

## Smith Comes To SCW via Congress & Nebraska

by Joyce L. Salfingere

WESTER 5/14-20/92



Former Congresswoman from Nebraska's Third District, Virginia Smith is shown with the President, George Bush, also at left Sen. Bob Dole, Kan. Minority Leader.

Photo submitted

She's known as Virginia. Not Representative Smith or even Mrs. Virginia Smith. But, simply Virginia. Her gregarious nature and caring manner make this lively 80 year old former congresswoman from Nebraska a very down-to-earth lady respected by both Democrats and Republicans.

This active 1 1/2 year SCW resident decided at the young age of 63 not to retire, but to run for Congress. Age was never an issue for Virginia. "It's simply a state of mind," she said. "The ability for a person to get things done should not be measured by one's years".

Virginia has been active

in government throughout her life. Politics were discussed in her home with her parents from the very beginning and her interest in government never diminished. She graduated in Sociology from the University of Nebraska...Lincoln, with a bachelor's degree in 1936 and it is her alma mater that is presenting her with an honorary doctorate degree in May. This is her third honorary doctorate, but this one is special since it is her alma mater that is honoring Virginia.

She has also been chosen as the commencement speaker for the University of Nebraska. Asked what subjects she

intends to address, Virginia said she wants to remind the graduates how much they owe...to their parents, to their teachers, to their country, and to life in general. "They won't have a successful life unless they work hard, set goals, and be enthusiastic to achieve those goals". Virginia continued saying "The graduates need a determination to serve God and man, have a spirit of helping others, and not make the mistake of seeking happiness as a goal. If you (the students) work toward goals, you'll find it (happiness) right in your lap".

Virginia believes in this country...our democratic way of life. She feels improvement is needed in our educational outreach.

**VIRGINIA SMITH**

*Continued on Page 3*

## ***Virginia Smith, Now Active in SCW***

*Continued from page 1*

"Education is the key. We have to improve our education...have more opportunities for children".

As a Republican, and member of Congress from 1975-1991, Virginia feels her most satisfying accomplishment was "being able to help people". She was the tireless, effective voice of rural America in Washington, speaking up for the over 56,767,563 Americans living in communities of 50,000 population or less and in the countryside covering 84 percent of the U.S. land area. *WESTER*

Today, in SCW, Virginia still pursues goals and with the same enthusiasm.

With lists of honors and achievements throughout her lifetime, she continually adds to that list of accomplishments. She's an active participant of PORA, serving on the board of directors, and is chairman of the Utilities and Water Resources Committee; she worked tirelessly for a post office in SCW; is a member of PEO, and is very supportive of her church. *5/14-20/92*

There is someone who holds a very special place in Virginia's heart and has for over 61 years...her husband, Haven. Virginia's eyes became misty as she said, "He is the wind beneath my wings...he is my strength".

# SCW man finds work in retirement

By MIKE GARRETT  
Daily News-Sun staff

12/24/91

SUN CITY WEST — Al Spanjer has to work hard at saying no.

Since retiring to Sun City West in late 1984, Spanjer said he has a tough time saying no when he's asked to help the community.

"I think I get the most satisfaction out of fund raising for worthy causes like the Sun Cities Children's Foundation and Dysart Community Center," said Spanjer.

He also served three years on the Property Owners and Residents Association and was PORA president in 1989, he is vice president in charge of fund raising for Interfaith Services, a Recreation Centers of Sun City West Advisory Board member in charge of publicity, a longtime Lion, secretary of the Sun Cities Area Children's Foundation and vice president of Beth Emeth Synagogue's Men's Club.

Spanjer also volunteers his services as a marketing expert outside the community.

He writes, produces and directs video programs and was chairman of Action Arizona, a community service organization represented in most Arizona cities and towns.

A native New Yorker, Spanjer, 68, said

his working career served him well in preparing for community service in retirement. He was a U.S. Navy marketing and communications specialist for Armed Forces Network based out of New York City for 20 years and continued working as a marketing specialist for an additional 21 years at AMF, one of the world's largest manufacturers of recreational equipment.

Spanjer said he devotes his time to community service now because he never had the time during his career.

"I traveled a good 80-85 percent of the time," he said. "I retired 10 years ago when I was 58 but then spent 2½ years living out of my mobile home. My wife says she will

never step in another mobile home again."

After he retired from AMF he formed his own marketing company.

After a year of semi-retirement in Florida and giving consideration to North Carolina, Albuquerque, N.M. and San Antonio, Texas, Spanjer moved to Sun City West. At first he said he thought he would spend his retirement pursuing the many recreational activities available in Sun City West.

"But I got involved in community services immediately," he said. Monte Carlo night in February was his first volunteer effort. By 1986 he was chairman of the

annual fund-raiser for the Sun City West Foundation.

He also joined PORA soon after his arrival. He served on the PORA board during 1987-89. "I just thought it was a very worthwhile organization," Spanjer said of the organization which helps Sun City West

homeowners in a variety of projects.

Spanjer said his involvement with PORA has heightened his awareness of the community's future.

He sees water conservation as the biggest challenge for Sun City West over the next few years, followed by the transition process of residents taking over operation of the recreation centers from Del Webb.

"I think residents are definitely concerned about keeping Sun City West as attractive as it is now," he said. "I think we're taking more responsibility but not necessarily with more authority," he said.

Spanjer said he sees two more years of commitment on Interfaith's board and the recreation centers before he can think about more time on the golf courses. "I'm still young enough and healthy enough that I can continue for a while."



Sun City West community activist Al Spanjer takes time out from his busy schedule to relax at home.

Mike Garrett/Daily News-Sun

SCW



Lynn Reed

by Pat Young

Lynn Reed, who began announcing for the SCW Variety Show five years ago, will take the stage again this year as the announcer in the 1997 version, "Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance."

## Lynn Reed: 'The Voice' of the SCW Variety Show

Reed, who also has been on the Variety Show committee for five years, has performed as a member of the chorus.

Reed has used his voice professionally for many years. After graduating from the University of Nebraska in 1948, having majored in English, with a minor in political science, he received a two-year radio degree. He says that he wrote a skit for the Kosmet Club at the university, and a classmate named Johnny Carson played "Newsy the M.C."

Born in Kansas in 1924, Reed moved to Torrington, Wyo., at an early age. His dad was a doctor.

At Torrington High, Reed was a guard on the football team. He also played the "sousaphone" and trumpet in the school band.

He remembers one football game, during half-time, he changed from his football uniform into his band uniform and marched with his Sousaphone on the field, only to change back into his football garb after the half. "We won the game but lost the half-time competition," he said.

Reed, a disabled veteran, went to college on the F.I. bill. In World War II, he was in the infantry. He received two Purple

Hearts, having been wounded in Germany and in France. He spent three months in the hospital in England, later one month in Fitzsimmons Hospital in Denver.

Other merits of honors awarded Reed were a Combat Infantry Badge, the Bronze Star, and ETO badges.

He says that when he was in the hospital in France, he tried to organize an English class for some French girls. But all he heard from the french ladies was "Go jump in the 'lac' you beeg bum!"

See REED, Page B3

### REED: 'The Voice' of the Sun City West Variety Show, from Page B1

In 1952, Reed joined the NBC radio outlet, (KOA) in Denver. First an announcer, he moved to the sales department, finally becoming program director. He was with KOA for 13 years. As a talk-show host, he interviewed such celebrities as Charles Laughton, Sir Cedwich Hardwick, Agnes Moorehead and Bob and Delores Hope.

In Denver, Reed owned and operated two ad agencies. He also worked five years for Alf Langdon (then in his 90's) in Ft.

Collins. While in Denver he helped organize the Denver Dinosaurs, an organization for people who worked in the 1940s and '50s in advertising. They later expanded to members from the 1960s because, as Reed says, "Like the dinosaurs, they kept disappearing." There are now 600 members in the group, whose motto is "Now That We're Friends!"

Reed met his wife Jean in Grand Island, Neb. in 1947. They recently celebrated their 50th

wedding anniversary. They have a daughter in Denver with two granddaughters and a son in Victorville, who is an Episcopal priest, with three grandsons and one granddaughter.

The Reeds moved to Sun City West in 1988. Lynn became active with Theatre West. On the Board as publicity chairman for two years, he has appeared in "Guys and Dolls," "Arsenic & Old Lace," "Side By Side By Sondheim," "Mame," and "Hello Dolly."

Reed also is P.R. for the SCW Foundation and the West Side Food Bank. He recently received his 50-year Masonic pin (a member of Hi-12); and he and Jean are members of the Ex-PRESS Club; as well as Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church.

Jean Reed, who enjoys bridge and golf, ushers at Theatre West and works on the champagne committee with Lynn on opening nights at the theater.

Lynn Reed has contributed his video skills as well as his "voice" to the Sun Cities' Production Club (Channel 22) for more than five years. He has hosted more than 100 shows, in particular "Eye to Eye" with Sheriff Joe Arpaio and "Round & About." He is just

beginning a new show, "FYI," co-hosting with Jan Rittmaster. This show marks the 10th anniversary of the Sun Cities' TV Club.

Reed taped his "Round & About" show (remote) in front of the Sundome the morning of Oct. 17, as the Sundome box office opened for ticket sales for the Variety Show.

Reed, Lynn

# SCW man flies high in Glendale

By P. ATWOOD WILLIAMS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Carl Rimmel saved his pennies to buy a balsa wood model airplane kit when he was a kid.

"I was barely able to hold a knife," said the retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel.

He is still in love with planes. He owns one, flies it and teaches others to do the same. And when up in the air near Lake Pleasant he sometimes does rolls and other aerobatic maneuvers.

At age 69 he has been appointed chief flight instructor at Glendale Air Center.

He thinks that because he has the training, he should share his skills with others so they can have the same enjoyment he has.

"As long as the good Lord gives me good health and good eyesight, I'll keep teaching and flying," he said.

Sunday the Montgomery bill went into effect to provide benefits to veterans who served after 1976. Financial aid from \$6,200 to \$25,000 is available for those still on active duty or

discharged to learn commercial or instrument flying and study airline transport.

Once certified, the veteran must seek a job in public transportation rather than for a private corporation, said Rimmel. The bill is an incentive for commercial pilots because there are fewer former military pilots going into public or commuter airlines.

Federal regulations require that there be a chief, an assistant and qualified instructors in programs to train these pilots. All must take drug tests, have driving record checks and very complete medical records, he said.

During the Depression, Rimmel's mother tried to make a living in her small grocery business. The 14-year old took a job with the Civilian Conservation Corps, which gave his mother \$25 a week and \$5 to the youngster.

Rimmel built check dams for farmers and later poured concrete from wheelbarrows into the base of Boulder Dam in Nevada (now Hoover Dam). Because he could read and write,

he became a crew leader and helped some of the other boys write letters home.

His mother finally insisted he come home and finish high school. The high school coach agreed to help her if Carl agreed to play football.

"I may have never graduated from high school or joined the Marine Corps had it not been for the CCC," said Rimmel. "And Marjorie (now my wife) helped me with my book reports," he said with a smile.

The Rimmels have two sons: Carl Lee is a USMC lieutenant colonel and a helicopter pilot; Kim, a former airplane mechanic (who keeps his dad's plane in shape) is in charge of the water treatment plants for the City of Glendale, his dad said.

Rimmel interrupted his studies at Ball State Teachers College to take flight training in 1942 and was commissioned in the Marine Corps in 1944. He was in the night fighter program during World War II and trained at Yuma and Twentynine Palms and El Centro, Calif.

"We learned to love the Southwest during those assignments," he said.

He served in Korea and the Asian Theater and was assigned to duty in Glenview, Ill. when he retired in 1965.

"We used to fly up to Madison, Wis. and buzz the Truex Field pilots on maneuvers," he said with a gleam in his eyes. "But their radar was better than ours, and they knew we were coming."

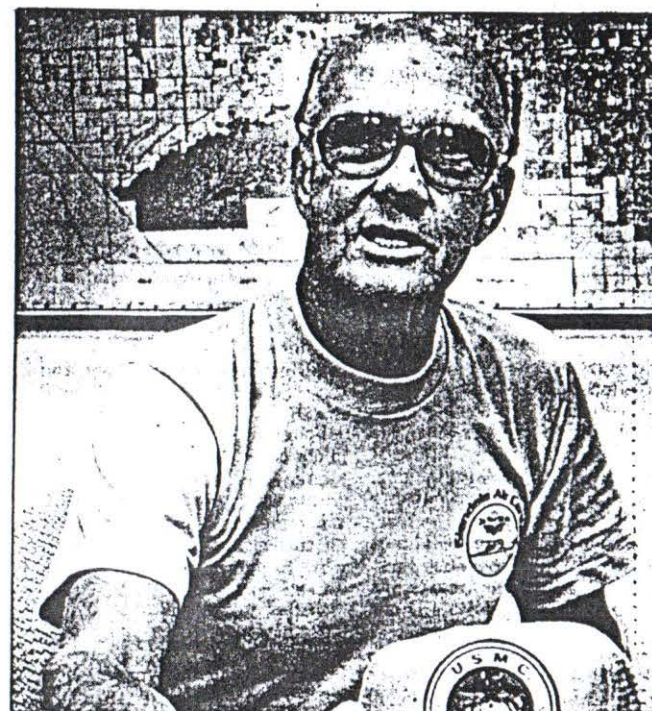
After retirement he flew corporate planes for Miles Laboratory and the mobile home executives in Elkhart, Ind.

He owned his own four-seater plane and took the family on trips.

"You see a lot more color while in the air. I especially remember a fall trip from New Orleans up the Mississippi River. We spent the night in Indianapolis and returned the next day."

And in a borrowed bi-plane he still enjoys reliving his military flights.

"I fantasize a little bit while up in a plane."



Daily News-Sun photo by P. Atwood Williams

**TAKES NEW JOB** — Carl Rimmel, 69, retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel, is the new chief flight instructor at the Glendale Air Center. The Sun City West resident owns his own plane and enjoys spotting wild horses in Arizona and Nevada and fantasizing about his military flights.

# VIVACIOUS VIVIAN



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS SUN

Vivian Rendes of Sun City West has rolled a pair of 700 series and will be inducted into the Bowlers Association of Sun City West Hall of Fame this Saturday.

RENDERS, VIVIAN

OVER

# Lane prowess puts SCW woman in hall

MARC BUCKHOUT  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Everything in the R.H. Johnson Sports Pavilion came to a halt for Vivian Rendes on Nov. 18, 1997.

## BOWLING

"I couldn't believe it," the Sun City West resident said: "I just screamed and everyone heard it. I think they thought something terrible had happened."

Instead, Rendes was simply celebrating one of her two biggest goals as a bowler by breaking a 700 series with games of 225, 229 and 253, a 707 total.

Rendes earned her nickname, "Vivacious Vivian," for just that kind of celebration. She even has her nickname engraved on her purple bowling ball.

Rendes' accomplishments will receive the ultimate recognition from the Bowlers Association of Sun City West. Rendes and Don Huke will be inducted into the association's hall of fame this Saturday.

Rendes said her 700 series was the first by a female in R.H. Johnson Sports Pavilion's 17-year history.

"When I try to tell people I'm shy they laugh at me, but sports has been a great way for me to express myself," said Rendes, just minutes after celebrating a strike with an impromptu dance.

To prove the 700 wasn't a fluke, Rendes broke the barrier again with a 729 series in December 1999.

Rendes did not start bowling until she was 37 and went through a 20-year period when she didn't play much at all.

"I was pretty much starting over when I began playing here in 1990," said Rendes, who carries a 177 average. "Being left-handed it is really hard to get good instruction, but I kept practicing."

"I wanted to improve myself and once I set my mind out to do something I go all the way. Nothing just comes. You have to work for it so I set my sights on rolling a 700 series and a 300 game."

After starting off with a 135

average her first year, Rendes jumped to 151 the next year. It wasn't long after that before she started competing in and winning several competitions.

Rendes credited her upbringing in a convent for instilling the discipline it takes to practice and become a competitive bowler. From 1993 to 1996, Rendes won 15 golds, three silvers and three bronze medals in events such as the Arizona Senior Olympics, the Huntsman World Senior Games and the Grand Canyon State Games.

Rendes also played for several years as the only woman in the men's leagues in Sun City West.

Along with helping out beginning bowlers, Rendes has made it her personal project to make the sports pavilion a friendlier establishment. She put up bulletin boards and pushed to get funds for pictures and drapes.

"She's a friendly person with very good ideas on improving the bowling experience for members," said fellow inductee Don Huke.

Jim Pokorski, one of Rendes' teammates the last three years, said Rendes keeps things fun.

"She's always encouraging everyone to try to improve and her cheerfulness and enthusiasm rubs off on other bowlers," Pokorski said.

The left-handed Rendes has flirted with a 300 game, rolling a 279 on two occasions.

"My husband bought me a figurine with a girl standing on top of bowling pins holding the number 300 in her hands," Rendes said. "I look at that and it reminds me of my goal. When I reach 300 it will be an achievement of a lifetime."

The southpaw also has been working to pick up the 7-pin for spares more consistently.

"That one costs me points all the time," Rendes said. "I'll figure it out one of these days though."

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The induction ceremony will begin at 11:30 a.m. Saturday, followed by a no-tap tournament in R.H. Johnson Lanes. There will be a 3:30 p.m. picnic at the sports pavilion. Picnic tickets cost \$4.50 per person.

## DOERS PROFILE

Dusty Rhodes

- Hometown:** Buffalo Grove, Ill.
- Family:** Wife, Toni; two children; one grandchild.
- Motto:** "I never ask anybody to do anything I wouldn't do myself."
- Philosophy:** "I believe if I belong to any organization that I'm going to work for that organization. I've never just been a dues paying member."

## Visitors to SCW will probably find Rhodes in paradise

By RUTHANN HOGUE  
Staff writer

**D**usty Rhodes is relatively new to Sun City West, but his influence is already making a difference.

Rhodes, a retired sales manager and administrator in the toy and hobby industry, has spent much of his time volunteering since he and his wife, Toni, moved to the retirement community from Skokie, Ill., 28 months ago.

Rhodes volunteered within the first two months. First, he became a member of the Public Relations Committee of the recreation centers board.

Next, he was elected to the board of directors and vice president for the Property Owners and Residents Association in 1996. He's worked on the PORA Planning and Zoning, Long Range Planning and Membership committees.

"I feel that you should give back what people give to you," Rhodes said. "I like to be involved because I like to know what's going on."

This year, Rhodes officially became the executive director of PORA's Visitors Center after a year of unofficial service. He is also president of Volunteer Placement Service.

"Unfortunately, a lot of people don't become involved," Rhodes said.

"I'd rather lend a hand than point a finger. It's easier to point a finger than to ask 'why' and help people out."

Rhodes said that his background in marketing and sales helps him in his role as executive director of the Visitors Center.

Monday, April 7, 1997

Daily News-Sun

"It all tends to fit in. You're selling something all the time," he said.

He put his experience to work, for example, when assembling a brochure introducing newcomers to Sun City West. He directed the design and decor in the interior of the Visitors Center building and selected furnishings.

Rhodes also selected PORA board member Elaine McCraith to hire and train 300 volunteers. And he established a dress code for volunteers mandating business attire instead of shorts.

"When prospective buyers come into town we are the first people that they see," he said.

The idea for the Visitors Center that opened in February was conceived in mid-1995 in light of developer Del Webb's plans for Sun City Grand in Surprise and the company's departure from Sun City West. Memories were still fresh of declining home values and failed businesses in Sun City that followed Del Webb's retreat from that retirement community in 1980.

"We were one step ahead and decided to go with a visitors center to promote Sun City West as a premier retirement community," Rhodes said. "When Del Webb began promoting Sun City Grand, we felt we needed something to keep promoting Sun City West. We need a way to keep information available that was previously provided by Del Webb."

The Visitors Center does not sell homes. It does offer informational videos, literature, tours and more.

"All we sell is a lifestyle," Rhodes said.

Rhodes estimates that he spends 15 hours each week working for PORA, not including meetings. His post with the volunteer placement service is done more on an as-needed basis. In addition, he is the liaison for the Sun Cities to the Northwest Valley Chamber of Commerce and he sits on the Presidents Council of Sun City West.

Next year, Rhodes hopes to volunteer in Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital.

When he's not busy volunteering, Rhodes enjoys reading or participating in the Sun City West Variety Show staged each year. He and Toni are members of the Bocce Club, too.

The fast-paced lifestyle is one he enjoys.

"It's wonderful," Rhodes said. "This is paradise. Coming from the Midwest with the snow and ice, this is wonderful."

Rhodes, Dusty

**INDEPENDENT**

May 3, 2000

# In defense of freedom

## SC West author explores conspiracy theory in her first novel

By **JULIE RIDDLE**  
Independent Newspapers

Recovering from a shattered kneecap two years ago, Sun City West resident Mimi Richey, 64, unearthed a new career.

"I was laid up in the house. I spent a lot of time surfing the Internet, looking up Web sites like [www. whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov), and watching Congressional hearings on television," she said. "I found it to be frightening and eye-opening," she said.

Startled by her findings, Mrs. Richey penned her debut novel, titled "Genesis: The Rebirth," in approximately three months, with the aid of her husband.

"He took over the chores. We had a lot of burned food!" she laughs. "But I really had a great time writing it." To her delight, the novel was published by Noble House of Baltimore.

"I never dreamed it would be accepted for publishing — it was a nice surprise. My family was tickled," she said.

Her first book is the result of her intrigue with internal government affairs, something that was severely limited before her injury.

"I was like 90 percent of the people in the U.S. I did not know what was going on, and I did not care," she said.

Set in Washington, D.C., on the eve of the millennium, the book is a fictionalized account based on a real-life government issue by heroine Kate Malloy, complete with romance, intrigue and deceit.

"It is a book about government conspiracy — I got the plot from a Congressional hearing," she said. "I wanted to hold readers' attention and make them more curious about the workings of the government." Mrs. Richey hopes her readers will delve into their own investigations.

"More or less, I hope that people will become interested and take the time to search," she said.

A native of Elmira, N.Y., Mrs. Richey's novel is strewn with ref-

erences to the hometown she cherishes, including a chapter devoted entirely to the city.

Of chief importance to Mrs. Richey is educating her readers on what really goes on behind closed doors. She dedicated the book to "freedom-loving Americans."

Mrs. Richey's own political views are the meat of the novel, including her dismay with the press.

"I wanted to vent my own frustration. I really lay into Congress and the press — everybody is guilty of what is happening to the Constitution," she said. The need for checks and balances, as well as less divisiveness and a sharper knowledge of the Constitution are also important, she said.

Mrs. Richey denies that her writings are a slam against the current administration.

"I know people are going to look at the book and say 'she's a

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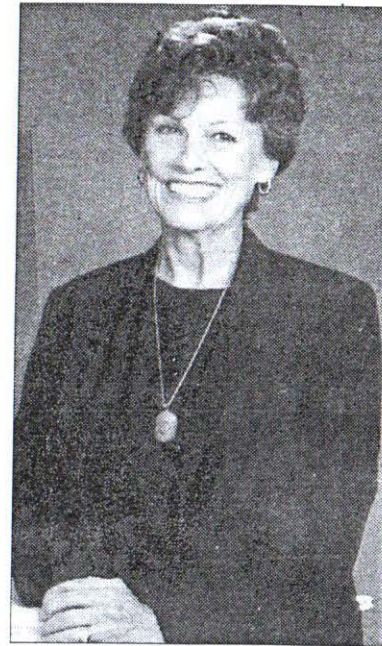
*I wanted to vent my own frustration. I really lay into Congress and the press — everybody is*

Republican,' but I am not. It is not a matter of what party you are a member of.," she said. "It was written for Americans."

The publication of her first novel has whetted her appetite for a second, Mrs. Richey said.

"I left it open for a sequel," she said. "I have already written several chapters for the new book — it will be set in the year 2007."

Mrs. Richey's book is available by special order at B. Dalton Books and Barnes and Noble, and on-line at [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) and [borders.com](http://borders.com).



Mimi Richey of Sun City West recently celebrated the release of her first novel, "Genesis: The Rebirth."

# SCW resident sets Pebblebrook mark

DAILY NEWS-SUN

THURSDAY, SEPT. 25, 2003

SCW

**RICH BOLAS**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ken Roady turned a home-improvement project into the course record at Pebblebrook.

The Sun City West resident recently scaled back on his golf game in order to paint his house. His decision helped produce a golf masterpiece when he returned to the course.

Roady had six birdies to go along with an eagle and a bogey en route to a 7-under-par 65 on the 6,106-yard Pebblebrook layout Sept. 13.

"I had been playing six, sometimes seven days a week until I started on some projects around the house," the Colorado native said. "I think playing less golf may have helped my game because I was playing too much."

The previous mark of 66 had been established by several players.

Roady set the record from the white tees.

Larry Watts of Sun City West still has the record from the blue tees with a 67.

"It was just one of those days where everything was working," said Roady, who won the men's regulation title in the Sun City West Senior Classic in April.

Roady's Sunday golf foursome featured his wife, Kathy, as well as Dick and Carmen Higashi.

"I didn't have any inkling of what kind of day it would be, Roady said. "Otherwise, I would have bought a lottery ticket."

Roady stood at 1-over-par after a bogey on the par-3, 155-yard third hole.

"My wife was 1-under and I was 1-over after three

holes," Roady said. "From the white tees, I was hitting my drives really well. I was 20 yards off the greens for my approach shots, but I was just making a lot of pars at the beginning of the round."

Those pars changed to birdies as he approached the clubhouse turn.

Roady had birdies at the par-3, 117-yard eighth hole and another at the par-4, 384 ninth hole to reach the clubhouse with a 1-under-par 35.

Those birdies only provided a preview of things to come on the back nine.

After pars on No. 10, No. 11 and No. 12, Roady made a birdie on the par-5, 466-yard 13th hole to go 2-under-par.

Then he chipped in for eagle on the par-4, 290-yard 14th hole and followed with another chip-in for birdie at No. 15, a 180-yard par-3 hole. Roady hadn't taken his putter out of the bag since No. 13 and played the two holes in 3-under-par.

