

## Candidate reared on Army jobs

AZ REP 8-29-88

Sun City West resident Bob Williams is one of those people who never learned to say "no."

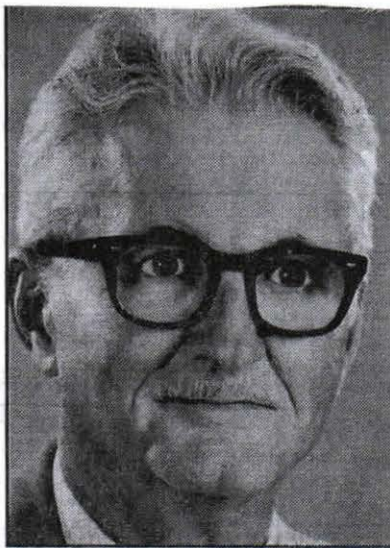
"I was asked to run for the House by a group of local people and I've always found it hard to say no when something has to be done," Williams said.

The 66-year-old retired Army brigadier general has adhered to that principle all his life.

"I graduated from the Virginia Military Institute (in Lexington, Va.) in 1942 and served in World War II with the armored cavalry, part of Patton's army," he said.

The war in Europe ended for Williams in March 1945 when he was wounded.

"I got in the way of a mortar shell," he said.



**Bob Williams** / The 66-year-old former brigadier general says he couldn't say "no" when asked to run for House.

After the war, Williams was discharged as the Army reduced its ranks. He worked in advertising in the Washington, D.C., area until 1948 when he was able to rejoin the Army.

"That's what I really wanted to

— See **CANDIDATE**, page C

## Candidate reared on Army jobs

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— **CANDIDATE**, from page A

do," Williams said of the Army. "I did have a lot of fun in advertising, though."

For the next 26 years, Williams traveled around the world and participated in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

"I was (in) G-2 (intelligence) of the First Field Force in Vietnam in 1966-67," he said.

Once in intelligence, Williams remained there for the balance of his Army career.

He served as the commander of the 66th MI (Military Intelligence) Group in Europe and later became commanding general, Army Security Agency, Europe.

After retiring in 1974, Williams and his wife of 37 years, Jimmie, moved to Bluffton, S.C.

"I taught school at the May River Academy, a private school," Williams said. "I was the math department, eighth through 12th grades."

Williams retired from teaching in 1977 and moved to northeast Phoenix, then purchased a home in Sun City West in 1979.

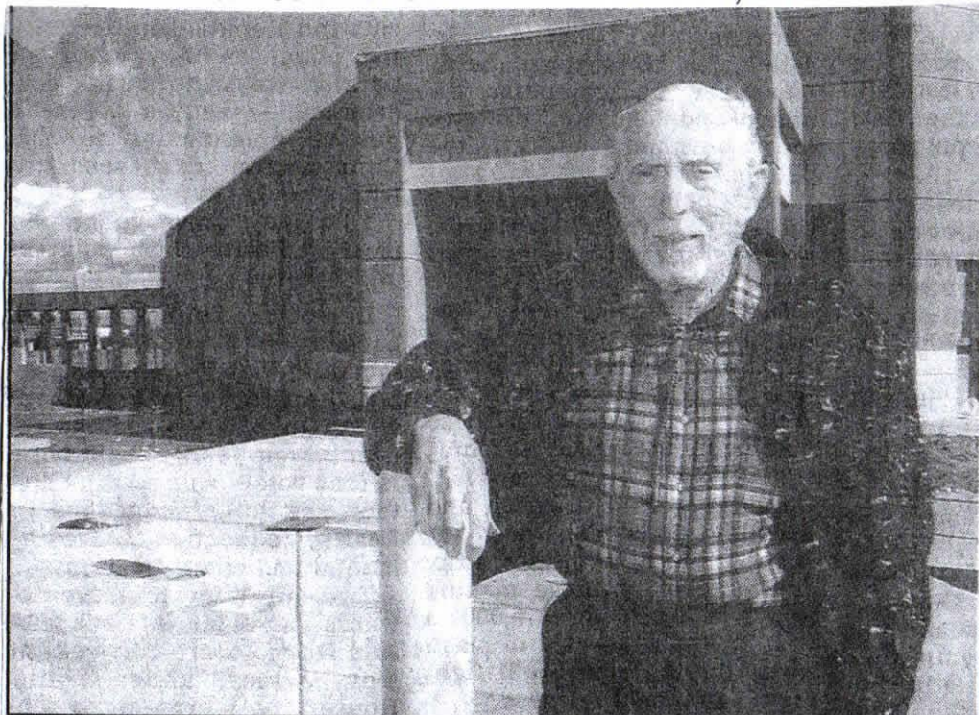
"Although we enjoyed northeast Phoenix we found out here (Sun City West) to be a much nicer area for retirement," Williams said. "Everything is right at hand."

Williams has remained active. He was voted Sun City West Man-of-the-Year in 1981; was founding director and president of Lending Hands, Inc., an organization that loans hospital equipment to residents for no charge, in 1982; president of the Sun City Property Owners and Residents Association in 1983 and 1985; founding director and president of the Sun City West Foundation Inc.; a member of the Sun City West Recreation Centers advisory board 1981-83; and a member of the Sun Health Corporation.

"Public service is like quicksand — once you get your foot in it, you can't get it back," he said.

"Heavens knows, the west Valley needs strong representation down there at the Legislature."





Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Howard Wilson stands in front of the new Sun City West post office, under construction on the street that will soon bear his name.

## Activist's drive gets name recognition

By DEBBIE L. SKLAR  
Daily News-Sun staff

*1/7-8/95*  
SUN CITY WEST— Famed artist Andy Warhol said everyone gets at least 15 minutes of fame once in their lifetime.

Next month Howard Wilson will get his.

The 79-year-old community activist will have a street named after him when the new Sun City West Post Office opens in early February.

"I'll feel very humble when I see it," said Wilson. "It will remind me of all the wonderful people who

helped us."

Howard Wilson Place will be a one block stretch of Spanish Garden Drive, alongside post office property between Meeker Boulevard and 139th Avenue.

Wilson said he believes a street is being named in his honor because he was the driving force that pushed the idea of a post office to the forefront.

"I really was involved from the beginning and stayed with it after others got involved," he said. "Maybe I was the gadfly."

See Road name, A3

## Road name honors effort

—From A1 *NEWS-SUN*

Still, Wilson said he is quite taken aback by the recognition.

"I find the whole thing very surprising," he said. "There are so many people who helped us get this post office. I am very grateful and respect the people who helped us."

Wilson attributes the birth of the post office to Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., and his assistant, Judy Leiby. Wilson said DeConcini convinced Congress to approve \$5 million to buy land and construct the post office. He also attributes former Property Owners and Residents Association board President Loise Copes with first bringing the idea of a post office to Sun City West in 1983.

*1/7-8/95*  
"It all started because we were really fed up with the overcrowded post office," he said. "PORA decided we would go ahead and make an impact."

And an impact it made.

"It took us five years to get it off

the ground," he said. "By and large, the community got together, and we got 11,000 signatures. At that time, we only had about 15,000 residents."

Wilson said a few residents got together to make a video of the postal chaos and sent it to Washington.

"We wanted them (Congress) to see why we needed a post office in Sun City West," he said.

Wilson, a retired entrepreneur, born in Granite, Ill., has lived in Sun City West since 1986 with his wife Barbara.

"We came out because we liked the community and thought it was a good place to live," he said. "We were living in California for about 19 years and it was getting too crowded and there was too much traffic."

The Wilsons have one daughter, two sons and five grandchildren.

"We just celebrated our 114th wedding anniversary; it takes two to tango," he laughed. "We've been married for 57 happy years."



# 'Dolly' becomes one big family affair

By Julia Jones  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Dolly Levi, you'll remember, is the woman immortalized on stage and screen who specialized in making matches, putting families together, so to speak.

Family is important, too, to Jeanne Tarr, who had the title role in "Dolly," Theatre West's production that ended a sold-out run Sunday. On Friday, three generations of Tarr's family were in town to see the show: her mother, son, daughter-in-law, two grandchildren and even her former husband.

Jeanne Tarr and her husband, Mike, roar with delight at the way they've packed the house. And there were more on the way: friends from New York and Boston, and at least 30 square-dancing chums from Mesa were in town for the final performance.

"We sold 2,700 tickets, 300 for each of the nine shows," Jeanne Tarr says. "We were sold out 5½ weeks before the show opened with six scheduled performances, so we expanded it to nine shows. We still had so many names on the waiting list, we decided to make the dress rehearsal a preview, and 200 people came to that, and we gave another 50 tickets to the Sun Cities' Handicapables. And we still had a waiting list several pages long."

Several factors contributed to the success, Mike Tarr says.

"This is the first Broadway musical show attempted by a group in the Sun Cities, and then people like to see shows they're familiar with. I think we — Jeanne and I — have earned a good reputation because of the quality of the annual variety shows we produced and directed for two years in Sun City West," he says.

"And then we know that some people have come to see us fail."

Some of those might be the nucleus of an earlier Theatre West, an 8-year-old group of about 40 that presented plays in a readers' theater, where cast members read from scripts.

The Tarrs hit Sun City West by way of Mesa about three years ago. Until their retirement, Mike Tarr,

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Jeanne Tarr  
Theater West

the Westchester County, N.Y., dentist, was assisted by his wife in the office. When they weren't working, both worked onstage and off in community theater and summer stock. They also became expert, or challenge-level, square dancers, and that's what drew them to Mesa, often called the Valley's center for square dancing.

Now in their early 50s, the Tarrs migrated from Mesa to Sun City West and almost immediately stopped in at the Stardust Theatre for a Theatre West performance.

Seized with the beauty of the theater and the possibilities of a resident theatrical group, the Tarrs joined Theatre West, encouraged the group to think big, and last year launched a season with two fully produced plays, "The Odd Couple" and "Two Blind Mice."

Both took jobs in Theatre West as well as on the Stardust Theatre Council.

Jeanne Tarr, who oversees the Stardust box office, says the theater is booked 12 hours a day for rehearsals by various performing groups in Sun City West. "We have people waiting in line to rehearse," she says.

It's that sort of interest in theatricals that keeps Theatre

West humming, she says.

"We charge \$5 a ticket," she says. "On this show, we made a profit of about \$6,000, so we'll buy more things we need." Theatre West has already contributed \$9,000, proceeds from earlier shows, toward lighting and sound equipment for the theater.

The profit is there, Mike Tarr says, because the Recreation Centers of Sun City West Inc., which owns and operates the theater, doesn't charge Theatre West for use of the building, as long as profits are plowed back in.

The situation is easy to live with, Jeanne Tarr says. "We don't want to feel we *have* to make a profit. We've all worked hard. We're having fun doing this, and we're doing the best job we can, but we don't want to turn it into another career."

The cast of 40 and a backstage crew of 12, mostly non-theatrical people, has been great, Mike Tarr says. "Rehearsals are always 100 percent, and I have to say this has been the happiest show I've ever worked with. I never had to yell, not once."

"And you know, these people are really good," he says. "There are people up there in their 60s, playing 17-year-olds, but they're so good you don't get the feeling that anything is wrong."

And, like any circumspect director, he has nothing but praise for the star.

"I've watched her develop," he says. And, in fact, she has played the role twice in New York summer stock.

"Jeanne does Jeanne when she does Dolly," he says. "She's not Pearl (Bailey) or Carol (Channing) or Barbra (Streisand)."

"She plays her as a warm, genuine person that people just fall in love with. I like shows to be soft and emotional, and this one was."

Jeanne Tarr says she's already taking reservations for the group's season opener in November, the Mitz Perlman mystery, "Catch Me If You Can."

Open auditions will be held at Stardust Theatre, 14401 R.H. Johnson Boulevard at 1 p.m. April 12.

TARR, JEANNE





Michael Chow / Staff photographer  
Jeanne Tarr poses with her family. On her lap (from left), is nephew, Colby Dennison, and Sean. In the background is her mother, Marjorie Wells, daughter-in-law, Grace Dennison, Tarr's son, Jory Dennison, and husband, Mike.



THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2001

# Couple's efforts keep theater lights burning

By Pat Whitney  
Special for The Republic

It's not Broadway. But the hundreds of eager patrons of the Stardust Theatre don't seem to care.

The Sun City West theater, which offers dramas, musicals and comedies using local talent, is "as good as it gets," some residents say.

Theatergoers line up at its box office as early as 4:30 a.m. to buy tickets. One man even shows up at 1 a.m. just to make sure he is first in line.

When the box office opens, 400 to 500 people are waiting to buy the 2,500 tickets usually sold opening day. Rehearsals are going on for *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, which opens March 20 and runs through April 7. All the 4,000 or so tickets have been sold.

Sun City West's own Mike and Jeanne Tarr are two big reasons for the theater's success.

"They are two special people who provide such a venue for entertainment in the Sun Cities," said Judy Ross, a cast member for the upcoming production.

Community theater was a big part of the Tarrs' lives when they left their native New York for Sun City West in the late 1980s.

About the same time they moved, they found out that Theatre West, Sun City West's theater group, was starting construction on the Stardust.

They felt it was fate — perhaps the same fate that brought the two of them together about 20 years ago at an audition in New York.

Mike Tarr is a former dentist with 50 years of community theater experience. He has played the lead in numerous productions but none bigger than his work in turning a local theater in its infancy into quality entertainment.

Tarr now concentrates on directing, heading at least one musical and one comedy per year at the Stardust. He



Michael Ging/The Arizona Republic

Mike Tarr (foreground) works with cast (from left) Barbara Paripovich, Judy Ross, Ron McCollor and Dave Burgoyne.

“  
“(The Tarrs) are two special people who provide such a venue for entertainment in the Sun Cities.”

Judy Ross

Stardust Theatre cast member

has directed 20 to 25 shows since moving to Sun City West.

He also has worked with set design, lighting, sound design and engineering. A music room with walls lined with high-tech computer equipment in his home provides state-of-the-art music arrangements for the productions. The computerized music takes the place of a full orchestra, financially out of reach for a community theater.

Jeanne Tarr, who didn't get involved in theater until she was 30, has had starring roles in *Hello, Dolly* and *Mame* and many other performances in New York and Arizona.

Her role these days, however, is running the variety show that brings thousands to the Sundome each year. Proceeds go to Sun Health. Last year, the show netted \$90,000 and 11,000 pounds of food for the community food bank. The Tarrs believe that the \$1 million goal for Sun Health that was set by Theatre West in 1986 may be realized by the end of this year.

Jeanne Tarr calls herself a people-mover, organizing more than 200 cast members in each show. She organizes the event from beginning to end, picking out the music and costumes, writing the story line and auditioning people.

Meanwhile, her husband teaches the music to the 100 chorus members.

Even though the variety show is not until November, the yearlong project is already in full swing.

"They are wonderful mentors, patient and kind," Ross said of the Tarrs. "But the greatest thing about Mike as a director is that he allows you to foster creativity on-stage — you just take off."

"Jeanne does the same thing for the variety show. Her ability to organize that amount of people is uncanny, and she does it with such grace."

TARR, MIKE & JEANNE



SCW

## SCW Resident has Art Show



Alice Tinthoff, Sun City West resident at her easel.

Alyce Tinthoff, Sun City West resident artist is showing a select group of paintings now to December 22 in the Sun Cities Art Museum, Bell Rd. (north side between Sun City and Sun City West).

Some of those being shown, Ms. Tinthoff painted in England this past summer in and around Penzance and Lands End, Cornwall.

Alyce Tyler Tinthoff comes from a family of artists. She studied at the Art Institute of Chicago before her marriage and later at the University of Illinois.

When the youngest of her three daughters entered school she resumed her studies. In California and after moving to Sun City West in 1979, she has studied with many different teachers, among them Rex Brandt, Dong Kingman, Milford Zornes, and Hall Reed, as well as James Pinto and Fred Samuelson at the Instituto de Allende in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

Alyce has taught painting both privately and for the City of Los Alamitos, California. She has had several one woman shows and won many awards for her oils, acrylics, water colors and lithographs. She continues her personal study and says: "In each painting I am exploring and for me exploring is exciting, be it places, people or paintings. It is the discovery that enchants me, whether it is a bazaar in Istanbul or a curving beach in Bali, or putting one color to another to create light and form. And I am happiest when I discover someone who understands my feeling when he or she sees one of my paintings. A painting lives only while we are looking at it and to share it is delightful."

Tinthoff, Alyce



SCW

## Two Tireless Travelers



### MILDRED TOLDRIAN

"Someday, you're going to come home and find a 'For Sale or Rent' sign in your front yard. It just doesn't seem you're ever home."

Thus spoke a neighbor of Mildred Toldrian, 80, who admits, "Home is where my bags are."

Mildred is a group leader for the traveling members of Sun City West AARP Chapter #3514. In addition to the AARP trips, her ventures away from home include international travel and twice-yearly visits with her children in Spokane and San Francisco.

Mildred is probably the only person to be labeled a "pioneer" of both Sun City and Sun City West. She and her late husband, Clarence, moved to Sun City in June, 1960. The couple helped form many of the community's original clubs and organizations. In 1978, a widow for four years, Mildred was among the first residents to settle in Sun City West.

With recreation facilities incomplete in the new development, Del E. Webb Communities, Inc. provided various entertainment and Valley bus tours for initial residents. Thus began Mildred's hobby in the travel business; she escorted tours for the Webb firm. A one-day trip to Nogales in early 1982 launched her avocation as a tour leader for Sun City West AARP. She escorted her 14th Lake Powell trip recently.

Mildred's AARP trips generally are only within the U.S. borders. "I'm on my own when I travel abroad." Although it rained incessantly during her three-week tour of the British Isles and Ireland last summer, she recalls the trip fondly. "On our way to Limerick we stopped at Blarney for luncheon and a tour of Blarney Castle, where we were given the opportunity to kiss the Blarney stone." She then indicates this isn't as easy as it sounds. "It (the Blarney stone) is located at the top of the castle, a climb of 109 circular steps. And I did it!" she concludes triumphantly.

It was "perfect weather" on her next trip, a 12-day Sitmar cruise to Alaska. "There I was, standing on the 600-foot deep Mendenhall Glacier, comfortable in a sweater over a light outfit." How was the helicopter ride that set her and fellow travelers on the glacier surface? "Oh, that was great fun! That's what I especially like about travel—all the optional or side sites, shows and trips. That's where the learning and adventure are."

While in Ketchikan, Mildred took a Tlingit Indian canoe ride. "There were 20 of us passengers paddling and a guide who steered. We paddled out for about an hour, ate lunch, and paddled back. And to think we had to provide the muscle for a ride we paid for! Actually, it was wonderful." On their return row they were side by side with another group of paddling tourists. "It turned into a race," she said, the thrill of competition still in her eyes. Mildred beamed, "We won, of course!"

The energetic Sun City Wester has more than her share of exciting travel stories. "Last year, during an 11-day Colorado/Utah tour, we took the Incline Railway to the bottom of the Royal Gorge. It's almost straight down. Then there was the ski lift ride in Switzerland. The wind was blowing and we were swaying and the cows below looked the size of ants." Was she scared by the motion and height? "When I make up my mind to do something, I also make up my mind not to be scared," she answered.

Right now, people and travel are uppermost in Mildred's mind. "I like people. I like to see them having a good time." So, she will continue her AARP jaunts to the familiar places like Lake Powell and San Diego, while at the same time inviting her groups to join her in exploring other sections of the "good ol' U.S.A." She speaks enthusiastically of plans for group trips—a golden autumn cruise of Canada and New England, another to the interior of Alaska, and one covering the Great Western Parks.

Mildred says she's going to do as much as she can for as long as she's able. She must plan to be able for a long time. "I told my children I expect them to be on hand in 20 years to help me celebrate my 100th birthday."

The kids may well be on hand. Question is, will Mildred be on an AARP trip?



# 'Voice' of Del Webb Corp. disappearing

**SHIRL TOWNS:** Retiring after 17 years with the local development company

BRUCE ELLISON  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

For 17 years, Shirl Towns has been the voice of Sun City West and Sun City Grand.

