community involvement has your post done?**

"We have the Good Neighbor Program, and we raised \$9,000 this year for El Mirage and Surprise children to have recreational programs in the summer. We also sponsor two boys to go to Boys State and a girl to go to Girls State. We also have an Honor Guard that performs at community events."

**Before becoming commander, what else did you do?**

"I was adjutant for five years. The adjutant provides the continuity for the post because commanders change every year. I kept track of membership records and took the minutes at the meetings."

**What are your goals as commander?**

"I want to start an auxiliary, which would be open to wives and daughters of American Legion members. I also want to have Sun City West designated as a World War II commemorative community by the Department of Defense."

## PROFILE

**Name:** Mary Ellen Piotrowski.

**Age:** 63.

**Birthplace:** East Pepperell, Mass.

**Residence:** Sun City West.

**Occupation:** Retired program assistant in the department of physics and astronomy at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point.

**Family:** Husband, Frank Smith; seven children, two stepchildren, 23 grandchildren.

**Education:** Graduated from French-Canadian Catholic boarding school in Nicolet, Quebec.

**Hobbies:** Collecting music boxes; collecting dolls with her grandchildren's names.

**Honors:** Commander of American Legion Post 94 in Sun City West, member of the National Honor Society of Female Legionnaires and of the Former WAVES of the Sun Cities.





Peter Schwepker / Staff photographer  
Mary Ellen Piotrowski is a Navy veteran and the first woman to command American Legion Post 94 in Sun City West.



## Name to Know

**Bud Plant** started volunteering with Habitat for Humanity of the West Valley over a decade ago.

Learning about the organization from a church bulletin, the Sun City West resident began to assist



Habitat's effort to build homes for low-income families and got hooked.

Volunteering four or five days a week, four hours a day, Mr. Plant finds great reward in his work.

"I like to see someone who wouldn't be able to afford a home without Habitat, afford a home," Mr. Plant said. "It makes me feel good to see somebody who appreciates having a house of their own."

Initially working on all aspects of home construction, Mr. Plant gradually began to work solely on electrical outfitting.

With electrical knowledge gleaned from earlier days and new knowledge acquired during his time volunteering, Mr. Plant assists in the complete wiring of a house to all the circuits in the meter box and then later, installing all of the switches, receptacles and face plates.

Enjoying the work, the 74-year-old is quite fond of fellow volunteers and the homeowners with whom he works.



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Daily News-Sun • Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2002

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## Memorial planned for Allen Powell, SCW civic leader

### STAFF REPORT

Sun City West's 1987 Man of the Year died Monday after a lengthy illness.

Allen Powell, 84, was named Sun City West Man of the Year in 1987 for his role in drafting a long-range plan for the community as well as chairing the planning committee. He lived in the community since 1982 and was active in many Sun Cities organizations.

Powell was born in Cambridge, Mass., and graduated from Clark University in 1937.

After receiving a master of science degree and a doctor of philosophy degree in physical chemistry from the University of

Virginia, he went to work at the Cleveland Laboratory of the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics, now called NASA-Lewis Research Center of the Space Administration.

Powell later joined the staff of Case School of Applied Science, which became Case Institute of Technology before merging with Western Reserve University and being renamed Case Western Reserve University.

Powell worked as a research associate, professional consultant, part-time instructor and assistant professor until he entered industrial research in 1957 where he was a lab manager, research program coordinator, director and vice president

of research for a specialty paper as well as a consultant with an international practice.

After retiring from a senior program management position with Consolidated Natural Gas Co., he moved to Sun City West in 1982.

Powell was director and officer of the Sun City West Community Fund, Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association and the West Valley Art Museum, which was then known as the Sun Cities Art Museum.

He also was elected to the advisory board of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West and was elected president of his bowling league.

Powell was president of the Unitarian Universalist Church twice, both times when the congregation moved to new buildings. At the time of his death, Powell was serving as treasurer of the Pacific Southwest District and was a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Presidents Club.

Powell is survived by two nieces, Noreen Powell of Reston, Va., and Judy Powell of Westborough, Mass.; and his companion, Iria Geehan of Sun City.

A memorial service for Powell will be held at 2 p.m. March 26 in Unitarian Universalist Church, 17540 N. Avenue of the Arts in Surprise.



**ALLEN POWELL**, named Sun City West Man of the Year in 1987, died Monday after a lengthy illness. He was 84.



# Sun City woman finishes 2nd in Ms. Senior America Pageant

By Barbara Deters  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Jan Rittmaster may be back home, but her mind still is in the clouds.

The Sun City West resident, who is Ms. Senior Arizona, was named first runner-up in the Ms. Senior America Pageant held recently.

"Obviously I haven't calmed down from this whole thing," Rittmaster said.

"It was the highlight of my life. I don't think I've had anything so exciting or difficult."

Rittmaster spent a whirlwind week planning, rehearsing and attending social activities before the Sept. 21 competition. Her husband, Richard, accompanied her to Biloxi, Miss., for the pageant but didn't see much of her during the week.

"She was busy all day long," he said.

Rittmaster placed higher at the national competition than any of the past Ms. Senior Arizona contestants,

**"***I have to confess, I thought I was going to win. But I knew before I walked out on that stage (at the end of the pageant) that I wasn't. And I felt very good about it, so I was prepared for that. I didn't have any regrets about it. I gave it my best shot. I did the best I could.*

**JAN RITTMASTER**  
PAGEANT RUNNER-UP

said Helen McKnight, partner of the Ms. Senior Arizona, which has existed for seven years.

"We're thrilled to death. That's the best we've done so far, first runner-up. Two of our gals came in third before," McKnight said. "Of course, we thought she should have won."

While Rittmaster didn't win the Ms.

Senior America title, she's not sorry about how she placed.

"I have to confess, I thought I was going to win," Rittmaster said. "But I knew before I walked out on that stage (at the end of the pageant) that I wasn't. And I felt very good about it, so I was prepared for that. I didn't have any regrets about it. I gave it my best shot. I did the best I could."

As it turns out, winning Ms. Senior America would have been a pretty demanding job, she said.

"Last year's winner had to make 226 appearances," she said. "It would have been all glory, but it would have been a year out of my life."

Instead, Frankie Stewart, Ms. Senior California, won the title.

And that was just fine by Rittmaster, who said she became close to Stewart, as well as the other contestants during the week of living together every day from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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"There was a real bonding of these women," Rittmaster said. "What a great experience."

None of that snootiness you'd expect with beauty queens, she said.

"That's the wonderful part of being mature," she said. "It was like a love fest. Everybody just got along great. They were all supportive of one another."

The other contestants weren't intimidating, she said.

"There was a story behind each woman and it was fascinating to get to know them. We don't have to be intimidated at our age. We just enjoy it."

The judges' interview was intimidating, Rittmaster said.

"There are five judges at a very long table and you're sitting in the chair while they're firing questions at you," she said.

While the week was stressful by nature, Rittmaster, who is a professional performer, said she wasn't nervous.

"I felt comfortable on the stage. I



Jan Rittmaster was first runner-up in the Ms. Senior America Pageant in Biloxi, Miss.

Victoria Buckner / Staff photographer

such a positive experience," said Rittmaster, who sang *Beauty and the Beast* in the talent portion of the contest.

So how did she do with the questions?

Fine, she thinks.

And her philosophy on life?

"I'm not only happy but proud of the generation that brought me to this stage of my life. I can remember an age when it was fashionable to get married, then live together," she said.

"My generation's basic and precious values have served us well. But I think it's important to look at the other side of the generation gap with an open mind, a loving spirit and eternal hope