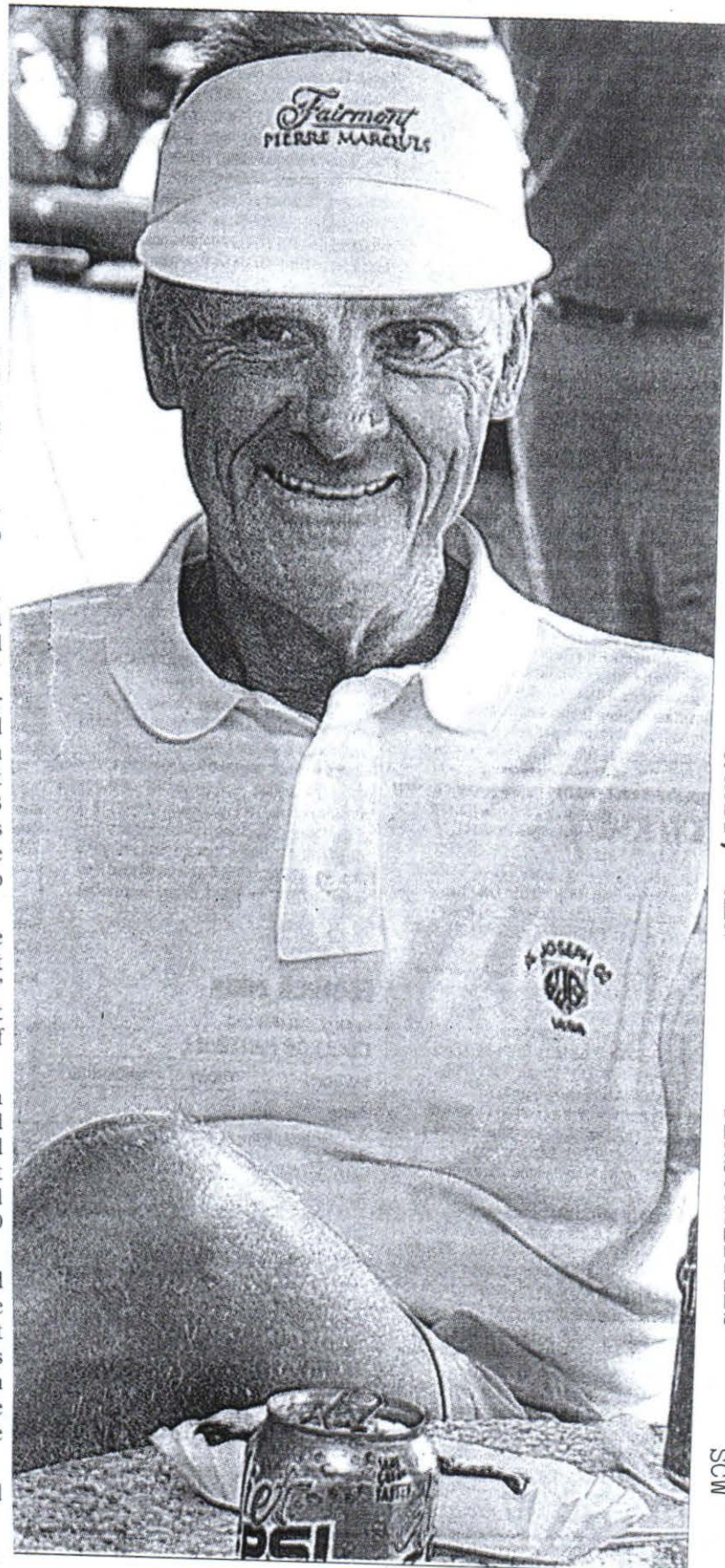
"I didn't know what the course record was so I didn't have that to think about," Roady said. "And it was just a relaxing Sunday round of golf."

Roady followed with a birdie on the par-5, 497-yard 17th hole to go 6-under and set the record with a birdie at the par-4, 342-yard final hole. He finished with a 30 on the back nine.

"Setting the course record was nice, but winning the city championship meant more," said Roady, who plays out of Trail Ridge. "Back in Colorado, there were maybe four or five players who were really good at my club."

"Here, everybody is a good player."

Count Roady among them.



Ken Roady has had plenty of reasons to smile in the past year. He won the men's title in the Sun City West Senior Classic in April and set the course record at Pebblebrook on Sept. 13.

JOY LAMBERT-SLAGOWSKI/DAILY NEWS-SUN FILE PHOTO

ROADY, KEN

PERSONALITIES

SCW

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT FEB. 13-19, 2002

# Sun City West man's competitive fire still burns

## Whether on handball court or stage

By Jeremy Pearlman  
Independent Newspapers

Irv Rothman would never consider himself the world's greatest handball player, nor would he look at his own play as being of professional caliber.

If he were to rate his personal playing ability in terms of school grades, Mr. Rothman would have earned a "C."

"Between luck and skill," Mr. Rothman said, "give me luck every time."

Not being the top player, however, did not lessen the importance handball had on his life.

To Mr. Rothman, handball

was more than just a game, it was a lifetime passion.

First learning the sport as a boy in Brooklyn, N.Y., the then-Master Rothman, would compete against friends using the wall of his elementary school as a makeshift court, while playing with a rubber Spalding ball the children pronounced as "Spauldeen."

"I grew up in an era and in a neighborhood in which sport was very important," Mr. Rothman said.

Through his youth, training for world war, career and retirement, handball remained a constant aspect in his life.

Mr. Rothman's play spanned

seven decades, giving him an outlet for one-on-one competition and a way to keep in shape.

It also provided him with enjoyment and satisfaction

"I was someone who would play at 6 a.m. or 10 p.m."

Retiring from public relations work, he partially chose to move to Sun City West because it had a place to play the sport.

Wearing a pair of handball gloves he'd used since 1941, Mr. Rothman continued to played handball in Sun City West for the five years he lived

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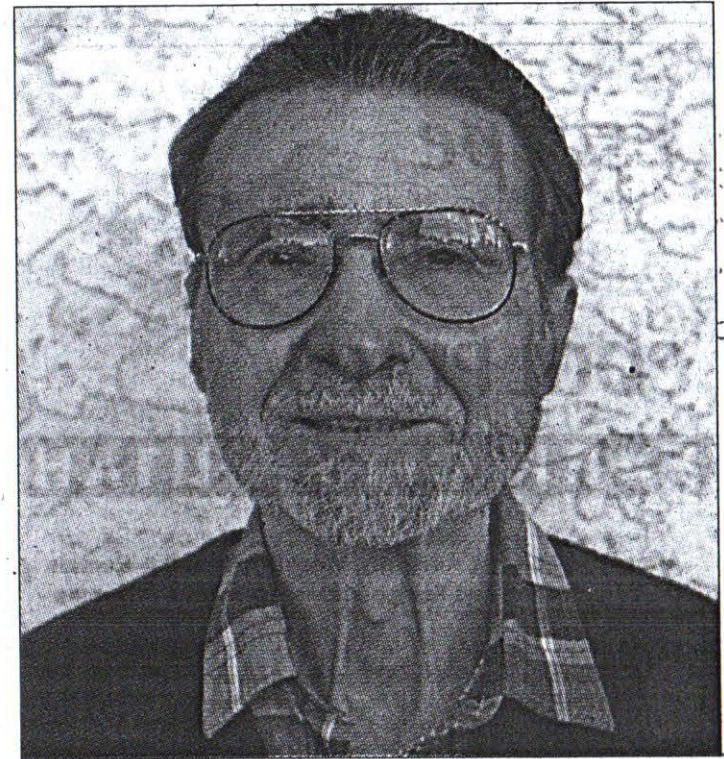


Photo by Jeremy Pearlman/Independent Newspapers  
Although arthritis ended a lifelong passion for handball, Irv Rothman has found a new endeavor on which to focus his competitive drive — the theater.

OVER

in the community, until arthritis in his neck forced him to give up this passion.

"If you have arthritis of the neck, your range of motion is diminished, specifically in a game situation," he said.

Now, two years after his handball playing days came to an end, the 79-year-old has become completely immersed in another competitive activity — performing in the theater.

"As a curious and satisfying way, the stage has replaced the

handball court with a different set of challenges and perhaps a different set of rewards," Mr. Rothman said. "The part has to be conquered ... as the competitor had to be conquered."

Starting as a curtain puller, Mr. Rothman has graduated to roles in various productions.

Although he was a lifelong theater enthusiast, he had never performed prior to moving to Sun City West.

"The theater has absorbed a lot of my concentration," Mr.

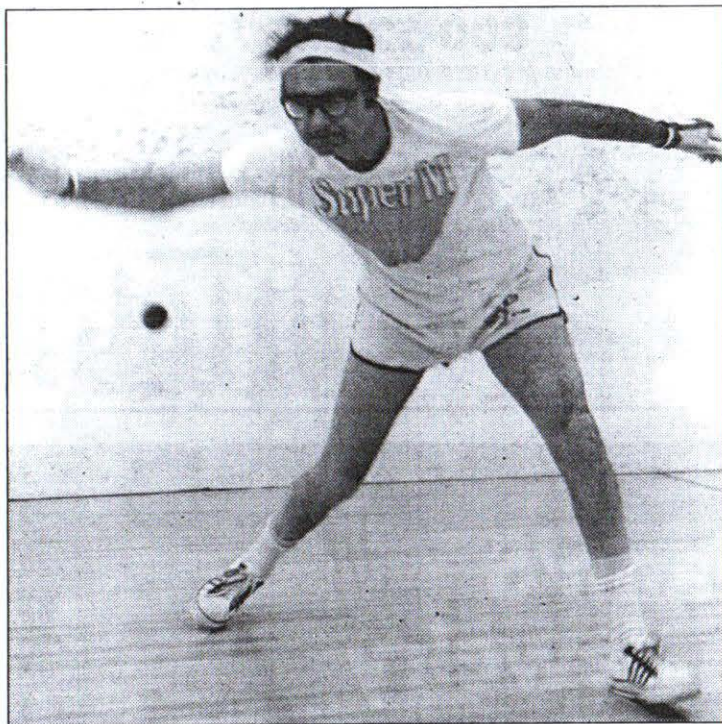
Rothman said. "It is so energizing and so stimulating."

But while this new activity consumes a great deal of his time, handball remains in his thoughts.

Recently he wrote a poem about his handball playing days, titled "More Than A Game."

The poem reads: "Another loss from a vanishing breed/of handballers trying ever harder/to satisfy that gnawing,

elusive need/understood by any athlete martyr/many opponents have been defeated/while others clearly owned the day/but those rivalries will not be repeated/R. Thrytuss, implacable foe, has stopped my play/my '41 gloves won't be in the Hall of Fame/the offer was rejected, more's the shame/still, that's not what really appalls/I refused their request for the balls."

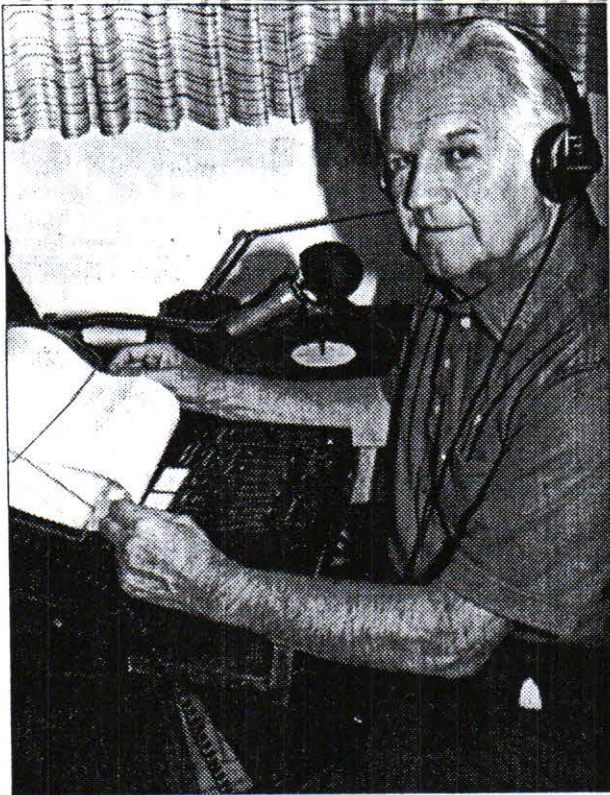


Submitted photo

Irv Rothman played handball for approximately seven decades. Pictured, is Mr. Rothman playing in 1979.

SCW

Frank Raczkowski recently celebrated 15 years of broadcasting polka music over the Valley's airwaves. Polka Frank, as he is known to his listeners, presents his shows 4:30 p.m. Saturdays on KXEG and 3 p.m. Sundays on KMYL.



# KING OF POLKA

## Local DJ celebrates 15 years of broadcasting polka music

BY JULIA DE SIMONE  
Independent Newspapers

He's not Elvis, but he is a king — the Arizona king of polka music.

This year, Frank Raczkowski of Sun City West will celebrate his 15th anniversary as a radio celebrity. He can be heard on both KXEG and KMYL radio stations.

"Polka Frank," as he's best known by his followers, was attracted to polka music at a young age.

The polka is a fast dance for couples, developed in Bohemia in the early 19th century — the basic step is a hop followed by three small steps.

"The love of music when I was a kid stuck with me," Mr. Raczkowski said.

During his sons' high school and college careers, he managed their polka band, the Polkateers, for eight years.

After moving out to Sun City West 16 years ago, he felt an essential niche was missing from the community.

"They didn't have any polka music in Arizona," he said. "I was retired, but the love for polka music kept going."

A year later, Mr. Raczkowski started producing his shows.

However, the radio personality

See ■ POLKA, Page B4

## ■ POLKA

said he never was interested being the "Top Gun" within his field but climbing and striving for the best.

"By God, if I'm better than you (in this field) I'm going to work harder, and I'm going to be better," he said.

Today he estimates that at least 20,000 to 40,000 listeners tune in to his two radio shows.

He said it usually takes eight hours a week to produce both shows, not including time spent locating sponsors for advertising purposes.

But his music isn't exclusive to Polish polka music.

Instead, he plays a blend of polka music from almost all ethnic groups.

The radio personality said he has a collection of more than 1,000 records, tapes and compact discs from the bands and record producers whose polka music he's aired.

In addition to producing his show, he also spins polka records at

From Page B1

special engagements such as dances and charity events.

"It was just something I was pushing toward — to make a difference," he said.

His charitable events are usually aimed at two specific groups — children and the elderly.

"I break down," he said of his visits to elder care facilities.

Mr. Raczkowski said he has appeared before children at a local school who tuned in to his show while riding the bus to a recent performance at Sun Grove Village Care Center's Health Fair '98.

Yet, regardless of where "Polka Frank" performs, he promises that one aspect of his job will remain intact.

"My work philosophy is to build a healthy, happy life and the enjoyment (of music) for the good of Arizona," Mr. Raczkowski. "Somebody has to make the people happy here. ... Life is too short."

Raczkowski, Frank

# Sun City West marathon man

## 63-year-old runs to fitness

By TIFFANY MEANS

Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Forget finding fountains — those who would be youthful need to exercise, a 63-year-old marathon runner says.

"Running is a very important activity for me," John Rouse said. "The aging process is slowed down because of it."

Clad in a tank top and running shorts, Rouse displayed the evidence of his secret of youth — a trim, muscular body.

"I wouldn't trade my physical activity for a million dollars. When you're in tip-top condition, you have it made," Rouse said.

He started running at age 52, while a high school teacher in the San Francisco Bay area.

A wall of trophies represent victories in long-distance races of many lengths, including 5-, 8- and 10-kilometer races.

Rouse earned many of the awards before his retirement from teaching in 1989, when he moved from San Francisco to Sun City West.

He has adjusted his training, which involves daily runs of at least 6 miles, to accommodate Arizona's climate and terrain.

In San Francisco, Rouse ran in cool weather on tree-populated hills. Now he runs early to avoid mid-day heat and follows a course that takes him along Stardust Boulevard.

"In this hot weather, 6 miles wipes me out. It's 80 degrees by the time I'm through. As it cools off, I'll run some 50 miles a week instead of around 40," he said.

Now 63, Rouse has raced in 18 events this year and expects to run seven more before Christmas. The 25-race total will be a yearly participation record for Rouse.

Of those events, the most-serious endurance test has been the Seattle Goodwill Games marathon, a 26.2-mile race, which he completed in three hours, 28 minutes and 36 seconds.

The time put him in third place out of 36 people who competed in the 60-64 age division.

After becoming dehydrated in a previous marathon, Rouse guarded against health problems in July's race.

Rouse feared "hitting the wall," a runner's term describing a physical problem that slows runners to a walk after about 20 miles, he said.

"It's eerie when you get to that point and see young runners walking. It's a disturbing scene," Rouse said.

Even without hitting the wall, runners need about two months to recover from the physical punishment of a marathon, he said.

Nevertheless, his family encouraged him to enter the Goodwill race so that he would recover emotionally from his previous marathon experience, Rouse said.

As his family predicted, the excitement of the competition



Daily News-Sun photo by Stephen Chernek

**EARLY MORNING RUN** — Long-distance runner John Rouse runs near his Sun City West house, where he moved from the lush San Francisco Bay area.

renewed his love of the event and he has scheduled to join a January marathon in Phoenix.

"There's a great elation that you've done it. You get tears in your eyes, it's a dramatic moment," Rouse said. "How many of us have that kind of experience, an overwhelming experience?"

Family support from his wife, June, and children has added to the enjoyment of the sport, Rouse said.

"I really appreciate the fact that June is there at the end of the race," he said, "Not everybody has their wives waiting for them."

# Longtime Sun City West bass player dies at 84

BY JACK HAWN

George Rouvalis, a 25-year Sun City West resident and former professional musician, died June 10 — two days before what would have been his 85th birthday — at Grandview Care Center. Services were Friday at Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, where he was a member.

"He had prostate cancer, which spread to the bone structure," said Leona Rouvalis, his wife of 21 years. "It was a pretty aggressive cancer. He died quickly."

Born in Manchester, N.H., Rouvalis moved to Washington, D.C., in 1941, and a year later became one of the first Pentagon occupants. He retired as budget officer from the Defense Department after 37 years.



An Army sergeant in World War II, he served from 1943 to 1946 at camps in the United States and in the China-Burma-India Theater.

Rouvalis once recalled singing with a 20-piece band en route to India on a 30-day troop ship.

"We had guys from Woody Herman, Tommy Dorsey, Jimmy Dorsey, Glenn Miller bands," he said. "You name it... I ended up in Burma, in the jungles."

It was Rouvalis' musical talent for which he was known locally, where he appeared frequently with small com- See *Rouvalis*, Page 14

*Rouvalis*, from Page 9

bos, playing his bass at various functions.

Rouvalis was a likeable man with hundreds of interesting stories about his career in music, which began at age 12 when he landed a singing job on radio station WFEA in Manchester. In his mid-20s, he was advised to learn to play an instrument, so he chose the bass because it was easier to master than other instruments, enabled him to play and sing simultaneously and required less practice time.

Only three years after arriving in Sun City West, tragedy struck in 1984, when George's wife of 40 years was killed in an auto accident at the corner of Bell Road and Del Webb Boulevard in Sun City. She had been headed for Boswell Hospital to visit her mother.

Rouvalis met Leona while both were out walking their dogs. They married in March of 1985.

He played for everyone including politicians. He was a performer at an Inaugura Ball for Richard Nixon in 1973 and ended up with former Vice President Spiro Agnew helping to lug his bass up to a fourth-floor hotel room.

Rouvalis also met the former presi-

dent a few times, and according to a story on him from 1999, he loved the man, saying he almost never uttered a profane word before his world began to collapse.

And for as much music as he produced, Rouvalis had stories to go along with it. Including one time he decided to use his car to get his base while he was still in Washington. But the garage, for some unknown reason, was cordoned off by security people and his car was delivered to him.

The next morning, when Rouvalis unfolded the Washington Post, he found out what was taking place while he and his pals were making music upstairs for 30 or 40 party guests.

Burglars were breaking into the Democratic headquarters at the swanky Watergate Apartments — an event that led to the scandal that ultimately brought Nixon down.

From his time in Washington, he appeared in photos with various people, including Tip O'Neill, Walter Winchell, Connie Stevens, William Bendix, Tony Bennett, Doc Severinsen and Virginia Mayo, usually in the background, the bass at his side.

He played the Washington circuit for decades, even donned head feath-

ers and sang at the Redskins' home football games.

He was a vocalist with Sammy Kaye's band, worked with Vaughan Monroe, played at all types of wedding receptions (lavish Jewish affairs, punch-and-cookie Baptist celebrations), bar mitzvahs, country club parties, wherever he could find work. And every job, it seems, produced a lasting memory.

He still blushes when he tells about Keely Smith, once standing nude before him and a dozen other musicians. (She appeared late for a rehearsal, apparently upsetting band-leader Louis Prima, who later became her husband.)

"She comes flying in a special back door wearing a big fur coat from her neck down to her ankles," George recalled. "She comes in out of the cold, approaches the band stand — click, click, click with those high heels — opens the coat wide open, looks at Louis and says, 'F-you, Louie,' then closes the coat after we all got a good look at her.

"Louis puts a smirk on his face and says to one of his pals as she marches out the other door, 'Follow her. See what's bugging her.'"

To this day, George hasn't the slightest clue.

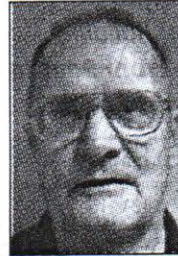
October 2, 2002

## ■ A Name to Know

Not many people are awake when **Lt. Emmet Rutherford** begins his volunteer work as a duty officer with the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City West.

Once a week, Mr. Rutherford is in uniform and patrolling the streets of the community from midnight to 6 a.m., in an effort to protect Sun City West's residents while they sleep.

"I feel it's an important time," Mr. Rutherford said about his work on the graveyard shift. "That's the time when you need coverage the most, even though at times the shift can be boring."



For nearly 13 years, Mr. Rutherford has been volunteering with the Posse, doing mostly graveyard shifts.

Prior to his retirement, Mr. Rutherford worked on electrical lines for a utility company on the East Coast. His career with the utility prepared Mr. Rutherford for the late nights with the Posse.

"On Long Island, I did storm work, working 16-18 hours at a time," Mr. Rutherford said. "Sometimes I would work all night."

"Midnight work and I are compatible," he added.

To enhance his knowledge of the criminal justice system, Mr. Rutherford has been taking courses in administration of justice at Estrella Mountain Community College since 1998.

While he has taken the fall semester off, Mr. Rutherford plans to continue his studies in the spring.

RUTHERFORD, EMMETT

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PERSONALITIES

SCW

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# Life is but a stage, and this resident has learned all her lines

By YOLANDA MUHAMMAD  
Sun Cities Independent

Aristocratic elegance underscored by an intensity that belies her petite frame, Jan Ryder wears brocades and jewels like most women wear an apron.

The stage is her kitchen, where she cooks up plots and characters and voices.

Playing the role of Queen Elizabeth in "The Dark Lady of the Sonnets" by George Bernard Shaw at the Herberger Theatre for the past three weeks, she appears none the worse for the wear and tear of a life answering curtain calls. Instead, she thrives on the excitement of this vaulting creative outlet.

She and her husband, Norman, are from England. They have been Sun City West residents for eight years.

They left England in 1972 when Mr. Ryder says he became fed up with the weather and the politics and they retired to the sunny isle of Majorca off the coast of Spain.

After visiting Florida and staying a while in California they were driving down Grand Avenue one afternoon.

Jan asked Norman to pull off into Sun City West. "You won't get me in there dead or alive," was his response.

"Didn't you see that picture in the *National Geographic*? All those circles ... it's like a damn beehive. I'm not going in there!"

But when one of Mr. Ryder's "favorite chums in

the whole world" was staying in Sun City West, he relented and came for a visit.

Before they left, they had two deposits down. "When we saw how neat and clean it was," Mr. Ryder says, "and that everyone was more or less in the same boat -- waiting to go up or go down - that sold us."

An actress since she was 15, Jan was a supportive wife while her husband was in the Royal Air Force, giving up her work to be at home for him.

And now, as Mr. Ryder says, it is her turn and he gives her all the support he can in her acting career.

A classically handsome couple, they are now both actors, often enjoying the opportunity to play opposite one another, or at least in the same productions.

Recently, dressed in a yellow cardigan, tasteful plaid skirt, sensible shoes and a whistle, Jan took a screen test for the part of a dog trainer in a Walt Disney film; the working title, "Just Perfect."

Within a few days she was told she had gotten the part. Three weeks of filming will take place in the Valley in January, 1990.

As excited as she is about the role, it is but the latest juncture in a career that has included work in British films, including "Demi-Paradise" with Sir Laurence Olivier, television roles; commercials and stage performances.

Jan was trained at the

RYDER, JAN

OVER



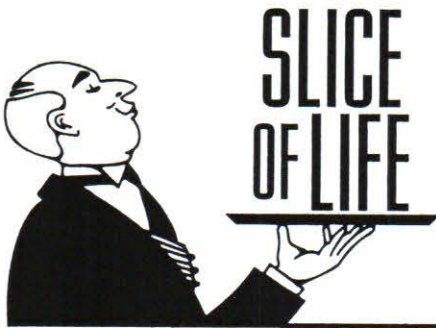
*JAN RYDER as herself, and as Queen Elizabeth, right, with fellow actor, Bruce Bradley.*

London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art and in English repertory companies. "Being short, I went on playing children's parts until I was old enough to be a prima. "Luckily there were some very nice children's parts out. I always thought, couldn't it be lovely to be older and play character parts' but then I thought that I could not be able to play the part of Margaret any more in 'My Brutus,' which is my favorite part." Jan goes on to say that this was also the favorite role of Helen Hayes, who is her role model. "Born in Croydon, which is just outside London, Jan's

mother was an actress. She encouraged Jan to study her craft in dramatic school, while her father "just put up with the both of them." Her youth was spent during the war years and much of her early work was playing in a series of documentaries for the government. "I was the girl who always talked too much -- you know, 'the walls have ears ...' theme." When the war was over Jan went to New York to play in television and did a number of "Philco Hours." Live television helped her learn how to handle her pre-show butterflies; though she says the jitters are an

unavoidable occupational hazard. You know, kind of like falling bricks are to construction workers. "One of our biggest celebrities -- he was like the Fred Astaire of England -- used to throw up before each performance. "Well, when you see the star like that ... you feel a bit better," Jan says, smiling sweetly. For a time she even had her own acting school -- The Honolulu Academy of Dramatic Arts, which she and a fellow actress founded after starting out giving elocution lessons when they had finished with a play there. Jan and Norman met on the Queen Mary, fell in love and were married. Jan says Norman likes to joke that "you never know what you are going to pick up at sea." She dropped out of acting then and they lived all over Europe as Mr. Ryder completed two-year tours of duty in each of the countries.