As the full-time receptionist at both Del Webb Corp. communities, she's answered the phones and greeted those who walk in the door, imprinting her cheerful personality on visitors and workers alike.

But the voice will disappear next week as Towns, now in her 70s, retires to enjoy some of the amenities in the communities she helped Webb sell.

Her boss, Amanda Shaw, vice president of finance and administrative services, said Towns will leave a void.

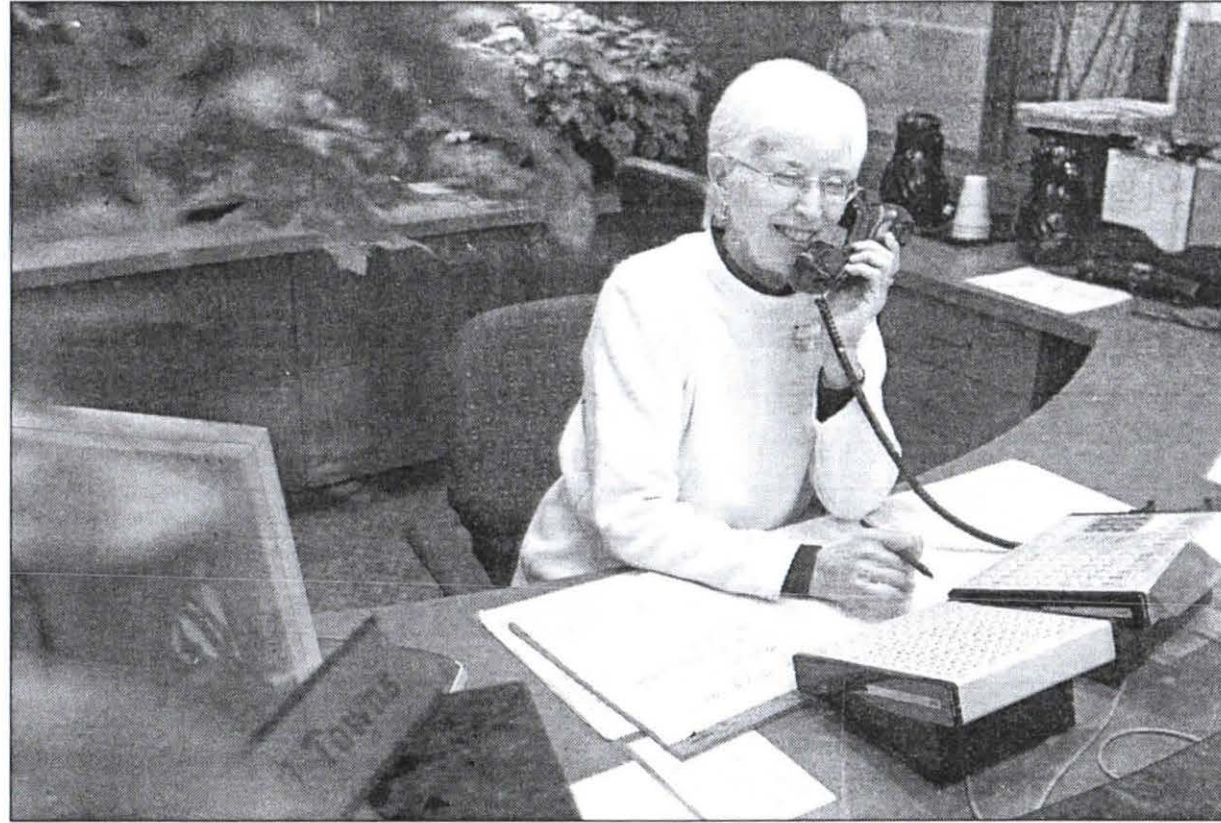
For almost two decades, Shaw said, "Our customers and employees have been greeted by Shirl's warmth and great smile. She has been an inspiration to many of us, and will be greatly missed."

"I wanted to go quietly," Towns said as she reluctantly agreed to an interview. "But I guess they're planning a party or something."

Towns started working with Del Webb in 1983, and worked in the company's Sun City West office on Meeker Boulevard "and in two or three of the sales centers" before that.

"It's been a wonderful job," said the woman who was born in the same year Mickey Mouse first appeared in the world (1928) and who has an extensive collection of Mickey memorabilia in her Sun City West home, as well as Mickey in his sorcerer's outfit on her computer home page at the office.

Even though she's met thousands of



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Shirl Towns, receptionist at the Del Webb headquarters in Surprise, is retiring after 17 years with the company.

homebuyers, she said, "I think more people know my husband, Lindsay, than would recognize my name."

Lindsay is a plumber who retired with Shirl to Sun City West from California, but whose skills

were so much in demand — and still are — that he kept his license and has helped hundreds of area folks over the years.

"If we run out of money after I retire," Shirl said with a straight face, "he can always go back to

work."

Now that she soon won't be on the phone, Shirl Towns will go back to lawn bowls with a vengeance.

"That is my No. 1 hobby and recreation," she said. "I did it in Illinois and in California, and I'm going to get back into it now. I really enjoy the competition, and there are several tournaments coming up in January."

Around the Webb headquarters in Surprise, and earlier in Sun City West, Towns was the woman whose voice over the buildings' public address system announced such things as staff meetings, VIP visitors and other events.

That's where "Egbok!" first became a household word among Webb workers.

It's an acronym, short for "Everything's gonna be OK," which is the credo Towns lives by.

"I think that attitude is what made my life so pleasant," she said. "Every day is so special. The people I meet and talk with are so special and so nice, why not make the most of it and enjoy it?"

Still, Towns isn't without a practical joker side. She and Lindsay share their house with Hootie, a cairn terrier whose full name is Sir Hootie of Dreyfuss.

A year or so ago when the Sundome Performing Arts Association was raising funds for the 'Dome's remodeling, it sold commemorative bricks to be placed around the courtyard fountain.

Towns sent in a nice check, with a form designating her brick in honor of Sir Hootie of Dreyfuss.

"I know Sandy Goldstein (who then headed the Sundome group) and I was sure he'd recognize the dog's name and mine, and stop me, but he didn't, so Hootie is out there now with all the people being honored.

"But I don't know if that should be in the paper," she said.

Well, it is.



## Bandleader Al Trace dies

SUN CITY WEST (AP) — Al Trace, a big band songwriter and bandleader who popularized the nonsense ditty "Mairzy Doats" in 1943, has died following a stroke. He was 92.

Trace died Tuesday night in Sun West Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, said Nancy Brandt, a family friend. He never recovered from a stroke he suffered in February, she said.

"Al was the type who performed for the sheer love of performing," Brandt said. "People may not know his name, but they know his music. He loved music, and loved to see people's reaction to it."

Trace led a band called Shuffle Rhythm in the 1930s and 1940s that was heard nationwide on radio and he composed songs that were later recorded by Frank Sinatra, the And-

rews Sisters and others. A smaller group of Shuffle Rhythm musicians calling themselves the Silly Symphonists recorded the novelty numbers.

In 1943 Trace had a hit singing "Mairzy Doats," a string of near-nonsense commentary on livestock eating habits that's still familiar to millions and begins: "Mairzy doats and dozie doats and little lambsy divey."

The song was written by Milton Drake, Al Hoffman and Jerry Livingston.

Trace's version was on the Lucky Strike Hit Parade for 20 weeks and brought him to Hollywood's attention. He appeared in several of Charlie Starrett's "Durango Kid" movies in the 1940s, providing music and appearing in some as a sheriff.

See Bandleader wrote, A5

## Bandleader wrote several hit songs

—From A1

A native of Chicago, Trace moved his band to New York in 1942. Some of the band's performances at the Dixie Hotel were broadcast nationwide.

He wrote and co-wrote a number of songs popular in the 1940s and 1950s, including "You Call Everybody Darling," "If I Knew You Were Coming I'd've Baked a Cake," and "Brush Those Tears from Your Eyes."

His band was house band for the Philip Morris radio show "It Pays to Be Ignorant," and he had his own television show for a season in Chicago.

He moved to California in the 1950s, working for a time as a booking agent and writing songs. Trace, who moved to Arizona in the 1970s, continued to write songs until he was stricken.

He is survived by his wife of many years, Barbara.

"He's going to be missed terribly — he was one wonderful guy," said Sun Citian Don Jackson, a former radio personality and minister of Deacon Bible Church in Glendale. "I worked with him for a long time, and I appreciated his talent and love of other people."



## A silly little ditty

SCW

by Nancy Brandt

# A TRACE OF GENIUS

## A writer of 300 songs, Al introduced "Mairzy Doats"

Last January, during a big band concert at the Sundome, a vocal group called the Lancers performed a peppy little novelty number—"Mairzy Doats." Little did the singers realize as they belted out the monster hit from back in 1943 that the man who was responsible for its popularity was watching from the audience.

Al Trace and his wife Barbara have been Sun City residents since 1982. It was more than 50 years ago that Trace recognized the potential of the silly little ditty and turned it from a song that no one wanted into a hit that everyone was singing.

"I didn't write 'Mairzy Doats,'" Trace quickly points out. "I introduced it. I own part of the song and I made the first record. In fact, I started the whole world singing 'Mairzy Doats.' It was number one on the 'Lucky Strike Hit Parade' for 20 weeks.

"It was without a doubt the fastest selling novelty song in history. In fact, it opened the doors to everything. On the strength of that silly little song we went to Hollywood and made five or six pictures for Columbia."

Al took the part of the sheriff in Charlie Starrett's "Durango Kid" western series at Columbia Pictures.

"We (the band) also were on the Phillip Morris Show, 'It Pays To Be Ignorant,' with Tom Howard and we played theaters all over the country."

Al had a small band within the big band called the Silly Symphonists. It was with this group that he did all of his novelty numbers.

"We had some interesting experiences on the road," he related. "The Silly Symphonists were fine musicians and great comics and always full of fun. While we were playing theaters around the country, we came to the Riverside Theatre in Milwaukee. One of the acts was Hector and his pals. His pals were 12 little tumblers. One of my Symphonists, Red Maddock, a great comic, spread liverwurst lavishly on the leg of the piano stool. There was pandemonium. The dogs refused to perform.

"They all gathered around barking furiously, trying to get to bits of the liverwurst, scaring the pianist out of his wits. Hector was bewildered and mad, but the crowd laughed and applauded. I'm sure Hector didn't appre-



AL TRACE, song writer and movie actor, is shown with Lee Pines at the piano.

ciate this silly nonsense, but I took him out to dinner and all was well."

Al, who is still writing songs and extremely active at 80-plus, was born in Chicago on Christmas Day in a house next to the one once owned by Mrs. O'Leary whose cow allegedly started the famed Chicago fire.

As a young man, Al was torn between two loves—sports and music. He was a semi-professional ballplayer at 19, but music was always close to his heart.

"Two of my brothers and my sister were pretty good musicians. My brother was in vaudeville and a good vocalist. I studied drums professionally with Roy Knapp in Chicago. He was one of the best drum teachers in the country.

(OVER)

TRACE, AL



"About 1929 I had a little group that played at a small roadhouse. That was my first band, and my first piano player was a young man by the name of David Rose. He was a handsome, talented pianist who later became famous for his skill in arranging, writing, and conducting for the "Red Skelton" TV show. He has also written music for many major movies.

"Not many people know this, but my wife Barbara was an entertainer when I met her. David Rose made her first arrangement for her. It was 'The Big Butter and Egg Man.' "

By 1936 Trace was working at the famous Sherman Hotel. A sensational young guitarist by the name of Rhubarb Red played with the band for a time while they were at the Sherman. You might know him better as Les Paul.

"We stayed at the Sherman Hotel for three and a half years. We followed some of the best bands in the country."

In 1942 another move was underway.

"We went to New York and that's where we played the Dixie Hotel. I wasn't sure we could make it in New York, but we were lucky."

In 1948 Al co-wrote and recorded "You Call Everybody Darlin,'" which was the number one song on the "Hit Parade" for 32 weeks. Bob Vincent was the vocalist for Al's band. The song was later recorded by Frank Sinatra, the Andrews Sisters, Patti Page, Art Lund, and many other popular artists. That year Al Trace's band was the second most popular band in the country.

Within two years another of Al's hits would have a multi-week run as number one on the "Hit Parade." This time the song was "If I Knew You Were Coming I'd've Baked a Cake."

More than 300 of Al's songs have been recorded by the nation's top artists: Louis Armstrong, Tex Ritter, Ella Fitzgerald, Nat King Cole, Jerry Vale, Russ Morgan, Eddy Howard, and Sammy Davis, Jr., to name a few. His songs have been translated and popularized in Germany, Belgium, Austria, Australia, Japan, South Africa, the Scandinavian countries, France, Spain, and England.

In 1955 Al started a project with which he is still involved. He conceived and wrote "Great Concert In The Sky" to pay tribute to the bandleaders and vocalists who have passed on. Working with Teddy Phillips, a bandleader whose work Trace respects, the project was first released as a two album set.

Within the last two years, an additional double album set was added to the package and the concept was developed as a stage production, playing the Sundome in January of 1988.

Trace's share of the profits from the project is donated to the Damon Runyan Cancer Fund.

Al's story is one of making the American Dream happen and he's not through yet. He still has his finger firmly planted on the heartbeat of the entertainment world. **FL**



## SPECIAL INTEREST

# Author adjusts attitudes about aging

MITCHELL VANTREASE  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Seniors should live an active life and shouldn't just sit in a corner.

Wes Tracy said he wants retirees to understand this statement and apply it to their lives. It's one of the reasons the Sun City West resident wrote his latest book, "Younger Than I Used To Be: Celebrating Maturity."

"Our culture tries to treat us like victims," he said. "I try to accent the positive things in our old age because it can be the best part of our life," he said.

Tracy said he spent two years researching the book and wrote it in five to six months.

"There's a lot of pressure for us to go and sit in a corner somewhere," he said.

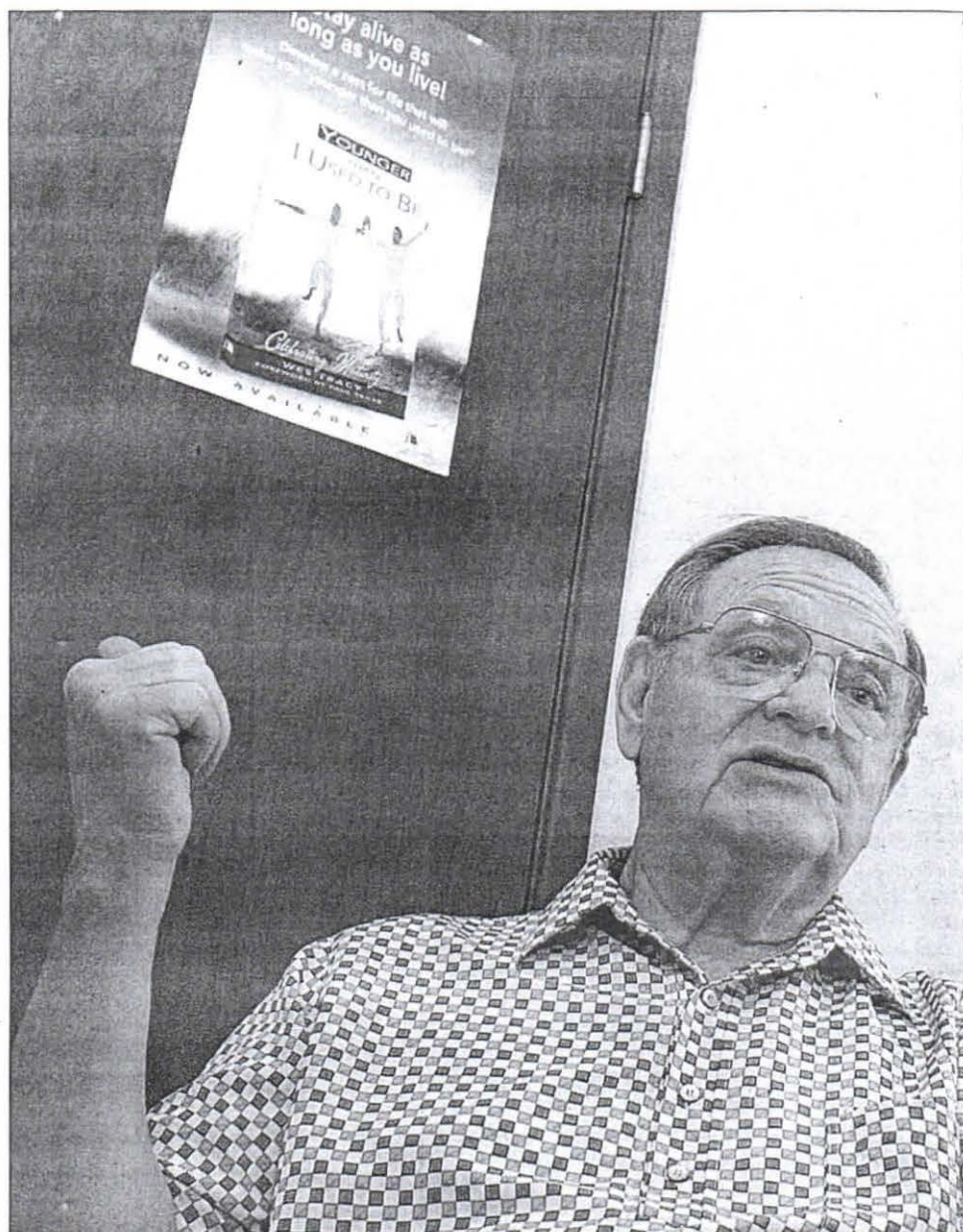
The Kansas native said he had the idea to write "Younger Than I Used To Be" when he moved to Sun City West about two years ago. He went to a neighbor's garage sale, where someone told him, "People really only move here to eventually die."

Tracy's 20-chapter nonfiction book is broken into four parts — Life-Lifting New Freedoms, Life-Lifting Spiritual Insights, Life-Lifting Attitude Adjustments and Life-Lifting New Opportunities. He's taken his experience and related research to tell seniors how to live out the rest of their lives in a positive manner.

A former professor of adult education and Christian preaching at Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., Tracy has written more than 20 textbooks on a number of subjects.

"Younger Than I Used To Be" is his first venture into another market. He has promoted the book at several age-related conferences in the United States and foreign countries.

His book is published through Beacon Hill Press, a division for the International Church of the Nazarene. "Younger



MOLLIE J. HOPPES/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Wes Tracy, a Sun City West resident, has written a book, "Younger Than I Used To Be: Celebrating Maturity," to encourage seniors to focus on the positive aspects of aging.

"Younger Than I Used To Be" can be found in bookstores or at his seminars.

"I'm very happy with the work that I've done so far," he said.

Tracy said he wants seniors know they still have their lives ahead of them.

"I want them to feel the last quarter of their life will be the best for them," he said.

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



SCW

Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Tuesday, Dec. 1, 1998

Uhl, Clarice &amp; Ed

# Heritage flavors community's history

First in a series  
By **BRUCE ELLISON**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Before there was a Sun City West, there was only the scrub foliage of the Sonoran Desert. Rattlesnakes in abundance; the railroad running by on the south, and cattle.

The place was west of Marinette, west of Surprise, and was called Lizard Acres.

They grew cotton in Marinette, which now is Sun City; they fattened cattle for the market in Lizard Acres, which is now Sun City West. A sign with the Lizard Acres name still marks a spur on the Santa Fe railway a few blocks west of Bell Road.

Abe Harris remembers Lizard Acres well. The Buckeye resident drove hay to the area to feed the cattle, truckload after truckload of it.

"They had big pens there, a little ways north of the railroad," he said. "We'd haul in feed from all over the Valley, hay mostly, sometimes milo."

"We had to be careful in the desert because you could get bogged down in the sand on the way to the cattle. There wasn't a road, just a track."

Grand Avenue was paved and was a main thoroughfare,

## Saluting SUN CITY WEST'S 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

as it had been since the turn of the century. Still, Harris said, it was only two lanes. Most other roads were dirt tracks.

Harris, 61, now is a member of the Maricopa County Planning and Zoning Commission. He moved to Buckeye in the 1940s. Like many others in the area, he had been recruited from Texas by the cotton farmers, including J.G. and Walter O. Boswell, who raised the fiber on land that is now Sun City.

Harris picked cotton initially, then followed his father into the trucking business.

"I don't know what they did with the cattle," he said.

"After they got them up to market size, they sold them. There was a slaughterhouse in Phoenix, but I don't know if they were butchered there or sent away on the railroad or in trucks."

Then came Del Webb, buying the Boswell lands and



Mollie J. Hoppes/Daily News-Sun

building the first parts of Sun City, which soon crossed Grand Avenue, then crossed Bell Road, and, 20 years ago was renewed under a new name across the Agua Fria River in Lizard Acres — Sun City West.

Clarice Uhl remembers

that. So does Mary Wick. Both were the first to receive keys to their new homes and move into them. The date was Oct. 16, 1978.

Both got keys from John Meeker, at the time president of Del Webb Development Co.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

Clarice and Ed Uhl, left, hold bragging rights as Sun City West's first residents. Abe Harris, right, remembers hauling hay to feed the cattle at Lizard Acres, which gave way to the Del Webb retirement community.



Steve Chernek/Daily News-Sun

"The shaping of Sun City West will be a cooperative venture between Devco and the new residents," Meeker said at the ceremony on Oct. 16, 1978.

He also pledged to encourage cooperation between Sun City and Sun City West, a

dream unfulfilled. Residents of the two communities still do not enjoy reciprocal privileges in each other's recreation centers or on each other's golf courses.

The lack of privileges  
► See 1st residents, A5

OVER



◀ From A1

doesn't prohibit residents from waging friendly battles on each other's turf.

Clubs often sponsor tournaments which are open to residents of the adjoining communities. Such events include tennis, table tennis, senior softball, bocce, shuffleboard, lawn bowls, bowling and mini-golf.

When Sun City West started, Devco was putting up 80 dwellings a week. The community was expected to have 32,500 residents "in the first phase, north of Grand Avenue."

And it was to have taken less than 10 years to build.

Didn't happen. Recession stalled that. It took 20 years to build all of Sun City West, with the last few dwellings changing hands just a couple of months back.

Expansion of the original community didn't come to the south, but to the north when Webb was able to buy 1,257

acres north of Deer Valley Drive in the early 1990s at bargain-basement prices. The 3,250 homes there are in what is commonly called the Expansion Area.

Expansion to the south, in what is now Sun City Grand, started five years later.

Clarice Uhl and Mary Wick have watched it all.

"I think it's grown into a very gracious community," Wick said this morning. "It's a good place."

She and her husband watched it grow, she said, "and in the very early days you needed a pioneer spirit."

The Uhls liked moving, and liked new models, so they bought seven homes in total in Sun City West, moving from one to the other as development progressed.

And they moved to the brand-new community from the original Sun City where they also had owned several houses.

The Uhls liked being first:

Clarice was the first person to check out a book from the new R.H. Johnson Library — on Oct. 16, 1979, a year after they moved into their new home.

Clarice also attended the grand opening of the new Safeway, and the first LPGA tournament held in Sun City West.

The Uhls probably are finished moving now. Three years ago, in an interview with the Daily News-Sun, Clarice said she didn't anticipate moving again. "We love it here," she said. "I would not live anywhere else."

Added Ed, "We've had a wonderful relationship with the Del Webb organization, but move again?... naah."

Still, Sun City Grand was just a dream then. It's reality now. And maybe... naaaah.

*Next: The opening of Sun City West corresponds with the establishment of the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office District 3 substation.*



5c-w

UNDERWOOD, HOPE

# Ex-teachers weave storytelling into new careers

By JACQUE PAPPAS  
Daily News-Sun staff

Once upon a time, Hope Underwood decided to retire after working 36 years as an elementary, high school and college teacher.

"But soon enough I started missing kids and really wanted to be involved with them again somehow," said Underwood, 62, of Sun City West.

Underwood found her niche along with five other members of the Sun City West branch of the American Association of University Women.

Every week the women go to El Mirage, Kingswood, Luke and Surprise elementary schools to tell — not read — stories to the children.

They are known as the Grandmother Storytellers.

"The real honest storyteller does not want anything between them and their communication with the kids. It's good to have something to focus their attention on," Underwood said.

Underwood, who told the story "Stone Soup" to second-graders at Kingswood last week, used several props to illustrate her story.

The children sat around her in a semicircle and asked questions when she was done.

"They really love it. They are just absolutely thrilled with the stories. They ask questions and are very creative. It's just charming."

The Grandmother Storytellers program grew out of a program sponsored by the National Organization for Women that featured stories about famous women.

Eventually the AAUW took the program under its wing.

The stories are selected by class teachers and librarians from books the AAUW have donated to the schools.

The Sun City West AAUW gave 20 books to the Kingswood Library using \$250 the chapter won in 1991 for being the fastest growing branch in the state.

The Sun City West chapter was formed in 1980 with less than 50 members and now has 320, said Marge Greenhalgh, club president.

Greenhalgh, who is also a storyteller, said most of the women involved were former teachers.

"We have taught our children and grandchildren and now we are ready to teach other people's children," Greenhalgh said.

Lisa Comeau, Barbara Counley, Jackie Burns and Crockett Muncie also volunteer as storytellers.

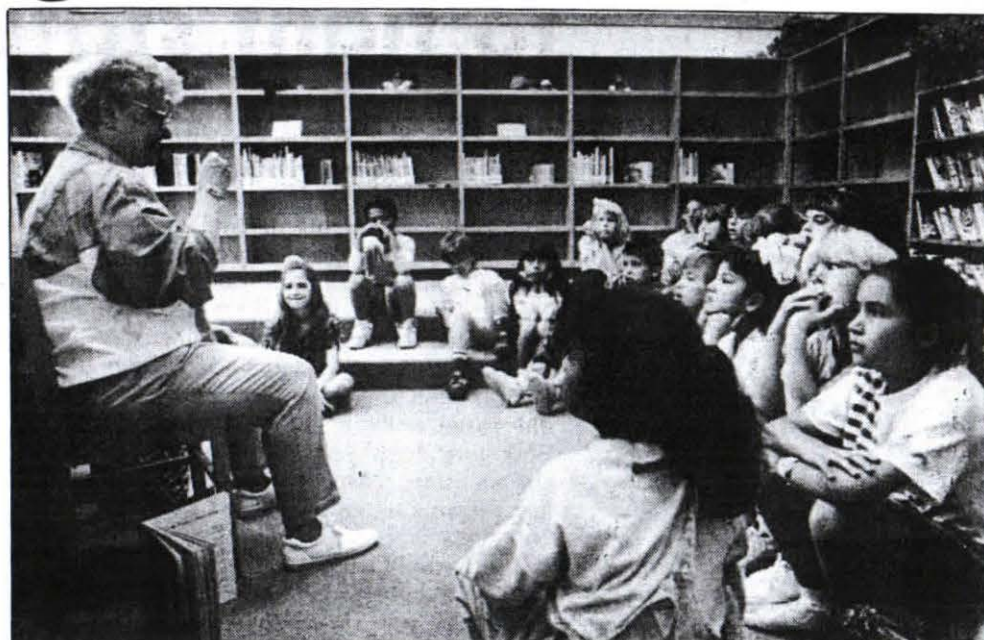
Kingswood Librarian Darlene Bray said the schools are happy to have a partnership with the AAUW.

"I think it's good for the kids to hear stories and it is a good experience for them to interact with people from the community who want to share with them," Bray said.

Cecelia Covarrubio, 8, said she looks forward to hearing the stories.

"We hear about people who are poor and need food and Indians and a lot of other things," Cecilia said. "I like to sit and listen because every story is different."





Stephen Chernenk/Daily News-Sun

Sun City West resident Hope Underwood spins a tale for second-graders at Kingswood Elementary School. Underwood is one of six grandmother storytellers from the Sun City West Chapter of the American Association of University Women.



# Consumer champ: Volunteer solves complaints

By Lori Baker  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Whether dealing with unnecessary car repairs or malfunctioning electric beds, Fran Van Every is a consumer champion.

And she doesn't take a penny for her time.

Her reward is helping elderly people who are upset that they didn't get their money's worth for a product or service.

"I was tired of sitting back and saying 'That's not right' when I heard about people's problems," Van Every said. "So, I decided to do something to help."

Van Every, a retired registered nurse and Sun City West resident, is a volunteer for the state Attorney General's Elder Affairs Program.

She opened an office in Sun City West in November. Interfaith Services provides Van Every the space in the Sun City West Foundation building, 14465 R.H. Johnson Blvd.

"I listen to people's sad stories," Van Every said. "Some people are so upset they are shaking. But they feel better after we've talked."

Van Every stresses that she is not an attorney.

However, she has received special training in helping consumers with problems.

Often, a note on the attorney general's stationery with a copy of the consumer's complaint is enough to get a problem resolved, she said.

"The bulk of the problems are services by tradesmen, like landscaping and roofing work," Van Every said.

Car repairs are a common complaint.

"Car repair shops are not licensed. Nine times out of ten the customer is a lady who lives alone and she is taken advantage of," Van Every said. "Sometimes she is charged for expensive repairs that weren't needed."

Van Every turns potential fraud cases over to investigators in the Attorney General's Office.

She is in the office between 9 a.m. and noon Wednesdays, by appointment. She also accepts phone calls at 584-0040 during that time. Appointments may be made by calling 584-4999.

Van Every's work goes beyond office hours. She spends countless hours at home making phone calls and writing letters for consumers.

Two volunteers are being trained to help Van Every in the Sun City West office.

The Elder Affairs Program, which was launched in 1986, also has volunteers helping consumers in Phoenix and Scottsdale. Information is available by calling 542-2124.

Anita O'Riordan, director of the Elderly Affairs Program, said volunteers help the Attorney General's Office with prosecutions.

Examples are cases against practitioners of medical fraud and quackery, home construction and repair scams, and pest control operators.



Michael Chow / Staff photographer

"I listen to people's sad stories," says Fran Van Every of her role with the state Attorney General's Elder Affairs Program.

VAN EVERY, FRAN



# Emphasis on people

NEWS-SUN  
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 22, 1986

C1

## Mending pain

### Retired Sun City West doctor uses his skills to help needy in Phoenix

By DOUG DOLLEMORE  
Staff Writer

PHOENIX — Gary Higgins, a soiled cotton patch covering his right eye and his hair rumpled from a night sleeping on the street, walks into the stark examination room at the St. Vincent De Paul medical clinic.

He lies down on a table and asks Dr. Robert Venrose to change the dressing. Venrose carefully removes the maze of tape and gauze wrapped on Higgins' head.

Above Higgins' right ear are 26 stitches. Another four close a gash below his right eye.

"I was coming out a bar when I was confronted by a guy in an alley. He must of had a partner because somebody hit me over the head with a wine bottle," Higgins says.

His assailants stole his wallet and his money — all \$11 of it.

Higgins is typical of the patients that Venrose sees in the clinic at 119 S. Ninth Ave.

Venrose, 67, a retired Sun City West physician, is one of 10 volunteer doctors, 10 dentists and seven nurses who treat more than 200 low-income people a month at the free clinic.

The clinic operates on a \$54,000 annual budget, says Sherri New, a St. Vincent De Paul spokeswoman. Doctors also donated more than \$100,000 in professional services and another \$75,000 in medical supplies and equipment last year.

In 1985, doctors treated 1,177 patients for a range of medical problems including head injuries, heart conditions, skin diseases, neurological disorders and hypertension.

"They distrust you at first. But once they know that you're interested in them and you're not going to take anything from them, they accept what you say," Venrose says of his clinic patients. "They understand you're there to help them."

Venrose was chief of anesthesiology at a 300-bed hospital in Panorama, Calif., for 25 years.

These days, he spends three hours at the Phoenix clinic every Monday. He's been a volunteer since 1982.

"His commitment is what's so significant," says New. "Dr. Venrose has been here week after week after week. His commitment is what allows us to provide so many services to patients."

"Another thing he does is treat every patient with dignity. I've watched him treat patients many times, and he always treats them with respect and dignity. He always calls them Mr. Miss or Mrs. so and so."

"I have enough faults of my own that I can't look for faults in other people," Venrose says.

He pokes his head out into the hallway and calls for his next patient. A 46-year-old man leaning heavily on a crutch staggers into the room. The



Dr. Robert Venrose examines a patient in the St. Vincent De Paul clinic. Venrose, a retired physician from Sun City West, has volunteered at the clinic for the past four years. (News-Sun photo)

man plops into a chair and nearly falls over. Venrose catches him and holds him upright.

The man, who lives alone, has a neurological disorder and falls often, Venrose explains.

The patient says he has a sore back, so Venrose gently removes his shirt.

On his back is an 8-inch gash. His arms are covered with bruises and sores.

He broke the index finger on

his left hand three weeks ago, but hasn't had it treated. The hand is swollen and discolored. He hobbles because of a sprained ankle.

"Lauren, you really should be living in a home where somebody can take care of you," Venrose says.

Lauren shakes his head indicating that he wouldn't like that. Venrose treats his wounds with an antibiotic, gets Lauren a change of clothes and sends him on his way.

"(Dr. Venrose) is quite a special person," says New. "He really tries to care for the total person. He just doesn't treat the disease. He tries to get something together for the total person."

Venrose can do little for his next patient, a 48-year-old alcoholic who has lost his appetite and 40 pounds in eight weeks. The doctor suspects the man has cancer.

"So many people come here just looking for someone to talk to," Venrose says.

The doctor comforts the man and makes arrangements for him to see a specialist.

The clinic refers some of its patients to Phoenix hospitals and private physicians who have agreed to treat severe cases, Venrose says.

Many doctors also contribute sample drug packets they receive from pharmaceutical companies. The clinic uses most of

them, but doesn't have any narcotics because the staff fears patients would abuse those drugs.

Yet Venrose doesn't fear any patient.

"When I first came down here I had a new white Cadillac," Venrose says. "That first day, I was sure it was going to be stolen. But in four years, nobody has touched a tire, a wheel or any part of that car."

"I've never been verbally abused. The patients have never been discourteous."

Mary Kay, a 22-year-old woman who recently had knee surgery, is Venrose's next patient. She's been living at a women's shelter home. When she lost her job months ago, her parents wouldn't let her move into their Scottsdale home.

She needs a cane; Venrose pulls several out of a closet for her to try. After experimenting with a couple, she selects one and limps out the door.

"Look grandma, I have a cane," Mary Kay shouts as she enters the hallway.

Her grandparents are homeless, too, Venrose says.

"One thing I've learned since I've worked here is that everyone has something to offer. Everyone has something they need," Venrose says.

He reaches for a chart and calls for his next patient. In the hallway, seven more people await his care.



# Long-time civic leader Phil Vision dies at 76

By BRUCE ELLISON  
Staff writer

Phil Vision, 76, of Sun City West, a long-time civic leader and activist, called by some "the conscience of the community," died Sunday, March 2, 1997.

Service is at 3 p.m. today in Sunland Lakeside Chapel, 15826 N. Del Webb Blvd. in Sun City. Burial will be in Sunland Memorial Park.

Mr. Vision suffered a stroke on Aug. 22, 1996, while addressing an early-morning meeting of the governing board of the Recreation



Vision

Centers of Sun City West.

Centers of Sun City West.

Although he spent months in local hospitals and later in care centers, he never fully recovered from the effects of that impairment, though he did continue an active interest in community life from his hospital bed.

Mr. Vision, a former manager with the Internal Revenue Service, moved to Arizona in 1983 from Illinois, and soon immersed himself in community affairs.

He served on the former Advisory Board of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West while that board was still controlled by developer Del Webb Corp.

He was a former board member at the Property Owners and Residents Association and helped with

► See Friends praise, A5

## Friends praise Vision

■ From A1

the aquatics program at the Beardsley pool.

A frequent letter-writer, his opinions on the community, its problems and their potential solutions were well thought-out, if somewhat didactic, and he did extensive research to support his points of view.

He often spoke at meetings of the recreation centers board, PORA and in other local forums.

Among his more recent crusades were efforts to eliminate a moment of silence from recreation centers board meetings and taking on Citizens Utilities Co. in the matter of its proposed use of Central Arizona Project water.

Sandy Goldstein, who served on some of the same boards and committees as Mr. Vision, said this morning that "we overlapped in a number of areas and places.

"He spoke out for what he believed in, and he accomplished a great deal for the community.

"In many respects, he was the conscience of this community," Goldstein said.

Added Hal Lind, a former president of PORA and the current treasurer of the Recreation Centers, "He was always interested in the operation of the community. He wrote very cogent letters on matters of public concern.

Pat Duros, another former member of the centers board, said she and Mr. Vision often disagreed, but added that Mr. Vision's arguments on policy matters were a useful service.

"If everyone were as interested in community affairs as he had been, we would have far fewer problems," Duros said. "There is too much apathy in public affairs. He was terribly interested in this community."

Philip H. Vision was born in Chicago and was an Army veteran. He died in Sun Health Care Center in Sun City.

Mr. Vision was a founding member of the Beth Emeth Congregation. He was a member of Jewish War Veterans, and a leader in many community activities beyond the recreation centers and PORA.

Mr. Vision is survived by his wife, Blanche Stein; a daughter Sharon Sax of Morton Grove, Ill.; a sister, Phyllis L. Sham of Woodland Hills, Calif., and a grandchild. A son, David, died previously.

Vision, Phil



# Theater groups are crazy for Sun Citian's costumes

By JEANNIE JOHNSON  
Staff writer

SUN CITY — If you're a chicken and see Demetrius walking down the street, run for your life.

There are a lot of naked chickens running around China since the Sun City resident began his costuming career more than 30 years ago. Just this month, he used 60 yards of "Chantelle" feathers from a Chinese feather company for eight costumes to be worn by dancers in the St. Louis production of "Crazy for You" — Tommy Tune's smash Broadway hit.

Demetrius put the finishing touches on the silver-and-white showgirl finery on Tuesday just in time to change the color of thread on his sewing machine. The "retired" costumer has just eight days to get an elaborate Mardi Gras type costume to New Orleans.

The "Crazy for You" costumes are among thousands of costumes Demetrius has designed. The award-winning designer began his costuming

career on a lark.

"When I came out of the service with six bullet wounds, I met this lady who said she had a costume shop," he said. "She invited me to come see her shop, and I was there for five years working for my room and board. She taught me how to cut, how to sew, how to do wigs, how to do makeup. Her name was Mrs. Miller and she was an old vaudeville gal."

Producers of a summer stock theater company outside of Buffalo, N.Y., tapped into the talents of the young designer. During that time, he met actress Sheryl Conway who was starring in a production of "Auntie Mame."

She invited Demetrius to go to New York City with her as her personal costumer and personal dresser. Demetrius traveled with her to Australia while she performed Down Under.

He hooked up with Ruth Warwick when she was performing in "The King and I" on Broadway. He ended up being her personal dresser for the show.

Mrs. Miller put her costume business up for sale and a Canadian interest bought her out. Demetrius decided this would be the best time to journey to Los Angeles to break into the Hollywood costume scene.

Edith Head, the top costume designer at Paramount promised him a job, but bureaucracy got in the way.

"I didn't belong to the union, so I couldn't work," he said. "Edith told me to go join the union. When I got there, I was 250th on a waiting list. I'm still on the waiting list."

Never one to let the small speedbumps in life get him down, Demetrius found work designing costumes for showgirls in Las Vegas, Reno, Miami and Puerto Rico. He had nine women sewing for him and was riding high on success when a phone call lured him back to Buffalo.

"I got a phone call from the Canadian people who bought Mrs. Miller's costume shop," he said. "They wanted to sell, and wanted to know if I wanted to buy. I asked my business partner if he had any



Costume designer Demetrius helps Barbara Hall out of her headpiece after a fitting/display at the Sun Valley Lodge. The Sun City man designed costumes for years.