Now they delight in working together. For the "Old Tyme Music Hall" show coming up in February at the Stardust Theatre, Mr. Ryder designed and built the sets and acts along with Jan in the skits and musical productions. They both do commercials and have appeared together in Del Webb ads in the print media. And they love Sun City West. After nine years in a villa in Spain they tired of the limitations -- "It's not life," Jan says of the idyllic existence of lolling day and night just a scone's throw from the cabana. The Ryders are living in their third home in Sun City West. "I think when you first come here you do all sorts of things; but after the first year you calm down and work out what your lifestyle is going to be." Jan and Norman worked very hard to get the Stardust Theatre approved by Del Webb as part of Kuentz Center. She, doing the paperwork and Norman, who had helped design the airport in London after he retired, worked on the plans for the theater. The Sun Cities have given Mr. Ryder a series of most pleasant surprises. "Before I came here, if anyone had told me I would pick up a brush and paint pictures ... I would have punched them on the nose; and if they would have told me they could get me on the stage ... I would have kicked them in the pants," he says with an engaging smile. For Jan Ryder, life is now fulfilling all her dreams of the stage. She is not only an actress, she is also a star. And in everything she does, her charm and dignity precede her.



# Sun City woman uses the power of music to heal

SCW

December 1996

SUN LIFE —

by Eleanor R. Nelson

SCHEIFELBEIN, BARBARA



BARBARA, EARLY IN her professional career, performing in *Side by Side* by Sondheim on Broadway (above) and "Tea For Two" in *No, No Nanette*.

**I**t's been a long time since Barbara Schiefelbein was a little girl, but she still blows bubbles when she stops her convertible at a stop sign.

"It's a way of connecting with people," she says "Children especially are delighted. And even adults smile."

Connecting with people is what it's all about, says this Sun City woman, who appeared for 20 years in the professional music theater, guested on the "Tonight" show and many other

TV programs, and sang and danced at the White House.

She has recently broadened her world with training in chemical dependency counseling, and is melding these two major interests.

"I have found a way to combine my musical career with the recovery process," she says. "I believe I can say things through music that are difficult to communicate through words."

Most Sun Cities residents know Barbara Schiefelbein only as a star of many Valley musical productions. In November she sang "Peter Pan" in the Variety Show at the Sundome, and early this month was guest soloist with the Sun City Women's Chorus at the Sundial Auditorium in Sun City.

Her audiences never doubt they're watching a strictly professional performance. For the "Peter Pan" number, she donned green tights, top and hat, and skipped and strode about the stage like a young boy. The high B-flat that she sang at the end of the number indicated her great vocal range.

Barbara never wanted to be an actress. In fact, her professional life just seemed to happen "like a train I couldn't stop." When she entered Northern Illinois University in De Kalb, Ill., her goal was to be a kindergarten teacher.

"Show business was the last



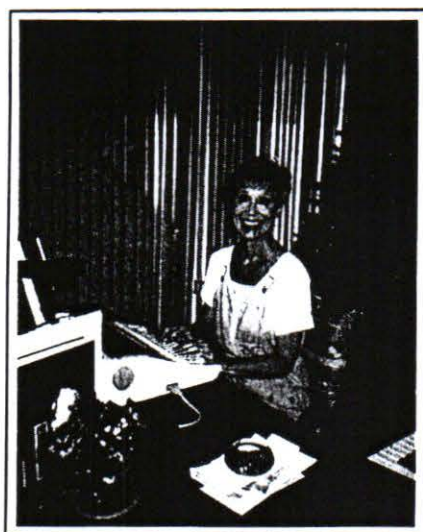
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thing on my mind," she recalls.

But later on, when her roommates at the University of Washington heard her humming around the dorm, they "literally carried" her to auditions that a professional company was having for new chorus members. She won a spot in the chorus and afterwards appeared in several productions.

After leaving the university with a B.A. in music, she found an agent, and her career, under her maiden name, Barbara Heuman, took off.

She has played leading roles



**BARBARA USES A word processor to compose notes for her musical therapy programs.**

on Broadway and in major cities in the U.S., London, Canada and Europe. She starred as Nanette in *No, No Nanette*, Eliza in *My Fair Lady*, Marian in *The Music Man*, and Maria in *The Sound of Music* – this at the Sundome in Sun City West.

She was guest soloist at the White House on three separate occasions, and once was more than a guest performer.

"I remember dancing the Bunny Hop behind Betty Ford around the Christmas tree," she says.

She married Richard Schiefelbein in 1984, and they moved to Sun City soon afterward. Richard is past commander of the Sun City Sheriff's Posse.

### **Music and recovery therapy**

It was just four years ago that Barbara Schiefelbein began working for her Associate of Applied Science/Chemical Dependency degree at Rio Salado Community College. Her practicum involved 240 hours of work at The Meadows, an addiction treatment facility in Wickenburg.

What she learned added a whole new dimension to her life. Gradually she came to realize that she could combine her two great interests: music and recovery therapy.

"I believe that music has the

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***"I can communicate a message through music that would be more difficult through words."***

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extraordinary ability to stir one's emotions and touch one's soul as few things can. Creatively combined, music and the recovery process can provide a heal-

ing, touching and empowering experience," she says.

So, instead of retiring, Barbara gives what she calls "Musical Affirmation Programs" for The Meadows' clients and various community groups in the West Valley. (Fees are involved.)

"I can communicate a message through music that would be more difficult through words," she says.

The theme is simple, but basic to the recovery of addicts, and also to the good mental health of all of us. First, love yourself, then you can love others properly.

"We can't just treat the addiction problem; i.e., drinking, gambling or drugs. We have to treat the basic reason the person turned to these things. Often it's a poor self image."

So many of Barbara's songs emphasize self-care, which she calls "not selfish, but self-full." Caring for one's self also means "filling the well," so a person is strong enough to reach out to others.

Barbara fills her own well with meditation, listening to classical music, going on a "movie date" with her husband.

But good self esteem isn't just a matter of the mind. "It's a unity of body, mind and spirit; all three are important," she believes. So she walks each day to keep her body healthy and reads extensively to keep her mind sharp.

And she's learned to say "No," when asked to take on a new responsibility that would seriously deplete the time she needs to fill her own well.

Barbara is currently working on her master's degree in professional clinical counseling at Ottawa College in Phoenix.

Meanwhile, she performs, "with boom box and stool," for any audience open to the healing power of music. ❁

# Joe Schoggen: A True Officer and Gentleman

## As Rec Board President, Retired Admiral Hopes to Keep SCW 'Ship-Shape'

By Ruth Borchardt

Undaunted by any problem, Joe Schoggen, president of the SCW Rec Center's Governing Board considers a problem a challenge to be met and solved. Rising to the status of Admiral from apprentice seaman is almost impossible unless in the heat of battle, but Schoggen overcame many obstacles to reach the top—retiring after four years as a Rear Admiral.

From the very beginning, he has been a "workaholic," never complaining. His standard routine as a ten-year-old was: 5 a.m. deliver newspapers; upon returning home, milk the three cows, feed 500 chickens, six hogs and three horses; then help wash dishes and be at school at 8 a.m. for orchestra practice.

Born in Norman, Okla., the family moved to Broken Arrow, Mo., where his folks had a truck farm. Attending school there, he later entered Park College Mo. in which every student was required



Joe Schoggen

to work for his room and board. It had to be paid for with labor. Schoggen's first job was a janitor in the freshman dormitory, his last was editor of the college newspaper.

While in school, he met his future wife, Charlene, and also his best friend, Bob Riley, and Bob's future spouse, Betty. Bob

was best man at Joe and Charlene's wedding and Betty was bridesmaid. Riley is now on the board of PORA.

Schoggen was part of the Navy's program that allowed him to finish college and upon completion, he was sent to Wellsley College for Supply Corp. Training.

Deciding to get married, the couple was married at the Harvard University Chapel. It was a momentous occasion—just one problem—Schoggen was still making payments on Charlene's engagement ring, and paying his college tuition. No money! Not to worry. They were married on Friday and Charlene went to work on Monday to pay for food and housing.

Finishing his training at Wellsley, Schoggen was sent to Seattle where he was assigned a ship and went to the South Pacific for 18 months where he participated in the battle of Okinawa.

When World War II ended, he

left the service, obtained an M.A. in Finance from the University of Minnesota, and later did Doctoral Post Graduate Work at the University of Kansas. He obtained a job teaching there, which was close to the Naval Air Station at Oletha, Ks. Being in the Reserves, he went out once per month earning extra money. While he was acting as a reserve officer, the Navy was seeking a Supply Officer for an Aircraft Squadron. Since three of the men (including Schoggen) were qualified for the job, they drew straws to see who would get the position. That's how Schoggen returned to reserve duty in the Navy—a short straw!

Still a reservist, he spent two years at Alameda, but the Navy had him listed as "active" naval reserve and sent him to Yokosuka, Japan. Housing was very limited. After much searching, he found a small place in Yokohama when an officer was leaving. Phoning Charlene, he told

her to bring the two boys they now had and head for Japan. Since the amount of luggage allowed was very limited, Charlene put "yellow slickers" on the children with a 100 degree temperature! The slickers would be needed in their new home.

In Yokohama they made quite a picture riding their bicycles—one child in front, one in back,

Charlene on another bike, and all tow-headed. This was a real novelty for the black haired Japanese—three fair haired blondes from America riding their bicycles in this little rural community. In the house, they had no central heat or other conveniences—used a

**Schoggen**  
Continued on Page B3



Joe Schoggen, as a SCW PRIDES worker, is shown with his life-long friend Bob Riley, ready to go to work.

## Schoggen: A True Officer and Gentleman, Hopes to Keep SCW 'Ship-Shape'

Continued from Page B1

pot bellied stove to keep warm so it was different to say the least.

At the finish of his service in Japan, he was one of two Lieutenants selected to return to the regular Navy. He worked under the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

He was a pioneer in "Vertical Replacement"—replenishing ships by helicopter. The Navy said, "It can't be done." After much prodding the Navy finally came through with an old helicopter. With the help of a pilot "who was a true genius at flying helicopters," they succeeded. All procedures were in place—hooks, nets, release mechanism, materials handling safety. They did it! They convinced everyone, and now it's a standard Naval routine. For his work on this project, Schoggen received the "Legion of Honor" medal.

Along the way he had some interesting encounters. When under the command of an officer who was a "Capt. Queeg" type, he was told by the captain, "I learned when I joined the navy, you could either be an SOB or an easy mark." From that time on Schoggen was determined he wouldn't be the former. He wanted the men under him to respect and like him. The captain's ship was described by an inspection team as having a "reign of terror" aboard.

Another man whom Schoggen found it hard to tolerate was a commanding officer who delighted in ruining the careers of new, young officers. Schoggen thought of resigning, but Charlene persuaded him to "stick with it."

Still greater heights were reached by him after leaving the Navy. He worked for 12 years at the Navy Federal Credit Union—which when he was there had assets of one billion—now has eight billion. Most of the 12 years there he served as president and chief executive officer. Planning to retire in 1987, he changed course when the Credit

Union National Association claimed it did not have anyone with experience and wondered, "would you consider coming to Madison, Wis. for a three-year period? The answer was "yes" and shortly thereafter he was made chief operating officer of CUNA and its three subsidiary corporations.

The Schoggens had already decided to retire in Hilton Head, SC., having built a house and renting it until the time came to leave his position. Traveling with CUNA, he and Charlene visited Bob and Betty Riley in SCW. They arrived on Thursday, and after looking around and deciding, "No hurricanes, no bugs, no humidity, this is great!"

Instead of sightseeing they called a realtor who turned out to be Sarah Friesz. As it developed, he had been in a car pool for three years with her husband who was a naval dentist. The third home they looked at they bought, and even after moving here he continued to do work as a consultant for a National Credit Union Renewal Committee.

Blessed with three children, two boys and a girl, unfortunately he lost one son at age 16 from viral pneumonia. He has enjoyed singing with his musically inclined daughter, he himself having sung with the Vermont Symphony Orchestra Chorus. As of now, he sings in the choir of Desert Palms Presbyterian Church. A devoted family man, he said, "I could never have made it without Charlene's help and support."

He is still serving on the Credit Union System Renewal Steering Committee, and is a member of the PRIDES, Trail Ridge Men's Golf Club, Hillcrest Men's Golf Assn., Briarwood Country Club, Computers West Computer Club, SCW Woodworking Club. As with most Navy wives, Charlene enjoys a good bridge game, in addition to her volunteer works.

A modest man, with great dedication towards Sun City West,

Schoggen does have certain convictions for its future and well being. He said, "I believe that the Governing Board has a two-fold purpose: policy making and oversight. Its function is, first, to make and keep current the policies that will help assure a sound future for the recreation facilities we all enjoy here in Sun City West and second, to see that those policies are carried out."

"I believe the Del Webb Corporation has created in this place the best active adult community in the country. My reason for serving on the Governing Board is to do what I can to help keep it that way. I seek no publicity. I seek no recognition. I have no personal agenda to advance. My only objective is to help keep Sun City West as attractive as it was when my wife and I decided to move here. When our children get old enough to live here, I want them to find it as great a place to live as he have."

"Most of us don't like change. We tend to resist it. We would like everything to stay just as it has been. But change is inevitable. It is occurring every day and our job is to control and manage it so that it moves us in the direction we want to go. Our principal challenge as a board at this time is to control and manage effectively the change from Del Webb policy making and management to resident policy making and management. In the short time I have served on the board, I have gained an appreciation for the magnitude of this challenge. To meet this challenge, you need board members with broad-gauge business experience. You need board members who are not seeking publicity or recognition. You need board members who are willing to listen to other points of view, accept the decisions of the majority and work effectively with the other members of the board for the benefit of all the residents of Sun City West. I am trying to be that kind of board member."

SCN

## DOERS PROFILE

### Dorothy Schrag



- Vita:** Retired elementary school teacher
- Hometown:** Park Ridge, Ill.
- Family:** Married to C. Arthur, has two sons and three grandchildren
- Motto:** "To give back some measure of the good that's been poured into my life."
- Inspiration:** Her high school counselor and lifelong friend Helen Gatchel "who saw in me something special and made it possible for me to go to college."
- Key to longevity:** "Utilize the energies that you have while you have them; keep active."

## Volunteer adds color to local scenery

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Senior staff writer

**D**orothy Schrag doesn't deny it when her husband tells her she is afflicted with volunteer's disease.

"I do believe I'm quite incurable," she said.

The affliction struck the Sun City West resident at an early age. As a teen-ager, she taught Sunday school and launched a YWCA club in the elementary school in her hometown of Park Ridge, Ill. It was about that time that Schrag, with the help of a determined counselor, set her sights on a teaching career.

During her summer breaks from teaching school in Park Ridge, Schrag volunteered with Meals on Wheels in the Chicago area. After retiring from teaching, she volunteered with a program that taught English-as-a-Second-Language, or ESL classes.

Schrag's volunteer philosophy is simple: "If God's been good enough to really fill your life, why not give something back?"

Almost immediately upon moving to Sun City West six years ago, Schrag landed a volunteer job as a reference librarian at the R.H. Johnson Library.

"When you've been active all your life, it's really kind of a shock to come here and just sit," she said.

Daily News-Sun

Monday, Aug. 12, 1996

Soon after settling in Sun City West, Schrag enrolled in the Master Gardeners program. "I thought, gee, I don't want to be the only kid on the block with a dead cactus," she said.

Today, Schrag is something of a local desert-gardening guru. She teaches others how to plant and grow successfully in a harsh desert climate, how to cure diseased plants and rescue dying cactus.

Schrag answers gardening questions both as a reference librarian and as a Master Gardener volunteer.

"It's like playing Jeopardy!," she said. "You never know what the questions are going to be."

Since producing slide presentations about desert landscaping and allergy-inducing plants, she has been a popular guest at club, church and hospital meetings throughout the Northwest Valley.

Schrag incorporates her Master Gardener know-how in curriculum she developed for gifted students she tutors at Kingswood Elementary School in Surprise.

Not all of Schrag's volunteer pursuits are as visible as the work she does for the library, the Master Gardeners and the school. As she puts it, "It's recognizing a need."

For example, Schrag noticed during a visit to a Surprise medical clinic that there were no magazines for patients while they waited to see a doctor. Schrag began collecting and delivering bags of magazines to the clinic on a weekly basis.

While making a delivery to the clinic with her 10-year-old granddaughter, Abigail, the little girl noticed that there was nothing to amuse the children in the waiting room. With her grandma's and a computer's help, Amanda created a coloring book with games and puzzles. The books, some colors and other children's items are now fixtures at the clinic.

Schrag was pleased that she was able to pass onto her granddaughter "the vision of doing for others."

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

Schrag, Dorothy

MARCH 6-12, 2002

## Name to Know

It would be hard to imagine **Zoe Schreibman** with anything but a smile on her face.

The mother of three and grandmother of five is approaching her 45th wedding anniversary, her husband Marty's 70th birthday and her



own 65th birthday – all without a complaint in the world.

A Sun City West resident for the last six years, Mrs. Schreibman loves the community and all of the activities in which she takes part.

"Someone was once quoted as saying Sun City West is the Disney World for seniors and it is," Mrs. Schreibman said.

A member of the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City West for over five years, Mrs. Schreibman was recently named that organization's public information officer.

"I cannot tell you how satisfying working at the Posse is," she said. "I never did anything like this before."

Before retiring, Mrs. Schreibman worked as a legal secretary and an independent paralegal.

Although she volunteers as an usher at the Sundome Center for Performing Arts and is active at Temple Beth Shalom in Sun City, Mrs. Schreibman's main love in Sun City West (besides her husband) is the Posse.



Evelyn Schussler of Sun City West was the oldest female of 614 students to receive degrees last week from Glendale Community College.

# Never stop learning

## SC West resident attains lifelong goal of earning a degree

By **TERI CARNICELLI**  
Sun Cities Independent

Last Friday marked a turning point for 614 new graduates of Glendale Community College — and a very special moment for one student in particular.

Sun City West resident Evelyn Schussler began attending college when she was a teen-ager — more than 50 years ago.

"I've been going, like, forever," she laughs.

Mrs. Schussler was the oldest female graduate at the commencement ceremonies held on the Central College Mall on campus. She received her associate of arts degree in liberal arts with a smile

and a handshake — just another college student graduating. Only she isn't your average graduate.

She says while others in her peer group indulge in cards, she prefers learning new things.

"I need brain stimulation; that's what I enjoy, that's my pleasure," she explains.

Born in Manhattan, N.Y., Mrs. Schussler first attended Brooklyn College when she was a teen-ager, but "I don't think college was for me at the time, so I dropped out," she says.

Around 1971, after she was married and her children were in their teens, she decided to go back to school. She received most of her credits from the Five Towns

College on Long Island. But she again took a break because "there were no subjects at the time that I was interested in anymore," she says.

She then worked as a bookkeeper off and on for about 10 years.

Mrs. Schussler and her husband moved to Sun City West in June 1987 and she started attending GCC soon after.

She took mostly required courses, such as computer science, humanities, and, of course, biology.

"Big mistake," she laughs. "Big mistake, especially after all these years. It was a lot more to learn than I had supposed it would be."

Mrs. Schussler took only one class a semester, and graduated

after attending the college for seven years. "I was just another member of the class — no problem," she says.

Her favorite course was oral interpretation, taught by Professor Marilyn Huffs. "I enjoyed that class very much. I had a wonderful teacher," she says.

Now that she has achieved her long-time personal goal of receiving her A.A. degree, Mrs. Schussler plans on relaxing — by taking classes with a little more fun in them and a little less homework.

"I don't think I will continue on for (another) degree," she says. "But I will always manage to go for something. There's too much out there to stop learning."

# Cleaning up campaign financing

## League leader drafts initiative for 'clean elections'

By DAVID MILLER  
Staff writer

The president is getting ready to take out the garbage.

While that sounds like the premise for a really bad movie, the promise behind it is real. And the president in question is not the officiant of the Oval Office, but the leader of Arizona's League of Women Voters.

The garbage, meanwhile, is the preponderance of graft and illicit money flowing regularly into political campaigns.

Lila Schwartz, a Sun City West resident about midway through her term as league president, has made campaign finance one of the centerpieces of her tenure.

And though she's juggling an intense schedule that drives her across the state and sends her regularly to the Arizona Legislature, Schwartz is taking time to draft an initiative that she says will revolutionize the way political campaigns are run.

That initiative would provide public financing of political contests involving state offices. It would create a "clean elections fund" supported by income tax money and surcharges placed on court penalties.

In short, it would remove the terms "soft" and "hard" money from our lexicon, replacing them with "clean" money, she maintains.

"It's radical," Schwartz conceded Thursday at her Sun City West home. But she calls drastic steps necessary in cleaning up the state's sordid campaign climate.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Lila Schwartz of Sun City West is the state president of the League of Women Voters.

"I think campaign finance reform will go a long way toward re-establishing the confidence of people in their elected officials," said the 68-year-old president.

The Clean Elections fund would be financed from several sides, most notably through a check-off box on income tax forms, allowing \$5 to go to the fund.

And to help fuel the idea, Schwartz says a matching tax credit would be included, granting a \$5 break to every participant.

Funds would also be garnered through a 10 percent surcharge on

civil and criminal court penalties. A nonpartisan commission would oversee the fund, which would finance the campaigns of politicians who agree to run without outside cash.

United We Stand Arizona, formerly affiliated with perennial presidential hopeful Ross Perot, is a co-sponsor of the measure.

To qualify, candidates would solicit \$5 contributions from constituents, agree to spending limits and reject other donations.

And for candidates following the

program but finding themselves outgunned by rebellious competitors, the fund would supply additional money.

While Schwartz has high hopes for the initiative, she has a large job ahead in getting it to voters. One-hundred-sixty-five thousand signatures are required. "That's no mean amount of signatures to get," she said.

However, the league already has some support.

Former governor Rose Mofford said Friday that she "certainly wants clean elections." While she supports the league's stance, however, Mofford cautions that voters must clearly understand how the move would change the campaign landscape.

"They've got to get out and let people know what it means," Mofford said. "Anything added to people's tax bills has to be explained."

Anne Doyle, president of the Sun City Republican Club, went further, saying that those accused of breaking finance laws should be dealt with before the system is overhauled.

"Liberals are pushing (campaign finance reform) because they think they can circumvent the laws on the books now," Doyle said. "I think it's a little early to start (an initiative) such as she proposes."

Schwartz, however, is committed to bringing the Clean Elections initiative to pass, just as she's devoted to other league causes.

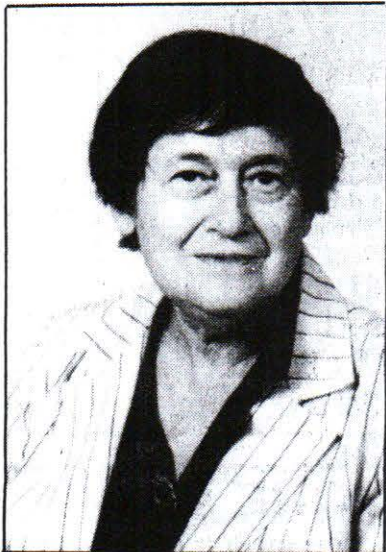
She also wants to raise awareness of how the league functions.

In fact, she takes issue with the partisan schism created on some issues, such as school funding.

"I don't understand why some issues are such partisan issues," Schwartz said. "My belief is that we're all for good schools."

Schwartz, Lila

## Wester Spotlight on Marie Scotti



Marie Scotti

Story,  
Ruth Borchardt

Where do I start? Marie Scotti is such an accomplished lady and has done so much I could write pages on her interesting career.

Starting life in Brooklyn, New York, and spending most of her life on the East Coast, she is a Certified Safety Professional with 25 years experience in every avenue of Safety Engineering. She was the only woman in the industry to operate at executive level in the field of Accident Prevention and Loss Control.

Many years were spent in Washington, D.C. in the field of Consumer Product Safety as well as Industrial Safety and Health. She is very

familiar with OSHA.

Engineering background, Personnel Director, very knowledgeable in fields of behavior, motivation and communication, plus superior executive ability made her a natural to be chosen to assist in the development of Safety, Health and Communications for the Maxwell House Division of General Foods Corp.

A recipient of the National Safety Council's Distinguished Service to Safety Award, the Amita Communications Award in 1975, author of numerous articles, guest speaker, lecturer, chairman of various workshops, seminars and professional conferences, she also appeared on a multi-city NAM telecast when OSHA was introduced in 1970.

Travel was obviously a requirement in her work. She is a past national president of the American Association of Industrial Editors and past president of New York Business Communicators. Serving as a

member of the National Safety Council Industrial Conference (national chairman of Professional Development Conference in 1977 of the American Society of Safety Engineers and many more prestigious leadership positions), she was well prepared for her appointment to Consumer Product Safety Commission's Industrial Representative in 1974-75.

In 1985 she became a member of the Arizona Governor's Task Force on private long term care. Among her other state affiliations: A member of the Arizona Governor's Advisory Council on Aging for three years, a member of the Board of Directors Interfaith Services, and also public relations committee chairman of Interfaith Services.

Marie Scotti currently is president of SCW's Business and Professional Association. Preparing her for her career with The Wester were her duties of editing all internal publications and communica-

Marie Scotti

Continued on Page B6

SCOTTI, MARIE

## Marie Scotti Champions Health Issues

Continued from Page B4

tions for the General Foods Corporation and writing the Maxwell House Division Publication for a readership of 12,000 for over 20 years. 1984 found her, pen in hand, writing a column "SOS Scotti on Safety" for the Sun City News Sun. She is now a private consultant on Safety and Health.

Retiring in 1979, she and her husband, Irwin W. Shutt, a Chemical Engineer, moved to Sun City. With no children, she immediately became active and is working for more recognition of the need of having insurance

for home care, and is continuing her efforts on behalf of men and women on the issue of health and safety.

Her never ending interest in these issues is, as she so succinctly puts it, "I guess it's because I love people and want to see them live a little longer and be protected against unsafe products".

One of the first writers to join The Wester, she has continued her quest for truth in the fields for which she is so well qualified. Every article and column is a gem from Marie!

# With pride he calls himself a dissident

This is the first in a two-part report.

By Susan Felt  
The Phoenix Gazette

George Seldin stepped in front of the group he had gathered in Sun City West and repeated a favorite self-characterization.

The story was the one about the colonists who dressed up like Indians and dumped English tea overboard.

"Then they were called dissidents and now we call them patriots," Seldin said.

He calls himself — with some pride — a dissident.

Others in the Sun City West community call him everything from a pain in the neck to an arrogant troublemaker who is excessively suspicious, especially of Sun Cities developer the Del E. Webb Development Co.

Others embrace Seldin as a kind of people's advocate who will battle the big guy on their behalf.

He has chosen battles with such "big guys" as DevCo., the Arizona Corporation Commission, Arizona Public Service Co., Sun City West Utilities Co. and its parent company Citizens Utility, among others.