Mark Schiefelbein/Daily News-Sun

money, and so we bought the place where I originally started."

Demetrius and his partner, Christopher Brown, spent the next several years putting on shows to raise money for non-profit agencies. Christopher

directed the shows — teaching the local performers dancing and singing — and Demetrius designed the costumes.

It wasn't always an easy task. Often Christopher would be out on the road while Demetrius would be at home

designing and sewing the costumes.

"One time, I got to this town in Pennsylvania, and every lady in the show weighed in excess of 250 pounds," Christopher said. "I called Deme-

► See Costumer doesn't, A5

DEMETRIUS VONGELIS



## Costumer doesn't miss showgirls

■ From A1

trius and screamed, 'What am I going to do?' He made the most beautiful capes and overdresses for these women and they looked gorgeous. They did a wonderful show."

Demetrius and Christopher sold the costume shop in 1983. They moved to Sun City West in 1989 and to Sun City in 1994.

Demetrius said he loves designing clothes for shows, but is glad he got out of the Vegas showgirl business when he did.

"It's a different story today," he said. "When I was young, I used to sneak into burlesque halls. It would take these women five minutes just to take off a glove. Now they walk on stage and they're naked. It's not an art anymore."



# Costume maker readies outfits for production

By P. ATWOOD WILLIAMS  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Demetrius Vonglis lets his fingers do the talking.

This fall, his "conversation" will color "Hooray for Hollywood" in the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts.

"The Sundome is the largest theater for which I have designed and built costumes," said retired professional costumer Vonglis, an area resident for the past year.

But you could hardly say Vonglis and his friend, Christopher Brown, are retired.

Brown and Vonglis are producing the annual production. Brown is directing, doing choreography and building headpieces for the performers.

Demetrius (his labels read "An original by Demetrius") will produce more than 200 costumes for the 225 people involved. Many of the colorful costumes already hang on racks in the living room of the home the two men share.

Soon teams of assistants will soon sew elastics and put on hooks and eyes by the dozens. Among the first contingent of helpers will be Kathy Cunningham, Pat Duggan, Janet Irving and Juliana Reese.

Assistant director Jack McCasey has been helping with sets, and publicity pictures have already been taken of several dancers in their costumes. Demetrius and Brown are featured in a Sun Cities Television Production Club show to air at 4:30 p.m. July 18 on Channel

24.

They once owned three costume companies (two in the East and one on the West Coast) and both today donate their creative talents to the Sun City West performing arts community.

Demetrius learned the costuming arts from a retired vaudevillian in Buffalo, N.Y., and following a five-year "apprenticeship" learned about Hollywood show girl costumes on the West Coast.

He also studied hairdressing to be able to style hair and wigs. Later with Brown as his partner, he bought out his mentor's shop.

He has been costumer to stars Ruth Warwick during her run in "The King and I" and to Shirl Conway who played "Auntie Mame" in Melbourne, Australia.

This means designing and producing the costumes and assisting the star during the run of the show.

Conway had 19 changes of costume during her production in a theater-in-the-round. Changes were made behind curtains held by children at the edge of the audience.

He convinced the stars that he could make lightening costume changes with only one assistant instead of four that others had used.

The actor steps out of one costume and into a second costume, which is pulled up by two dressers, one in front and one behind. They then dress the star with jewelry and help with wigs

and hairstyles.

Once in "Auntie Mame" the screen behind which "Mame" was dressing in full view of the audience fell over. Demetrius, who had been assisting with the costume change on his knees, suddenly became an actor.

He learned a lesson in unbuilding costumes from a tem-

permental producer in a revue in Reno. After spending the whole night finishing elegant leg of mutton sleeves for costumes for showgirls, he was told that most of them were for "nudes," girls who parade topless in elegant show gowns.

"He screamed at me to remove the busoms of the costumes, and I learned how to use underboning to give support in the right place," said Demetrius.

He said the most unique assignment he had was to design and make a gold lame blanket for an elephant; it later became a cape for a showgirl.

As soon as Brown and Demetrius learned they were to do this year's show in the Sundome, Demetrius asked the members of his National Costumers Association Inc. for fabrics.

Tickets to "Hoorah for Hollywood" will be \$6, \$5 and \$4 and will go on sale.

Information: 975-1900.

VONGLIS, DEMETRIUS





Daily News Sun photo by Frances Guarino

**FINGERS DO TALKING** — Demetrius Vonglis, of Sun City West, has been working all year on the 200 costumes for the Nov. 29 and Dec. 1 Sun Health benefit "Hooray for Hollywood" in the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts.



# Takeover of China led to pair's U.S. meeting

Couple always strove for education, earned American citizenship

By THELMA HEATWOLE  
Special for The Republic

SUN CITY WEST — The Maoist takeover in China. Pearl Harbor. The pursuit of higher education.

Unrelated? Perhaps, but all three combined for unusual drama in the lives of Joseph and Lucy Wang, who moved here in 1983.

Joseph, a native of Peking, came to the United States in 1938 on a fellowship to the University of Notre Dame. He finished his studies and was in San Francisco en route home "when Pearl Harbor happened."

With no ships or planes for his return to China, he headed instead to Syracuse University in New York to pursue library studies — and a 30-year career with the Library of Congress in Washington.

Lucy had come to the United States in the 1940s to attend St. John's University and later did postgraduate work at Columbia University, majoring in math. She returned to her homeland, teaching for several years at Aurora University for Women in Shanghai.

But her life changed dramatically during the Communist revolution.

"I left Shanghai three days before the Communists marched in from Nanking," she said. "I was single and educated in America. My mother was fearful for me and wanted me to leave the country until things improved."

She left Canton by boat for Hong Kong, where she applied and was accepted as a doctoral candidate at the University of Chicago in 1949.

Before reaching Chicago, however, she attended a Chinese social function in Washington, where she met Joseph.

The two were married in June 1951, establishing a home in the nation's capital. Lucy taught in private schools until the birth of their first son.

Lucy did not return to teaching until a second son entered school. She taught math, mostly in private schools, for 20 years, at one time serving as headmistress at Ascension Academy in Alexandria, Va.

She and Joseph became U.S. citizens.

In 1977, Joseph returned to China to visit relatives; Lucy made the return trip a year later.

After retiring from the Library of Congress, Joseph served as a consultant with the Chinese University of Hong Kong from 1978 to 1980. Lucy, their children grown, made



Lucy and Joseph Wang met at a Chinese social function in Washington and were married in 1951. Pete Peters/Republic

## Faces in the crowd

more frequent trips to the Orient.

The two traveled to China in 1983 and found conditions in their homeland much improved over previous visits.

"We saw people really laughing," Lucy said.

On a visit to Tucson to see her son, she first learned about the Sun City retirement communities.

"I found the place delightful, so clean, the people so nice," Lucy said. "On the second visit a year later, I put a deposit on a house here."

She took brochures about the place to her husband.

"He wasn't too enthused at first," she said, "but now I can't tear him away."

Although the Wangs plan to live the rest of their lives in the United States, their Chinese heritage is still

strong.

"Every evening, we eat Chinese food," Lucy said. "We speak Chinese at home."

Lucy teaches as a substitute in area high schools and at various times has participated in lapidary, coin and stamp, photography and computer clubs.

Joseph, a member of the Hillcrest Men's Club, is interested in Chinese calligraphy and has lectured on request about Chinese culture.

WANG, JOSEPH & LUCY



## Sun Citian wins crown

Ms. Senior  
pageant marks  
2nd year

By BRITT KENNERLY  
Daily News-Sun staff

SUN CITY WEST — Minutes after being named the winner of the Ms. Senior Arizona pageant Friday night, Sun Citian Thelma Ward expressed shock at being chosen to wear the crown.

"I'm off the floor," she said. "I'm so surprised."

The pageant, hosted by the Sundome Center for the Performing Arts, is the second of its kind for Arizona. It honors women past the age of 60 who have achieved the "age of elegance." Ward, a native of Wetumpka, Ala., will represent the state in the Ms. Senior America pageant in Atlantic City in mid-April.

Ward, a 65-year-old wife, mother of two and grandmother of four, bested 14 other contestants in her quest for the title.

"I enjoyed it so much last year that I wanted to do it again," she said. "We've had a lot of fun."

The 5-foot, 7-inch Ward, a member of the Sun City Poms pompon squad, danced the Charleston during her talent presentation.

Joni Troutner, a 61-year-old Tucson resident, was named first runner-up.

"This is wonderful," she said. "Hooray for Tucson!"

Second runner-up was Stelli Jones, 73, of Phoenix. Third runner-up honors went to Edythe Bregnard, a 68-year old Sun Citian and fourth, to 71-year-old Teresa DeTar of Sun City.

Amy Shaw, 60, was named winner of pageant talent competition. Shaw, a Phoenix resident, performed a medley of songs including "It Had To



Daily News-Sun photo by Stephen Chernes

**ROYALTY** — Ms. Senior Arizona 1991, Thelma Ward of Sun City, was chosen Friday night as the state's representative to the Ms. Senior America Pageant. National competition is slated for April in Atlantic City, N.J.

Be You" and "Always In Love With Amy."

Rosejane Nelson of Phoenix was voted "Ms. Congeniality" by other contestants. Nelson is 67 years old.

Ward's title prizes include

a tiara and trophy, an expense paid trip to the national competition, a Las Vegas vacation, and assorted gifts from Valley merchants. She was sponsored by Kap-tive Korner of Sun City.



# SCW swimmer makes splash in New Zealand

**RICH BOLAS**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dale Webster brought home more than souvenirs from his trip to New Zealand.



The Sun City West resident won five medals at the Masters World Championships in Christchurch, New Zealand.

"My goal was to finish in the top three in all of my events," the 76-year-old Webster said. "I missed my goal by .02 of a second."

Webster participated in the 75-to-79 age group. He received a gold medal for his win in the 100-meter backstroke and silver medals for his second-place finishes in the 50 backstroke and 200 individual medley. The retired industrial engineer received a bronze medal for placing third in the 200 backstroke and another medal for his fourth-place showing in the 400 individual medley. Top-10 finishers in each event received medals at the world championships.

Webster had starred as a swimmer during his college days at the University of California-Berkeley. However, he never swam competitively for a 45-year stretch after his seventh-place finish at the college national championships.

"In college, I had all the pool records for the backstroke at California," Webster recalled. "Swimmers have improved so much over the years that those times wouldn't even qualify me for the women's team today."

With the exception of playing water polo with the Olympic Club in San Francisco, Webster stayed out of the pool until he became an Arizona winter resident 10 years ago. Webster became a full-time Sun City West resident last year.

Webster began participating in



JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN

Dale Webster displays the form which helped him win his age group in the 100-meter backstroke at the World Masters Swimming Championships in New Zealand.

the Arizona Senior Olympics and joined the U.S. Master Swimmers, a national organization for swimmers 25 or older.

He entered the world championships this year on the heels of a spectacular showing at the Arizona Senior Olympics, where he won gold medals in the 100 and 200 backstroke, 200 individual medley and 50 butterfly.

He had previously qualified for the biennial world championships based on his performance in Munich in 2000.

The California native had participated in previous world championships in Sheffield, England, and Casablanca, Morocco, yet had never experienced the kind of success which awaited him in New Zealand.

Webster attributed his success to his new coach, Lois McDonald.

"She is the best coach I've ever had," Webster said. "She works with you on making corrections and she's great at reinforcing what

you're doing right."

McDonald said she found a willing student in Webster.

"He takes correction very well," said McDonald, a Michigan native who lives in Sun City West. "He takes what he's taught and adapts right away to make changes."

"When you make changes as a swimmer, sometimes it feels awkward in the water. Dale worked on the changes until they became automatic."

Webster couldn't even stay out of the water away from the competition in New Zealand.

During one of his off-days, Webster took a tourist trip to Akaroa Harbor, where he swam with Hector dolphins, the world's smallest and rarest breed of the species.

"You weren't allowed to touch them or ride them because of their endangered status," Webster said. "But they would swim all around you when you were in the water."

OVER



## SWIMMING



Dale Webster of Sun City West won five medals at the World Masters Swimming Championships, which were March 22 through April 4 in New Zealand. JOY LAMBERT/DAILY NEWS-SUN



SCW

## DOERS PROFILE

### Morris Weingarten

**Vita:** Graduated George Washington University; attorney, retired.

**Hometown:** Washington D.C.

**Marital status:** Married.



- Self-portrait:** *I devote time teaching people to live a longer, healthier and happier life.*
- Motto:** *Live peacefully, love and trust each other.*
- Greatest Feat:** *Having lived this long.*
- Fantasy:** *To create a better world.*
- Inspiration:** *People who can help mankind; scientists, ministers, educators.*
- Key to Longevity:** *Positive mental attitude; observe nutritional habits and exercise.*
- Last Words:** *Be sure and smell the roses.*

# SCW resident holds secret for long life

By MICHAEL P. HEGARTY  
Daily News-Sun staff

**M**orris Weingarten believes he has the recipe to long life. Or at least the ingredients for it.

"I tell people I can prolong their life to 150 years old if they exercise like me, eat the right vitamins and watch their nutrition," he said. "I guarantee that."

Weingarten, who walks five miles and works out in the gym for 1½ hours each day, is practicing what he is preaching.

"I absolutely expect to be here at 150," said the retired attorney who refused to reveal his calendar age, but said, "I feel like I'm 25."

But Weingarten is surprised he's made it this far. It's not because of his health and exercise, rather his involvement with helping federal employees receive refund checks.

"I thought someone would shoot me for what I did, having the state shell out \$200 million," the Sun City West resident said.

Weingarten is helping more than 45,000 retired federal employees receive tax refunds. The U.S. Supreme Court case Davis v. Michigan ruled that federal retirees were being discriminated against because states were taxing their pensions differently than state retirees.

He was chosen by the president of the Arizona Federal Association of Retired Employees to chair a committee of representatives from 60 state chapters of federal employees, such as military, civil service and public health workers.

"It was a very trying period for 4½ years," Weingarten said. "There were times I couldn't even go to the bathroom, I was getting so many phone calls."

He received thousands of phone calls and hordes of mail from people wanting to know how, if or when they were going to get their money. Weingarten was constantly approached by people wherever he went.

"No matter where I was, people would always come and talk to me," he said. "I would be walking and they'd be riding their bike and say 'Where is my check?'"

Weingarten is used to crowds around him, as he was born, raised, educated and employed in Washington, D.C., where he worked for 29 years in the judge advocate's department of the Air Force.

He worked across the street from the White House and carried a tear gas gun and pen with him at all times.

"You weren't even safe at work," he said.

Right before he moved to Arizona, he was mugged by three men who walked off with his wallet. For Weingarten, the Sun Cities offer a calmer, friendlier, more enjoyable lifestyle.

"(D.C.) is a mad house of traffic, congestion," he said. "It's a different type of life. I feel secure here walking in the morning or at night. I didn't feel that way in D.C."

After working with the government for so many years, Weingarten is pleased with the settlement the federal retirees will receive from the state.

"It's more than anybody expected. It's like a gift to many people," he said. "The state has developed an excellent program. They did a very effective job."

However, he said, the state could have saved a lot of money if it would have agreed to a settlement before the whole litigation process began.

"What I offered them 4½ years ago could easily have saved the state \$100 million," he said.

The whole process put a lot of stress on Weingarten, but he was able to survive through a thought process he calls PMA: positive mental attitude. He refers to it as a key for living long into the next century.

"As you get older, your aging process starts setting in," he said. "You have to have PMA to continue to live."

VE - PERSONALITIES

WEINGARTEN, MORRIS



## Lt. Wells is Posse Person of the Year

Each December, the members of the SCW Sheriff's Posse elect one of their own to be recognized as "The Posse Person of the Year. To be elected to that position is an honor that only comes because your efforts have been recognized by your peers. That honor is bestowed on those that give freely of their time and talents.

Lt. Harry Wells is that type of Posse Person. He is the special person that was elected as the Posse Person of the year for 2004.

Harry started with the Posse on March 5, 1999. In the six years he has been active, he has given a total of 5,307 hours back to the community.

Harry's history shows that he was destined to serve his community after retirement just as he did his industry and community before retirement. For 20 years, he watched time fly by. He was a branch manager for Cincinnati Time Company. A lot of us probably punched in and out of work on one of his time clocks. During this same time period, Harry was a Boy Scoutmaster. Leadership had to be there.

During the six years Harry has been in the Posse, he has held many Posse positions. Presently he is assistant traffic officer, orientation ride trainer, final evaluation ride officer, duty officer, assistant radio services officer,



Lt. Harry Wells, SCW Sheriff's Posse's Person of the Year.

data processing officer, officer of the day and assistant operation officer. That adds up to quite a resume.

Three more items that will help you understand Harry Wells and help you agree that he is the Sun City West Posse Person of the year. He is a member of the American Legion Honor Guard that performs at Veterans Memorial Services at the National Cemetery. He helps raise the flags that you see on R. H. Johnson Blvd., in Sun City West, that go up for holidays. On Fridays he is delivering Meals on Wheels with his wife, Balbina.

Those three tasks are not Posse-related, however, they help define Harry Wells—and what makes him special.



# Longtime SCW resident John Wells, 90, dies of heart attack

## Former Ex-PRESS Club president noted for 'partying'

By Jack Hawn

John Carroll Wells, one of Sun City West's most prominent citizens and—at age 90—extremely active in the community, died early Monday morning of an apparent heart attack. He would have been 91 June 29.

Recently diagnosed with bladder cancer, he had expected to undergo surgery next week.

His devoted wife of 18 years,

Dee Wells, said John had planned to pick up friends in the Ex-PRESS Club Tuesday morning for a meeting with the new head of the Arizona State University journalism department. John, an Ex-PRESS Club governing board member, had been past president.

Noted for hosting, attending and promoting parties for virtually any occasion (or none at all), John once scanned the telephone directory for names of potential guests—people who spoke the language of a foreign family he was honoring at his home. Several he called attended.

John and Dee had shared a brunch with seven friends Sunday morning at the Lakes Club in Sun City and reportedly stayed hours, laughing and draining champagne glasses.

After a relaxing day and evening, the couple retired about 1 a.m. Monday, Dee Wells said.

"I never heard him when he got up during the night to use the bathroom," she continued. "The alarm went off at 8:30, and I found him on the bathroom floor.

"It must have been a heart attack. He was going to call a heart specialist today (Monday) before going in next week. He was very concerned about the (cancer) surgery."

John Wells' career and his major accomplishments are impressive. Memories, anecdotes and stories of yesteryear were rekindled last June when about 120 friends and relatives helped him celebrate his 90th birthday at Briarwood Country Club, where he was a longtime member.

A hard-driving lobbyist who was instrumental in helping to permanently anchor the Queen Mary in Long Beach Harbor, John also had established firm roots in Washington, D.C.

He was on a first-name basis with major political figures in the nation's capital. It was there he met his future wife, who was employed as an executive secretary and administrative assistant to various congressmen.

Their courtship was brief and—as Dee often tells friends—exciting. They married July 6, 1981, and, it seems, had been traveling and partying ever since.

It was only about three weeks ago when the couple were entertaining a house full of guests during the removal of a large front-yard tree. Its deep, spreading roots had caused a severe plumbing problem.

So appreciative of the two young men who used heavy machinery to accomplish the time-consuming job, John added a special "party table" in his garage and honored them with an elaborate champagne ritual, complete with photographs that included the guests.

Last week, the Wells' returned from a three-day trip to Las Vegas with the Ex-PRESS and California clubs, which John had helped promote.



John C. Wells

In January, the couple traveled to St. Louis for the national convention of American Humanics, Inc., an organization with which John had been involved for more than half a century, serving as officer, vice president and member of the executive committee. American Humanics funds youth leadership programs for 52 colleges and universities. Last year, John and Dee traveled to New Orleans for the convention.

In November, they flew to Philadelphia for the wedding of one of their granddaughters, Arielle Lawson-Ho, then partied with friends in the Washington area, staying three weeks.

Until recently, every three months they had driven to California, where John had undergone medical checkups and treatments for prostate cancer, which he had been battling for years. Yet, his enthusiasm for parties and mingling with friends—old and new acquaintances—never wavered.

See LONGTIME, Page 2

VF PERSONALITIES SCW  
JOHN WELLS

*over*



**LONGTIME: resident John Wells dies, from Page 1**

Immediately after the couple arrived in Sun City West in 1983 from Arlington, Va., they joined Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, located only a few blocks from their home on Copperstone Drive, and John quickly became involved in the community.

He had been chairman of the Condo Assn.; charter member of the Apple Computer Club; founding chairman of Macs West, for which he initiated social programs and edited its newsletter for five years; vice president of Men's Council, Sun Cities Art Museum; and California Club Governing Board member and newsletter columnist.

Up until the time of his death, he had been producing the EXPRESS Club newsletter—a creative publication that represented many hours of work and in which he took great pride.

Born in Carbury, N.D., John (whose father was in the grain business) moved often.

At age 12, while living in Canada, he became interested in scouting and learned to play the bugle. Two years later, in St. John, N.D., John (who advanced to the trumpet and doubled up on drums) formed his own band. He also organized a scout troop, since none existed in his hometown.

Always exceedingly ambitious and productive, John manifested those traits through the decades—wherever he landed—envisioning and achieving lofty goals and inspiring those whose lives he touched.

Scouting became increasingly more important to John Wells as he grew into manhood. While living in Minneapolis and working for utilities companies, he pursued his scouting interests and soon became an assistant scoutmaster.

In Fairbault, Minn., he became active in the Junior Chamber of Commerce, president of the Safety Council for three years and headed the Catholic Church scout troop. He also organized a Cub pack and a Sea Scout ship—all of which won him numerous awards.

In 1941, he entered scouting professionally and expanded his involvement. Seven years later he was transferred to San Francisco,

In 1941, he entered scouting professionally and expanded his involvement. Seven years later he was transferred to San Francisco,

where he served as Director of Scouting Activities. There, he staged events at the Cow Palace, Kezar Stadium and elsewhere.

John also organized a city-wide get-out-the-vote campaign, using Boy Scouts to promote it—an ingenious public service idea which garnered national attention.

When John left scouting, his staff presented him with a plaque which reads: "To a man who dreams the biggest dreams, and makes them come true—even bigger."

One of seven children, John Wells leaves his daughter Mrs. Carol Wells-Lawson of Moorestown, N.J., her husband Greg and their two daughters Arielle and Elienne; a son, Jack Wells of Long Beach, Calif.; two brothers in Huntington Beach, Calif., Robert G. Wells and his wife Susan, and William (Bud) Wells; a sister in Walnut Creek, Calif., Helen Peterson; and a sister in San Francisco, Kathryn M. Wells.

Visitation at Sunland Mortuary, 15826 Del Webb Blvd., Sun City, is scheduled between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m., immediately followed by the Rosary Friday. Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 19002 N. 128th Ave., Sun City West.

In lieu of flowers, Dee Wells has asked that donations be made to American Humanics, Inc., 4601 Madison Ave., Kansas City, Mo., 64112; the Westside Food Bank, 10350 West Elm St., Surprise, AZ 85374, the Heart Assn. or Cancer Society.





Sun City West resident Ruth Welsh stands on a beach in the Cook Islands wearing that country's traditional garb. Ms. Welsh recently returned from a three-week vacation to the Cook Islands where she spent nearly 40 hours a week volunteering.

# WORKING VACATION

## Woman tutors students in paradise

By Jeremy Pearlman  
Independent Newspapers

When most people go on a vacation, their intent is to take a break from working. Not Ruth Welsh, though.

The Sun City West resident recently returned from a working vacation, traveling to the Cook Islands.

While on the chain of South Pacific islands, she spent nearly 40 hours a week tutoring youngsters in remedial English reading and entering data at the National Library.

This was not the first time

Ms. Welsh had taken such a vacation, nor does she believe it will be the last.

"I've reached a point in my life where I have time and I'd like to do something with it," Ms. Welsh said. "I feel really blessed. I am at a time where I have the opportunity to give back to society."

Although working the equivalent of a full-time job, she was not paid a penny. In fact, Ms. Welsh funded all of her traveling, lodging, dining and other expenses just to be able to go on this vacation.

However, in return for her

efforts and money, Ms. Welsh got the chance to see parts of a foreign country and culture that most tourists never get to.

Being embraced by the local community, Ms. Welsh hitched rides on the back of scooters to get back and forth from work sites, was fed local cuisine, made friends with residents and invited into people's homes.

She is also gratified in knowing she assisted a community in its effort to better itself.

"It gives me a lot of personal

satisfaction that I might be helping world causes," Ms. Welsh said.

Her vacation was arranged by Global Volunteers — a non-profit organization based in St. Paul, Minn., which sends individuals around the world to assist in various educational, humanitarian and economic development projects.

"We are a non-profit organization that offers ordinary individuals the opportunity to wage peace around the world in a personal level by building relationships with other individuals," said Barb DeGroot, Global Volunteers' media relations manager.

Global Volunteers preaches no dogma nor does it strive to go into a community and take

“

*I think it's a wonderful opportunity for people who are interested in getting off the beaten track.*

Ruth Welsh

over a project. Rather, volunteers are placed at projects in which community leaders have asked for assistance.

"The projects are what (the community) wants and are not determined by the outside organization," Ms. DeGroot

said. "Volunteers serve as a catalyst to assist but the local community is in charge."

Volunteers are sent in teams to various locales and has a team leader waiting to help guide them. Ms. Welsh went with eight other individuals on her most recent trip.

According to Ms. DeGroot, Global Volunteers send 150 teams or roughly 1,600 volunteers to different projects each year.

Ms. Welsh's vacation was not all work.

On her off time, Ms. Welsh did sightseeing, snorkeling and other vacation-related endeavors.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity for people who are interested in getting off the beat-

en track," Ms. Welsh said.

Since Global Volunteers is a non-profit organization, program and airline expenses can be used as a tax deduction for United States taxpayers, according to the organization's Web site.

For more information about Global Volunteers, call 1-800-487-1074 or at [www.globalvolunteers.org](http://www.globalvolunteers.org).



Daily News-Sun • Saturday, Feb. 9, and Sunday, Feb. 10, 2002

# Olympic memories

## GOLDEN TRY: Sun City West man skated in 3 Olympics

**RICH BOLAS**  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Speedskating provided John Werket with something more precious than gold.

The Sun City West resident never won a medal while competing for the United States at three Winter Games. However, without speedskating, he never would have met his wife, Vesla.

"She was in attendance at a meet in Norway in 1948," Werket recalled. "I like to tell people she caught me because I fell into a snow bank and when I tried to get up, my skate laces were tied together."

Werket will have plenty of chances to reminisce as he watches the Salt Lake City Games, which began their two-week run Friday.

"I'll get a chance to relive my life and it's been a good life," Werket said. "I was disappointed when I didn't win an Olympic medal, but I have no regrets."

"You can lose a world championship because of a split second. Forget about

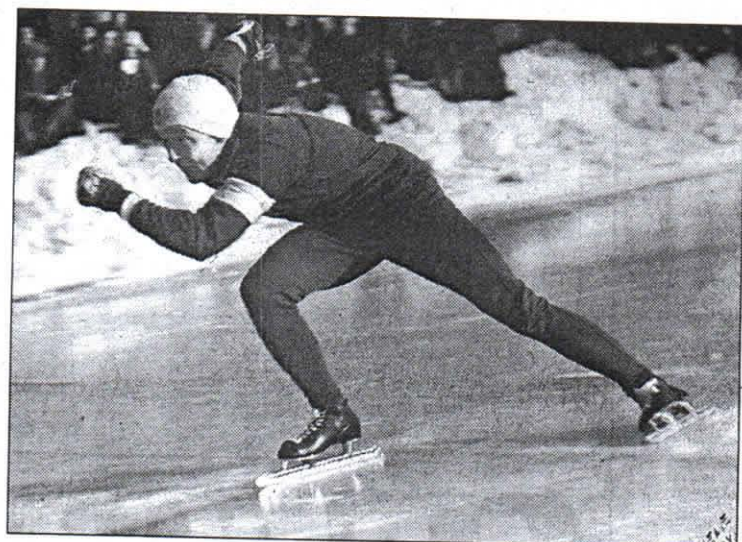


Photo courtesy of JOHN WERKET

John Werket competes in the speed skating world championships in Helsinki, Finland in 1948.

it. That's nothing to have regrets over."

Werket knows better than most how fate almost always plays a hand in a sport where fractions of a second determine winners and losers.

Werket placed sixth in the 1,500-meter race at the 1948 Olympics in St. Moritz, Switzerland. Then he proceeded to win the same event at the world championships in 1948, 1949 and 1950.

In non-Olympic years, the world championships are considered the speedskating pinnacle.

Riding the wave of three consecutive world titles and buoyed with confidence, Werket entered the 1952 Oslo Olympics as a heavy favorite in the 500 and 1,500.

"A friend and I went out to do some

**See Olympian lives, A5**

### From A1

extra work right before the Games," the 77-year-old Werket recalled. "It was so cold, I got bronchitis."

Sapped of his strength, Werket failed to medal although he competed in three events.

"I was 28 and in my prime as a skater, but those were the breaks," the Minnesota native said. "Two weeks later, I finished second in the 500- and 1,500-meter races at the world championships."

Werket competed at the 1956 Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, yet never came close to his earlier dominance.

"I was going to participate in 1960 in Squaw Valley, but the work just got to be too much," Werket said. "I would get up at 4 in the morning and train, then go to my day job. In the evenings, there would be more training."

"I was sitting in my car before training one night and it got to the point where I couldn't pull the door handle and get out of the car."

Almost always the smallest skater on the ice, Werket learned to rely on his superior technique and will to win.

His skills were so good the Russians secretly took pictures of his training sessions in Switzerland and later used



Photo courtesy of JOHN WERKET

John Werket, second from left, enters the stadium for the speed skating world championships in Moscow.

the photographs to train their speedskaters.

"I was always an early morning trainer and I saw the Russians out there at 4 a.m. and I thought I would get a look at them," Werket said. "I came to find out they were doing more than looking at me."

Werket moved into coaching in the 1960s and relied on the same winning attributes to motivate others.

Dianne Holum, one of his students, won three medals at the 1972 Games in Sapporo, Japan. That included a gold medal in Werket's specialty, the 1,500. Holum subsequently passed on her coaching knowledge to Eric Heiden, who won three gold medals at the 1980 Games.

Werket said he still follows the sport, although he doesn't know the athletes or technological advances as

well as he did 50 years ago.

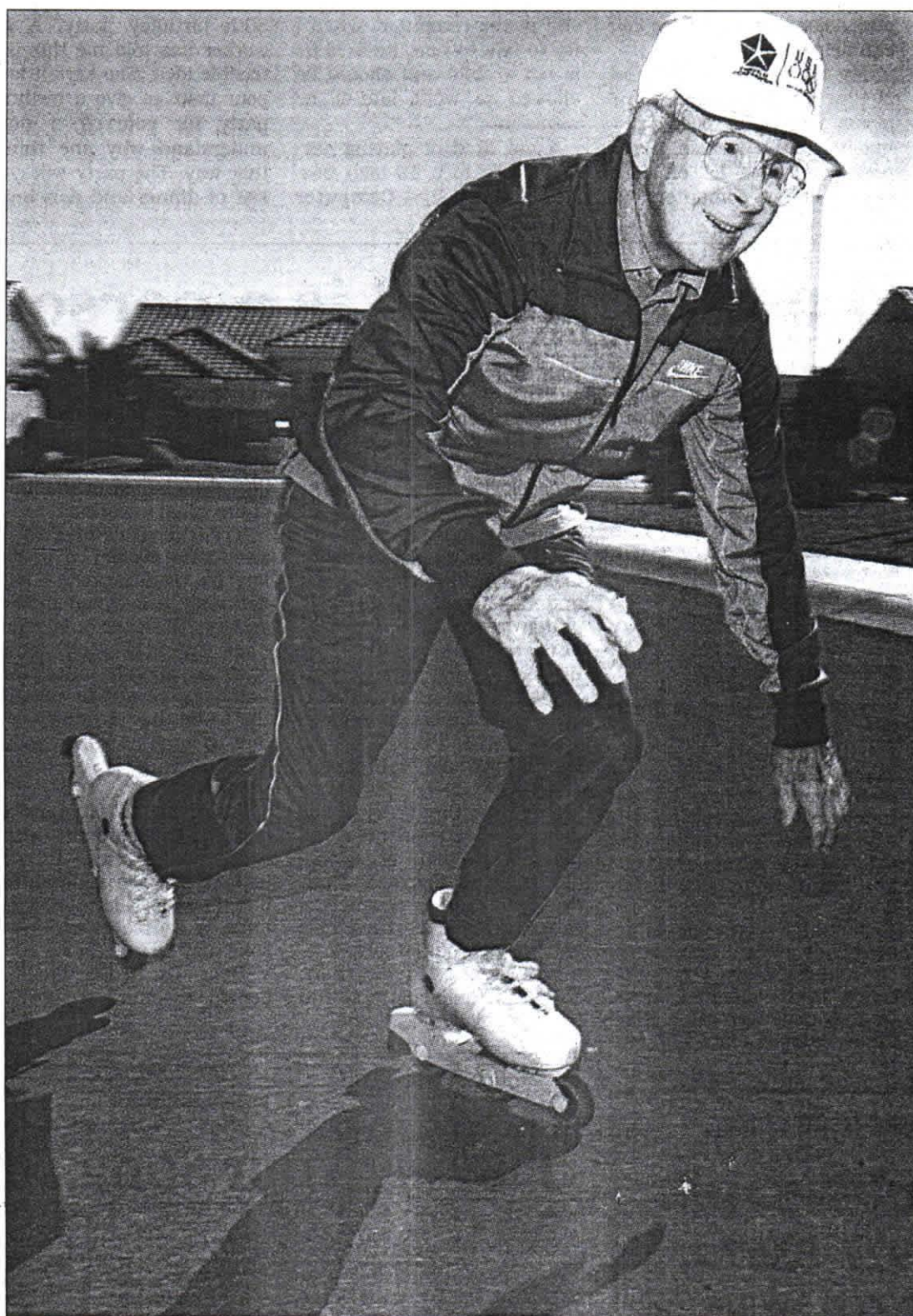
"I can't wait for it to start because I plan to be there right in front of the TV," Werket said. "To be able to do what I did as a speedskater — I thank the world because I was just a poor boy from Minnesota."

"A lot of people helped pay my way so I could compete and it's given me a lot of great memories."

OVER



John Werket of Sun City West shows off the technique that won him several speed skating world championships. He also coached a gold-medal winner, Dianne Holum, in the Winter Olympics in Sapporo, Japan, in 1972.



STEVE CHERNEK/DAILY NEWS-SUN



## SCW World Racquetball Champ goes on Internet

By Chet Lacy

This Wester has won so many first-place medals in racquetball, they'd weigh him down if he tried to swing a racquet while wearing them. Lake Westphal's latest honor is in winning the World Championship for 75 and over players. His other medals attest to his winning the 65 and older U.S. championship and the Arizona state doubles championship plus four other state champ medals. He needs the help of his "coach, co-player and cheerleader" wife, Ann, to keep track of all his many winning and medals.

Through the technical arrangements made by Roy White, SCW expert in the computer-photography world, Westphal will soon be on the International Internet, thus putting the SCW racquetball world champ's picture and story before the eyes of viewers everywhere. Both White and Westphal are active leaders of Photography West Camera Club of SCW.

If you're ever looking for Westphal, look first in the R.H. Johnson racquetball courts. He's there every day for at least two hours practicing, and this has been going on most of the years since he and Ann moved here from Oregon nine years ago.

He has been playing competitively for over 33 years, is in the best of health for a 77-year-old five-foot-nine 186 pound Senior

Olympic star. No stress, just good active competition, he says, and he feels top shape, younger than his age.

Both he and his wife, Ann, play racquetball together. She had back surgery in 1981, but after recovery a few years found racquetball made her feel even better. They even played in many different courts during their eight-month vacation in Europe.

As he keeps winning medals, he feels he may run out of wall space on which to hang them. Quite a problem?

Want to win some medals? Want to learn how to play the game? Westphal will be teaching an introductory eight-week course in January at the Johnson courts. Here's your chance to get in shape, to work off that stress and a few pounds, even if you don't win any medals.



Daily News-Sun, Sun City, Ariz. Tuesday, Sept. 14, 1999

# Sun City West man wins racquetball title

By RICH OTT  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

Lake Westphal has a passion for racquetball.

An average day in the life of Westphal includes two hours on the racquetball courts, a relaxing moment at home drinking his favorite beer and quality time with his wife of 17 years.

The Sun City West resident will be the first to tell you his lifestyle is only made possible after spending the past 33 years playing racquetball competitively.

"I'm still very active," the 5-foot-9, 187-pound Westphal said. "Like I tell some of the people in my (beginning racquetball) class, I think it improves your sex life."

Among many other things.

"When you're playing, it's impossible to think about anything else," said Westphal, who teaches a class for beginners in the R.H. Johnson Sports Pavilion. "It's a release on the stress you acquire. It has kept me a heck of a lot younger compared to other men at this age."

"And I feel superior to most men at my age in terms of agility. As far as your heart and lungs, it's an activity that'll keep you in a good lifestyle where you do the things you want to do."

"I do at least," Westphal continued. "I think a lot of people can't because their body won't let them."

Westphal's body is still working to perfection. He returned last month from Albuquerque, N.M., where he captured the gold medal in the World Senior Racquetball Tournament. Westphal went 25-5 in the 75-to-79 age bracket during the round-robin tournament, played Aug. 24 through Aug. 28.

It was the 12th consecutive year Westphal participated in the event and the first time he won his age bracket. Westphal had to defeat a former doubles partner, Nick Sans, to capture the title. Westphal and Sans had won three national doubles tournaments when they were a team.

"The only thing I have left to

**'I'm still very active. Like I tell some of the people in my (beginning racquetball) class, I think it improves your sex life.'**

Lake Westphal

conquer is the national singles tournament," Westphal said of the event open to all age levels. "If my arm holds out, I might do it next year," he said of the Houston event scheduled for May 2000.

Westphal has been a state racquetball champion five times as well as a Senior Olympic gold medalist. He will defend his Senior Olympic title next month in Orlando, Fla.

"He is looking forward to that," said Westphal's wife, Ann, who has been on hand for most of his racquetball triumphs. "I'm his rooting section and coach," she said.

The 61-year-old agreed completely with her husband about the sport keeping him fit, trim and young at heart.

"That is the only thing that has kept him young," she said. "He never gets stressed. If everyone played racquetball, there would be no stress in our lives."

The couple, who have won mixed doubles tournaments, have varied stories on how racquetball has helped them through painful times.

Lake Westphal, who retired to Sun City West nine years ago after running his own business for decades in Oregon, took up the sport when he was having severe back problems and ulcers.

"Within six months, I was over the ulcers," he recalled. "And I used to have to sleep with a board of wood in my mattress as well as sit on wood while I was driving. It (racquetball) eliminated all of that for me. And I don't do anything else (exercise programs or sports), so I attribute it all to

it."

It changed his life completely, so instead of sitting on wood while he was driving, Westphal said he began to eat in his car on the way to the racquetball courts, where he would spend his entire lunch hour.

Since racquetball helped him through medical problems, he thought it was the perfect sport for his wife after she regained the use of her right leg following back surgery.

"I used racquetball to condition my leg back into shape," she said. Thereafter, the Westphals have played racquetball nonstop, even during an eight-month vacation to Europe where they found a court to play on in just about every country.

"We'd go into a strange court or athletic club and Lake would go up to the younger guys and say 'How about a game?' she said. "They'd say 'Why sure old man.' And then he beats them and they just shake their heads and wonder where he came from."

Westphal can regularly be found playing racquetball on the R.H. Johnson Sports Pavilion courts. He also teaches an eight-week introduction class to the sport beginning in January at the pavilion.