But it's George Seldin and the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association executive officers who have drawn more frequent battle lines.

Those fracas often degenerate into name calling, shouting and recently a chorus of "boos" or applause from Seldin supporters attending PORA board meetings.

Seldin is a member of PORA's board and was an executive officer until two years ago when fellow

officers demoted him to director-only status.

Some fear the ongoing divisiveness between Seldin and the board will breed splinter groups which would render PORA ineffective as Sun City West's single resident organization.

They claim that is Seldin's purpose.

He's power greedy and while the dispute between officers and Seldin may begin over differences of opinion, the real issue is power with each party grabbing for not just a piece but the whole pie.

Seldin says he cares less about power.

He's after the people's best interests and PORA officers — in particular President Loise Copes and officers Roger Curfman and Maurice Garrison — have "totally lost" (the organization's) sense of direction," he said.

But if PORA appears scattered the reason is Seldin's diversionary tactics, some board members believe.

He scratches residents' suspicions by depicting board members as simple parrots for DevCo.'s interests.

It was for that reason Seldin said he kept board members in the dark about PORA's water and sewer rate case before the Arizona Corporation Commission.

As chairman of the Utility Committee, Seldin has led the community's two-year battle for lower rates before the ACC.

(In August, customers were granted a \$199,009 refund by Sun City West Utilities Co. PORA voted last week to appeal that decision to the Maricopa County Superior Court after its request for a rehearing was denied by the ACC.)

The battle was more often than not fought in PORA's public meeting room than before the ACC when Seldin refused information about the case's status before the public hearing last spring.

He said information he initially shared at board meetings found its way back to the utility company.

He said the information was sensitive and would jeopardize PORA's case if leaked to its opponent.

He said since then he's offered all the information and no officer has requested to see any of it.

The action infuriated PORA officers and ultimately led to Seldin's replacement this summer as liaison director to the committee.

"They are squirming. I'm a thorn in their side," Seldin said.

"They think they will harrass me to the point I will resign. I'm not going to retreat under fire," he said.

His ammunition comes in the form of information. If George Seldin is a broker of anything it's information.

He carries it around in a briefcase, in stacks of folders and in his brain.

In slow, soft — sometimes patronizing — phrases he ladles information about everything from cablevision trenching rights on private property to the ins and outs of the Arizona Corporation Commission.

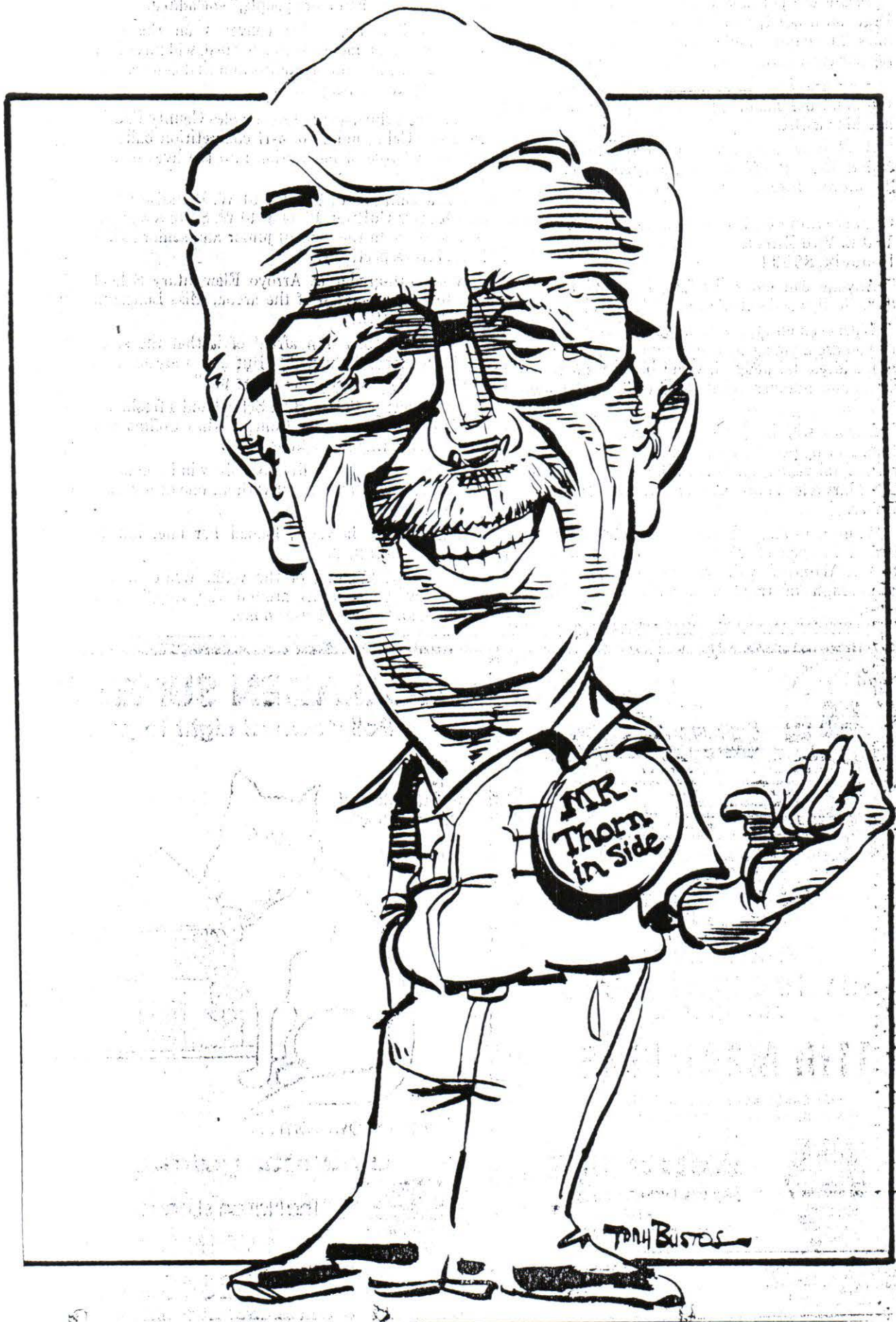
And as they do to the man himself, people have two distinct reactions to his information.

They find it accurate, insightful and helpful or inaccurate, faulty in its analysis and annoying.

NEXT WEEK: George Seldin — why do Westers either love him or hate him.

*Seldin, George* PHOENIX GAZETTE

OVER



SCW

# Seldin's name gets immediate reaction

4-4-83

By HELEN ALLEN

George Seldin.

Mention the name and reactions, although different, are definite.

One reaction is that "Seldin has probably done more for Sun City West than anyone who has lived here."

**ANOTHER** is near rage.

As he admits, himself: "They'd like to see me crawl back into the woodwork."

Seldin, a former Property Owners and Residents Association director and temporary chairman of the Boosters Club, has emerged, over the past couple of years, as one of the most controversial figures in Sun City West.

**THE** controversy will be brewing even more so now with Seldin having formed a new Sun City West homeowners association.

Papers on an Independent Home Owners Association were registered Feb. 11 with the Secretary of State's office.

Thoughts of forming another homeowners group, Seldin said, have been stirring for "several months." He claims it is needed to "inform the public of what is going on" in the community.

**SELDIN**, since moving to the community in early 1979, has become involved with just about everything.

In addition to his former PORA and current Boosters club activities, he carries out a tremendous amount of research locally as well as in downtown Phoenix governmental offices.

He also is vice president and treasurer of the Arizona Consumers Council, vice president of the local chapter of Telephone Pioneers, a member of the Sun City West Sheriff's Posse and a former vice president of Sun Cities Area Transportation dial-a-ride program.

**SELDIN** also has been actively involved with the Committee for Fair Utility Rates, which attempted to recall Arizona Corporation Commissioners Diane McCarthy and Bud Tims and now is trying to get a state consumer's advocate program on the 1984 election ballot.

Until he moved to Sun City West in early 1979, Seldin says, he was never involved in community

activities.

"I was out of town quite often and had little opportunity for civic affairs."

**THE NEW YORK** City native and electrical engineer graduate of New York University spent 35 years with Western Electric Co., working on military projects.

Most of those years, Seldin said, involved work on bombing and navigation systems and anti-submarine warfare. The projects often took him to various parts of the world.

Why such dedication, now, to local activities?

"Now, I have time," he commented.

**SELDIN** added that he became disturbed with happenings in Sun City West soon after he and his wife moved to the community.

Among his major concerns and battles were the water-sewer rates in Sun City West. He began the fight while a member of PORA's utility committee and is still continuing it, despite his ouster.

Seldin was removed from the committee last August following several squabbles with other PORA directors. In January, he resigned from the PORA board because the directors were attempting to negotiate water and sewer rates instead of putting strong effort into a court fight.

**THERE ARE** other things that disturb him.

These include "a lack of shopping facilities," trash—PORA "can't make any contracts, it has no authority," "the homeowners' association has lost sight of its priority, which should be the residents," and bus service—"many bought homes here expecting to have bus service."

Also, he feels residents should have "tangible evidence" stating they are part owners of the recreation centers and that there's "no reason for renters to have equal privileges with the home owner who has an investment" in the centers.

**SELDIN** said he has often wondered about playing the role of Don Quixote.

"Then," he added, "someone tries to put pressure on me instead of talking out the pros and cons. I will not be intimidated. The more effort they use to put me on the back burner, the more likely I am to ask why and start looking."



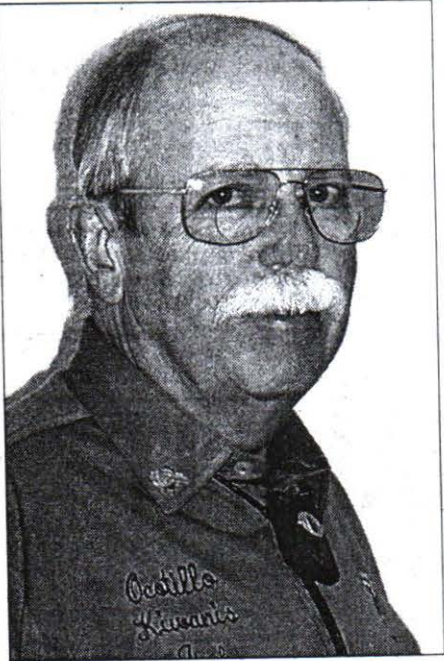
GEORGE SELDIN

SCW

PERSONALITIES

VF

## DOERS PROFILE



**Jack Sellers**

**Hometown:** *Libertyville, Ill.*

**Family:** *Emily, wife of 27 years, three children, three step-children, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.*

**Philosophy:** *'If it is to be, it is up to me.' And, 'Service is the rent you pay for the space you occupy.'*

**Greatest Accomplishment:** *'If I could influence kids to stay in school and continue to improve their abilities, I think I've accomplished something.'*

## Tutoring kids sums up some of his time

By TINA SCHADE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

**A**fter 28 years of crunching numbers for a manufacturing firm in Illinois, Jack Sellers of Sun City West fulfilled a lifelong dream by trading in the hum of his 10-key for the clatter of a classroom.

"I wanted to work with children and be a teacher all my life, but I didn't. So now I do it in my retirement," said Sellers, a volunteer tutor at Nadaburg Elementary School in Wittmann.

For the past eight years, Sellers has helped fourth- and fifth-graders muddle through their classwork.

But Sellers' contribution to the students extends far beyond the classroom door.

As committee chair of youth services for the Ocotillo Kiwanis Club of Sun City West, Sellers helps organize the service club's two biggest fund-raisers.

Money from events such as the club's pancake breakfast and dining card sales is funneled to the school. There, it is used to buy musical instruments, library books and computers. The club has raised between \$4,000 and \$15,000 for the school, Sellers said.

The club also rounds up used bicycles for Nadaburg students.

"It's much appreciated," he said.

Sellers works with the Kiwanis Club volunteer program as well and places Sun City West residents in positions at the school, be it the library or the preschool.

In addition to his work with school children, Sellers and other Kiwanians also raise money to curb Iodine deficiency disorder, which causes goiters and mental retardation in people living in developing countries.

"Only a spoonful of iodized salt is needed in a lifetime to ensure people don't get these diseases," Sellers said.

Through fund raising, the club is part of a \$75-million effort to build plants to iodize salt in affected Third World countries. The goal is to eliminate the problem by 2000, he said.

Despite his newfound roles as mentor and marketer, Sellers hasn't completely forsaken the talents of his past. He continues to lend his 10-key talent to a string of treasurer stints — at Lord of Life Lutheran and Pan de Vida churches and for the Sun Cities Symphony of the West Valley.

Sellers is a tennis fan and plays twice a week. He enjoys reading mysteries and spy stories and attending concerts.

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

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

February 25, 2004

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## People in the News

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# Shipe named a 'Distinguished Fellow'

*Editor's Note: The Independent is looking for interesting news about its residents. To submit people news and photos, please contact Heidi Hougham at 972-6101. Information also may be sent via e-mail to [suncitynews@newszap.com](mailto:suncitynews@newszap.com) or mailed to 10220 W. Bell Road, Suite 116, Sun City, 85351.*

**Tom Shipe**, president and CEO of Sun Country Credit Union of Sun City West, was

recently named a "Distinguished Fellow" by the Institute of Certified Credit Union Executives, at its annual meeting.

Mr. Shipe was given the award along with a group of members who had previously achieved the title of Certified Credit Union Executives. Each of the group then also accumulated points for satisfying certain educational, leadership and publication criteria.

The award also reflects

each individual's dedication to self-improvement and advocacy of the professional designation of CCUE. Each must have been a CCUE for at least three years.

Sun Country received its credit union charter in 1977, under the sponsorship of the Del Webb Corporation. In 1982, credit unions were permitted to expand their fields of membership, and Sun Health Corporation and the Sun City West Homeowners Association joined, followed

by dozens of other groups.

Today there are more than 50 groups associated with the credit union.

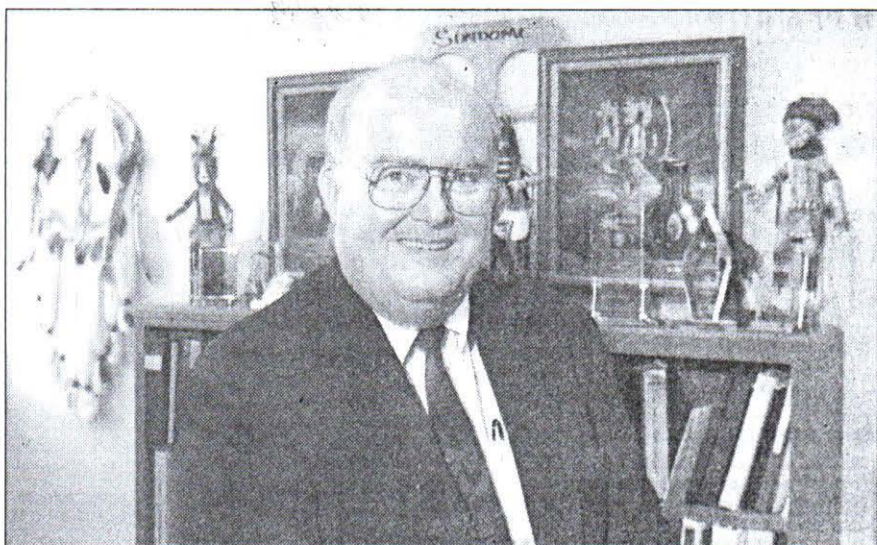
Mr. Shipe has been an active member of the credit union movement and the community.

He is a former member of the board of directors of the Arizona Credit Union League and past president of the Northwest Valley Chamber of Commerce. His wife, **Mary** is president of Alhambra Credit Union.

Daily News-Sun • Monday, April 30, 2001

## Working for you

Tom Shipe  
began his  
career in  
banking as a  
loan officer with  
the Del E. Webb  
Employees  
Federal Credit  
Union 24 years  
ago.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

# Credit union chief banks on community service

**STABLE ENVIRONMENT:**  
Community work began  
with Chamber of  
Commerce

JEANNE WINOGRAD  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Unlike most people, Tom Shipe has worked for the same organization during the past 24 years. Of course, like most organizations, it has changed a great deal in that time.

Shipe is president and CEO of Sun Country Credit Union in Sun City West. He began his career there as a loan officer when the credit union was called Del E. Webb Employees Federal Credit Union, serving only Del Webb employees. He became general manager in 1978 and president in 1981.

The stability and the community service aspect of the job appealed to Shipe, who had been in the 101st Airborne during the Vietnam War.

"After I got out of the Army in 1970, I got my degree in business administration from the University of Wisconsin," said Shipe. "When I graduated in 1973, I was on my way to California, and I stopped to visit my parents."

"In 1973 and 1974, there was another recession going on. My dad had a friend who was president of Luke Federal Credit Union, so I got a job there. Their name is now Credit Union West."

As things grew and regulations changed, Shipe's credit union expanded in 1981 and 1982.

"Sun Health was the first group we brought in, along with Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association, very compatible groups," Shipe said. "In 1989, the credit union changed its name to Sun Country Credit Union because it no longer had a single sponsor."

"Now we're kicking off a program on May 15, a shared branches program with six or seven credit unions in Arizona. We'll be able to offer 37 offices, with 540 branches nationwide," he said.

Shipe said this demonstrates the cooperative nature of credit unions, which are non-profits.

"Our members are our owners. We're member-owned, member-controlled. We offer

checking accounts, savings and loans. We're only in consumer lending."

Sun Country sponsors a number of community activities in which Shipe is at the forefront.

"My community work goes back to the Northwest Valley Chamber of Commerce. I was president in 1996, was on the golf and expo committee, and served on the Surprise economic development board."

Shipe is active on the Metropolitan Club Board of Governors to provide a business atmosphere for the community and helps business travelers with a great network of hotels and clubs around the country. He also is on the endowment board of directors for the Sun City West Rotary Club.

"We have a number of community projects, from stuffing envelopes for Westside Food Bank to a golf tournament for West Valley Child Crisis Centers, and I've made my share of luminarias over the years with the Rotary Club," Shipe said.

"We spend a half day making luminarias, they have it down to a regular science. I lift the racks from one assembly line to the other. It's part of giving back to the community, helping the community not only as a credit union president but as a Rotarian."

Shipe has made a lot of friends in Rotary, a service organization that promotes fellowship. He's still involved with the chamber of commerce.

"It's an excellent way to meet the business community," he said.

For Northwest Chamber's upcoming golf tournament on Friday, Sun Country Credit Union is sponsoring a hole.

"Four of us from the credit union are playing together and you'd be surprised how much business we conduct," Shipe said. "My handicap is 23. I enjoy the game, but I don't get too hung up on competition. I enjoy the people I'm playing with and try to relax as much as possible."

Shipe's wife, Mary, is also a golfer, and she's president of Alhambra Credit Union, a marriage made in credit union heaven.

"She's knows the game better than I do," Shipe said.

*Working for you* features business people involved in the community. To nominate a candidate, contact Jeanne Winograd at [jwinograd@aztrib.com](mailto:jwinograd@aztrib.com) or by calling 876-2532.

TOM SHIPE

## DOERS PROFILE

***Ruby Showalter***

**Hometown:** Weld County, Colo.

**Family:** Late husband, Carl; three children; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

**Self-portrait:** "I enjoy people."

**Inspiration:** Husband and mother.

**Key to longevity:** "To go along and accept life and always have a goal. Be content and enjoy people."

**Motto:** "If everything runs smoothly, life gets monotonous."

**Greatest feat:** "Earning a pilot's license."

## Volunteer misses cruising, taking meals to people

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Senior staff writer

If they doled out "frequent driver miles" to volunteers, Ruby Showalter would be one of the first in line for the reward.

The Sun City West woman delivered meals for Sun City West Meals on Wheels for 10 years before giving up her car and the job a year ago.

It's clear from her tone of voice when she talks about Meals on Wheels that she misses the work and the people.

"I did really enjoy it. It's rewarding to help people and know that people appreciate and enjoy what you're doing."

Ruby also enjoyed delivering meals to home-bound people, because she learned her way around Sun City West.

"That's one thing I miss a lot. I feel like I haven't kept up with the city," she said.

Ruby and a partner would set out every Wednesday — her husband's golfing day — and deliver meals all morning. She and her partner then would go shopping or have lunch together.

Wednesdays were Ruby's favorite day of the week.

"I always looked forward to it and I enjoyed seeing the people. Many of them are lonely and alone and it means a lot to them."

Ruby and her late husband, Carl, moved to Sun City West from Colorado in 1980. She enjoyed golf and oil painting in her leisure time early on and still is a bridge devotee. A longtime volunteer, she also picked up where she had left off in her home state — fund raising for a variety of health-oriented charities such as the American Cancer Society and the American Lung Association.

"I was always out soliciting," she said. "I always felt like it was a good cause. Those organizations were always looking for volunteers. I enjoy people — maybe that helps."

"It makes you feel like you've maybe helped a little," said Ruby, who waged her own battle with cancer years ago.

Ruby answered a call to help Meals on Wheels after seeing an appeal for volunteers in a church bulletin.

Ruby is a longtime member and was the second elected chairwoman of Shepherd of the Hills Methodist Women's Society in Sun City West. She put her fund-raising skills to work for that organization when it was helping get the church constructed.

The Philanthropic Education Organization also helps keep Ruby active since she gave up driving, and alas, her Meals on Wheels job.

Ruby and her husband ran a successful alfalfa products firm and raised cattle in Weld County, Colo.

Besides direct fund-raising work, Ruby volunteered for the mental health agency in her home county. The job had her "doing a little bit of everything," she said, including keeping tabs on people receiving psychological counseling.

"That was the most interesting thing I've ever done," she said.

Ruby put her fund-raising and public-contact experience to work when her Republican activist husband decided to run for Colorado Legislature. She hit the campaign trail with Carl seven times in all and joined her husband in Denver when the Legislature was in session.

After the couple's three children were grown, Ruby earned a pilot's license so she and Carl could take turns in the cockpit of their private plane. The couple traveled all over North America by plane for many years.

"My children used to laugh and say, 'Mom and Dad, you shouldn't let us know when you're coming to see us,'" Ruby said.

SCM

Showalter, Ruby

Moral in Sundome  
Moving into an empty city  
Houseful of crickets

### The Early Years – Recollections by Mary Silvis

When my husband and I moved out here in February of 1979 we indeed felt like Pioneers of the New West. Bonanza Drive between 128<sup>th</sup> Ave. and 130<sup>th</sup> had very few occupied homes. Many had For Sale signs on them. Realtors and others had purchased these homes to make a profit on reselling. When we visited Sun City in October 1977 and signed Intent to buy, the price was frozen at the 1977 list even though it would escalate before we actually bought. Many took advantage of this and hence the many For Sale signs. There was slowing of the market about that time so some did not sell as fast as anticipated.

Although our furniture had not been delivered, after spending a week in a motel we decided to move into the house. We had purchased a sofa bed, which had been delivered. Our first night was very exciting. We had no phone and no neighbors. About 2:00 AM we heard the loud roar of motors that sounded as though they were right outside our window. We were both frightened and afraid to look out the window. We thought sure it was a band of outlaws and we were in the Wild West. We found out later that it was the revving up of the motors on the big land graders used to prepare the area across from us for putting in roads for future development.

A few days later our furniture arrived and we moved in the same day as our neighbors and we began to enjoy retirement and our new home. Everyone was anxious to make friends having left family and friends back home. There was a lot comparing where to buy draperies and other needed items. Although we had to go to Sun City to shop and to use their recreational facilities, we had other amenities. Del Web provided us with Recreational Director who had an office in the Crestview Building and she planned special events for us tours to many places of interest. We had a great time with our tour director Mildred Tolian who is no longer with us.

✓ It was with reluctance that we left to return to Michigan and to complete the home that we planned to use in the summer. While we were gone a friend who was checking our home here called and said that the inside was covered with thousands of crickets. They had moved over to my house from the area they were grading. She took care of this for and upon our return my husband did a better job of caulking the seams of the house that the builders had done. This and with the help of exterminators we got rid of most of the crickets.

Upon our return in September we found that much had been accomplished and we now had the completed R.H. Johnson Rec. Center including Social Hall, Swimming Pool and Bowling Alley, Mini golf and more. Also the Sundome had been completed and dedicated. We were sorry to have missed this because Fred Kabicka, the artist who painted the mural in the Sundome was a friend of ours, having attended the same church that we did in Chicago. We were told by his wife that Jerry Swenson of the Del Web Corporation saw his work and said, "You complete it and we will have a building large enough to hand it in."

Now it was time to decide which clubs to join and what activities to take part in. We joined a bowling league of which my husband was secretary for about fifteen years. We took up square dancing and ballroom dancing. My husband played golf while I played bridge. I also have been a member of the Crestview Riders Bicycle Club since its beginning in 1979 and still take a morning ride.



Special to Community  
**"I was shocked when I saw myself on the front cover," says 69-year-old tap dancer Esther Slager of her pose for a book of tips for staying young.**

By Lori Baker  
 Staff writer

### Sun City West

**A**t 69, Esther Slager is delighted to be a cover girl.

Wearing a sequined white leotard and fish-net stockings, the Sun City West resident is pictured tap dancing on the cover of the "December Champions."

The book, released nationally this month, touts the secrets of staying young longer.

"I was shocked when I saw myself on the front cover," the grandmother of two said. "I knew they were going to write about me and use photos, but the cover is really something."

Slager, who is in Sun City West's Rhythm Tappers dance troupe, is among 25 older athletes whose life stories are featured.

Examples include climbing Mount Fuji at 91, running a marathon at 86, barefoot skiing at 83, playing polo at 82, and even playing softball at 100.

Slager and Ginny Wagner of Sun Lakes, who is a Dancin' Grannies member, are the only Arizonans in the book.

W.R. Spence and Bob Darden, who co-authored the book, approached Slager about a year ago after learning about her tap dancing.

The book devotes five pages to Slager's life story.

Slager began dancing at age 9. After high school, she danced professionally in New York.

She joined the USO troupe during World War II, and she was named USO's "Miss Foxhole of 1942."

# On her toes

## Tap dancer graces cover of book on staying young

"The girl they'd most like to get caught in a foxhole with is what I was," Slager said.

After the war, Slager got married and raised two sons. She hung up her tap shoes.

Thirty-five years later — in 1983 — she resumed dancing when she moved from Yonkers, N.Y., to Sun City West. At 59, she joined the Rhythm Tappers.

When her husband, Harold, was killed in a motorcycle accident in 1986, Slager threw herself into her dancing.

In addition to regular performances at a Sun City West theater and nursing homes, the troupe goes on road trips to places such as Russia, Japan and Australia. The dancers also perform in the Sun City West variety show, a charity fund-raiser, which this year will be Nov. 18 and 19 at the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts.