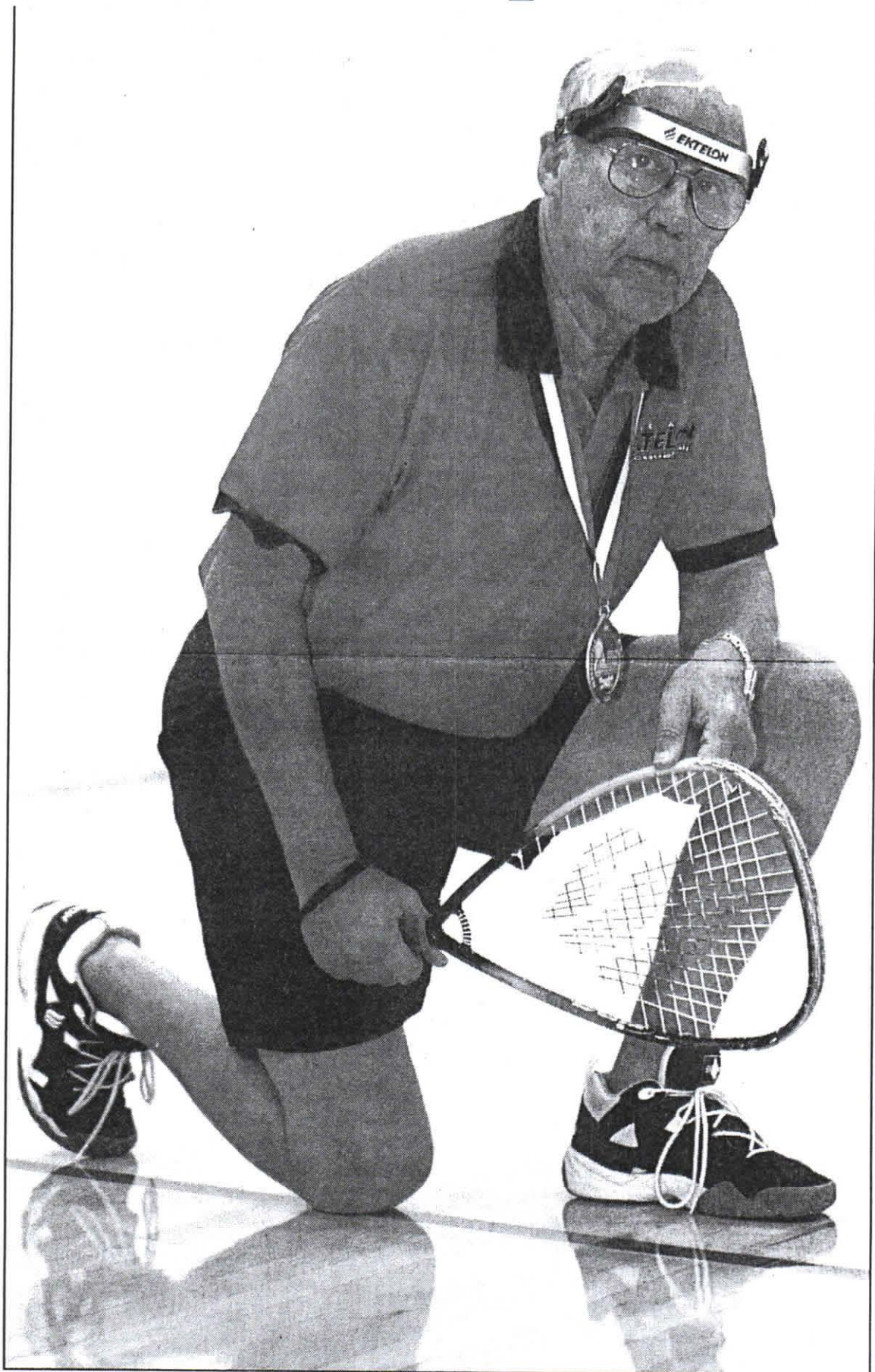
"He always wants to get people into racquetball," Ann said, reminded of the time he had to console a teen-age competitor in Oregon.

"Lake was 64 and he was playing against a 14-year-old kid who thought, 'Oh boy, I got this one beat.' After Lake beat him, he started crying. So Lake went up to him and put his arm around him and said 'This is just a good learning experience. Don't let this one get to you. You'll become a better player once you get more experience.' The kid thought the world of him after that."

Lake Westphal



# World champion



Lake Westphal of Sun City West won his age division at the World Senior Racquetball Tournament in Albuquerque, N.M. Westphal went 25-5 in the 75-to-79 age bracket during the round-robin tournament, played Aug. 24 through Aug. 28. It was the 12th consecutive year Westphal participated in the event and the first time he won his age bracket. Westphal had to defeat a former doubles partner, Nick Sans, to capture the title. Westphal and Sans had won three national doubles tournaments when they were a team.

Lisa Goettsche/Daily News-Sun

over



SUN CITIES INDEPENDENT MARCH 14-20, 2001

## A Name to Know

Sun City West resident **Nan Wheeler** truly believes in Sun Health's commitment to the community and the importance of its auxiliary. This fact is made evident as soon as she starts talking about the local non-profit health-care network.



Mrs. Wheeler is the current president of Sun Health Auxiliary and has been working with the organization for about two years.

As president of the auxiliary, which has over 3,000 volunteers, Mrs. Wheeler is in charge of coordinating activities, organizing meetings and speaking to various groups about volunteering.

In addition to her duties with Sun Health, she and her husband of over 45 years are supporters of the Symphony Guild and the West Valley Art Museum.

Mrs. Wheeler was also responsible for introducing and starting a docent training program at the museum.

She believes in the importance of giving time in the community, but she finds it often benefits in other ways.

"I think it is good for the community but I think it is better for the individual. People enjoy being needed," explained Mrs. Wheeler.

She said her favorite part of volunteering is the people she meets.



Bob Wilcox took family photos of the Reagans, including the shot below, and says Ronald was as friendly and as down-to-earth as any celebrity. A Biltmore reservation card for the Reagans records Nancy Reagan making a 1952 honeymoon reservation at the resort, and years later, her mother, Edith Davis, booking a room for the Reagans.



Pat Shannahan/The Arizona Republic

WILCOX, BOB

MR. & MRS. RONALD  
941 1/2 Hilgard  
West Los Angeles, California 90024  
(Nancy Davis)  
51-52: Nancy Davis telephoned Mr. Boyle, being married to Ronald Reagan on Mar. 4, arrive 3/5 on honeymoon; IN 3/5/52 (L-1-2) 2-\$85 OUT 3/13  
61-62: res by Mrs. Loyal Davis for 4/18 to 4/21; IN 4/18 (L-1) 2-\$26 European plan: OUT 4/22

# Picture-perfect president

## Biltmore photographer fondly recalls Reagan

By John Stearns  
The Arizona Republic

Bob Wilcox met many celebrities as the on-call photographer for the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa, but he remembers Ronald Reagan standing out like no one else. "He was friendly to anybody and everybody," different from the celebrities who would not go out of their way to speak to him, Wilcox recollected from his Sun City West home Wednesday. "There was nothing standoffish about him. He didn't act like some of the actors that would come to the hotel."

"You couldn't not like him."

— Bob Wilcox

Longtime photographer at the Arizona Biltmore, discussing former President Reagan

Wilcox was a longtime fixture on the Biltmore glamour circuit. He owned his own Phoenix photo studio for 45 years and also operated a camera store at 24th Street and Camelback Road for two years. The Biltmore gig was a side career.

"I needed business, believe me," he said.

Working at the Biltmore required a sport jacket during the daytime, a suit at night and a tuxedo for galas and every Wednesday and Saturday nights, which were formal nights there.

Big parties, such as those for New Year's Eve, tested Wilcox's mettle. He'd shoot the rich and famous at the party, run back to his studio to develop and print the photos, then rush them back to the resort for the partygoers to inspect over breakfast.

Celebrities were and are an everyday sight at the Biltmore, the grand

See REAGAN Page D4

OVER



dame of Arizona resorts and an icon in the state's tourism industry. The hotel counts business titans, athletes, actors and actresses among its guests. Herbert Hoover and all U.S. presidents since have stayed at the resort; their photos grace a Biltmore hallway.

But Ronald Reagan definitely stood out to Wilcox.

Their relationship predated Reagan's White House days. They met while Reagan was still an actor. Wilcox said Reagan's friendly personality struck him and others who met Reagan over the years.

"We deal with a lot of VIPs who kind of demand fanfare, and (the Reagans) were not like that at all," said Robert Clair, senior conference services manager at the Biltmore.

There was a comfort that Ronald and Nancy Reagan had with the resort, Clair said.

He remembers speaking with Nancy when the president visited in his second term.

As room service manager then, he remembers Nancy phoning in an order for melon to be balled, not sliced. She had a balling tool from their personal chef sent to the kitchen to ensure it was done the way the president liked.

"She was just really pleasant to talk to," Clair said, remembering it as part of Nancy's nurturing personality to take care of "the little things so that he could breeze along being the president. I got the impression that they really were comfortable coming back to this hotel. ...It was kind of like going home for them."

The Reagans' connection to the Biltmore and its surrounding neighborhood was strong.

They honeymooned at the resort March 5-13, 1952, and the couple were at the hotel often before and during his presidency; Nancy's mother and stepfather, Edith and Loyal Davis, lived in the Biltmore Estates.

Mae Sue Talley, who owned the Biltmore with her husband, Franz, from 1973 to 1977, lived across from the Davises for many years and was close friends with the Reagans.

When the Reagans visited Nancy's parents, the three couples and their children often met for barbecues. They also celebrated the birthdays of Ronald (Feb. 6) and Franz (Feb. 2) together, she said.

"Mrs. Davis made the most delicious macaroni and cheese, which was Ronnie's favorite food," Talley said.

Early in their acquaintance, Talley would listen to long dinnertime discussions between Reagan, then a Democrat, and Loyal Davis, a Republican. Talley believes Dr. Davis was influential in Reagan's party switch. "I could see Ronnie beginning to accept Loyal's viewpoints — he gradually, gradually became a Republican," she said.

Wilcox, who got the Biltmore photo



Pat Shannahan/The Arizona Republic

Bob Wilcox looks at pictures he took in 1966 of Ronald and Nancy Reagan.

## Bob Wilcox

Age: 82.

Home: San City West.

Career: Owned photo studio for 45 years, first in downtown Phoenix from 1919 to 1945, then on Thomas Road until the 1940s in 1990. Owned a camera store at Camelback Road and 24th Street from 1945 to 1947. On-call photographer for Arizona Biltmore Hotel & Spa from 1945 to about 1960.

Public service: Served in Arizona House of Representatives, 1960 to 1966, and Arizona Senate, 1966 to 1970.

Personal: With Frances.

gig in 1947 when General Manager Harry Boyer visited Wilcox's camera store. Wilcox photographed the Reagan family at the Biltmore in 1966. Reagan used some of the photos in his campaign to be governor of California.

Later Wilcox discovered some photos from that photo session and sent copies and a letter to Nancy in February. He included with a letter thanking her for the "great pictures," adding, "I was glad I had been transported back to that time. What wonderful memories they brought!"

Wilcox's Reagan connection also extended to Sen. Dan O'Connor, whom Reagan named to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1981. Wilcox served with O'Connor in the Arizona Senate, sitting next to him when she was floor leader and was appropriations chairman. He praised her ability to translate complex legislative language into layman's terms.

Wilcox's memories are a common theme among Reagan friends and ac-

quaintances in the Valley.

Mae Sue Talley was appointed to the U.S. Commission on Public Diplomacy during the waning days of the Carter administration. Reagan was elected president shortly thereafter. He provided a boost for Washington and Talley, whom he later appointed to other commissions.

"You have to live in Washington to know what an advantage it is to have the president and first lady as your best friends," Talley said. "He brought so much good feeling to the capital."

Talley provided an example of Reagan being a "thoroughly, thoroughly nice man."

During the mid-1960s, Reagan attended a gubernatorial fund-raiser in La Jolla, Calif. The Talleys had a second home there, and while visiting them, Reagan accompanied the Talleys' daughter, Patricia, on a walk to the store to redeem empty bottles. A young girl at the time, Patricia dropped a bottle and cut her foot, Talley recalled. Reagan carried her all the way back home, telling Mae Sue Talley, "'Here's your wounded angel.' He was just that nice."

Brad Feffer, director of catering and conference services at the Biltmore, also noted the Reagans' comfort with the hotel because of their visits to Nancy's parents nearby.

When the Reagans visited in 1987 for Edith Davis' funeral, Feffer remembers Ronald waving at guests from the balcony of his fourth-floor room.

"The world was a different place (then)," Feffer said, noting that the president wasn't so isolated from public view. "He was very affable, going through the lobby shaking hands."

Said Wilcox: "You couldn't not like him."



## SCW loses a community leader

By Marie Scotti

Retired Brig. Gen. Robert W. Williams, U. S. Army, passed away on Dec. 15, 2003.

Robert Willoughby Williams was born in Tallahassee, Fla., on Sept. 29, 1921. He attended high school in Falls Church, Va., Fishburne Military Academy and Virginia Military Institute 'BSEE '42, from which he graduated one month early to go directly into the Army.

He served in Europe in the 6th Cavalry Group, part of General Patton's Third U. S. Army. He would have gone to North Africa in 1943, but the Germans sank the ship with its vehicles and weapons outside New York harbor.

Bob was attached to General Patton's staff for six weeks prior to the Battle of the Bulge, and was wounded by mortar or artillery fire on March 29, 1945, after crossing the Rhine River and reaching the famous German Autobahn. He was evacuated through the hospital system to Wales, thence to Oliver General Hospital in Augusta, Ga.

After being discharged on Jan. 2, 1946, Bob joined an advertising agency in Washington, D.C. A year later, he bought it with two partners. In 1948 he was offered a chance to compete for a Regular Army commission, took it, and won the commission. He served until retirement on Sept. 1, 1974, as a brigadier general. He was in the Korean War and served twice in Vietnam.

His awards include The Legion of Merit with the Oak Leaf Cluster, The Purple Heart and Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Bob was married to Jimmie on March 24, 1951, at Fort Knox, Ky. In 1956, he had the opportunity to attend Georgia Tech in a Government program and received a MSEE degree. He then attended the Air War College at Maxwell AFB, Ala., in 1958-59.

In Japan in the early 60's, he taught algebra and military history for the University of Maryland. After retirement, he taught math (8th through 12th grades) in a private school near Hilton Head, S.C., where he lived for two years prior to moving to Arizona.

Bob Williams was very active in the Sun City West community and made many valuable



contributions to a number of organizations. He served as chairman, PORA Ad Hoc Committee on Dysart School District; president, Men's Golf Association; president of Sunwest Art Club; president, PORA 1983-1985; member, Recreation Centers Advisory Board; founding director and president of Lending Hands; founding director and president, Sun City West Foundation; president, SCW Republican Club; Arizona State Representative, 1989-1993; and chairman, ad hoc committee which designed Briarwood Country Club.

Bob was a member of the Sunrise Lions Club. He also served as president, Phoenix Area Chapter, Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge from 1993-1995. Bob also served as president, Luke Chapter, The Retired Officers Association during 1995-1997. He also served on the State's Constitution Commemoration Committee in 1999.

Bob Williams was a very active member of the Phoenix Area Chapter, Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge. He began the Freedoms Foundation "Living History" programs which are presented in classrooms of Maricopa County. Volunteers portray, in costume, a variety of characters from U. S. history. He presented five of them personally: The Mystique of Our National Symbols, The Mystique of our State Symbols, Patton, Leadership and Terrorism.

Bob Williams is a direct descendant of John Penn of North Carolina, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

It is reported that one of his favorite sayings was: Study history, study history, study history."

Bob Williams made many significant and unique contributions to the Sun City West Community, the state and country. He will be missed.

WILLIAMS, ROBERT

OVER



## Bob Williams, community volunteer, legislator, dies

STAFF REPORT

Remembered as a soft-spoken man who served his community, the loss of former Arizona State Representative Bob Williams will be felt by the community.

Robert Willoughby Williams, 82, of Sun City West — a retired brigadier general in the Army and former State Representative — died Dec. 15, 2003.

Williams served in three wars during his lifetime, including World War II in Europe as a Cavalry officer with Gen. George S. Patton's 3rd Army, until he was wounded March 29, 1945. He also served in Korea and twice in Vietnam as an intelligence officer.

Williams served with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and was the Commanding General Army Security Agency Europe and Chief of Plans for the National Security Agency. He retired Sept. 1, 1974.

Williams moved to Arizona in 1977 and Sun City West in 1979. He was elected twice to the Arizona House of Representatives from 1989-1993.

He served on Sun Health board committees and was active in volunteering with the nonprofit healthcare network.

Former Sun Health CEO and founding administrator, and State Sen. Austin Turner of Litchfield Park remembered Williams as a man of service.

"I knew of him through his connection with Sun Health," Turner said.

Williams served on a



DAILY NEWS-SUN FILE PHOTO

Bob Williams, left, is shown here at a picnic with former state Sen. Bob Denny.

number of Sun Health committees, including the government relations committee, Turner said. He was also a board member and former president of the Sun City West Foundation board, Turner said, adding Williams was "very willing to serve his community."

Although Williams served in the Legislature before Turner did, Turner knew Williams to be a man of integrity.

"A very honorable, soft-spoken gentleman is how I'd characterize him," he said.

Since ending his term in the House, Williams served as president of the Luke Chapter of the Retired Officers Association. He was also part of the Sunrise Lions Club and the Sun Cities Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars.

Williams is survived by his

wife, Altamae, and two children, Robert K. of Washington, D.C., and Deborah J. of Apache Springs, Fla.

Williams was a graduate of the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) and earned a master's degree from Georgia Tech. He also was a graduate of the Air War College. His awards include the Legion of Merit with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Purple Heart and Bronze Star with an Oak Leaf Cluster.

Williams' hobbies were golf, writing and making living history programs available to Maricopa County School Rooms as a member of the Phoenix Area Chapter, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

Service is at 1 p.m. this afternoon in Camino del Sol Funeral Chapel, 13738 Camino del Sol, Sun City West.



Robert W. Williams, Brig General, USA, Retired

19231 N 132<sup>nd</sup> Ave.

(623) 584-2128

January 9, 2002 (taped interview by Judy Schoeberle)

Bob and his wife, Altamae (nickname, Jimmie) were married in 1951 at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Bob served in the Army for 30 years, and retired in 1974 as a Brigadier General. They retired to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina in 1974 and lived there for two years. They got fed up with "swatting bugs and flies"; and told themselves, there had to be a better place to retire. In the summer of 1976 they got in their car and headed for San Diego to look for that better place. Stopping in Tucson for a week, they liked that area, and then came to Phoenix for a week. They enjoyed it so much; they decided to look in the Scottsdale area for homes. They purchased land and headed back to South Carolina to sell their home. The new home would take 6 months to build. During the 6 months of waiting for their home, they became very familiar with the Phoenix area. After living in their new home in Scottsdale for two years, they discovered there was no good place to play golf, little in the area to join, and they traveled about 5 miles just to get a loaf of bread.

In the spring of 1978, Del Webb started Sun City West. After driving over to Sun City West, they liked what they saw and moved here in July of 1979, the hottest summer on record that Bob could remember. The home at 132<sup>nd</sup> Ave. had already been established, but Bob and Jimmie made several additions. One day when Bob was in the yard, a man on a bicycle approached him and introduced himself as Gene Wilson, President of PORA. Bob remembers Gene telling him about PORA and making a comment that "It's very difficult to find Chiefs around here but there are plenty of Indians. Nobody wants to be Chief." With a desire to serve in his community, Bob joined PORA and was put on the Health and Safety Committee.