Slager won a gold trophy for a solo performance earlier this summer in a national tap competition in Las Vegas.

Slager credits dancing with keeping her a trim 112 pounds. Taking vitamins and eating sensibly also are important, she said.

When she's not dancing, Slager fills her time golfing, bowling and bicycling. She also volunteers at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital's pharmacy.

"I think that people should go out and do it," Slager said. "Don't sit around. Get going. People should be active not only in body, but in mind."

"December Champions," which costs \$19.95, is available at Valley bookstores. For information, call (800) 299-3366.

**"I think that people should go out and do it. Don't sit around. Get going. People should be active not only in body, but in mind."**

Esther Slager

SLAGER, ESTHER

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Saturday, Oct. 9, 1993

# Computer whiz hung up on Sunwise

## Retiree runs Sun Cities only bulletin board

By IAN MITCHELL  
Daily News-Sun staff

Sun City West resident Keith Slater receives about 35 telephone calls a day, but he never picks up the phone: The calls are for his computer.

Slater runs Sunwise, what may be the only computer bulletin board system in the Sun Cities.

A bulletin board system, or BBS, such as Sunwise, works like an electronic post office and library rolled into one. Computer users can program their machines to dial Sunwise's number and Slater's computer will pick up the phone.

After the two machines establish their telephone link-up — callers are said to be "on-line" — users have a number of choices: They can exchange private electronic mail with another who calls Sunwise, post and read public messages to all callers, read an on-line magazine or get copies of programs to use on their computers.

Slater, who is deaf, can use his computer to communicate with other users over the telephone. But the Sun City West man said he was interested in computers long before he lost his hearing.

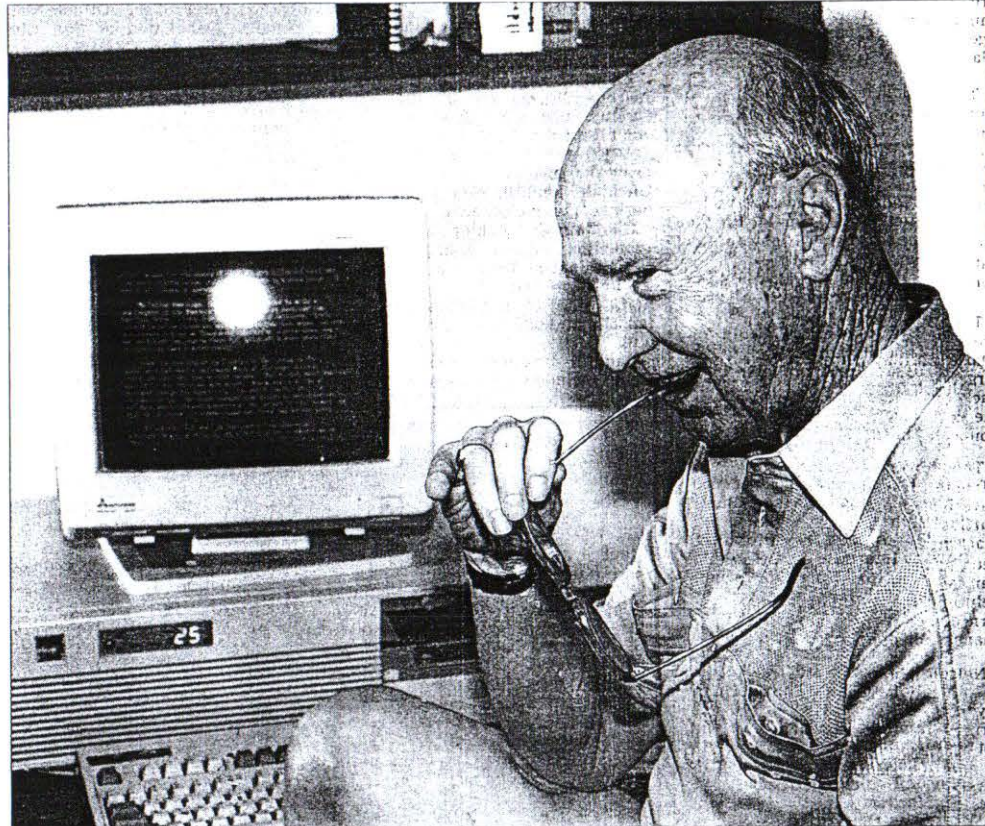
The main reason he was curious about the devices was revenge, he said. He explained in an electronic note sent via Sunwise:

"When I worked I had to deal with the computer department. I kept hearing 'it can't be done' from 1962-1984," he wrote. "We had to change some of our business practices to fit the computer. I found some of these 'can't's' incredible. When I retired I wanted to check some of these things."

After retiring from the Manville Corp., Slater tinkered with his computer at home and said he uncovered a secret: "It can't be done often meant they didn't want to do it."

Slater has found a way to do it.

When he moved to Sun City West from Denver in 1986, most of the



Stephen Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Keith Slater started and runs a computer bulletin board from his home in Sun City West.

Valley's 200 to 300 BBSs were a toll call away, so Slater set up his own BBS for computer users in the Sun City West area.

"This area has more computers than you can possibly imagine," he said, adding that there are about 900 computer club members in Sun City West.

About 1,000 people are registered members of Sunwise; membership and use of the BBS is free. Slater said about 10 percent of callers come from the Sun Cities and the rest from around the Valley and across the

country.

Slater is linked to other bulletin boards through a telephone network called Fidonet, and much of the material on Sunwise he copies from other BBSs.

Sunwise has electronic classified ads, genealogy and investment special-interest sections and information released on-line by the White House — Slater's board carried the complete text of President Clinton's speech on health care reform.

The bulletin board has its own phone line and costs about \$2,000 a

month to run, Slater said. The Sun City Genealogy Computer Interest Group, which uses Sunwise to exchange messages, helps pay part of the cost. Slater pays the remaining costs out of his pocket.

Setting up the BBS took about 100 hours of work, and though now he spends only two or three hours a day maintaining the system, Slater said at first he spent eight hours a day getting things running.

"It was a hobby at first," he said. "After eight hours it gets to be almost work."

April 2, 2003

SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT

## ■ A Name to Know

You can't tell the players without a program, and at the new Surprise Stadium, you can't get a program without **Andy Smiley**.

The Sun City West resident is the supervisor of program sales for the Sun-

dancers, the volunteer organization that assists with stadium operations at



the Surprise ballpark. As such, he oversees the sales efforts of the volunteer sales staff.

Mr. Smiley is an experienced hand at organizing program sales and controlling inventory. He filled the same role for the past nine years at Peoria Sports Complex as a member of the Peoria Diamond Club and was honored as the group's Volunteer of the Year in 1997.

Mr. Smiley and his wife, Bettye, moved to Sun City West 10 1/2 years ago, from his native North Carolina, following his retirement from communications for the departments of the U.S. Army and Air Force.

THE WESTER Thursday, May 22, 1997

## Community Leader Haven Smith Dies

### His Student Scholarship Program Lives On

By Ruth Borchardt

Noted resident of Sun City West, Haven Norris Smith, passed away, leaving a void in the hearts of those who knew him. A Memorial Service was held May 19, at the Shepherd of the Hills Church in Sun City West. He was buried in Chappell, Nebr., where he and his wife Virginia Dodd Smith spent many years, and still maintain a home.

Married for 65 years, Haven and Virginia had a life filled with happiness and achievement. Haven was born on a farm near Chappell on May 28, 1909, in an area where his grandfather had homesteaded in 1880.

As a boy, he took part in Boy Scouts, 4-H Clubs, and church activities. During his third year at the University of Nebraska, in 1931, he met and married Virgin-

Haven  
Smith



ia, another student at the university from Shenandoah, Iowa.

Their first home was in the house built by Haven's grandparents. Being the "great depression", it was a challenging period. But Haven and Virginia came out on top. They farmed for three years, and managed to save enough to return to the university in 1934, obtaining their degrees.

**Smith**  
Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Returning to Chappell, they again resumed farming. This time around, although traditionally it was primarily wheat growing country, the two branched out into poultry and seed potatoes, plus other products. The result was a Chamber of Commerce award for the best poultry production enterprise in the state. He also became extremely successful with his seed potato production.

"Spreading their wings" still further, they added to their farm holdings in Deuel County, plus additional acreage in Iowa.

For three decades they traveled America and abroad. Virginia acquired a reputation as an influential speaker on farm, political and social issues, with the full backing of her husband. "I want you to do it, and I will help you all the way," he said.

In the mid 1970's, Virginia decided to run for Congress from Nebraska's Third District. Not only did she win, but served eight consecutive terms in Congress. During this period Haven played a vital role, assuming responsibility for accommodating constituents in the nation's capital, and fulfilling an unofficial

role as private secretary and advisor. This was in conjunction with a highly paid and skilled staff of appointees.

Succinctly put, Virginia said, "He consistently undergirded and strengthened me. We were a team. He played a key role in making it possible to well serve the folks in our District. He made friends for himself and for me everywhere we went."

While living in Chappell, Haven was president of the Rotary Club, president of the Deuel

County Farm Bureau, president of the Farmers Elevator Company's Board and a member of the Methodist Church Board. In addition, he was an active member of the Masonic Lodge.

Moving to Sun City West after Virginia's retirement, he enjoyed every minute of their time spent here. During the course of his illness, he was allowed one last time to return to his home and bask in the surroundings of the place he had spent so many happy hours. The Smiths still have their home in Chappell, as well as extensive farm holdings in Deuel County.

The Haven and Virginia Smith Scholarship Foundation, established a few years ago, is one of the important legacies from the life of Haven Smith. The fund provides fifty-five \$1,000 scholarships annually to deserving, or needy students in 24 Western Nebraska counties. The program will be permanently funded through their estate.

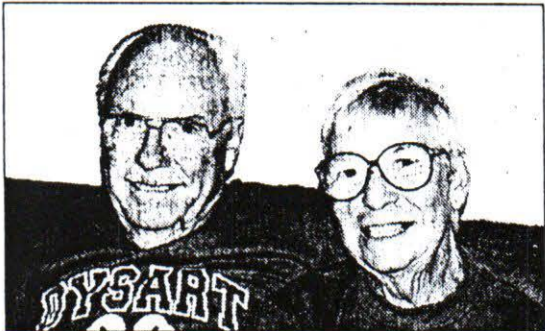
"Not one single student dropped out of school, or failed to keep up his or her grades," said Virginia. Her husband was very enthusiastic over the students' commendable scholastic records.

"Haven was a quiet man, humble, self effacing, loyal, faithful, hard working, generous," she said. "How blessed I have been to have shared 65 years of life with this beautiful man."

Her sentiments are echoed by the many people who knew him. At the Sun City West Rotary meeting following news of his death, a tribute was paid by Rev. Franklin Greene in his invocation—Haven Smith will be greatly missed.

Smith, Haven

## DOERS PROFILE

**Roscoe and Angie Smith**

**Vita:** Retired architect, general contractor; and retired executive secretary and teacher

**Hometown:** Northford, Conn.

**Self-portrait:** Angie said of Roscoe: "He's a very giving person. He's very involved and determined." Roscoe said of Angie: "This gal is terrific. She's the best cook in Sun City West. She excels in water colors. She's also a damn good photographer. She's caring, very forgiving. She's a good friend."

**Key to longevity:** "Have a positive outlook. Keep busy and keep your glass half full. That is the secret to everything, really," Roscoe said.

## Tutors delight in community, volunteer work

By J.J. McCORMACK  
Senior staff writer

**R**oscoe and Angie Smith will tell you they've been living in Disneyland for the last four years.

"We feel just so fortunate to be in this area. We feel like we should put something back into the community," Angie said, explaining the volunteer spirit that enveloped her and her husband within months of their leaving their 40-year home in Connecticut and settling permanently in Sun City West.

The Smiths liken the retirement community to Disneyland because, much like they would in the Magic Kingdom, they spend every day doing things that make them happy.

An activity that put smiles on their faces is teaching conversational English to El Mirage residents at the Dysart Community Center.

Roscoe and Angie each have students who are nearing the final phase of their instruction, enabling them to take a test and earn a high school diploma.

The Smiths also teach a 4-H woodworking class at the community center. The fifth and sixth-grade children make stools and decorative items and enter them in the Maricopa County Fair. The class culminates in a trip to the fair and collection of a bevy of first-, second- and third-place ribbons.

**Daily News-Sun** Monday, May 20, 1996

Roscoe is a retired architect and general contractor who has done woodworking all his life. Angie, a retired executive secretary and teacher, prefers woodworking to other handicrafts.

"She's better on the sanding machine than she is sewing buttons," Roscoe said of his wife and 4-H co-instructor.

The Smiths love being around and involved with children. They regularly visit a Phoenix-area fast-food restaurant just to get what they call their "kid fix."

"You just feel good about helping the kids. Here we are in this beautiful community — there's such a need (for volunteers)," Angie said.

The Smiths' commitment to Dysart Community Center, a home away from home for hundreds of El Mirage school children, extends beyond 4-H and the adult English program. Roscoe is the vice president of the privately-supported center's board of directors and is chairman of the board's building committee. A 5,000 square-foot general-purpose room will be built on the center's grounds this summer.

The Smiths are devoted supporters of the Dysart Community Center.

"I think we found our (volunteer) niche," Angie said, asserting that the work they and some 300 other volunteers do for the center is adding years to their lives.

"People who come and see us say, 'Gee. You look so happy and so young.'"

The Smiths also devote time to their church, Desert Garden Congregational, where Roscoe is a trustee and building chairman and Angie is chairman of the lay life board.

The pair are active in the Sun Cities Museum of Art. Roscoe is the museum historian, documenting each new exhibit on film. He and Angie help arrange exhibits and Angie does art educational programs in local schools.

The Smiths are a team when it comes to volunteer work and most aspects of their lives. They soon will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

SCM

Smith, Roscoe, Angie

SCW

# Selfless giving earns rewards

## Smiths find joy in helping others

By MONICA ALONZO  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Roscoe and Angie Smith walk around the room, stopping often to help their young woodworking students who are adding the finishing touches to the cactus cup holder project they've worked on for several weeks.

They're getting to Angie's favorite part — the finished product — when the children's faces are beaming with pride at their creations.

It's just one day in the lives of the Sun City West couple at the Dysart Community Center, but it's a day that represents so many other days of selfless giving.

The Smiths volunteer to teach the advanced woodworking class Wednesday afternoons to fifth- and sixth-graders and they also work with non-English speaking adults and teach them how read during the Literacy program 7 to 9 p.m. on Mondays and Tuesdays at the community center, 14414 N. El Mirage Rd.

"We go home tired, but it's a good tired," Angie said.

Since 1992, they've been volunteering at the community center, which provides a variety of after-school and summer activities for about 300 students in the school district.

The Smiths were chosen by the Northwest Valley Regional Community Council Board of Directors to receive the Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award, for their contributions to the community.

During the fifth annual Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award and Volunteer Recognition Event, they were presented the award named for the woman instrumental in beginning social service programs needed in Sun City.

"We are deeply honored," Roscoe said. "This means more to us than anything else. But the true reward is when we work with the people at the (community center)."

Like Minnie Harlow, one of the founding members of the Sun Cities Area Community Council, the Smiths have had a great impact on the lives of many people.

The students are grateful for the time the Smiths have given them.

"They could be going out somewhere else but they're here helping us stay out of trouble," said Alvaro Campos, 12. "That's what really makes me think they're (spending) their time on us and they're not even getting paid."

Eddie Ortiz, 11, said he'd be at home bored, watching TV, if he



Lisa Goettsche/Daily News-Sun

Roscoe Smith, a volunteer at Dysart Community 4-H Center in El Mirage, gives some helpful advice to April Sandate, 14, who is taking an advanced woodworking class. Smith and his wife, Angie, received the Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award for their work at the center.

didn't go to the center.

"Here I get to make things for my parents and my brother, like a towel holder, a footstool, and napkin and book holders," he said.

Nella Martinez, the executive director the community center said that "because of the Smiths, hundreds of children have gained self-esteem, confidence and a basic skill which they will carry with them throughout their lives."

Adults gain language skills that help them be better providers for their families and better citizens, she said.

The couple also invested many hours to make sure the 4,500-square-foot gym which recently opened became a reality for the students.

"The building is basically a physical monument of their efforts and enthusiastic volunteer work, but the real monument is the one they have created within the community ... and the transformed lives of many young people. And that can't be measured," said the Rev. Ed Beck, pastor of the Desert Garden United Church of Christ in Sun City West.

He said he nominated the couple for the award because he has seen the great work they have done go beyond walls of the Sun Cities.

"The (center) is there because of their focus and their tenacity," Beck said. "I've never known two people so enthusiastic about doing things for kids."

During the award presentation Bob Budorick, the manager of the Almost Antique thrift store, recognized the many volunteers that work there.

Proceeds from the store, which provides a wide assortment of furniture, books, clothing, jewelry and collectibles, benefit the programs and activities of the council. The store is in the Sun Bowl Plaza, 107th and Peoria Avenues.

Roxanne Hernandez, the coordinator of the Guardianship Review Program, also recognized the volunteers that regularly monitor Sun Cities area residents who have court appointed guardians.

For information about the Dysart Community Center, call 583-0016.

For information about the Northwest Valley Regional Community Council, call 584-4100.

OVER

# Who is Minnie Harlow?

When Minnie Harlow passed away four years ago, she left behind a legacy of community service that lives on in today's volunteers from the Sun Cities.

In 1994, the Sun Cities Community Council established the Minnie Harlow Humanitarian Award to honor her memory and recognize those who devote countless hours helping others, just as she did.

Harlow worked as a clinical social worker at the Menninger Foundation in Topeka, Kan. When she moved to Sun City, she used experience and talent to plan and establish the social service programs needed in the Sun Cities.

She was one of the founding members of the Sun Cities Area Community Council, now the Northwest Valley Regional Community Council. Her efforts created programs like Wake Up/Tuck

In Program, which is an affordable in-home personal care service for individuals who need some assistance when they're rising or retiring, the Visually Impaired program and the Olive Branch Senior Center.

Other social service programs today are an off-shoot of the wonderful work she did, said Nella Martinez, director of the Dysart Community Center.

During the past five years, individuals have been nominated by the community council board of directors for the award because they have made a significant contribution toward the betterment of communities served by the council.

Past award recipients have been Ablett H. Flury Jr., 1994; Anna M. McCartney, 1995; Joseph Z. McIntyre, 1996 and Florence A. Jerousek, 1997.

Wednesday, June 17, 1992 The Arizona Republic/THE PHOENIX GAZETTE

# Retire? Former Nebraska congresswoman could hardly be busier



Randy Reid / Staff photographer  
Sun City West resident Virginia Smith has many mementos of her years in Congress, including a wall of photos of her with various U.S. presidents.

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Virginia Smith may have retired from Congress, but she won't retire from crusading.

Smith, who will turn 81 on June 30, was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 16 years, representing Nebraska's 3rd Congressional District which included, at her retirement in 1990, 61 counties, 59,300 square miles and 523,827 people. She served on the Appropriations Committee, which had jurisdiction over 53 percent of all federal spending.

While in Congress, she earned a reputation as the tireless voice of rural America, speaking up for the 57 million Americans living in smaller communities.

During her years of service, she was known to her constituents and colleagues simply as Virginia.

"I think it's great that everyone calls me Virginia. That is my name," Smith said. "My staff did a survey in the district and found out that there was a 98 or 99 percent first-name recognition."

Smith and her husband, Haven, moved to Sun City West in 1990. Shortly after, she was recruited to help the Property Owners and Residents Association with its fight to secure a full-service post office for Sun City West.

"A community with 20,000 people should have its own post office," Smith said. "I knew how very badly we needed better postal service from my own experience."

Because she did not officially retire from Congress until her

successor was seated in January 1991, Smith relied on overnight mail to conduct congressional business from Sun City West.

That meant daily trips to the Sun City post office, she said, and often her husband could not find a place to park and had to circle the neighborhood while waiting for her.

While in Washington to receive some awards, Smith stopped by to deliver to U.S. Postmaster General Anthony Frank petitions from Sun City West residents asking for their own post office.

"He told me that he was not aware that we had a problem," Smith said. "People in Sun City West had been working on this for a long time, but it had never come to his attention."

See VIRGINIA, Page 4

## VIRGINIA

She convinced Frank to visit Sun City West to hear from residents about their postal service needs. Frank stopped short of providing a new post office for Sun City West, but he arranged to have a substantial expansion of the contract station, which in March began offering nearly all the services of a regular post office.

Smith will keep trying to land a that first-class post office.

"I think before too long we will have one," she said.

### 'Wonderful job'

Because of her involvement with the post office, Smith was asked to run for the PORA board.

"She's terrific. She did a wonderful job for us," said Howie Wilson, PORA board vice president, who spearheaded the post office fight.

Since taking her PORA seat

earlier this year, Smith has chaired PORA's utilities committee, which keeps tabs on water issues facing Arizona as well as Dimension Cable and Southwest Gas services.

"I'm so impressed with Sun City West," she said. "Each day, hundreds of people are volunteering at the hospital, library, posse and other groups. Our neighbors are just wonderful. Everyone is so friendly."

Besides the PORA, Smith is active in the Daughters of the American Revolution, PEO, the Sun City West Rotary, the American Association of University Women and Shepherd of the Hills Methodist Church.

Her first year in Sun City West was overshadowed by her husband's poor health. In April 1991, Haven Smith suffered a heart attack and underwent open heart

surgery. In August, he had a setback, and the couple marked their 60th wedding anniversary in the intensive care unit of Del Webb Hospital in Sun City West.

Smith said she appreciates the support she received from her new Sun City West friends.

### Capitol reminders

Reminders about her years in Congress fill her home. Hallways are lined with photographs of her with presidents ranging from Richard Nixon to George Bush, as well as national awards.

Born in Iowa, Smith was an only child in a family that had an "intense interest" in government.

"We talked about it at breakfast and at dinner," Smith said.

She graduated from high school at age 15 and was valedictorian.

She met Haven Smith, an agri-

culture student, while they attended the University of Nebraska. They were married in 1931 and moved to Chappell, where her husband farmed land that had been homesteaded by his grandfather in 1886. Their primary crop was wheat.

The couple did not have any children, and Virginia Smith became involved with civic and political organizations.

By 1974, she was well known throughout Nebraska's 3rd District, and she was asked to run for the seat vacated by retiring Republican Rep. Dave Martin.

She was 63 years old at the time — an age when many people think about retirement.

Her age did not matter, she said. But she said she was considered to have two handicaps — being a Republican and a woman.

"It was at the time of Water-

gate, and no woman had ever been elected from Nebraska to a major office," Smith said. "There were 15 women in Congress at the time, and most were the wives of congressmen who died while in office."

Smith won the primary by only 120 votes, then edged out Democrat State Sen. Wayne Ziebarth by 754 votes in the general election.

But once she got into Congress, no one even came close to unseating her.

During her tenure, she secured millions of federal dollars for Nebraska. An electrical plant, a

dam and an animal research laboratory were each named in her honor. She was a staunch supporter of farm legislation.

In May, Smith received her third honorary doctoral degree from her alma mater.

"You can make things happen. You can make a difference," Smith told graduates. "Set goals. Work hard. Keep faith with yourself, and with your family."

For Smith, her husband has been a constant in her life and has provided her "great strength."

"He is the wind beneath my wings," she said.

From Page 1

## Sun Citian authors book on prominent SCW resident

When Virginia Smith ended 18 years of serving Nebraska in the U.S. House of Representatives at age 80, she and husband Haven headed out to "do some of the fun things we missed" - not to Nebraska but to Arizona.

They quickly discovered the lure of retirement living, Del Webb style, and found just the home they wanted in Sun City West. In short order, the still-vibrant ex-Congresswoman found there were plenty of public-service chores needing her talents and connections.

Mostly, the fledgling community needed a post office. She joined in the political effort to get it, cashing in some political chips in Washington and Sun City West soon had its own post office.

Her political successes, along with a remarkable 92 years of activity, are chronicled in a just-published book by Sun City resident Jack Hart. Mr. Hart was managing editor of the Lincoln Journal in Nebraska and a long-time admirer of Mrs. Smith.

The book, entitled "Virginia Smith, A Nebraska Treasure," reports on her original election to Congress at age 64, never before having held public office - a woman in a man's domain and a Republican when that party's attraction was suffering due to Richard Nixon's resignation as president.

It follows her congressional

tenure through the tangles of farm programs, vicious fights over water issues and other national conflicts of the late years of the 20th century.

Mrs. Smith is still the only woman from Nebraska ever to be elected to a full term in the U.S. Congress.

But, Mr. Hart reports, it was her spirited efforts for a post office in Sun City West that was the crowning point in her public career.

The need for a post office hit her immediately after moving to the Valley of the Sun. She had a great deal of correspondence in winding up her congressional service and found that she had to take her business to Sun City in order to get overnight delivery. In the book, Mr. Hart relates her efforts:

"It happened, soon after her move to Sun City West, that

Virginia had to go to Washington to tend to business and receive some honors. While there, she paid a visit to her old friend from the days she was fighting for post offices in Nebraska - Postmaster General Anthony Frank, the big cahuna of the entire postal operation.

"After a bit of obligatory how's-everything chatting, the former Congresswoman gently suggested there was a little mail problem in her new hometown - no post office. 'Hmmm,' responded the postman-in-chief, 'we haven't heard anything about it around here.'

"Whereupon the Gentlelady from Nebraska dropped the hammer, the same one that had fallen on the Chinese ambassador and the Russian general during her days in the nation's capital. She reached

into her sizable bag and produced a sheaf of paper, announcing, 'Here are the signatures of 11,000 residents of Sun City West who desperately need a post office and have not been able to get any help from you. Now we want some action!'

The new post office followed shortly.

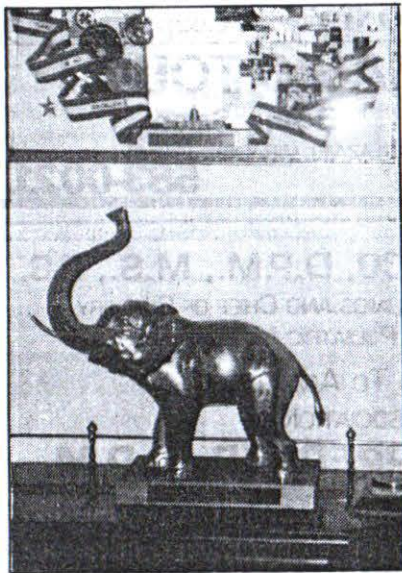
Autographed copies of the book may be purchased for \$20 from Jack Hart, 9318 Willowbrook Drive, Sun City, 85373. Call 974-1946.

Sun City Independent B-9 Nov. 12, 2003

## Virginia Smith..."A Woman for All Seasons"



Virginia Smith



Virginia Smith's life history "framed" above the elephant given to her by The Republican Party.

Photo, Ruth Borchardt

### Story, Ruth Borchardt

After meeting Virginia Smith, the SCW Governing Board's secretary and chairman of the Public Relations Committee, it is easily understood why this charming, gracious woman with the flawless complexion was elected to Congress for 16 years, her first term at age 63, competing against eight handsome young men!

Talking to her, one is convinced that here is a totally sincere and dedicated person. Like other members of the Board, she is a bright star added to the luminaries in Sun City West.

Her career achievements would warrant a book. Coming from a family who valued education, achievement and love of church, she did exceedingly well in school and ended up at the University of Nebraska. Here she met her husband and helpmate Haven, a wheat farmer. Haven took his bride to Nebraska from her original home in Iowa and together they enjoyed their years among the warm and friendly people of the state.

Politics had always been of interest to her family, so it wasn't surprising that Virginia became active in the Republican Party. When the then Congressman David Martin decided not to run again, the community decreed

that she should run for the office. 1974, the year of Watergate plus the fact that she was a female running against all these men, did not deter her. The odds seemed insurmountable, but she had great help from all the business people, farmers, churches, women's groups, etc. On a shoestring she and her supportive husband "worked the State." One amusing incident...close to voting day they were in a small restaurant with high dividers between the booths when two men came in and started chatting.

"Have you voted yet?"

"No, and I'm not voting for no damned woman!"

"Oh, I'm voting for her. My Mama's always been smarter than me. I think she'll do good!"

Virginia came out the victor with 51 percent of the votes. In the following elections she won by margins of about 86 percent and her overall approval rate by the voters was 92 percent! Much of her success is attributed to her attention to the voters. She saw to it that she visited one of her 62 counties every year. In addition to her support of rural electric and farm programs, Smith's efforts have been for the rural issues of education and water development. She was the first woman to receive the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's award

at the association's annual meeting, and another "first" was being the first Republican woman to be put on the Appropriations Sub-committee. Again what seemed impossible she accomplished. She succeeded in keeping the R.E.A. program.

Her inviting home is filled with memorabilia of her career in Congress...pictures, awards, plaques. She even has a "Nebraska Wall" full of gifts all pertaining to Nebraska. Greeting you in the entrance as you walk in the front door is a majestic brass elephant given to her in 1990 when she retired from Congress. So many accolades were heaped on her during her time in Washington from VIP's in the media, politics and presidents, that it must be a tremendous source of satisfaction after working so diligently all those years to be so highly regarded by everyone.

Some of the remarks made about her along the way were: Rep. Mickey Edwards (R) of Oklahoma said that it would be easy and true to talk about how nice Smith is, but "nothing is done around here just because people like you." He noted that Smith was "tough as nails" and adept at reducing grown lawmakers to telling their secretaries "If Virginia calls, tell

VIRGINIA SMITH

Continued on Page B4

OVER

## Virginia Smith... "A Woman for All Seasons"

Continued from Page B1

her I'm out!" Sen. Bob Kerry said that he was "living proof that you can say no to Virginia and still be a friend." Rep. Pat Roberts (R) Kansas, "I don't know of a harder working member of Congress than the gentle lady from Nebraska." Sen. Bob Dole said, "When Virginia has something on her mind, you agree early. You're going to do it anyway."

Her papers, while in Congress, were donated to the University of Nebraska. In Sidney, Nebraska there are plans for the Virginia Smith room at the Sidney Library, and for being such a charismatic political leader, she was honored by having the Chlamus Dam and Reservoir renamed Virginia Smith Dam and Reservoir. The state will find it difficult to find another lawmaker of Virginia's

qualities and talents, but aren't we fortunate here to have her with us, contributing to the welfare of Sun City West? The PORA Board has felt her impact and now she is on the Sun Health Board as well as the SCW's Governing Board. We salute former Congresswoman Virginia Smith!

# Sun City actress reviews 'Nebraska Treasure'



MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Former Nebraska Congresswoman Virginia Smith of Sun City West holds a copy of her biography written by Jack Hart of Sun City.

## Local author's book chronicles spunky congresswoman

CLAUDIA SHERRILL  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

How do you describe Virginia Smith?

In 1974, at age 64, she ran for Congress as a Republican in Nebraska's Third Congressional District.

"I'd say she had a spunky side to her," said Jack Hart, a longtime friend and author of a book about Smith, "Virginia Smith: A Nebraska Treasure."

It would be hard to argue with that description.

Hart said she had three strikes against her when she decided to run.

"She was a woman, she was older, and she was a Republican when it wasn't a good time to be a Republican," Hart said of the tumultuous era that saw the resignation in disgrace of Richard M. Nixon for his role in Watergate.

Smith persevered, however, and won election to the House of Representatives after the most closely

### IF YOU GO

- **WHAT:** "Virginia Smith: A Nebraska Treasure" book review by Tanya Griffith
- **WHEN:** 2 p.m. Tuesday
- **WHERE:** Willowbrook United Methodist Church, 19390 N. 99th Ave., Sun City
- **COST:** The book review is free and open to the public.
- **FYI:** To purchase a copy of "Virginia Smith: A Nebraska Treasure," call Jack Hart at 974-1946. Cost is \$20, which includes shipping and handling.

contested primary and general elections in Nebraska history. So close were the results that Smith took her seat and worked in Congress during a year of legal wrangling and challenges to her right to be in Washington, D.C.

While in Congress, Smith worked tirelessly for not just her home district in Nebraska, but for causes that were

See BOOK, A5

OVER

## From A1

important to rural constituents in other states as well. Her accomplishments in supporting farmers, working to expand agricultural science and helping preserve post offices and one-man weather stations in small rural towns endeared Smith not only to her constituents, but also to rural Americans in general.

So, spunky it is. Spunky and optimistic and uplifting, according to both Hart and Sun City actress Tanya Griffith, who will offer a first-person book review of Hart's work at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Willowbrook United Methodist Church in Sun City.

"I thought it would be kind of fun," Griffith said, of her decision to perform with both the author and the subject in the audience. "Of course, I'll probably fall down," she added, laughing.

"She's a real goer and doer," Griffith said of Smith. "Virginia always took everything in stride, and never lost her temper.

Hart also mentioned Smith's equanimity.

"She is a very happy person," he said. "She always tries to see the bright side of everything."

OK, that's all well and good, but why a book? Why a performance?

Smith, now 92, moved with her husband, Haven, to Sun City West in 1991 upon completing her eighth term in Congress. In the course of wrapping up the details, completing paperwork and correspondence, she found the small contract post office in the floral shop inadequate for her needs, and made daily trips to the post office in Sun City.

During a visit to Washington a short while later, Smith called on Postmaster General Anthony Frank. When she said that her new town desperately needed a post office, Frank said he hadn't heard anything about it.

Smith pulled out a sheaf of papers and said, "Here are the signatures of 11,000 people who live in Sun City West who need a post office and have not been able to get any help from you. Now we want some action!"

Faced with Smith's tenacity, Frank made a visit to Sun City West and immediately authorized an expansion of the floral shop contract station. In July 1994, in what might be record time for any government agency to take

action, ground was broken for the Sun City West post office.

Smith's work on behalf of Sun City West didn't stop there, however. She served on the PORA board of directors as postal liaison and on the Water Resources Committee. She also served a term on the board of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West. Her community involvement includes the Daughters of the Marian Revolution, P.E.O. Sisterhood, Rotary, American Association of University Women, Republican Club, Nebraska Club and Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church.

Smith also spent time with schoolchildren in the Hispanic communities around Sun City West, served on the board of Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital and also visited friends in hospitals and care homes.

Sun Citian Hart, a former political reporter, op-ed page editor and managing editor for the Lincoln Journal, was approached by the Nebraska Farm Bureau and the Nebraska Director of Agriculture with a request that he write about Smith. In a project that took nearly two years, 300 phone calls and

trips to both the Virginia Smith archives at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and Smith's hometown of Chappell, Neb., Hart produced the biography.

"It has been a very satisfying period in my advanced professional career," Hart said.

Haven Smith died in 1997 after a battle with lung cancer. Virginia Smith now lives in Grandview Care Center. She is legally blind and increasingly frail, but maintains close ties with her Nebraska Club friends and neighbors from her early days in Sun City West.

"Her attitude is still upbeat," said Hart.

Griffith said she found Virginia Smith's story to be compelling.

"I always try to find things in my book reviews that touch my life and may touch audiences' lives as well," Griffith said.

When asked what format the book review would take, Griffith said this would be like most of her other monthly book reviews at Willowbrook.

However, she added, "You can bet your boots I'll be wearing Nebraska red!"

*Claudia Sherrill may be reached at 876-2511 or csherrill@aztrib.com.*

DAILY NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, NOV. 18, 2003

# Nebraska representative an inspiration

**A**lthough I have not yet met her in person, I feel as though I know her and am Virginia Smith's friend. I just completed reading a fresh-off-the-press book about her dynamic life as the Nebraska grande dame of public service, written by retired journalist, Sun Citian Jack Hart.

The forward compares her story to the old movie, "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington," suggesting that she was highly unlikely to win the election to the House of Representatives in 1974. At that time most freshman members of Congress were young, Ivy League-educated males with an urban background, and Democrat. Mrs. Smith was a 64-year-old Republican farm wife, who took office on schedule, but labored under a 13-month cloud of House maneuvers to overturn her narrow victory.

During her first campaign her opponent was quoted as saying "A woman's place is in the home." Virginia's

response was, "No, a woman's place is in the House (of Representatives, of course)." Virginia Smith made it by campaigning not as a woman but as a Nebraskan, an American and a person who would look to the needs of all her constituents:

From that beginning she went on for almost two decades, through seven more elections, with margins of victory in the 70- to 80-plus percentage range, and approval rate of 90-some percent. She never lost touch back home in the Third District, in Western Nebraska,



**Carol  
Secord**

*Enhanced  
Living*

which covered 61 counties and more area than most states. Through her integrity, this humble, unassuming woman made a huge impact, wielding her influence with grace, dignity and objectivity. To this date she is still the only woman from Nebraska to be elected to a full term in either house of Congress.

Hart writes, "After her harrowing struggle to the mountain top of the 1974 election, Virginia breezed down the election slopes of the remainder of her congressional tenure, racking up victory margins that would be the envy of politicians everywhere."

In one election it was reported that she earned all but 23 votes from her home town of Chappell. Someone asked, "How in the world could there be 23 people in this town who didn't vote for you?" She kept running —

with the same energy and dedication — until she decided to retire at age 79.

"In her role as congresswoman, Virginia Smith employed virtually every trick in the book to further the interests of her 'folks back home'—and at least one that couldn't have been in any book," Hart wrote. "She and her constituents were becoming increasingly angered as the cost of food at the grocery stores soared while the farmers' prices for products going into groceries kept dropping... So Mrs. Smith cooked up a plan, literally. On Valentine's Day of 1980, she had coffeecakes prepared for each of the other 434 members of the House."

Her purpose was to dramatize the fact that such cakes, retailing for \$1.10 each, returned to the farmer only a little more than two

cents.

Since her retirement to Sun City West, she has continued to be influential in the community, working for causes she believes in. Now in her 90s, as her eyesight has deteriorated, her many friends drive her wherever she chooses. On one such excursion she exclaimed, "Isn't it wonderful. I don't have any idea where I am or where I'm going (because of her impaired vision). But I know I will be with friends and we will have a good time."

Autographed copies of this inspirational book are available from Jack Hart at 623-974-1946. For bookstore information call J&L Lee Co. at 1-888-665-0999.

Readers may write to Carol Secord at 9715 W. Lindgren, Sun City, AZ, 85373.

Thursday, January 26, 2006 THE WESTER

## Virginia Smith passes away at 94

**Virginia Smith**, known as the driving force in getting a post office in Sun City West in 1994, died on Jan. 23, 2006. She was 94 years old.

As the only Nebraska woman ever elected to a full term in the U. S. Congress, Mrs. Smith represented the Third Congressional District, covering more than two-thirds of that state, for 18 years. Upon officially ending her career in Washington in January 1991, she and her husband, Haven, set out for Phoenix where they had spent winter recesses for most of her term in office.

They soon discovered a newly-conceived retirement development northwest of Phoenix and bought a home in Sun City West. Immediately, she became involved in local activities. Discovering the inconveniences of being without a post office in that fledgling neighborhood, she drew on her Washington contacts and presented the community with this service, courtesy of her friend, Postmaster General Anthony Frank.

As reported in a book on her life, "Virginia Smith, A Nebraska Treasure," her visit to the Postmaster's office went like this: "Here are the signatures of eleven thousand residents of Sun City West who desperately need a post office and have not been able to get any help from you. Now we want some action!" The groundbreaking for the post

office was in July 1994.

Mrs. Smith became involved with a number of civic, commercial, social and spiritual organizations, including board member of the Sun City West Property Owners and Residents Association, and served a term on the board of the Sun City West Recreation Centers.

She was a member of the Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, PEO, Rotary, American Association of University Women, the Republican Club and Nebraska Club. She also served on the Sun City West Foundation and the board of the Del Webb Hospital.

She was born on June 30, 1911, daughter of Clifton and Erville Dodd, near Randolph, Iowa. The families of both her father and mother were among the earliest farmers in western Iowa.

After graduating as valedictorian of her high school class in Shenandoah, Virginia, she attended the University of Nebraska in nearby Lincoln. There she met Haven Smith, an agricultural student from Chappell in southwestern Nebraska.

After their marriage on August 27, 1931, they gradually enlarged a wheat farm and became involved in the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation. Mrs. Smith became a member of the board of the American Farm Bureau and chairman of the International



Virginia Smith

Farm Bureau Women.

She was a much-sought-after speaker across the nation and in 25 foreign countries, lecturing on agricultural and women's issues as well as patriotism. Her vibrant speeches on "Freedom" made her the recipient of the 1996 Freedom Foundation Principal Public Speaking Award for the finest public address on freedom.

Her success on the podium led to her decision in 1973 to run for Congress, at age 64. She defeated seven men in the Republican primary and a Democrat state senator in the general election, both among the most closely contested races in the state's history.

While Virginia and Haven Smith had no children, they devoted time and financial assistance to youth causes, most notably the creation of the Haven and Virginia Smith Scholarship Fund for high school graduates from Nebraska's Third Congressional District.

Burial will be in Iowa, where she was born. Memorial services in Sun City West are pending.

# View from the top

## Country girl makes difference on The Hill

By JANICE TARLETON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Virginia Smith has a short hallway in her Sun City West home, but the framed photographs hanging there provide a snapshot view of America's last half-century of politics.

The exhibit includes presidents Dwight Eisenhower, Jimmy Carter, several of Ronald Reagan and George Bush, along with Robert Dole and others.

Conspicuously absent from the wall of fame is Republican Richard Nixon.

Smith remembers the day the fallen president addressed Congress and claimed innocence in the infamous Watergate scandal. She was a newly elected representative from Nebraska at the time.

"He said he was not a crook and I believed him, but later it turns out he was a crook and he had to resign. There was no doubt about it," Smith said. "If we found out the president did the same thing today, I don't know that he would be expected to resign."

It's what Smith sees as a decline in personal morality that troubles her most about the future of the country she helped to lead from 1974 through 1990. "I have a lot of concern about the morality of my country, and it's not just the sex life," said the 88-year-old. "It's the honesty, integrity and hard work."

Those were values a church-going Smith grew up with as an Iowa farm girl.

"There is no excellence without great labor," were the words she spoke as high school valedictorian, and a hallmark of Smith's own life.

She met and married her husband of 67 years, Haven Norris Smith, while attending the University of Nebraska.

The young couple returned to their rural roots and, in 1931, the midst of the Great Depression, started raising chickens. Eggs sold for 4 cents a dozen, corn for 10 cents a bushel and wheat, 26 cents a bushel.

To help make ends meet, Virginia taught violin lessons for a quarter.

"Times were so terribly hard, but as I look back over my life, I was just as happy then," she said. Gradually agriculture made a turn-around and Smith, coming from a family that "believed in doing things," became active in nearly every facet of the commu-



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

A lifetime of memories lines the hallway of former U.S. Rep. Virginia Smith's home in Sun City West. Much of the 88-year-old Republican's memorabilia is in the Smith Museum in her home state of Nebraska.

nity. She served 17 years as Sunday school superintendent at her church, 12 years as president of the American Farm Bureau Women and several years on the Nebraska State Normal School Board.

She was appointed to represent Nebraska as a goodwill ambassador to Switzerland in 1950 and as a representative to Central and South America for the Association of Country Women of the World.

To prepare for that assignment, Smith rode a train to Denver once a week for a summer to learn Spanish.

When she was 64, friends and colleagues suggested she make a run for Congress. Smith took up the challenge, but she faced three handicaps: age, sex and party affiliation.

There weren't many Republicans elected as Watergate unfolded and, she explained, at that time the only women in Congress were the widows of congressmen.

"And every time there was an article in the paper, it would say, Virginia Smith, 64," she said, still a bit frustrated by the characterization. There was rarely a mention that her male challenger was only 27.

Nevertheless, she captured 52 percent of the vote to eke out her first victory and to embark on a new career in Washington.

Smith, an advocate of education and agriculture, said she worked hard, flying home every other weekend to keep in touch with her constituents.

"We loved people and I believed they loved us," she said.

Though she spent her tenure in the minority party, Smith landed a seat on the powerful Appropriations Committee by the end of her third year in the House, the first Republican woman to do so.

"It was under Reagan that we did the things I thought ought to be done," said Smith, who predicts that history will look kindly upon America's oldest president. "He was a loved kind of presi-

dent," said Smith, who became personal friends with Nancy Reagan, though they have lost touch over the years. "They were good, reasonable, friendly people."

Like most she was stunned when the message went through the halls of Congress that the president had been shot. "It did seem possible," she recalled.

By the time she retired in 1990, the handicaps were gone. Polls put her approval rating at 80 percent.

Still, Smith doesn't think the country is quite ready for a woman president, though she thinks Elizabeth Dole could be a strong running mate for George W. Bush.

The Smiths, who had vacationed in Phoenix several times, retired to Sun City West nine years ago. "I've always been glad," she said. "It's an easy, pleasant place to live."

The Smith Museum, which she set up like her Washington, D.C. office and contains many of her awards and other memorabilia located in Sidney, Neb.

# Going the distance

## Images, people boosted rider's patriotic sense

By KIMBERLY HICKS  
Daily News-Sun staff

**G**eorge and Joanie Sorensen returned to their Sun City West home July 21 — two months after George embarked on a bicycle trek that took him from coast to coast and renewed his spirit of patriotism.

"To sum it up, America is still here," he said, reflecting on the 49-day, 3,500-mile trek. "I'm really grateful that I am an American."

Sorensen was among 75 cyclists who departed Los Angeles on May 15, bound for Boston. Fifty-seven riders, including the 69-year-old retired hardware manufacturing representative, crossed the finish line July 3.

Sorensen likened the experience to his mission during World War II when he was a 19-year-old tailgunner on a B-24 in the skies over Germany.

"The only thing was back then, we were dying for that mission to be over. When it was, we kissed the ground and cried because we were so happy that mission was over," he said. "We cried in Boston when this (bicycle) trip was over, but that was because it was over. But it was the same kind of emotion."

The riders traversed 14 states on the nation's back roads and rural routes — including portions of the Midwest now besieged by flood waters.

"Where we were in west Quincy, Mo., is now under water. A section of a bridge we rode on over the Mississippi River is gone," he said, shaking his head. "I remember seeing all these small businesses there. ... It's just terrible."

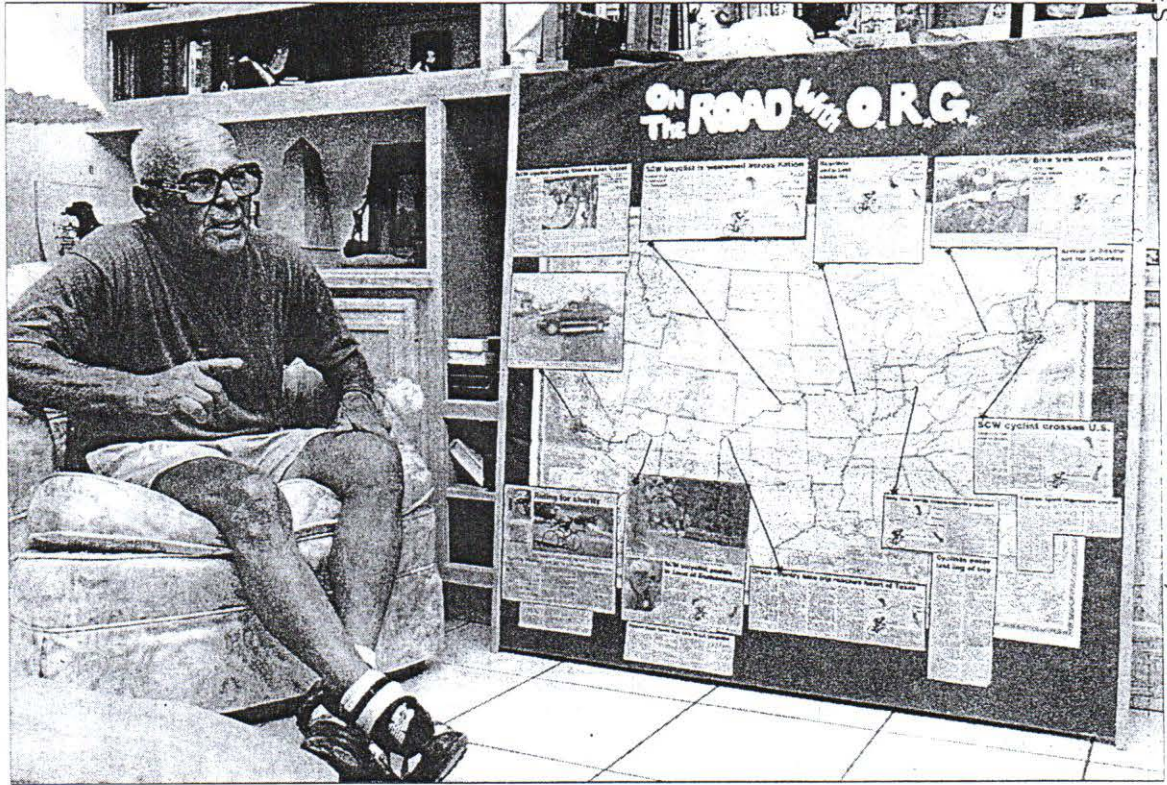
However, Sorensen said his images of rural America — rolling green hills, well-kept white farm houses with black shutters and American flags on nearly every porch — will endure forever.

Also enduring are the friendships he made with the other riders.

"You ride with them 49 days, and have breakfast and dinner with them every day. You get to know them really well. You just can't help it," he said. "If tomorrow they called us up and said, 'We're all meeting in Scottsdale and riding to Tucson. Can you be there?' We'd be there."

"There is kind of a lull now that everything is over," he said.

Sorensen said he feels like "something is missing" in his life now.



Frances Guarino/Daily News-Sun

George Sorensen recalls his coast-to-coast bicycle trek with a poster made for him by members of the

West Valley Bicycle Club of Arizona. Club members gave Sorensen the poster Friday.

"Everything is so calm and unexciting," he said. "I was on a schedule for 49 days with all these people. And then, all of a sudden, it stopped."

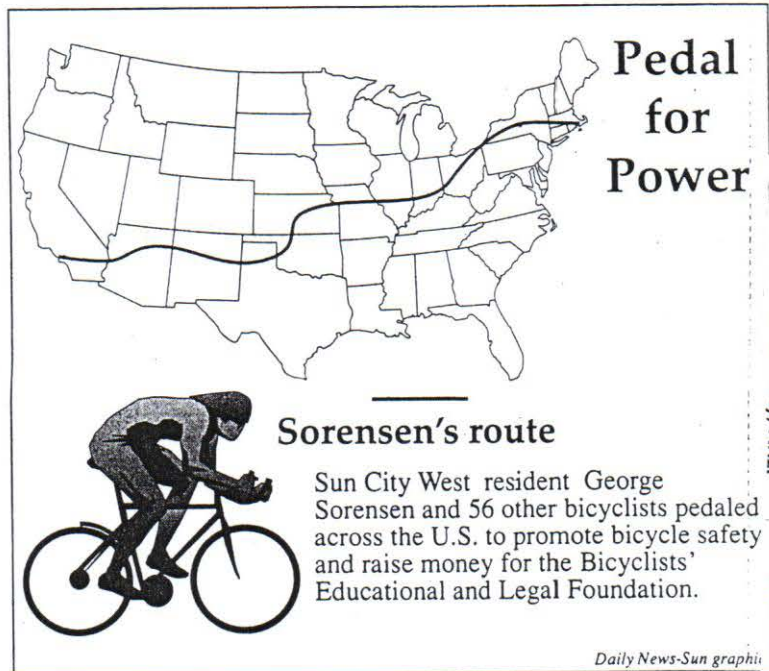
The cyclists' goal was to promote bicycle safety and raise funds for the Bicyclists' Educational and Legal Fund. Each rider also raised money for a cause of their own.

Sorensen, a recovering alcoholic, chose Crossroads, a Phoenix-based agency that offers refuge to recovering alcoholics and drug users.

Sorensen raised approximately \$11,000; in all, the riders raised approximately \$400,000, he said.

As he adjusts to everyday life — minus seven to 11 hours on a bicycle — Sorensen said he is "laying off the fat" and continuing an exercise regimen comprised of walking, lifting weights and cycling.

"I was 165 pounds when we left. I ate like a pig the whole time, but I was 151 pounds at the end of the trip! I'm back to 155 (pounds) now. I'm going to stay there."



### Sorensen's route

Sun City West resident George Sorensen and 56 other bicyclists pedaled across the U.S. to promote bicycle safety and raise money for the Bicyclists' Educational and Legal Foundation.

Daily News-Sun graphic

SCW

# Going the distance

## Images, people boosted rider's patriotic sense

By KIMBERLY HICKS  
Daily News-Sun staff

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The riders traversed 14 states on the nation's back roads and rural routes — including portions of the Midwest now besieged by flood waters.

"Where we were in west Quincy, Mo., is now under water. A section of a bridge we rode on over the Mississippi River is gone," he said, shaking his head. "I remember seeing all these small businesses there. ... It's just terrible."

However, Sorensen said his images of rural America — rolling green hills, well-kept white farm houses with black shutters and American flags on nearly every porch — will endure forever.