Originally only wanting to help, very soon Bob became the Chairman of the committee involved in the Dysart School Bond Issue. After an extensive investigation, the committee decided to do 3 things: to get the \$27.5 million Bond Authorization rescinded, to place representatives from Sun City West on the School Board, and then to have a disassociation election to separate the two parties on a permanent basis. By June 30, 1981, one full year later, the committee had accomplished all it set out to do. There were three people from Sun City West elected to the five member School Board at that time: Rose Ratner, Jack Gierman, Ingelletta Hawkins, all were well qualified to serve.

In 1981 Bob got very involved in fundraising, and he came up with the idea for Monte Carlo Nights at the Sundome to raise money for the community. The proceeds for the first year were to be used to create a lending service where people could borrow items like sickroom equipment, a roll away bed or a crib.

2013T WILCO AWL



Sun City had such a service called Sunshine Services. Sun City had been very benevolent, letting Sun City West residents borrow items from them. Because Sun City West was growing in population and borrowing more than Sun City had available, it was time to institute a service of its own.

Page Two  
Bob Williams

A contest was set up to name the facility and that's how the name Lending Hands evolved. The Monte Carlo proceeds for the first year amounted to \$14,500 and were enough to establish "Lending Hands". In time, the name would change to Helping Hands, as we know it today. Sun City was extremely helpful when it came to setting up the Sun City West Lending Hands.

From 1981 to 1983 Bob also served on the Rec Center Advisory Board. Bob served on the PORA board from 1981 to 1985 and he was the president of PORA twice, once in 1983 and again in 1985.

In 1985 a community fundraising project called The Luminaries was instituted. A couple named Jerry and Lois Leigh came to PORA when Bob was in office and suggested the idea of the Luminaries. With \$500 from PORA the Leighs helped initiate this idea and it has been successful to this day, but as a function of the Sun City West Foundation. The Thrift Shop was established around that time and occupies space in the Community Services Center. It is run by the Del E. Webb Hospital Auxiliary which staffs and manages the operation and accepts donated clothing and household goods.

The Community Services Center was built on RH Johnson Blvd and the first 20,000 square feet of the eventual 30,000 square feet was completed in 1987. The building was to provide free office space for those charitable activities supporting the community. The Posse leased its portion of the land tract for ninety-nine years and built its own building in 1987. With Bill Thomas, as Vice President and Bob, as President, they set up a foundation called The Sun City West Foundation. This was the head organization to support all of the community services. With a grant from the Del E Webb Foundation, and a donation of the land by the Del Webb Corporation, plus the half-million dollars earned already, *from ?* the Center became a reality.

Bob is now very involved in the Phoenix Area Chapter, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge. Freedom Foundation Chapters are dedicated to passing on our precious heritage to succeeding generations. This is done in partnership with



educators, parents and the National Headquarters at Valley Forge. General Dwight D. Eisenhower and the founders of this organization believed this was essential to the survival of our unique American way of life. Programs are free to schools. All artists and speakers are volunteers. Out of the 29 chapters nationwide, this chapter is the only one offering Living History programs. In the past school year the chapter presented more than 300 programs to over 24,000 students and 6,000 adults.

Bob was named Man of the Year in 1981 by the News-Sun and he was State Representative, District 15 from 1989 to 1993. He has served his community in many capacities and has been honored numerous times.











## DOERS PROFILE

**Ken Wilson****Hometown:** Grove, Penn.**Family:** 2 children,  
2 grandchildren**Philosophy:** "Plan for the future,  
but work each day  
as it comes."**Key to Longevity:** "Activity is the  
key."

## Retiree engineers industrious schedule

By JENNIFER JENKINS  
DAILY NEWS-SUN

**K**en Wilson says he is just one of those people who has to keep active.

Hearing a rundown of his customary schedule, anyone would agree that he succeeds.

The Sun City West resident works as a contract consultant for the Honeywell Corp., designing and testing equipment two to three days a week.

Before moving to Arizona in 1990, Wilson put in 39 years as an engineer for Honeywell, working in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

Now, in addition to his job, Wilson volunteers an average of 80 to 90 hours a month for the Sheriff's Posse of Sun City West.

His responsibilities there include conducting field training, serving as shift supervisor and working as officer of the day four times a month.

In January, Wilson will become the posse's executive officer.

Wilson's interest in the posse was sparked by an incident that occurred the night he moved to Sun City West.

"I arrived late at night, and as I was standing at the door, fumbling with my key, I saw that a sheriff's vehicle was stopped not far away.

They kept me under surveillance the whole time I was getting inside, and that impressed me," Wilson said.

Wilson is also involved with the Sheriff's Toys for Tots program.

At the woodshop in Sun City West, Wilson crafts beautiful jointed wooden animals that bob up and down when rolled along the floor.

This year's collection of handiwork includes a gorilla, a kangaroo and Wilson's favorite, a turtle.

Wilson's goal is to complete one toy each month.

For recreation, Wilson takes advantage of his private pilot's license at an airfield in Buckeye.

Flying is one of his greatest joys, he said.

The ultra-light aircraft that he pilots is one that he built from a kit.

Wilson doesn't think that he is particularly unique, just someone who likes to stay busy.

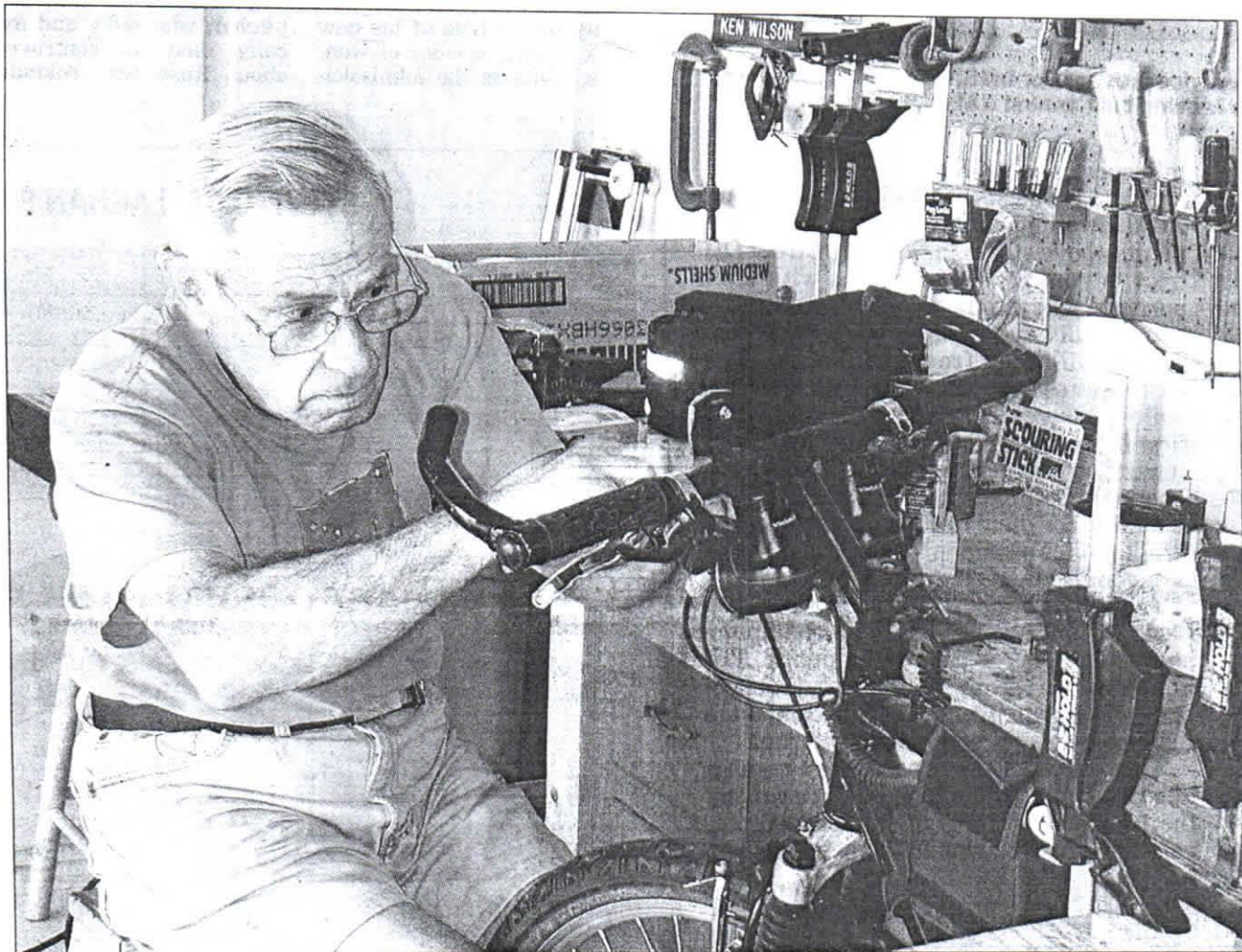
"I believe in keeping active, both mentally and physically, and in having happiness with what I'm doing, my environment, my wife, family, everything.

I've been a very lucky man when it comes to health and happiness," Wilson said.

Wilson, Ken



# His horse sense rocks



Photos by Brent Whiting/The Arizona Republic

"I believe in giving back to my community." A member of the Sun City West Sheriff's Posse, Kenneth Wilson repairs a bicycle used by posse members. Wilson also builds rocking horses and other toys in his home workshop.

## Wooden toys built for those in need

By Brent Whiting  
The Arizona Republic

Three things never go out of style for Kenneth Wilson, a resident of Sun City West.

Two of them are rocking horses and bicycles, traditional toys of yesteryear.

Despite modern electronic games and other gizmos, he finds them as popular today as they were a century ago.

As for the third thing on his list, he admits it sounds corny, but it's good old-fashioned community service.

"I believe in giving back to my community," he says.

Wilson, 75, a retired test-systems engineer from Pennsylvania, has found a way to combine his three passions.

For 14 years, he has served as a member of the Sun City Sheriff's West Sheriff's Posse, a volunteer job that offers lots of service opportunities.

"This provides a lot of satisfaction," he said. "People are genuinely thankful for the ways we help them out."

In his posse capacity, Wilson builds rocking horses and other kinds of wooden toys as gifts for needy families.

He also maintains the handful of bicycles that are used for patrols by posse members in good working order.

"These are things I have to do," Wilson said. "I can't sit still for any



Handmade rocking horse, by Kenneth Wilson.

**"These are things I have to do. I can't sit still for any length of time, so I have to find ways to keep busy."**

— Kenneth Wilson  
Builder of wooden toys

length of time, so I have to find ways to keep busy."

He offered the comment while adjusting the brakes on one of the posse bicycles.

Wilson describes the rocking horses as "a labor of love," saying he may spend 80 hours or more building them in his home workshop.

His latest creation, fashioned with wood, glue and other materials, adorned the lobby of posse headquarters, 20450 Stardust Blvd., until shortly before Christmas.

Lt. Jim Vejraske, the posse executive officer, described the horse as "just beautiful."

"We got a lot of comments about it," Vejraske said. "It was a real attention-grabber."

He also described Wilson as a conscientious person who is well-liked by posse members.

A few days before Christmas, Maricopa County sheriff's deputies scooped up the rocking horse and other posse offerings for use as holiday gifts to struggling families.

Wilson doesn't know who got the horse but hopes it ended up with a needy family that could really use and appreciate it.

"It was built for a purpose, and it achieved that purpose," Wilson said. "I think it would be best not to know who got it."

For next Christmas, he plans to build a number of smaller toys that can be spread among several families.

WILSON, KENNETH



# On the Wings of flight

## The dream has finally come true

By PAUL JUTZI  
Daily News-Sun staff

It's been 19 years in the making, but Lou Wolf's dream has finally come true.

Now he wants it to take flight.

In about two months it will, if testing on his custom-built plane proves it's airworthy.

Wolf's dream took form in 1973, when, after contemplating it for a year or two, he bought a kit from the former Bede Aircraft company of Newton, Kans.

The incomplete kit contained parts for a Bede-5 aircraft, a single-occupant, small plane designed for speed.

When Bede Aircraft went bankrupt soon after Wolf began building the plane, he was left without parts to finish it.

A machinist by trade, Wolf spent a portion of his spare time of the next 19 years hand-building parts and assembling them.

"I think that plane should be named Perseverance," said Lou's wife, Pat.

The Bede-5 kit sent by Bede Aircraft came with only 20 percent of the parts and no engine, Wolf said. He said he has no idea how many hours he's spent on the plane, but he knows he's spent at least \$11,000.

"Nineteen years of spare time — go figure it up. I don't think I really want to know exactly how much that plane has cost me," he said.

On Monday, Wolf spent an hour taxiing on the grounds of Phoenix-Litchfield Municipal Airport near Goodyear to test his plane's brakes and engine cooling.

"I was driving around with a big straw hat on," he said. "I don't know what the guys in the (air traffic control) tower thought, but I was having a lot of fun."

"Everything is looking good," he said. "I think it's going to be A-OK."

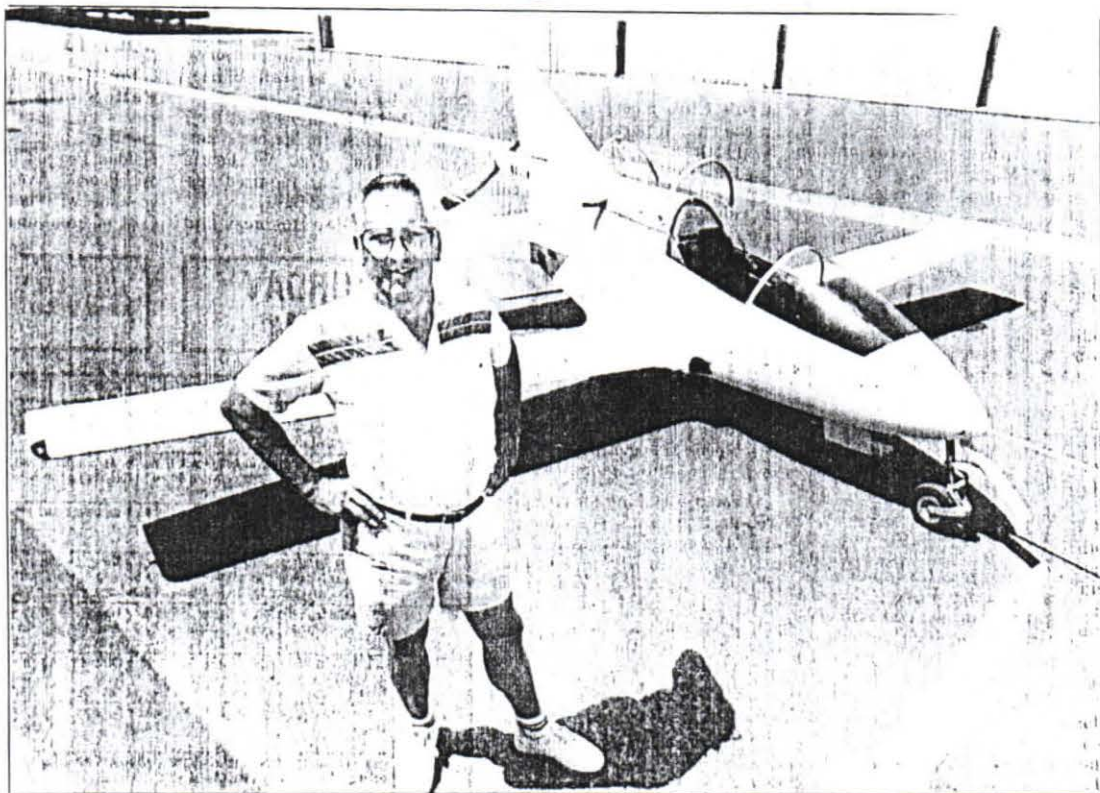
But, Wolf didn't spend all of his spare time working on the plane. Among numerous other things, he used part of his time to remodel four houses.

"You have to be in the right mood to build something like this (the plane). If you're not in that mood, you're not going to work on it," he said.

The Wolfs moved to Sun City West about two years ago from Michigan. The plane has been in his garage, with wings removed, while he completed it.

He took it to the airport by Goodyear in a moving truck.

"It takes only about 10 minutes to remove the wings," he said.



Rick Della/Daily News Sun

After 19 years, the dream has become a reality for machinist Lou Wolf of Sun City West who tested his

hand-built single-occupant Bede-5 aircraft at Phoenix-Litchfield Municipal Airport this week.



Rick Della/Daily News Sun

Lou Wolf checks the controls in his Bede-5. The small plane, popularized by the James Bond film "Octopussy," is prop-driven and powered by a Honda Civic engine.

Bede-5 was popularized by the James Bond film "Octopussy," although that particular plane was jet-powered. Wolf's plane is prop-driven, with power supplied by an engine designed for a Honda Civic car.

A jet-powered Bede-5 is beer giant Coor's Silver Bullet plane, used in promoting its light beer.

"I first saw Bede-5 at an airshow in

Wisconsin," Wolf said. "Like a lot of other guys, I fell in love with it and wanted one for my own."

Pat, who married Lou in 1976, said she realized the role the plane played in Lou's life.

"I call it the first lady in his life," she said. "Sometimes I jokingly refer to it as the other woman."

But she supports it entirely, Lou

said.

"I couldn't have finished building it without her," he said. "She was behind it all the way and even helped me build it."

"I'm very proud of him for building it," Pat said. "It's quite an accomplishment. It was nice to have him at the house (spending spare time on the plane). The joy of a woman is to have her husband nearby."

After testing on the plane is complete, and Wolf gets approval from the Federal Aviation Administration to fly it, he hopes to take trips in it with two buddies from Michigan who also have Bede-5s.

When Wolf lived in Michigan, he founded a Bede-5 club. Of the club's original 32 members, only three remain — Wolf, Aaron Oswald and Ken Shuman.

"They just love their little planes, and I think we'll have a good time with them," Wolf said.

With the test propeller on his plane, Wolf said, his Bede-5 can travel at up to 150 mph. Other Bede-5s with high-performance propellers have flown at speeds approaching 250 mph, and jet versions have flown at 300 mph, he said.

Although speeding along in the small plane was what Wolf longed for 19 years ago, he said he now wants to build a two-seater plane so he and his wife can travel together.

"Before I met Pat, I was a happy bachelor," Wolf said. "Now I want to spend my time with her."





Rick D'Elia/Daily News-Sun

Gladys Wonderley is the first resident to move into the Del Webb casitas near Sandridge Drive in Sun City West.

# First lady of casitas

## Sun City West development welcomes pioneer

By DEBBIE L. SKLAR  
Staff writer

SUN CITY WEST — Gladys Wonderley may have felt like a pioneer when she moved into her new casita, but thanks to a cellular phone provided by the Del Webb Corp., she instantly returned to modern day.

"When I moved in, the phone company couldn't hook up the phones for a month," said Wonderley, who was the first resident to move into the casitas located in the commercial core near the post office. "It was like being a pioneer, but when I told Webb about the phone problem, they gave me a cellular phone to use. They paid the bill and I had it for a month."

Wonderley, 73, moved April 4 into her abode, the Alpine model, a single-detached home. The retired Kentucky librarian said she was the sole resident in the development after she relocated from a patio home on Meeker Boulevard. She decided to move to the retirement community 16 months ago, after vacationing several times in the Valley.

"I was here for about a day before anyone else moved in," she said. "It was really strange. All I heard was the trucks going back and forth, but the whole move has been a real adventure."

Wonderley spent the first evening in her new home with her daughter,

Trisha, who was visiting for a week from Seattle.

"It was really nice having her here when I first moved in," she said. "We unpacked the bedroom items and then went out for dinner."

Webb officials said there are 171 casitas and 40 have been sold. About half of the casita homes are still under construction.

When originally proposed, the casita development drew criticism from area residents, who said they did not want any more homes built in the community. Instead, several residents said they wanted more second-phase or multi-service retirement housing complexes. Webb cut back on the construction of the casitas and left acreage for such communities to be built in the near future.

"I wasn't planning on moving from my house, but I really became interested when I started hearing about all the controversy with the casitas," Wonderley said. "It really intrigued me and I started to follow what was going on with the development."

Wonderley put her house up for sale in January and sold it in two days.