Also enduring are the friendships he made with the other riders.

"You ride with them 49 days, and have breakfast and dinner with them every day. You get to know them really well. You just can't help it," he said. "If tomorrow they called us up and said, 'We're all meeting in Scottsdale and riding to Tucson. Can you be there?' We'd be there."

"There is kind of a lull now that everything is over," he said.

Sorensen said he feels like "something is missing" in his life now.

"Everything is so calm and unexciting," he said. "I was on a schedule for 49 days with all these people. And then, all of a sudden, it stopped."

The cyclists' goal was to promote bicycle safety and raise funds for the Bicyclists' Educational and Legal Fund. Each rider also raised money for a cause of their own.

Sorensen, a recovering alcoholic, chose Crossroads, a Phoenix-based agency that offers refuge to recovering alcoholics and drug users.

Sorensen raised approximately \$11,000; in all, the riders raised approximately \$400,000, he said.

As he adjusts to everyday life — minus seven to 11 hours on a bicycle — Sorensen said he is "laying off the fat" and continuing an exercise regimen comprised of walking, lifting weights and cycling.

"I was 165 pounds when we left. I ate like a pig the whole time, but I was 151 pounds at the end of the trip! I'm back to 155 (pounds) now. I'm going to stay there."

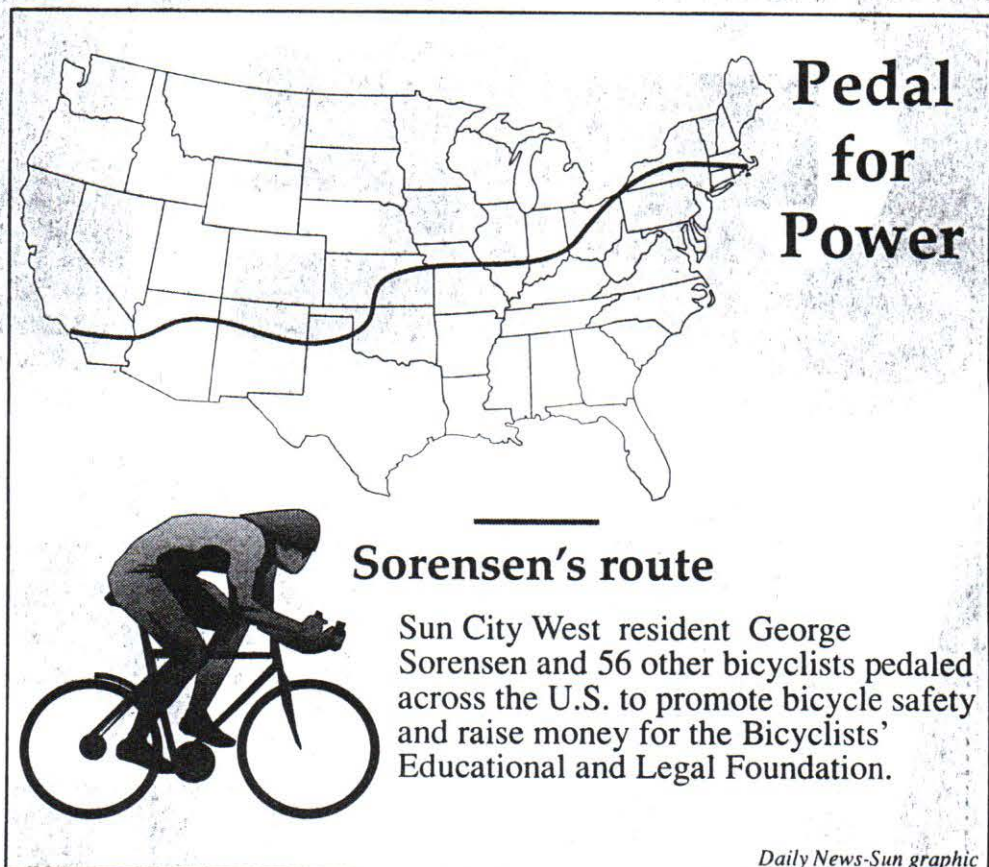
SORENSEN, GEORGE  
+ JOANIE



George Sorensen recalls his coast-to-coast bicycle trek with a poster made for him by members of the

West Valley Bicycle Club of Arizona. Club members gave Sorensen the poster Friday.

Frances Guarino/Daily News-Sun



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# Going the distance

## Wife's trek was no Sunday drive

### Driving van was demanding task

By KIMBERLY HICKS  
Daily News-Sun staff

**A**lthough George Sorensen pedaled from Los Angeles to Boston, it was his wife of 32 years, Joanie, who did all the hard work, he said.

"She had the hard job," he said. "She really worked."

Joanie Sorensen drove more than 3,500 miles and slept in 85 hotel beds from May 15 to July 3, while George and a group of bicyclists rode across the country to raise funds for selected charities and the Bicyclists' Educational and Legal Foundation.

Her trip, she said, was no Sunday drive.

Along the way, she was bitten by a dog named Maynard and chased by a bull near Dodge City, Kan.

On Monday, four days after returning home to Sun City West, she summed up her 49-day trip.

"I'm glad to be home," she said, laughing. "It was a marvelous experience. But it was a long, long trip."

Joanie Sorensen's job was to drive a support van for the bicyclists.

The van — the Sorensens' 1992 Plymouth Voyager — was outfitted with a PA system and a citizens band radio, and stocked with water, fresh fruit, granola, extra bike parts and a first-aid kit.

She and one other support driver were responsible for keeping track of the riders' whereabouts from California to Massachusetts and in 12 states in between.

"Some of the riders would take me on little side trips," she said. "I would get on the PA and say, 'OK my little friends, where are we going?' But this was not a race, it was fun. My job was to stick with them wherever they



Frances Guarino/Daily News-Sun

Joanie Sorensen said she is glad to be home, after 49 days on the road.

wanted to go, as long as they were off the road by dark."

Taking side trips gave Sorensen an opportunity to see many of the small towns off the beaten path and meet townsfolk from all walks of life. She said she never felt afraid, although she spent many hours on the road alone.

Some days, Sorensen said, she spent 12 hours in the van, either tailing the riders or waiting for them to reach their destination.

"Luckily I love to drive," she said. "I had never driven that van before the trip, but I got to the point where I could manipulate it pretty well."

Although she had no traffic mishaps,

the trip wasn't without its share of trials and tragedy.

Six days before the riders crossed the finish line in Boston, the trip organizer, John Torosian, 61, died of a massive heart attack.

Sorensen said he had separated from the rest of the riders when it happened. Word of his death spread quickly, however, and put a damper on the end of the journey — a time when the riders should have been jubilant.

"That was my worst day," she said. "I was thinking about my husband who was riding, who is 69. That was a very bad day for me."

Another day, Sorensen had to take

the oldest rider — a 73-year-old World War II veteran — to the hospital after he crashed and landed on the pavement.

The man, who had undergone open-heart surgery, a hip replacement and suffered a stroke prior to the trip, wound up with several dislocated fingers and six stitches in his hand.

"But bless his heart, he made it," Sorensen said.

Between Blythe, Calif., and Wickensburg, she had to pick up five riders who were suffering from heat exhaustion.

But all eyes and attention were focused on Sorensen in Kansas, where the people were friendly, she said, but the animals were not.

Outside of Dodge City, she encountered a black bull in the highway.

"He took one look at my van and didn't like it at all. He chased me all the way down the street," she said.

Down the road, "in the middle of no man's land," Sorensen said, she met up with an unfriendly dog named Maynard. Although the owner assured her Maynard was friendly, he lunged at Sorensen and took a bite out of her back.

"She (the owner) felt so bad. She drove me 20 miles to the nearest hospital for a tetanus shot."

However, the trip also gave her a chance to learn some things about her country.

Sorensen said she was impressed by the patriotism she encountered in rural America, and was amazed by the pride of ownership people have in their homes.

"It was marvelous," she said. "I think I had an experience that 95 percent of the people in the world will never have. When you take all the back roads across the country, you see things no one else will ever see."

FEBRUARY 3-9, 1994

## Thayer Soule, Well-Known World Traveler, Lecturer, Picks SCW as Retirement Choice

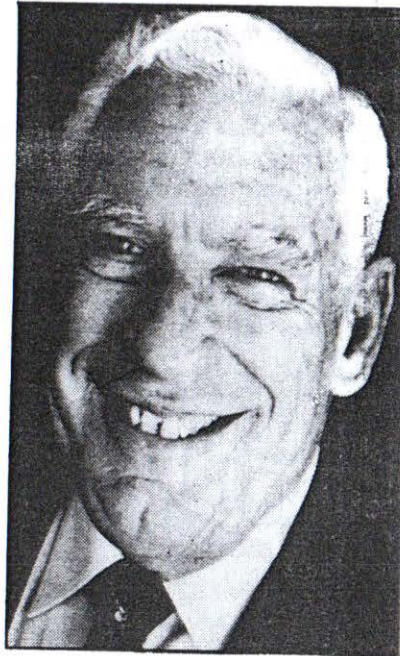
By Joyce L. Salfingere

Wester Thayer Soule, world traveler and lecturer, still prefers SCW with all its amenities over other retirement areas. Soule has traveled all over the world and presented travelogues all over North America. His local focus, at the Sundome, resulted in nine travelogue presentations.

When it came time for this Harvard graduate to look for a place that would be best suited for a retirement home, Soule didn't make the choice lightly. His final decision was made by computer, listing all the pros and cons of each of the retirement areas he had visited and assigning points to each one. Soule said during his ten years living in SCW he has been asked numerous times why he decided to live here. After three years of seriously searching and investigating, he narrowed the field down to three communities, discounting his home in New York because, "he knew he didn't want to stay there."

SCW rated first in 1983. Soule re-evaluated his listings recently resulting in the same conclusion.

Laguna Hills in California rated high with its fine climate, closeness to Thayer's business



Thayer Soule

outlet, excellent security, etc., but in 1983, Thayer felt there were negatives in the Golden State, one being earthquake country, that, along with other negative aspects prompted Thayer to cross it off his list of hopefuls.

Rancho Bernardo, California, also had an excellent climate, cheaper than New York, and close to San Diego, but, among the negatives, he felt you received little house for the money,

## T. Soule Picks SCW as Retirement Choice

Continued from Page B

needed a smog device and the water was very hard.

In 1983, Soule rated SCW with a plus of 25 points and a minus of eight. Rancho Bernardo was rated with a plus of 18 and a minus of five. While Laguna Hills rated a plus of 17 and a minus of 17.

How does this world traveler rate these communities today? SCW still comes out ahead. He feels you get lots of house for the money, great winter and spring, no car smog devices needed, cheaper than New York, Phoenix airport, Phoenix area, all electric homes, privacy, recreational facilities and lower state taxes are all on the plus side. Very hot summers rate in the negative category, as well as, older people.

All of soule's tabulations still

rate SCW as Number One. Soule doesn't seem to let the summer heat bother him too much. "Only thing I don't like is that is (summer) goes on so long." Soule commented he has, "always been more at home in the West. It just feels best for me west of Denver."

World-traveler, lecturer, and resident of SCW, Soule is still busy with platform appearances and is in the process of completing two books. He decided on his career at the tender age of seven. Now, a few years older, Soule has not lost his wanderlust. His humor and broad smile still project a life full of excitement and travel. When he's not traveling you'll find him very much at home with his number one choice in retirement communities—Sun City West.

T. Soule

Continued on Page B2

# Travel film maker calls it quits after 60 years

By **TERI CARNICELLI**  
Sun Cities Independent

After more than 60 years of showing the world to the world, filmmaker Thayer Soule will end his sojourn come spring.

"This is my 60th season, and I decided that's a good place to stop. So come April 1995, I'll be all through," says Mr. Soule, a resident of Sun City West who spent nearly his entire life producing films and presenting lectures around the world.

The film bug bit him early and from then on he had a clear eye on his future path.

"I was inspired at the age of seven when I saw a film lecture on Africa's Mountains of the Moon," he explains.

"I don't remember it, but my mother said I announced loud and clear that 'That's what I want to do' — traveling, making the motion pictures and showing them. And I've never done anything else."

His budding career began to emerge in high school.

"I started giving shows to anybody I could corral — (mostly) neighbors and friends," he laughs.

After high school he attended Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., where he began taking courses in romance languages, geography, history and public speaking. He gave his first "professional" show in February 1936 while a freshman at Harvard.

"It was in a church basement and we charged \$5 which is more than it was worth, but of course in 1936 \$5 was \$5 and I didn't have any expenses," Mr. Soule recalls.

What money he had saved was soon employed in his determination to travel the world, immortalizing often far-flung regions of the globe on film for current and future generations to explore.

"When I first started, nobody could really afford to go anywhere. It took you a week to go to Europe and a week to get back even if you had the money," he says.

But in his case, "I was making these films for a living, and we had to go."

## Have film will travel

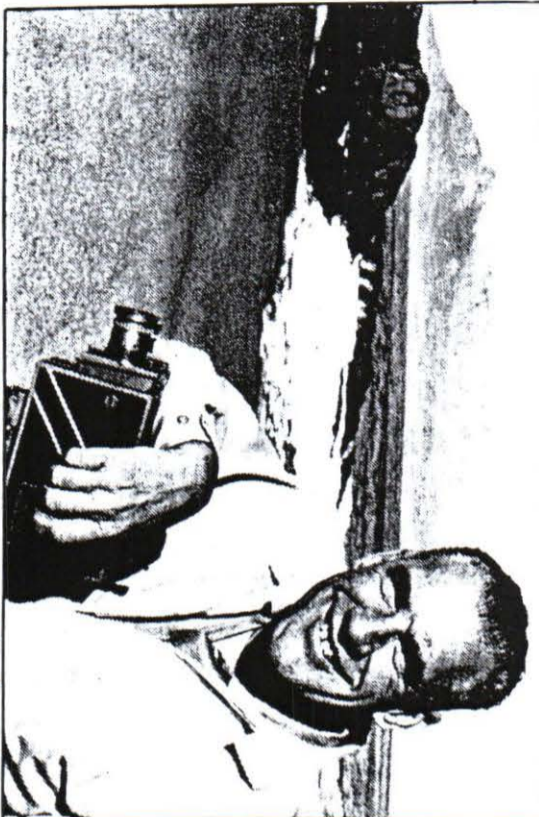
The film lecture circuit was a growing and innovative business, and he rarely had any trouble making enough money on one film to pay for the production of another.

"I've been in the business for 60 years and I made money every

year except for one, which I think is pretty good for any field of endeavor," he muses.

He says his films appeal to three groups of viewers: Those who want to see places they've been to re-live the trip and those who want to see the place they one day hope to go or are actually planning to go. And then there are the armchair

After more than 60 years of entertaining audiences with his travel films, Sun City West resident Thayer Soule has announced plans to retire as of April 1995.



travelers, "the third group that knows very well they're never going to get there and this is their opportunity to see the world," Mr. Soule explains.

Some of the places he has traveled to and captured on film include the former Yugoslavia, South America, New Guinea, the South Seas, Japan, Africa, the Alps and the Mediterranean.

In the beginning he did the filming, editing and narration himself. Up until five years ago, when he stopped making the films, he still did the majority of the work.

"I had one person along for company more than anything else but gradually the person got to be an assistant to a certain extent," Mr. Soule explains.

"Basically it's a one-man job, but you need somebody to talk to. Most of the time I had at least one person with me. It's a lot more work than people give us (film lec-

See ■ FILMS, Page B14

turers) credit for."

He says each film lecturer generally shoots the film, cuts it, arranges the music, plans the narration and finally put the show on for a live audience.

"We have a very good national organization," he says. "It's not very large; we have only about 100 people that do this around the country."

His booking office is run cooperatively by five other speakers and has an executive secretary who does all the promotion for and booking of the shows.

"We know in advance what people are going to do and we try very hard not to have two people (showing) a film on the same subject during the same season," he adds.

#### A season's end

Mr. Soule presented his eighth — and last — film at the Sundome last Tuesday night where a very appreciative staff and management presented him with a watercolor print of the entrance to the theater.

More than 2,600 people turned out to see his "Glories of the Alps," a very impressive audience — but not the most impressive.

"The biggest audience I ever had was in an arena in Spokane, Wash., where we had over 12,000 people. That was a film on Africa," he recalls.

"The smallest was in Cartersville, Ga. We had five people in the audience, which included the theater manager and his wife. It was the first decent Sunday afternoon they'd had in three months, and nobody came.

"But we gave the show just the same."

Giving the show isn't as easy as it used to be, especially when it involves so much traveling, he admits.

"I told my booking office 10 years ago that I was going to stop and that I wanted to start slowing down."

In his 50th year of traveling and making films he had 157 shows, and "now it's down this year to about 28, so it's been a much, much easier schedule."

What's kept him going is his love of the films and his great affection for his audiences.

"We're always thrilled that so many people will take the time and make the effort to come."

But much of the thrill and mystique of a film lecture has been diminished by the video era, where a person can see any part of the world he wishes to from the comfort of his own home simply by pushing a button.

"I think we passed the peak on a national basis in 1962 and it has been declining ever since," Mr. Soule says.

"Up until very recently our stuff was as good or better than most of the documentary stuff on television. And the only place you could see it was at one of our shows. Now, with the video camera, they can do so many things we can't even think about."

But the national organization of film lecturers still has a very loyal following, he says.

"I think the lure of the thing as we do it is that it's presented in person by somebody who's actually made the trip and was there, and he's on the platform."

Of his 39 films, only two have been made into videos and published commercially — one on Britain and one on Spain. "The one on Britain sold almost 40,000 copies, which is incredible for a travel video," he says.

All of his films will eventually belong to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. The Human Studies Film Archives of the institute already possesses 26 of them and will receive the remainder after Mr. Soule's retirement in April.

He says there are vast amounts of film vaults at the institute, and "they can take much better care of (the films) than I can."

His last show in the area will be 2 p.m. Jan. 13 at the United Church of Sun City, 11250 N. 107th Ave. He will present his anniversary show, "Around the World with Thayer Soule — The First 50 Years."

"I'm sorry to say goodbye and yet I think the time has come," Mr. Soule says. "If it were just a question of giving the shows, that would be one thing. But there's so much travel involved, it just got to the point after 60 years where I said 'That's enough of that.'"

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TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2004

# Filmmaker gave non-travelers the world

By Connie Cone Sexton  
The Arizona Republic

Thayer Soule found his calling in life while sitting in the center of the second row of Boston's Symphony Hall.

There, in a darkened auditorium on that cold January night in 1936, Soule looked up at the tall, regal man holding court on the stage. It was Burton Holmes, "America's Number One traveler." As a huge image of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, appeared on the screen, Holmes began to take the audience on a trip.



Thayer Soule

Soule was mesmerized. On that night, at the age of 19, Soule, who had been an amateur filmmaker, decided he would make giving

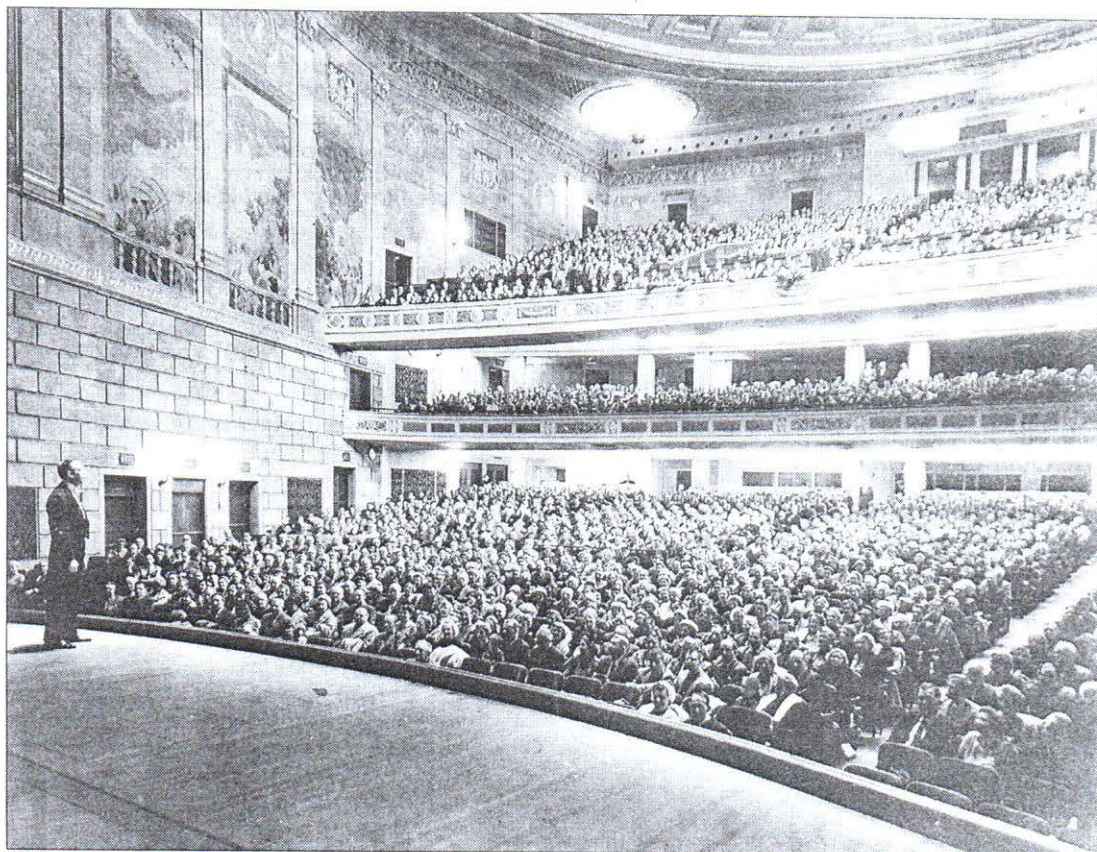
travelogues his destiny.

It wasn't just a passing fancy. Soule worked for a time as Holmes' assistant and then carved out his own impressive niche. He was on the road and back for 60 years, collecting still and film images of a world he knew most people would never see in person.

When he died Jan. 15 at the age of 86, he left behind a library of film reels and dozens of small, black books filled with his observations. For his film *Footloose in France*, there was Versailles, Azay-le-Rideau, Saintes Maries de la Mer and Monaco. For *Magic of the Mediterranean*, there were trips to Oracle of Delphi, the Acropolis, the temple of Karnak and the pyramids of Giza in Egypt. Over the years, he saw about 100 countries.

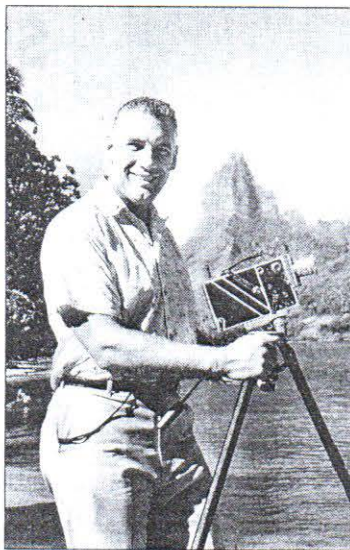
He had entertained thousands of people over the years and made more than 5,000 appearances. He was on stage at Carnegie Hall 28 times. For his 41 years of work representing the National Geographic Society, they gave him the Centennial Award in 1988. Soule's contribution to the travelogue world also was noted by the Smithsonian, which has several of his 16mm movies in its archives.

And as for being popular, perhaps some of his more devoted fans were in the Valley.



Thayer family photos

Thayer Soule created a niche for himself by giving travelogues, often before sellout crowds like this one in Rochester, N.Y. His career frequently took him to locales like the South Pacific (below left) and away from his late wife, Nancy, and two daughters, Robin (left) and Cindy.



Oct. 9, 1917

Born in Rochester, N.Y.

1934

Buys Eastman model C 16mm movie camera.

1957

Gives sellout performance on Alaska at Eastman Theater in Rochester.

1965

Works on *Return to the South Pacific*.

Late 1960s

Balances road work with home life.



After moving to Sun City West in 1983, he became a frequent draw in the community at the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts.

"He was a very good speaker who kind of commanded an audience," daughter Robin Mandell said. "Even at the dinner table, he always had something

interesting to say. But he also was a good listener."

Soule worked in the days before highly technical microphones and learned to project

OVER

A Life Remembered celebrates the lives of interesting people in Arizona who have recently passed away. To suggest someone, call Connie Sexton at 602.444.8894 or e-mail remembered@arizonarepublic.com.

Read paid obituaries on B9.

his voice to the final row.

It was a lesson he learned from Holmes. It was a lesson he taught Robin and his other daughter, Cindy.

Soule wasn't blessed with the smooth voice for radio, but his was infectious, nonetheless with a craggy, lilting style that was his alone.

It wasn't his voice that mattered the most, anyway. His words were lyrical, enticing, like this excerpt from a talk he once gave about a visit to the Alhambra in Granada, Spain: "This evening we see the Alhambra by the light of a full moon in a faultless sky. The silver doesn't drop into the Court of the Lions, but in the Court of Myrtles. It brings a pale loveliness not seen by day. ... Gone are the people, the noise, the clatter. Only the beauty remains."

Soule courted the days of wanderlust, of leisurely travel. Of savoring a city like you would a fine wine. None of that 20-cities-in-20-days kind of thing for him.

Although he was gone from home often, Robin said they knew how much he cared for them. "He probably would not be categorized as someone who was warm and fuzzy, but he had deep love for family," she said.

Before he died, Robin said her father didn't convey any last regrets. But there were a few places that remained on his travel wish list, including Kashmir. He thought it was one of the most beautiful places on Earth.

Wherever he went, Robin said, he stayed observant of the people and the architecture. "He had unbelievable eyesight. He could see a boat miles away. He always had that photographer's eye."

Survivors include his wife, Ruth, of Sun City West; daughters Robin Mandell of Greenbrae, Calif., and Cindy Thrane of South Burlington, Vt. His first wife, Nancy, died in 1978.

November 13, 2002

## ■ A Name to Know

For the past 20 years, **Leora Speers** has been a fixture with the Sun City West Library's volunteer staff.

Volunteering with the library since nearly the first day she moved into the community, Ms. Speers has donated almost an entire year of her life to the facility.

"I think the (library) is one of the



biggest assets in the community, because not everyone can play golf, play tennis or swim. But almost everyone can read and it's free," Ms. Speers said.

Every week, Ms. Speers spends about eight hours in the library checking in books, shelving items and helping with patrons' needs.

"You get hooked on it," Ms. Speers said. "I work with several people I began working with when I started."

In addition to her work at the library, Ms. Speers spends several hours a month volunteering at Del E. Webb Memorial Hospital.