"Even if I hadn't sold it, I would have been happy staying there," she said. "I thought moving into one of the casitas would be a real adventure, something really fun. The way it happened was really just by

trial and error."

Although Webb decorated the inside and outside, Wonderley did have the chance to choose the type of carpet, lighting for the dining area, bathroom linoleums and tile colors she wanted. The home came complete with kitchen appliances, Wonderley said.

"I'm still working out the color schemes a little," she said. "I'm also working with some bids for the landscape outdoors. Right now it's a little dusty because it's dirt, but the landscaper I'm working with has a lot of trees planned for the back."

Wonderley said she is responsible for maintaining the inside of her home and the back yard. She pays a monthly fee to Del Webb, who makes sure the front yard is cared for and groomed.

"I really like the arrangement of the home," she said showing off one of the two spacious bedrooms. "It has a nice layout and it's very bright."

The kitchen has whitewash oak cabinets and white tiled floors. The home also has cream-colored carpet throughout.

While life is paradise in her new casita home, Wonderley said there is only one thing missing.

"I don't have cable yet," she laughed. "The company said they can't put it in until there are about 20 people living in the community. They said I might get it this month, but there are never any guarantees."

WONDERLEY, GLADYS



First GM of Rec Centers (for DEVC)  
Managed Rec Center for 10 yrs.

William Woodyard  
12837 W. Desert Glen Drive  
(623) 584-2055  
January 11, 2002 (taped interview by Judy Schoeberle)

Not 30 yrs  
Brig Gen

Bill retired after thirty-eight years of service as Brigadier General from the United States Air Force. He was the Dean of Faculty at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He graduated from the University of Missouri, and in the summer of 1968, Bill attended Arizona State University and that summer he traveled around the west valley. Del Webb was just opening Sun City at that time, so he submitted his name to receive brochures from the company.

2 go together

head of Chemistry Dept - took course in Spectroscopy (?) to fill in hole in background

When it came time to retire late in 1978, Bill and his wife, Ruth had no idea where they would live. They decided to try living in Sun City. They enjoyed living there for about 8 months, but it only took Bill five days to realize that retirement was not for him. Sun City West was just beginning in late 1978, so Bill approached Del Webb for a job. He became the General Manager of the Recreation Centers of Sun City West. Bill was Del Webb's first employee to be hired for the Rec Center and he managed the Rec Center for ten years. It was a very exciting job, as Bill recalls, because at that time Webb was in the process of building new facilities. Bill had an input into what went into those facilities and he found it a very challenging job. Working for the Del Webb Corporation, Bill had a great deal of authority and found it very easy to work with them and for them.

Bill and his wife eventually moved to Sun City West in September 1979. Bill recalls there was very little established here at that time and Bell Road was a dirt road. There were less than a thousand people living here. The Rec Center published an issue called the Western Star and Bill was the editor. When people arrived here, they were given Rec Center cards with numbers on the cards and their names were published in the Western Star. That's how they could determine the actual count of residents.

The address on Desert Glen has been home from the beginning. However, several additions to enlarge the condo had been added. Bill thought he wanted to move a couple times, but his wife never did. Today, Bill is very glad a move never occurred.

Bill retired from being the General Manager of the Recreation Centers in 1989. By that time, Sun City West had a Board of Directors established for the Rec Center. Bill realized that he had worked for forty-eight years and felt it was time to fully retire. However, Bill did return to the position of General Manager of the Recreation Centers for two six-month periods. The years Bill returned to the Rec

WM WOODYARD



Center were, six months in 1992 and six-months in 1994, while the Board of Directors looked for a new General Manager.

Although, he felt his working days were over, his volunteer days had just begun. For fifteen years, Bill was on the Board of the Sun Health Corporation. For ten years he served as the Treasure of the Operating Board of the Del E. Webb Hospital.

Page Two  
William Woodyard

After serving as a volunteer for many years, Bill now feels he has one of the most rewarding jobs he has ever had. He is the Treasure of Habitat for Humanity for the West Valley. The job is a very exciting job, as Habitat builds houses for people that can't afford them, and there are remarkable stories on how this has turned lives around for these good and honest people. The local organization began in 1987 and they have built 111 houses in the West Valley. It's a worthwhile organization and one Bill is very glad to be a part of.

Bill says he has lived many places, and sums up living in Sun City West as the very best place to live and is pleased to be here.



Nellie Cox  
21019 N 124<sup>th</sup> Drive  
(623) 546-6711  
November 9, 2001 (taped interview by Judy Schoeberle)

Nellie and her husband William moved into Sun City West in 1978 from Maryland. At the time they moved into their home on Beechwood Drive, no one else lived in that area except them. Nellie remembers being very lonely living there. She vividly remembers a time, right after they moved in, standing at her patio door looking out. It was a windy day and as she stood there, she felt very much like she was a part of the "ole West", as she watched tumbleweeds roll past her patio door. It even caught the attention of her two cats. At that time, there was nothing behind them, not even a wall, so it was a great wind swept area for tumbleweeds. Nellie had one other experience with tumbleweeds. In 1981 her husband Bill was hospitalized. At that time, they had moved from Beechwood Drive into their present home on 124<sup>th</sup> Drive. When she came home from the hospital one evening, she could not enter their home, because the tumbleweeds had filled the courtyard.

Not to long ago, Nellie went to play cards at the Women's Club. Each of the clubs have a monitor sitting at a table and the normal procedure is, to write your Rec Card number on the Recreation Center sign in sheet to identify yourself for the monitor. Nellie's number on her Rec Card is 743. As she started to walk away, the monitor called her back and indicated she needed to have one more number, because there should be more than three numbers. It surprised the monitor to realize how early in 1978 Nellie was issued a Recreation Card number.





# Bill Woodyard:

*Pilot To General To Rec Centers;  
And His Life is Still Challenging!*

SUN LIFE

January 1999

**B**ill Woodyard, Sun City West's first Rec Centers manager, has experienced some very interesting "passages" in his life.

Take, for example, the Associate of Science degree he was awarded in 1939. It didn't seem to fit into his duties when he enrolled as an Army Air Force cadet in 1940, and was commissioned in early 1941.

Or when he trained pilots during WWII, took part in the Berlin Airlift and then assumed command of a Troop Carrier Squadron in Georgia.

But his early interest in science helped him decide to earn bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from the University of Missouri. And when he was named to teach chemistry at West Point, everything seemed to "click."

Then, after being selected to help establish the Air Force Academy, he was named head of its chemistry department.

Following a 1968 doctor's degree in philosophy from the University of Denver, he was made Dean of Faculty at the Academy and was promoted to brigadier general.



**REGULAR GOLFER** – Golf is a favorite sport and part of Bill Woodyard's faithful exercise routine.

## Time for a change

"Those were great years, but by 1978 I had 38 years of duty and was past normal retirement," says Bill.

"I had often flown in and out of Arizona, and my wife Ruth and I really liked the state. I retired in 1978 and we moved to Sun City. Six months later we moved to Sun City West."

Despite a deep love for golf, he had seriously misjudged the need of full retirement. Del Webb was looking for someone to head its recreation facilities. Bill applied, and in March 1979 became the Rec Centers first employee.

After building the staff to nearly 400 people, and opening three rec centers in 10 years, he felt it was time for another change.

"It was fun, and challenging, and probably easier to manage than I reported only to Del Webb. They never reversed any of my decisions."

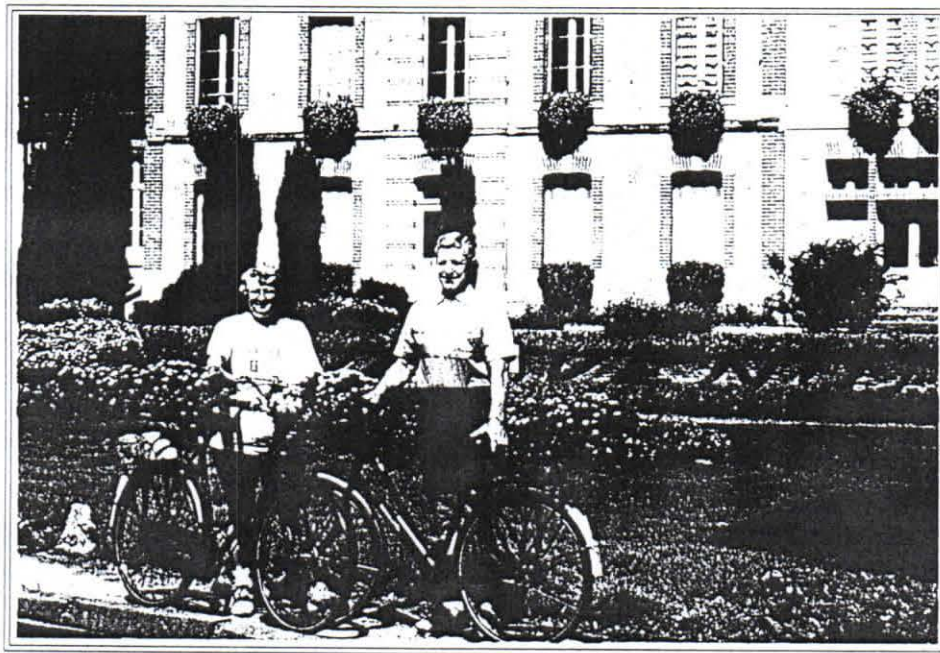
## Working with people important

Bill found, however, that working with people was still important. He began a 10-year volunteer association with Sun

Health, serving on its corporate board the full period, five years as treasurer. Also, during this period he served two interim terms as Rec Centers manager.

"I guess I never lost my love for chemistry. Making sure the R.H. Johnson swimming pool had the right Ph was always important," he jokes.





**BIKING THROUGH FRANCE** – One of the benefits of regular exercise is being the oldest among a group of bicyclers which toured France in 1998, “and keeping up.” Bill Woodyard pauses near a chateau with daughter Barbara.



**HOW IT STARTED** – Bill Woodyard began his military career as an Air Force cadet in 1940. Before he retired in 1978 as a brigadier general with 38 years of active duty, he had logged in more than 8,000 hours of flying time.

“Today, I still try to see that our grass and trees have the correct chemical treatment,” he adds, speaking of the duplex he and Ruth have lived in since 1979. “And I’m on the Greens Committee at Briarwood.”

#### **Other common threads**

Other common threads woven through Bill’s life include love of family and exercise. He golfs two or three times weekly, and averages four trips a week to the exercise rooms.

Staying fit helped Bill – who proudly states he was the oldest in the group – “keep up” on an unforgettable bicycle trip last summer with his daughter Nancy. They joined 17 others in a 13-day, 320-mile tour of the Loire Valley in France.

“We saw some great countryside and made some great friends,” he says. “This summer I hope to ride from France into Spain with another daughter, Barbara.”

He prepares for the trips by

riding 25 miles every other day.

Bill is faithful in e-mailing the Woodyard’s six children and 12 grandchildren, and is busy planning activities for a family reunion next summer in Branson, Mo. – maybe around his and Ruth’s 57th wedding anniversary.

#### **Community involvement continues**

His community involvements continue. He is chairman of Sun City West’s Condo Association and on Briarwood’s Finance and Greens committees.

Bill Woodyard would make an excellent Visitors Bureau Ambassador: “We’ve never regretted our move to Sun City West, or the friends we’ve made. We’ve lived in a lot of places and, all in all, I’ve got to say this is the best.” ☺



Dec. 2-8, 1993

# Hal Yale 'Wood' Rather Make Toys for Kids

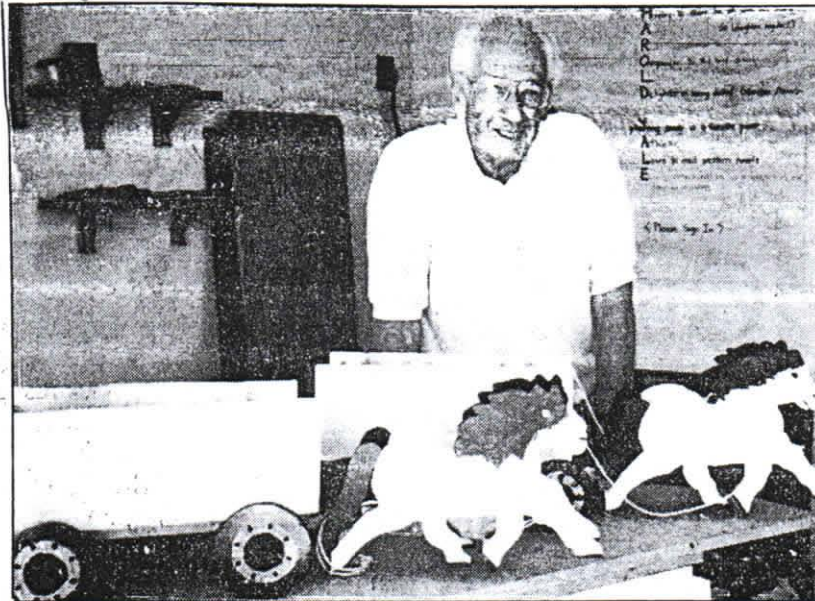
SCW

VF- PERSONALITIES

THE WESTER

Dec. 2-8, 1993

YALE, HAL



Hal Yale and his handmade horse drawn carts. Something to make kids happy.  
Photo, Stan Steciak

By Stan Steciak

Wester Hal Yale makes wood toys in his spare time. Hal, a former South Chicagoan, was an electro plater and in sales for men's wear stores, before retiring. He said, "I always liked to work with wood after I had a manual training class in the 6th grade. But all those years past, I just couldn't find time for a hobby." The SCW retirement life style keeps him busy, but he makes sure to take the time for his woodworking. Hal's latest projects were a desk and a doll house for his grand children. He takes special pride in making three or four horse drawn carts that he will give to a local toys for tots program. The carts pulled by two horse are about 18 inches long. Hal said, "I never use a plan, I just like to make things my way." Believe this! His way makes kids happy.

Hal was an MP (military police) during WW II. He spent three years in the South Pacific with the 338th MP Battalion. Barbara and Hal are married 52 years. Barbara worked for the American Bar Ass'n as an insurance underwriter. They have two

daughters, six grandchildren and three great grand kids. The Yales are happy to have their family living in Arizona. Chandler and Tucson are not too far away.

Barbara and Hal are Westers since 1982. They came here from Glenwood, Ill. Hal was the first president of the Illinois Club and was treasurer of the SCW Men's Club. Some mornings you will find Hal out in the tennis courts, right after daybreak. His fondness for working with wood prompted him to join the SCW Woodworking Club. Barbara has been a volunteer at Boswell Hospital for many years. Both of them enjoy playing cards. Hal teaches a card game called Pan at the SCW Men's Club.

Yale will always find time to bring joy to kids. He said, "The best gift is one that is made by hand. The receiver knows that someone put love into the gift." Hal will make Christmas a happy day for a few kids. What have you done for kids lately? Remember! This is Christmas time and even during Hanukkah time we all love kids and kids love gifts.



## Name to Know

It did not take long for **Allen Young** to become involved with the Sun City West Recreation Centers after moving to the community with his wife, JoAnn, in March 1998.

Shortly after settling into his new residence, Mr. Young joined the Rec Centers budget and finance com-



mittee, researched the association's bylaws and began collecting signatures to run for its governing board.

Looking for something to keep himself occupied in retirement, Mr. Young became interested in the Rec Centers because it has a direct impact on him as a homeowner.

"It's harder for a person to retire than people think," Mr. Young said. "I started looking for ways to help the community, try to stay busy and keep myself young."

Though he lost on his first bid to win a seat on the governing board, Mr. Young continued to work hard in the budget and finance committee in 1999 and decided again to run for the board.

Mr. Young won a three-year term on his second attempt, taking office in January 2000.

On Jan. 1, the 66-year-old became board president. While in this position, Mr. Young hopes to continue with facility maintenance projects, continue to watch costs and follow through with on-going projects.



# Young to celebrate 25th anniversary

The Rev. William K. Young celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination as an Episcopal priest, having been ordained on Ascension Day, May 24, 1979.

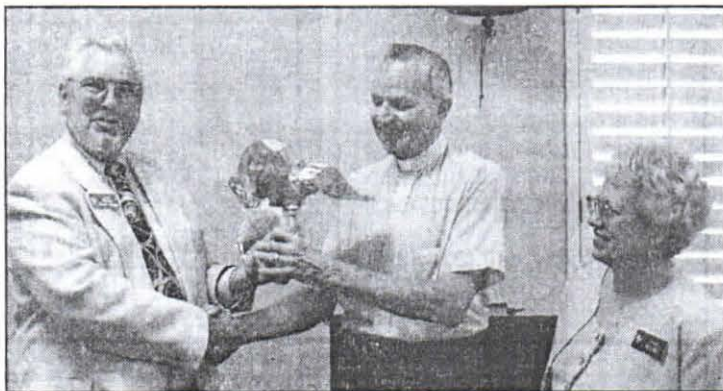
Father Young has served as rector of the Church of the Advent, Episcopal in Sun City West since 1997. Prior to being called to the Church of the Advent, Father Young was rector of All Saint's, Church in Watsonville, Calif., from 1980 to 1997.

His first ministry was in Ruidoso, N.M., from 1978 to 1980.

Father Young was born June 21, 1938 in El Paso. He received his BA from the University of Texas, El Paso, in 1962. A Navy veteran, Father Young served on active duty for two years in Southeast Asia and active duty for two years as a legal officer at Naval Schools Command in San Francisco. He was discharged a Full Lieutenant.

An organist, Father Young continued his education at Union Theological Seminary in New York where he earned his Master's Degree from the seminary's School of Sacred Music in 1969. He served as organist and choir director for St Paul's Episcopal Church in Visalia, Calif., and the Episcopal Church of Christ the King in El Paso.

He also served on the staff of San Francisco's Grace Cathedral as deputy verger and as an organist. His interest in music included being a co-owner of American



Submitted photo

**The Church of the Advent, Episcopal celebrated the Rev. William King Young's 25th anniversary of his ordination was May 23. He was ordained a priest on Ascension Day, May 24, 1979. Pictured, from left the Senior Warden Allan Budd, Father Young and Kay Young. The Church of the Advent, Episcopal is located at 13150 Spanish Garden Drive, Sun City West. For more information, call 584-0350 or e-mail the church at ChurchAdventAZ@aol.com.**

Musical Heritage, which produced weekly radio programs of Broadway composers.

Father Young received his master's degree in Divinity in 1978 from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific.

Father Young believes that God called him to the ordained ministry so that he might support and encourage other people to minister in His name in the world.

Father Young's call is to care for the pastoral and spiritual needs of these ministers through personal contact, program devel-

opment, sharing of ministries, preaching God's word and helping others live out liturgy in church and life.

He also thinks that pastoral care is very important in parish ministry. In fact, he is a certified trainer of listening skills which he uses in training parish callers as well as in his own pastoral care.

During his pastoral career, Father Young has been very active in his dioceses. In California's El Camino Real Diocese, he was chairman of the Liturgy and Ecumenical Commission and chair-

man of the Convention Process Commission. He served on the Provincial Synod of the Eighth Province, which is the annual gathering of the 14 western-most Episcopal dioceses plus Alaska, Hawaii and Taiwan.

His service on the Provincial Synod included organizing and directing liturgies. Additionally, he served on the Diocesan Council, Budget Committee and Standing Committee. From 1988 to 1994, he was Deputy to the General Convention. For his present diocese, the Diocese of Arizona, Father Young serves on the Western Regional Parish Council.

Father Young and his wife, Kay, reside in Sun City West. His wife is a retired high school French teacher and a retired professor of World Religion and French in a local community college. Father and Mrs. Young have two children. Their son, Mike, is a First Sgt. in the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps. Their daughter, Kelley, is a graduate of Humboldt State University in Arcata, Calif., and she is the mother of 8-year old Kristen and infant son Conner. Kelley and her husband live in Bakersfield, Calif.

The Church of the Advent, Episcopal is located at 13150 Spanish Garden Dr. in Sun City West. Call 584-0350 or email the church at ChurchAdventAZ@aol.com.