"I work with magazines," Ms. Speers said. "I put them in patients rooms and in waiting areas. So again, I'm working with reading material."

LY 3-9, 2002

## Name to Know

Cornell F. Stamoran was still working in Michigan when he first volunteered to be a member of the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City West in the summer of 1999.



He began his Posse training four days after retiring to Sun City West with his wife Phyllis.

"I always enjoyed the challenges of law enforcement, having previously been involved in Michigan with the Novi Police Department, the Livonia Police Department Reserves and the Schoolcraft College Security Department," Mr. Stamoran said.

After volunteering with the Posse for nine months, the Stamorans purchased a larger home in Sun City Grand.

"That move necessitated giving up work in the Posse and regretfully, I resigned," he said.

While only volunteering with the Posse for nine months, the experience left a lasting impression.

A year and a half after leaving the community the Stamorans decided to move back to Sun City West.

"I missed serving on the Posse and helping the fine people of Sun City West," he said.

STAMORAN,

CORNELL

VF

PERSONALITIES

SCW

# A novel approach

## Author's research on Henry VIII turned into fictional work

by Jeff Nelson  
Special to Community

SUN CITY WEST — To the younger set, the name Henry the VIII probably conjures up visions of the 1960s British rock group Herman's Hermits, bouncing and wailing on stage to the tune of their 1965 hit song.

But Sun City West author Paul Stefik sees something — or someone — else.

Stefik, 76, sees one of the most feared men in the history of mankind, with a personality shrouded in rumor, myth and fear.

It's that fascination with the saga of King Henry VIII that motivated Stefik to embark on a 10-year mission to find out more about the man, Henry Tudor.

Stefik's research culminated in his recently published book, "My Will Be Done," which could find its way into book stores as early as this fall.

Although the book is based on historical records, Stefik tells his story by fantasizing as to what could have been said about Henry VIII at the time, had his hand-picked Privy Councillors and courtiers been able to express themselves freely and pass judgment upon him without fear of being executed.

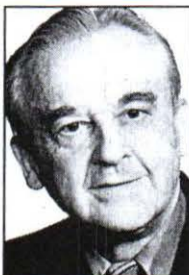
Stefik accomplishes this in his book by placing the king on trial, forcing him to justify the actions of his reign against the charges of the councillors and courtiers.

This scenario allows them to give their candid judgments of one of the most influential and controversial monarchs to rule a western power.

"This way the book is not so much academic, but tells the story in a more interesting angle,"



File photo



Sun City West resident Paul Stefik (above) spent 10 years researching Henry VIII (left). Stefik has written a novel that examines the 16th-century king's life.

**"The ego and indomitable will of the king have had a tendency to prevail over any real understanding of the passions, thoughts and emotions which ruled him."**

Paul Stefik  
Author

Stefik said.

Stefik said the book was intended to provide a fresh look at Henry VIII.

"The ego and indomitable will of the king have had a tendency to prevail over any real understanding of the passions, thoughts and emotions which ruled him," Stefik said.

Stefik said his research took him to the great libraries and museums of Great Britain, includ-

ing the London Guildhall and the Public Record Office of Chancery Lane.

Some of his research came from scrolls written in Latin dating back hundreds of years.

The book also includes 29 rarely seen portraits of Henry, his six wives, his children and his councillors. It includes exclusive photographs of portraits located in the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna, and museums in Besancon

and d'Annecy, France.

Writing this book is a dream come true for Stefik.

Stefik retired in 1973 as the Portland District manager of sales for the Metals Division of Union Carbide Corp. He moved to the Sun Cities in 1982.

The most trying part of the project has been persuading the major book distributors to carry the book, he said. Distributors fear the book won't sell, he said.

"I have been confident from the start. I just feel the book needs exposure," he said. "Once it gets that, it's either going to be the biggest dud in history or it's really going to take off."

Interest in his book has been sparked overseas by the recently celebrated 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's birth on June 28, 1491.

Henry Tudor, second son of Henry VII, was born in Greenwich. Though best remembered for his six marriages and his break with the Church of Rome, Henry VIII remained a popular king and proved to be a wise and able ruler, according to Stefik.

He organized one of the world's largest naval fleets during his reign, laying the foundations for England's naval dominance for hundreds of years, Stefik said.

Partly as a result of Henry's break with Rome and his adoption of the leadership of the Church of England, power during his reign became increasingly based in the hands of the monarch, Stefik said.

"My Will Be Done" is being published by Dorrance Publishing Co. of Pittsburgh, with Stefik paying publishing costs and taking a direct role in marketing the book.

SCM  
STEFIK PAUL

# King Henry VIII on trial

## Author reconstructs life of British monarch

By ROSA De SIMONE  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Awaiting her execution, Henry VIII's wife, Queen Anne Boleyn, sat in a plush chair in a small room in the Tower of London.

What were the thoughts of the accused adulteress just before she was beheaded?

Author Paul Stefik was not around that fateful day in 1536.

But in researching King Henry VIII's life for his newly published book, "My Will Be Done," Stefik visited the Tower of London's famous rooms and cells to try to imagine what Boleyn may have been thinking.

"I sat in that chair and I swear I felt arms around me," he said.

Stefik maintains that England's king truly loved Anne and that she was innocent.

While touring the cells in the Tower of London, Stefik said he "felt chills" and described the experience as "overpowering."

Experiences like these are highlights in the book which was 10 years in the making, the 76-year-old author said.

Although the book is historically based, "My Will Be Done" is a fictionalized account of a king on trial who must defend himself against the charges brought forth by his Privy Councillors who are able to confront their king without fear of repercussions.

"I make no judgments of Henry. I allow my readers to make their own judgement," Stefik said.

The 366-page novel features 29 portraits of Henry VIII's wives, children and Privy Councillors.

"My pictures show he had pretty good taste in gals," Stefik said.

Reconstructing the lives of King Henry VIII and those around him was an emotional process for the author.

"I was each one of my characters as I wrote. I laughed with them, I cried with

them. I lived within my characters," he said.

Stefik credits his wife, Lee, a self-described history buff who was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, for transforming a retired metallurgist into an avid researcher.

In 1979 Lee convinced Stefik to visit Great Britain. While touring Dover Castle, Stefik had a brainstorm. It was there that he saw a gift shop pamphlet expressing a critical view of Henry VIII. Ironically, Stefik said, the author was a priest of the Church of England, an institution founded by the infamous king.

"Here was an Anglican priest condemning the founder of his faith," Stefik said. "And I thought, 'Wouldn't be marvelous to put this man on trial?'"

Little did Stefik know that this was the beginning of a 10-year quest for informa-

tion, creativity and finally, publication.

"When I get into something I really pursue it," he said.

And pursue it he did. Stefik and Lee lived in London for a year to make research easier.

Day after day, Stefik would set out with pencils and an empty notebook, returning home with plenty of notes for Lee to transcribe and catalogue.

The bulk of the book was written in Vancouver, Wash. In 1982, the couple moved to Sun City West, where the novel's editing was done.

Lee moonlighted as critic — a service Stefik acknowledged in his novel's prologue.

"She was my severest and most helpful critic," Stefik said. "She would read papers hot off the typewriter. She would say, 'I don't know where this (dialogue) is coming from.' And I didn't know either."

Lee's critical eye was unique. "I was born in the old country, so I have a different outlook than Americans," she said.

Stefik said he didn't know what he was getting himself into when he began. "I didn't realize how complex Henry's life was," he said.

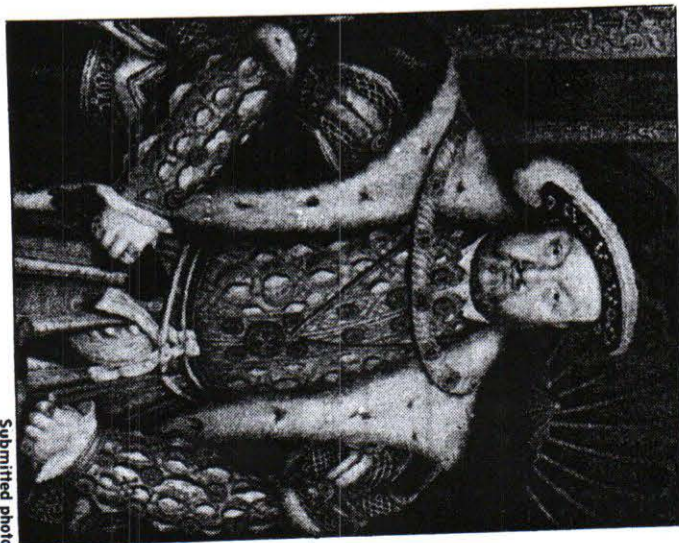
Lee agreed that bringing King Henry VIII back to life was a bit trying. She said, at one point, she told her husband, "I wish you'd left Henry dead in Windsor."

Although getting the book published was not an enjoyable task, the experience of writing his first novel made it worthwhile, Stefik said.

"It was very frustrating, of course. But now I have more of a sense of accomplishment," he said. "I had a drive within me to do this. There were times when I felt I should give up, but somehow I hung on."

"My Will Be Done" is published by Dorance Publishing Co. Inc., and will soon be available in local bookstores. Readers can find it in R.H. Johnson Library in Sun City West.

King Henry VIII



Submitted photo

STEFIK, PAUL



Daily News-Sun photo by Frances Guarino

**HENRY ON TRIAL** — In his newly published book, "My Will Be Done," Sun City West resident Paul Stefik puts

England's notorious King Henry VIII on trial where he must justify his actions.

SCW

## Lions Club president dies at 74

SUN CITY — Maurice J. Street, president of the Sun City West Sunrise Lions Club and former president of the Sun Cities Area Interfaith Services board of directors, died Aug. 11, 1994, in Walter O. Boswell Memorial Hospital. He was 74.

Mr. Street was born in Courtland, Kan. He was head of the regulatory law division of the General Services Administration for six years, a colonel in the Air Force and a judge for the Armed Service Board of Contract Appeals.

Mr. Street moved to Sun City West in 1984 from Fairfax, Va., and was a member of Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, president of Interfaith Services for two years, president of the Sunrise Lions Club and a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging, the legislative committee of Sun Health, the Sun City West Republican Club and Republican Forum West.

Mr. Street is survived by his wife, Phyllis; four sons, J. Stephen of Honolulu, David S. of Eagle Mills, N.Y.; Daniel A. of Fayetteville, Ark., and Harry P. of Leesburg, Va.; a sister, Bonnie Bregenzer of Moro, Ill.; a brother, Foster of Belleville, Kan.; and nine grandchildren.

Service will be at 2 p.m. Sunday in Shepherd of the Hills United Methodist Church, 13658 Meeker Blvd., Sun City West.

Memorials may be sent to Shepherd of the Hills UMC Foundation, 13658 Meeker Blvd., Sun City West, 85375; Interfaith Services, 17635 El Mirage Road, Sun City West, 85375; or Lions SightFirst, 13722 Terra Vista Drive, Sun City West, 85375.

STREET, MAURICE

SCW

Karen Stricherz

DAILY NEWS-SUN FRIDAY, AUG. 19, 2005

# Hollywood comes to Sun City West

AMANDA MYERS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

If it's true we're all only separated by six degrees, anyone who knows Karen Stricherz of Sun City West is simply two degrees away from some of Hollywood's hottest celebrities.

"Tom Hanks and his wife are very good friends of mine, John Travolta, Tom Cruise — he used to be a really nice guy, I don't know what happened to him," quips Stricherz, adding after a

moment of thought, "And Burt still calls from time to time."

That's Burt Reynolds, in case there was any confusion. The 57-year-old Stricherz dated the star for eight months when she was in her 30s.

But the now-single, outgoing mother of three and grandmother of seven isn't one to just shamelessly name-drop. After all, she said, "they're just people."

What ties Stricherz to her

famous friends in Tinseltown is fame and recognition for her work in broadcasting. But it wasn't on the big screen, it was behind the scenes.

On a long table in Stricherz' Sun City West home — the first thing visitors see as they walk through the door — sit three tall, gold statues of a winged woman on a platform holding a sphere above her head. That's right, Emmy awards. The real deal, not the plastic kind

found in tourist gift shops.

"Pick one up," Stricherz encourages. "They're heavy!"

Indeed, they are. One can't help but feel a little surge of celebrity run through them as they vicariously live out that moment Stricherz took the stage three times in the mid-to-late '80s and gave an acceptance speech for her accomplishments in graphic engineering.

At the 1985 awards, Stricherz won an Emmy for her electronic graphics work

at the 1984 Summer Olympics. She created a spinning globe graphic that caught everyone's eye.

In 1988, she won two Emmys for her videotape operations and videotape editing at the XV Winter Olympic Games in Calgary. She said she caught a live ski jump in the nick of time and edited it into the show in seconds.

And her final Emmy —

**See HOLLYWOOD, A5**

# GLITZ & GLAMOUR



Karen Stricherz of Sun City West won four Emmys while working as an engineer for ABC.

MOLLIE J. HOPPE/DAILY NEWS-SUN

# HOLLYWOOD: Emmy winner reflects on work

## From A1

represented this time by a certificate only as the statues went to the "main" people — her graphic contributions to the 63rd-annual Academy Awards in 1991.

True, the technical Emmy Awards presentations that Stricherz attended in floor-length gowns happened the night before big name stars took the same stage to accept their awards live on television, but she was there on that night too — working. As an engineer with ABC, the station that aired the Emmy Awards, even winners didn't get a night off.

Still, the four-time Emmy winner said even though her moment in the spotlight never aired on national television, she felt proud to be recognized by fellow technical people in Hollywood. Winners of Emmys and Oscars are voted on by a group of their peers, members of the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

"It was a triumph for women," Stricherz said. "It took me many years to get recognized as an engineer and not the token 'broad'."

A common saying, said Stricherz, when she started in TV in the late '70s, was "get the broad out of broadcasting."

Starting as a request girl for a rock 'n' roll radio station in Arizona in the early '70s and then moving on to be a radio DJ at KIKO in Globe, Stricherz moved to Hollywood soon after and interviewed at ABC. With a background in radio, not television, Stricherz said she was turned away.

Undaunted, she then single-mother of three took a job instead at a graphics company. At that time, the

graphics were made with a chyron machine and Stricherz called them "primitive." Only fonts were created, until Stricherz decided to play with the machine to make pictures. She said as soon as she created a helmet logo for a football game on television, ABC practically begged her to work for the network.

"It was basically being in the right place at the right time," Stricherz said.

In 1978, she eagerly started her work at the station, doing graphics for live sporting events such as Monday Night football. Stricherz said people never realize how much work goes into making all the on-screen graphics on television, especially for live TV.

"There's hours and hours of prep for a show. You have, like, two seconds to get it online."

Stricherz said at least 200 to 300 engineers work on each live sporting event, getting stats and player info, along with logos and photos on the screen instantly as needed. When she started working on live ABC awards shows, she was one of at least 600 engineers doing graphics for all the nominees and winners who appeared on screen. And when the Olympics came around, Stricherz was in a group of more than 1,500 engineers covering the live sporting events.

But the job Stricherz said she misses the most is her graphic engineering work on the ABC soap opera "General Hospital."

"They're like my family," Stricherz said of the cast. "I still go to their weddings, to dinner at their homes."

But Stricherz left behind the glitz and glamour of

Hollywood six years ago, first moving to Nebraska and then to Sun City West last October to be closer to her father, also a Sun City West resident, and her son and grandson in Phoenix and her sister in Peoria. Her other son lives in Washington with three children and her daughter is an Oregon resident where she has three children.

"I guess you always come home," Stricherz muses.

Still, Stricherz doesn't have to let go of her Hollywood life completely. As a member of the Academy (only past award winners nominated by at least four others can be), she gets to vote on winners for each year's Emmy Awards, including this year's on Sept. 15.

"I get at least 200 DVDs every year from HBO, Lifetime, in hopes that you'll vote for them," she said, motioning to a shelf in her entertainment center overflowing with DVDs of television shows.

"I loved 'Boston Legal,'" she said, running through her picks to win this year. "I

love 'American Idol,' 'Everybody Loves Raymond' and 'Hollywood Squares.' And for talk shows, Jay Leno."

She said she watches TV with a critical eye, spotting every graphic design mistake possible as though it's a game in itself.

"I love it when someone makes a graphic mistake," She says giddily.

And even though the shine of her Emmys blinds anyone who looks directly at them, don't let the awards fool you.

Stricherz is the first to admit a major graphics faux pas she made during a live football game.

"It was someone playing against the Green Bay Packers and I typed an 'e' instead of an 'a,'" in Packers, said Stricherz, laughing. Former co-workers continue to remind Stricherz of her flub at the annual ABC reunions in Laughlin, Nev.

"All the years of perfect graphics, and that's what they remember," she said, smiling.

Amanda Myers may be reached at 876-2513 or amyers@aztrib.com.

DAILY NEWS-SUN

TUESDAY, NOV. 16, 2004

# STAYING in touch



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ada Sullivan of Sun City West keeps her family history in her library, where she has reams of books dedicated to each of her children and grandchildren.

## Long-distance families must cope when tragedy strikes

ANNIE KARSTENS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Ada Sullivan of Sun City West was teaching in London when she got the news of her parents' passing. Grief stricken and thousands of miles away, Sullivan chose not to let the distance come between her and her family — she was on the next flight home.

Now, as president of the West Valley Genealogical Society, Sullivan has become an expert on keeping her family close, even though members are scattered across the country.

Retiring to the Sun Cities means warm weather, a community full of amenities and a slew of nearby health-care providers, but it may also

mean living thousands of miles from family.

In today's world of independent and fun-seeking retirees, it's becoming more common for parents to move away from the place where they raised their family, according to AARP. As a result, many adult children must help their older parents and relatives from a distance, and it's often the seniors who make sure their family remains close-knit.

Three of Sullivan's eight children live in the Valley, three live in Nevada, one is in California and another is in Texas. Her 14 grandchildren and one great-grandchild are being raised all over the United States. As an Air Force wife, Sullivan is used to bridging the gap between

home and the rest of the world.

"We always moved around — from Europe to the Orient — and I never felt far from home," she said. "It all depends on whether you choose to be close, to communicate and to open that door."

A self-confessed phone-a-holic, Sullivan said it takes a conscious effort to keep the family in constant communication with weekly phone calls and e-mails. Her objective is to maintain a loving and supportive family while encouraging the children to understand their family tree. She plans frequent reunions and ensures the older family members are cared for. She knows that when she's in her 90s, it will be her children

and grandchildren who will watch out for her.

"Someone has to be the communicator, and I'm the historian," Sullivan said, emphasizing how much she enjoys keeping in touch with her sprawling family. "I just think that we're a close family and always have been."

The oldest member of Sullivan's family is her 94-year-old mother-in-law, who lives alone in her Iowa home since her husband passed away last year at 95.

The family rallies around their matriarch by essentially taking shifts on who's visiting and calling her, making sure she never feels alone. This Thanksgiving, she will make the trip to Sullivan's Sun City

See STAYING IN TOUCH, A5

OVER

SCW

SULLIVAN, ADA

West home — a visit she'd never made before, but had been hoping to take for years.

The task of connecting the family across the miles can be difficult, stressful and time consuming. One of the most difficult aspects of long-distance caregiving is realizing when your help is needed and when you should make a trip to deal with a problem in person.

Don and Donna Peterson of Sun City are both on the board of directors of the Colorado Club of the Sun Cities. The retirees always fly back to Colorado for Christmas and their family visits them in Sun City regularly. For 10 years, while the Petersons have been back and forth between states, the couple have stayed connected to their family by telephone and e-mail.

Yet, when Donna Peterson suddenly developed congestive heart failure in March, she and her husband found

themselves hundreds of miles from their five children and nine grandchildren, all of whom live in their home state of Colorado.

"We made a mad dash to Colorado for surgery," Don Peterson said, adding that because his wife's insurance company only covered her in Colorado, having the surgery in Phoenix wasn't an option.

Being near family, however, was important, he said.

"It made a difference that

## LONG DISTANCE COPING

- **Gather information.** Determine with your family members what help they may need before an emergency happens. Research community services that help by getting information over the phone and the Internet. The Eldercare Locator, 800-677-1116, will tell you which local agencies provide services and will refer you to the Area Agency on Aging in your community.
- **Be prepared.** Before a crisis occurs, work with your family to collect the necessary medical, financial, and legal information.
- **Make a list.** Identify family, friends, clergy and others who might help. On your family's next visit, introduce them to neighbors and friends and give them their phone numbers and addresses.
- **Assess the situation.** When your family visits, ask them to help you look for health or safety problems. Professional consultants are available to help family members decide when an older adult needs specific assistance.
- **Stay positive.** Even though dealing with these issues can be frustrating, it's important to maintain a positive focus.
- **Take care of your own needs. Learn and use coping skills, get support or counseling, and take time for yourself. Most importantly, give yourself credit for doing the best you can.**
- **For help with age-related needs, visit AARP's Website at [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org).**

they were there," he explained. "It helped her with her recovery and helped me with support."

AARP points out that some families aren't as lucky as the Petersons and Sullivans. Emergency situations often require a trip, and being miles away from older parents can also mean being miles away from local phone books and agencies that can help them in a time of need.

Feeling frustrated can

easily lead to feeling helpless when trying to access needed services from far away, and it can be devastating for seniors to lose touch with their family. AARP recommends reconnecting with family and keeping communication lines open not only to rebuild family trees, but also to make sure family members are nearby in times of need.

Annie Karstens may be reached at 876-2532 or [akarstens@aztrib.com](mailto:akarstens@aztrib.com).

## Former Posse commander dies

By Stan Steciak

Robert L. Sysum was born in Troy Township, Mich., on March 24, 1928. After a lengthy illness, Mr. Sysum died in Sun City West (at home), on April 9, 1998. The Sysum family moved to California when Bob was three years old. Sysum served in the Navy during WW II and is a former member of SCW Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10695.

Sysum spent many years in Calif., in the field of education. He loved his work and spent 18 years as a welding instructor. Included in his many years as an educator, Bob Sysum was president of Los Medanos College

Bob  
Sysum



in Pittsburg, Calif. Also, he was president of Contra Costa College Faculty Ass'n. He also was chairman of the San Francisco

See **FORMER POSSE**, Page 3

### FORMER POSSE: Commander dies, from Page 1

Section of the American Welding Society.

A most happy day in the life of Bob Sysum was July 19, 1947, (at age 19) Bob and Shirley said their "I do's" in the Church of the Flowers in Glendale, Calif. Their happy marriage was responsible for two sons and a daughter. Stephen is a police officer in Redwood City, Calif., Scott is an engineer with the Department of the Navy in Concord, Calif., and Aletha Dier is a Sheriff's Technician in Castro Valley, Calif. Their children rewarded the elder Sysums with eight grandchildren, four boys and four girls.

Shirley and Bob came to Sun City West in 1992. Bob almost immediately joined the Sheriff's Posse in SCW. In 1996, Bob became Captain Robert L. Sysum, Posse commander. Richard Wynant was his executive officer. Bob's hobbies were tennis, bowling and biking. Shirley joined him in these activities. They also enjoyed travelling in their trailer. In Calif, Bob was an advocate of endurance motor cycling (trail biking). He would include his children in this hobby. But in SCW, his greatest hobby was the Posse.

Present Posse commander,

Capt. Nancy Cherry said this about Bob, "The 17th SCW Posse Commander, Bob Sysum was a mentor for many members. The trainees under Bob were better because of his guidance. My husband and I can attest to that. Bob Sysum was an all around good guy and a real gentleman. He certainly will be missed."

Shirley Sysum said, "Our years together were absolutely marvelous. Bob had a great sense of humor and always was a positive thinker. He was great with the children, he was active in the Boy Scouts with the boys and often included Aletha, even in the boy's hobby of motor cycling. We will never forget him and will miss him very much."

Robert L. Sysum is survived by: wife Shirley, SCW; Sons Stephen and Scott; daughter Aletha Dier and eight grandchildren. Also surviving is a brother James Sysum of Roseville, Calif. Visitation and services were held on Monday, April 13, at Sun City West's Crown of Life Lutheran Church. Interment was at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona. Pall bearers were former Commanders of the SCW Posse, namely: Captains Neal

Coffman, Jack Dow, Gil Pantea, Norm Zadnoff, Gene Young and Dick Wynant.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Sun City West Sheriff's Posse, 20450 Stardust Blvd, Sun City West, AZ 85375

or Hospice of AZ, 7600 15th Ave., Phoenix, AZ, 85020. Camino del Sol Funeral Chapel was in charge of arrangements.

Sysum, Robert



Steve Chernen/Daily News-Sun

Ed Sullivan, left, and Pete Roque play for the Del Webb Sidewinders 70s.

# Good-humor man

## Laughter's best medicine for Sun Cities third baseman

By ANN T. DALEY  
Assistant sports editor

SUN CITY WEST — If there's laughter rising above the Del Webb Sidewinders 70s dugout, chances are Ed Sullivan started it.

### Softball

"He's full of it," teammate Pete Roque said teasingly.

A self-described jokester brimming with an endless supply of one-liners, Sullivan agreed.

"It's a hobby of mine," the Schenectady, N.Y. native said. "I try to keep the guys hopped up."

About his namesake, variety show host Ed Sullivan, he said, "I'm the poor one."

About playing softball at age 71, Sullivan explained playing four times weekly is the limit because, "we have to rest sometime."

On a serious note, Sidewinders players said they relish Sullivan's defensive skills and extensive

tournament experience.

"He's a hell of a third baseman," Roque said of the first-year Sidewinder. "He cements our infield and he's good with a bat."

Sullivan carries a .550 average and his defensive skills have helped three teams win national tournaments.

In 1993, Sullivan and the Mesa 65s won the Senior Softball World Series and the Senior Softball World Championships.

He played for the national champion San Diego Silverhawks in 1994. He batted .632 in the world series.

"I've been lucky to have been associated with such good teams," Sullivan said. "No matter what anybody says, you've got to be lucky."

He will have another chance to be part of a championship team when the Sidewinders participate in the World Championships in

September in Overland Park, Kan.

Sullivan said he developed an appreciation for softball late in life, having played baseball, basketball and football as a youth.

After a 40-year layoff from baseball, he picked up softball after moving to Scottsdale in 1986.

"I retired at age 62 and began to get edgy," Sullivan said. "I started looking for something to do, saw some softball games in Scottsdale and started to play."

Sullivan said he expects the Sidewinders to meet the Silverhawks in the playoffs. There, the Sun Cities team should fare well, he added.

"We have a talented team this year," he said, adding the Sidewinders hold a 3-2 edge over the Silverhawks so far this season.

"I think we could go on to get one or two more rings."